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Oh No! The Lexington Club To Close After 18 Years [Updated]



A photo from the Lex's 16th anniversary bash in 2013.

Bad news for the LGBT community: The city's only, long-standing, dedicated bar for gay women*, [The Lexington Club](#) (3464 19th Street), is getting sold and sounds likely to close very soon. In [a Facebook post](#), owner Lila Thirkield says she made the decision to sell "with a heavy heart," but declining sales the last couple of years combined with a raise in her rent has made the business unsustainable.

She blames the decline in business to gentrification in the neighborhood, of course, suggesting that a segment of her clientele has been forced to leave the city.

And this news comes a year after we saw [the closure of beloved Hayes Valley gay bar Marlena's](#), and in the same year that Latino gay bar [Esta Noche gave up the ghost](#) in the Mission.

From Thirkield's posting:

Eighteen years ago I opened The Lex to create a space for the dykes, queers, artists, musicians and neighborhood folks who made up the community that surrounded it. Eighteen years later, I find myself struggling to run a neighborhood dyke bar in a neighborhood that has dramatically changed. A few years back my rent was raised to market rate, and though it was difficult, we seemed to weather it at first. But as the neighborhood continued to change, we began to see sales decline, and they continued to do so. We tried new concepts, different ways of doing things, but we were struggling. When a business caters to about 5% of the population, it has tremendous impact when 1% of them leave. When 3% or 4% of them can no longer afford to live in the neighborhood, or the City, it makes the business model unsustainable.

Please know that if I thought The Lexington Club could be saved, I would not be writing this. I understand what a huge loss this is to the community. It is difficult and painful to lose our queer spaces. However, my faith in queer San Francisco still runs deep. It is the best place in the world and dykes and queers are still an integral part of this city. They always will be. I have spent the better part of my adult life facilitating and creating community among dykes and queers in SF and I will not stop. The Lexington Club had an incredible eighteen-year run. It will forever live on in my heart, as I'm sure it will for many of you. To all who were a part of it - thank you for your contribution to a great chapter in San Francisco and a great chapter in my own life. And, of course, a huge thank you to my amazing staff. We made some incredible memories, and we will make more.

It's unclear if the closing is imminent, or what the new owner's plans for the space might be.

Thirkield says she's done an interview with former Guardian publisher Marke Bieschke which is due online at [48Hills](#) tomorrow.

In the meantime, fans of the bar should get over there for one last game of pinball or pool, and to toast this latest death in the city's LGBT bar scene.

Updates as warranted.

Update: The [48 Hills interview](#) with Thirkield is now online, and in it she says she there will, in fact, be a closing party and the sale is not quite complete. Also, she says, she will be keeping The Lexington brand alive through one-off parties, including maybe some events at the other bar she's a partner in, [Virgil's Sea Room](#).

* Some may argue the case for [Wild Side West](#), which remains a LGBT-friendly neighborhood bar in Bernal Heights, open since 1962, with a historic link to the lesbian community, but anecdotally we understand it is more of a mixed bar these days.

Contact the [author](#) of this article or email tips@sfrist.com with further questions, comments or tips.
[Jay Barmann](#) in [Food](#) on Oct 23, 2014 2:40 pm

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RoyTT · 7 days ago
More a sign that gayness is now totally accepted and integrated, removing the need for segregated paces of entertainment.
19 ^ | v · Reply · Share

hillarys_new_shoes → RoyTT · 7 days ago
That's not why the business model became unsustainable.
53 ^ | v · Reply · Share

RoyTT → hillarys_new_shoes · 7 days ago
How do you know?
4 ^ | v · Reply · Share

Wagnerian_thrice → RoyTT · 7 days ago
cause they can read.
50 ^ | v · Reply · Share

RoyTT → Wagnerian_thrice · 7 days ago
Read what? That dykedom is now mainstream and commercialized?
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

Guest → RoyTT · 7 days ago
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^



37 ^ | v · Reply · Share














JJ Black → Guest · 7 days ago
Seriously. Can we ban RoyTT? First comment and he's already being a fucktard, baiting people with what must be a satirical viewpoint. Right? It's fake, right?

It's not that I don't appreciate difference of opinions... just dumbfuck assholes.
30 ^ | v · Reply · Share

RoyTT → JJ Black · 7 days ago
How can SFist ban anyone?

All they can ban are email and IP addresses. That is how Disqus works.

So you may just have to either refute me or ignore me
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share

-  **fizzandpop** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
You use the word "refute" of "refutation" (which isn't actually a word) all the fucking time. Why don't you suck my blue vein refute.
4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **RoyTT** → fizzandpop · 7 days ago
"Refutation" isn't a word?
How interesting.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **chompsky** → fizzandpop · 7 days ago
You need a dictionary.
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guffie** → JJ Black · 7 days ago
he's so blatantly a troll but we all need to stop feeding him or every sfist post will have 200 comments, half of them from him baiting people
5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **robotsrule** → Guffie · 6 days ago
I've realized that a little too late. My blood pressure is through the roof.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **JJ Black** → Guffie · 6 days ago
Truth. Let's hope people take your words to heart and just ignore it. (Gender neutral pronoun for troll)
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guest** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
Yay slurs! Are we still banning people? I've got a candidate. I know I know your right to be a racist homophobe.
11 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **RoyTT** → Guest · 7 days ago
The word "dyke" is used by dykes, as in the "dykes on bikes" thing, so you are barking up the wrong tree there in your zeal to stereotype.
3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guest** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
So, slur slur slur slur. Okay, got it. Are we still banning people? I have a candidate. He's the guy up there with the pink hair.
12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **RoyTT** → Guest · 7 days ago
Posting the same thing twice doesn't make it any less false
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guest** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
Okay! Enjoy your slurs! I know you will!
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **RoyTT** → Guest · 7 days ago
Is "African American" a slur as well?
Tranny (as in Tranny shack)?
Be careful where you go with this.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guest** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
Use all the slurs you want, it's your business!

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Guest · 7 days ago

I have not yet used a slur, and you know it. It's not my fault if you did not know that the word "dyke" has common parlance in the lesbian community.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → RoyTT · 7 days ago

You sure have. Keep lying to yourself, and keep on trollin'!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Guest · 7 days ago

Where's your witty retort about how a clear slur isn't a slur?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Guest · 7 days ago

I love how SF'ers think they have won a debate simply by accusing the other party of using a slur.

Even when they haven't, as in this case.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Yep. A slur isn't a slur. Good point.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Guest · 7 days ago

A slur is a slur when it is used only outside a community to denigrate that community.

If the word "dyke" has common currency within a community, then it cannot be a slur.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Okay your slur is not a slur. Understood.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch → RoyTT · 7 days ago

We will let the up votes decide who won...

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch · 7 days ago

Minorities like gays typically are suspicious of the tyranny of the majority

But i am sure that you know best

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



murphstahoe → RoyTT · 7 days ago

I love how you call this a "debate"

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → murphstahoe · 7 days ago

Good point. It's really not a debate when there are no valid and viable counter-arguments

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Guest · 7 days ago

So the organizers of the gay pride march are guilty of using a slur when they designate the "dykes on bikes" parade?

I'm sure they would be interested in your take on that.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → RoyTT · 7 days ago

↵



Yes.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Guest · 7 days ago

Ok, then take it up with the organizers of Gay Pride. I feel sure they don't know enough about gay matters to know better

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Patrick Connors** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Midler?

12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Patrick Connors · 7 days ago

better.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**rjjsf** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

The troll is getting trolled!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Guest · 7 days ago

LOL, the owner of the Lex refers to it as a "dyke bar":

<http://missionlocal.org/2014/1...>

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Ben McG** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Hey Roy TT, just a friendly little bit of info. So gay women sometimes refer to each other as dykes and are able to use that word as they choose. Transgendered people also use the term Tra*ny amongst themselves but within that community there are many who do not use that word ever because it is that much of a slur. So unless you are either a gay woman or a transgendered person, even if you have no intention of doing so, you may very well come off as sounding bigoted and using slurs and it seems like that would bother you.

27 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Ben McG · 7 days ago

But the owner of the Lex refers to it as a dyke bar

<http://missionlocal.org/2014/1...>

I think the term is fine as long as it is not accompanied by any malicious intent.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Ben McG** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

and she is also a self described dyke. Get what I mean. I understand your intent, but alas it is how it will come off out of the mouth of someone that is not a part of that community. A man using those words are always going to make people uncomfortable and come off as thoughtless.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Ben McG · 7 days ago

Ok, whatever, the real point here is that the place was no longer economically viable and I get figuratively lynched for pointing out why that is

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Rose Heels** → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Wow, you're popular. No wait, I meant haughty and pompous. Lynching is a pretty poor metaphor to use here. People are disagreeing with you, not physically attacking and murdering you. Drama queen much? I smell a victim complex...

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Mark** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Well, as long as YOU think it's fine, I guess that's all that matters.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**10songsblog** → Ben McG · 7 days ago

But I've been a tranny since I was like 21, it was word I used to mark my identity and all the sudden Transexuals are getting mad at me for how *I* self-identity simply because I'm a transvestite! Not to get off topic but that part always bugs me and my dyke friends don't care if I call them that, it is not cut and dry here.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**MissionBernal** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

And who uses the term dykedom?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

The owner of the Lex refers to it as a "dyke bar"

<http://missionlocal.org/2014/1...>

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Shannon Pleskac** → RoyTT · 6 days ago

If you think the Lex is closing because dykes have "integrated," you're an idiot. Gays still need safe spaces to get away from assholes like you.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**danno415** → RoyTT · 5 days ago

"dykedom is now mainstream and commercialized." This is how we know you're a troll. It's because you lack understanding of people as human beings and instead view someone's sexuality as a superficial fad rather than an integral part of them as a person.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**MissionBernal** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

More like it's sign that the neighborhood around the Lex has changed to the point that the only patrons are techie faux-hipsters and bros. All the lesbians have moved to Oakland. I'd love to think it was because being gay was so normalized now that there's no need for a "theme bar," but that's just nieve.

68 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**forizzlybear** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

Boom.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

If the Lex was the only lesbian bar in the city, then surely it is not a neighborhood bar at all. It draws from the entire city.

Every single last lesbian in SF has moved to Oakland? Why do you assume that all lesbians are poor and cannot afford SF. I know a lesbian who is a doctor and lives close to the Lex. But she never goes there because it is too "themed". she just wants a regular bar.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**MissionBernal** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Haha..."I know a lesbian." Wow, you must be the real authority.

How about I am a lesbian and I've been going to the Lex for 18 years, so I can say with confidence that MOST lesbians have move to Oakland. Ask your doctor friend to explain this to you. She might use big words so bring your dictionary. Also, the Lex is the only lesbian bar in San Francisco. The only thing that comes even close is Wild Side West, but all other gay bars are mixed or boys. The Lex was run by lesbians for lesbians. You should stop commenting on this topic now because you're clearly a dumbass and are making a fool of yourself

62 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Patrick Connors** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

Unless you know most lesbians in SF you cannot credibly claim that most of them have left for Oakland. Or even that most of them are poor.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mike → RoyTT · 7 days ago

She's got more a chance of knowing what's happening to the community than you, ROY!

14 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Mike · 7 days ago

That doesn't answer my specific question. Although it may mean that she is less objective on the topic

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Christopher VerPlanck → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Roy, oh Roy, Boy you are making a damn fool of yerself. Even more than normal.

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Christopher VerPlanck · 7 days ago

As soon as you have proven me wrong, I will concede that

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Dana Stevenson → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Roy Tee Tee needs to be potty trained - what an idiot. Straight asian dude get off this post - you have no voice here - enjoy Yang Sing!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Erica_JS → RoyTT · 7 days ago

I live in Oakland, and I can testify that the lesbian diaspora is real. (Also the artist diaspora, the trans diaspora, the middle class diaspora, etc...)

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Dana Stevenson → RoyTT · 6 days ago

you have zero credibility t even have any valuable opinion here -please ignore this RoyTeeTee handle. Go back to China Town and talk noodles straight asian dude.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JJ Black → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

"She might use big words so bring your dictionary." - Kaboom.

Seriously, RoyTT, please leave.





2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → JJ Black · 7 days ago

I take that as a sign that you cannot refute me

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



10songsblog → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

So the lex is a gay bar the excludes people based on their sexual preference? Well maybe exclude is the wrong word but a gay for women, when there are no gay bars just for men...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



PorkedBun → RoyTT · 7 days ago

The effect of losing this bar is obvious to many people. If it's not clear to you, maybe sit this one out and just read other people's comments.

32 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → PorkedBun · 7 days ago

If lesbians are now welcome everywhere I fail to see why a segregated lesbian themepark bar is anything other than a tourist trap

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



MissionBernal → RoyTT · 7 days ago

You Roy, yes even your pathetic ass, could enter the Lexington. Using the term segregation incorrectly is disrespectful to everyone who actually had to deal with segregation.

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

A bar that only welcomes lesbians is segregated.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Toby91423 → RoyTT · 7 days ago

What about bars that cater to bikers, punks, nerds, EDM fans, etc?

My guess is that it wasn't an enforced segregation - e.g. you would not have been thrown out of the Lexington.

It's nice to have a diverse range of bars serving a diverse range of communities, and losing this bar may well be a sign that that community is fading from SF.

Maybe it's because of rents, maybe because of other options, but the people in the community probably have the most insight.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → Toby91423 · 6 days ago

Roy thinks he has insight into many important topics of which he has no real experience. I think he's mostly here to troll and has nothing better to do. And yes, the community that exists around a bar caters to specific scenes within a city. Outsiders are welcome as long as they don't piss off the bar staff or the locals who create the scene. People that want to bring their own way of doing things into an established bar will quickly find themselves with the dread 86.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → RoyTT · 6 days ago

The Lex doesn't only welcome lesbians. I'm a gay man and I've felt welcome every time I've gone there.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Dana Stevenson → RoyTT · 6 days ago

I have reported Roy Tee Tee to engineering and he will be arrested this week and blocked for harassment for the LGBT community - now that we all know where he really lives now. Good luck in court Roy Tinkle Tinkle.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



murphstahoe → RoyTT · 7 days ago

If RoyTT is now welcome everywhere, I fail to see why a segregated blog is anything but a troll trap.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → murphstahoe · 7 days ago

Says the biggest troll in the Bay Area. I am et to visit a SF blog where you aren't spouting off opinions. You must have a lot of time on your hands

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



murphstahoe → RoyTT · 7 days ago

"What do they care - you're their best selling model!"

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → murphstahoe · 7 days ago

I am a distant second in the great troll race to your good self

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch → RoyTT · 7 days ago

He actually exists off this blog, you do not.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch · 7 days ago

Yes, I am just a figment of your imagination

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



sfjohn → RoyTT · 7 days ago

he says as he spends hours refuting every single comment

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → sfjohn · 7 days ago

Minutes. I can multi-task. Can't you?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Erica_JS → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Single people are also welcome everywhere, are you opposed to singles bars?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Tourists weren't allowed in to just sit there and gawk. Real easy to get kicked out of that bar on the wrong night. Nonetheless, if you don't understand that specific bars cater to and have a group of neighborhood regulars then you just don't understand bar culture. Outsiders are always welcome but house rules and regulars set the tone. To be sure it's certainly less of a problem for a lesbian to be in a regular bar today than it was 20 years ago, but some don't want to get hit on by every oblivious frat boy who's out of his element and can't tell what's going on. That kind of shit wouldn't happen at the Lex.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



rob g → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Hey Roy! Get a job, ya dick!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



some_jerk_from_the_eastbay → MissionBernal · 7 days ago

If all the lesbians moved to Oakland why is the White Horse always near empty?


2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



MissionBernal → some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago

Have you ever been to the White Horse? It's empty because it's depressing. Also, again, the White Horse is a mixed bar. It's not a lesbian bar. If lesbians want to go to a mixed bar, they have a couple dozen fun and dynamic bars to choose from.


5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **some_jerk_from_the_eastbay** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago
But you can smoke there!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **danpartridge** → some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago
Shhh.


^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **10songsblog** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago
Also I didn't realize there was such a thing as a non-mixed bar. So was the Lex female gays only? I hope not, since I thought we were trying to get away from segregation.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **robotsrule** → MissionBernal · 6 days ago
What about Wild Side West? Is that classified as lesbian or just a local bar? I've only been once.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **RoyTT** → some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago
So true. A friend of mine waxed lyrical about it so I went there. Dead.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **10songsblog** → some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago
The White Horse has lousy music, sadly.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **JJ Black** → MissionBernal · 7 days ago
Hey, the White Horse is still fun!

But seriously, this fucking sucks. I really like the Lex.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **tiredSFer** → JJ Black · 7 days ago
maybe you should have gone more often :(

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **JJ Black** → tiredSFer · 6 days ago
A man can only spend so much time at a bar, I'm afraid.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Patrick Connors** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
That's it exactly, RoyTT.

You've clearly done research and are very informed on the LGBT experience. Thank you for sharing your time and wisdom with us.

16 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **RoyTT** → Patrick Connors · 7 days ago
I have news for you Patrick. We don't need whites-only bars any more either.

We've moved on even if you have not.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Patrick Connors** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
You don't have any idea what you are talking about.

20 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Guffie** → Patrick Connors · 7 days ago
no he doesn't, because he's just trolling. don't feed him!

15 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Patrick Connors · 7 days ago

Seriously dude. I'd like you to justify the idea that we need segregated theme bars and/or "separate but equal" hostelries.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Since you seem to need to have it spelled out: members of oppressed communities gain strength from space dedicated to their communities. White people (I am one, too) aren't an oppressed community.

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Huntington · 7 days ago

So you get to decide who is oppressed and who isn't?

How convenient and self-serving

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → RoyTT · 6 days ago

If you don't know who has and hasn't been historically oppressed you don't know history.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Um, I'm white, so I can state for certain that I'm not oppressed as a white man.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → Huntington · 6 days ago

Exactly. While we want to universally be against segregation, context is important. People that have been excluded from mainstream society and villified are totally within their rights to set up a safe space for themselves. Furthermore bars are places where people go to sometimes hit on other people. Women that do not appear stereotypically queer do not want to get hit on by a ton of douche guys that haven't been in a big city long enough to read their surroundings and know the score. It's hard enough to meet someone good, you don't want to wade through more bullshit and waste more time.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



murfle → RoyTT · 7 days ago

You haven't moved on — you weren't there to begin with. Your opinion on this matter has no value to anyone.

13 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Wagnerian_thrice → RoyTT · 7 days ago

How are you not a troll?

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mike → RoyTT · 7 days ago

But we have whites-only bars

<http://money.cnn.com/interacti...>

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Mike · 7 days ago

A tech employer is just like a bar?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Erica_JS → RoyTT · 6 days ago

"We don't need whites-only bars any more either."

Contradicted by the existence of pretty much every bar in the Marina.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



avantard → RoyTT · 7 days ago

"Girl, don't go away mad. Girl, just go away."

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → avantard · 7 days ago

Hey, I like chicks. Even if they are chicks who don't like dudes.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Huntington** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Tell that to the Family Research Council. Or the Catholic League. Or Phyllis Schlafly. Or any Republican candidate for anything.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Huntington · 7 days ago

I'm talking about SF here. I can totally see the need for a furtively clandestine lesbian bar in Lubbock, TX.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Shannon Pleskac** → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Bullshit.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Sofakingsweet** → RoyTT · 5 days ago

Nope what she said was right the clientèle was pushed out. A lot of them live in Oakland now because of the cost of the city. Trust me no one want to hang out with straight guys not even straight women want to hang out with straight guys.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**danno415** → RoyTT · 5 days ago

Nice theory genius. Or, if you had been around in the Mission in the 90's, you'd see that SF used to be a lot more punk rock and a lot less Marina/tech bro. The Lex was a spot for punky dykes. Now that scene, along with most of SF's edginess, is going away. Nice that you have a theory that you just pulled out of your @\$@ about why gays don't need spaces to gather with other gays anymore though. If you did even a cursory search of entertainment in SF (or anywhere for that matter) you'd see that there is still a lot of gay nightlife. Gay people still are a minority and they still like gay spaces It's just that the population of punky dykes in SF is getting low, along with punky everyone else.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**MalcoveMagnesia** · 7 days ago

Where are the ladies going to go to get their cycles in sync now?

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**BroodyMoody** · 7 days ago

HA, more like it's a piss-soaked (based on the smell) mess with the biggest clique problem since any 80-90s high school movie. I would imagine they could attract a LOT more people (men, women, anyone) if they cleaned up and didn't pretend like they're not reaping what they sow by being the least accommodating place for anyone to go.

17 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Mercy G** → BroodyMoody · 7 days ago

Jesus, you sound like a peach.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**BroodyMoody** → Mercy G · 6 days ago

My apologies - but as a business model if you only cater to 5% of the population and that population declines, you have to ensure that the remainder of population that's left actually want to walk through the door.

After frequently the place no less than ten times, I can tell you they had no intention of staying open. Blame 'tech' or gentrification, but this is simply bad business.

If you're looking for someone to blame, look at the staff, the cronies and the girls that made the place seem like you just barged into their house over coming into an established business.

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Mercy G** → BroodyMoody · 6 days ago

LOL... it's ALMOST like you really don't understand that places like the Lex, and in fact the whole Mission for the past 20 years, were specifically designed to keep yuppy scum like you out and make you feel unwelcome. That business model worked pretty great for 20 years until tech trash started raising the rents and forcing out the demographics who actually love the Lex for what it is.

Yes, we get it, your and your tech bro bretheren have finally busted out of the Marina and taken over the Mission, and not just to puke all over Cinco de Mayo this time! So congratulations and enjoy your wine bar and the service staff forced to fawn all over you that will surely replace this cultural institution. We know you're too foolish to actually miss any difference.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



BroodyMoody → Mercy G · 6 days ago

"Yuppy scum like you", i'm so glad you KNOW me! Sadly, I'm not a Marina bro nor am I tech trash. I'm a lesbian who lives and works in the city and would LOVE to interact with other lesbians, however, such KIND folks like yourself want your own little shithole to yourselves and now guess what, it's being "forced out" because they'd rather not clean the fucking place up and make an effort. And by effort, I don't mean fawning all over, i mean not making someone wait 15 minutes for a beer because their friends are all lined at the bar chit chatting.

You're just angry and need somewhere to place blame, look in a mirror. Hopefully now when you go into places you feel the same way I do going into the Lex, out of place and unwelcome. It's called Karma.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



TellUWut → BroodyMoody · 6 days ago

"You're just angry and need somewhere to place blame, look in a mirror."

HA

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mercy G → BroodyMoody · 5 days ago

LOL... wait. You're a dyke who can't get served at a dyke bar and you're talking to ME about karma?

Okay then.

I've never had that problem at the Lex btw...

Have a great weekend hunty, enjoy your wine bars. :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



forizzlybear · 7 days ago

What! Another dive bites the dust. :(

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Paula Maxa · 7 days ago

You mean 'The Stinking Rose' in North Beach isn't a lesbian club?! I glad I know, that could have been awkward.....

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Prof_Cold_Heart · 7 days ago

Bob Dylan "annd the tiiiimes they aaaare a chaaaangin' "

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



PorkedBun · 7 days ago

Longtime residents and businesses are getting priced out of SF at a rapid pace; I have a feeling it's gonna get a lot worse before it gets better.

21 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → PorkedBun · 6 days ago

Really bad. I'm glad my bar owns it's building. But I don't know what kind of city is going to be left a few years from now if the bubble doesn't burst soon.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



tiabgood · 7 days ago

The Wild Side West in Bernal is still open. A much friendlier lesbian bar than the Lex ever was.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



danpartridge → tiabgood · 7 days ago

I think WSW is "friendlier" because it's more mixed, as has been stated below. The Lex is basically lesbians only, the WSW is lesbians mostly. A lot of people think this is a big distinction.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → danpartridge · 7 days ago

Are men actually barred from entering the Lex?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**danpartridge** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Nope. They just have respect for the clientele.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → danpartridge · 7 days ago

So it's not really lesbian only at all then?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**danpartridge** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

I'm obviously not explaining myself well, here. I don't believe state law will allow segregation based on orientation, though I'm open to correction on that. It's a lesbian only bar in that there are virtually always only lesbians there, though you'll get the occasional "other." In practice it's pretty much only lesbians, making it a "lesbians only" bar. Does that make it clearer?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → danpartridge · 7 days ago

Yes, that is clearer but, even so, I question the need for such "segregation-themed" (let's call it that) bars.

There's Diva's, of course, which is a trans-sexual bar but I can kind of see the point of that as they are still pretty much off the grid even now.

But being gay is so mainstream in SF that I don't see the need for a bar where nobody but them goes to.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Huntington** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Well, others do. What's your stake in not accepting the word of people who belong to the community concerned?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Huntington · 7 days ago

I wasn't claiming that members of any self-identified class of people should not elect to congregate together.

I was simply explaining why I think a segregated theme bar like this is failing economically. The premise upon which it is based has ceased to be relevant.

The cash register does not lie

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Huntington** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

The cash register lies all the time when it comes to people's authentic needs, especially when they belong to communities that, on average, don't have as much money as other communities.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**RoyTT** → Huntington · 7 days ago

Where is your evidence that gays have less money than the average?

I thought that the so-called "pink dollar" was a powerful factor?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Huntington** → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Here, let me Google that for you... (Of course, it will be worse for lesbians because women make less in our society). These are the first three hits when you search for "myth of gay affluence."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/bus...>

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stori...>

<http://williamsinstitute.law.u...>

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Huntington · 7 days ago

And if you were to google "rich gays" you would find no equivalent bias?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → RoyTT · 7 days ago

What bias?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Huntington · 7 days ago

Such a google search would reveal how gay couples, in particular, and not typically having children, are doing very well

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → RoyTT · 6 days ago

You asked for evidence. I gave it. Can you offer contradictory evidence?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Erica_JS → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Let's break it down here...

Men, on average, make more money than women.

Therefore, a couple consisting of two women will, on average, make less money than a couple consisting of two men.

2 ^ ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



danpartridge → RoyTT · 7 days ago

Well, I think a lesbian might be a better conversational partner on this one, but I do believe that places "oriented" toward specific subsections are very much appreciated by the people to whom they're directed. There's also a fair amount of open hostility toward the lesbian community, even in our wonderful city. I kind of like the fact that there is (or was) something of a safe and specific place for lesbians in town, and I'm gonna just start putting my foot in my mouth, here, so I'll let it go at this point.

1 ^ ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → danpartridge · 7 days ago

No problem there, Dan. My comments were not suggesting that there should not be such places, but only opining as to why the economic viability of such places may have diminished

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Erica_JS → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Having kids is mainstream... well, maybe not in SF but everywhere else. Do you therefore "not see the need" for kid-themed restaurants like Chuck E. Cheese?

Drinking whiskey is mainstream. No whiskey bars allowed?

Listening to jazz is mainstream, so no club can specialize in jazz?

Electronic dance music is mainstream, better not have a dance venue that plays just that.

Your argument that persecution is the only reason for any business to cater to a specific clientele is just bizarre.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Katy → RoyTT · 6 days ago

Why don't you do a little field testing on this question and get back to us?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



tiabgood → danpartridge · 6 days ago

Well as a lesbian I was made to feel uncomfortable in the Lex many times, so I would rather go to a lesbian bar that is happy to accept everyone (and, yes, is still a lesbian bar) than one whose clientele makes sure everyone who does not act/look/think the same as them are unwelcome

and I don't think the same as them are unwelcome.

I think stating that the Lexington is the only lesbian bar in town is a stretch carries its own elitism.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → tiabgood · 7 days ago

I, as a gay man, never felt unwelcome at the Lex. But the WSW is a friendly delight.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JJ Black → Huntington · 7 days ago

2nding that. I was a little worried when a friend from Different Fur, the studio nearby, suggest we stop by for a drink. Turned out to be chill. Place was nice.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Wild Side West is great, but it's not the same as The Lex. At all. Plus it's like 2398904 miles away from everything. The Lex was right there. :(

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Because 18th and Valencia is the center of the universe.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 → Huntington · 7 days ago

yeah. that's exactly what i meant. Totally.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Sorry for the sarcasm, truly. It's just that, when it looked like they might be closing all of Dolores Park for a while, I suggested to some friends that they might try another of the city's beautiful parks for a change, and got my head bitten off.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



danpartridge → Huntington · 7 days ago

:)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 → Huntington · 7 days ago

Oh no, I get it. I've lived in every area of the city (minus deep, deep mission, aka Wild Side West)and always found that area particularly tricky to get to without a car. It's kind of a destination, you know? Not too much else (that I know of) around there.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Huntington → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

I understand, though you might want to give it another try when you've got a weekend late afternoon/evening to kill.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 → Huntington · 7 days ago

Yeah, don't get me wrong - it's a GREAT bar. And yeah, awesome people are being pushed to the limits of SF, for sure. Will-do.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



MatthewHT → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

I used to think Bernal was far out there, until I had to go there once after work while working in Oakland. I realized it's pretty easy to get to most of the city from there. Then I moved there and can confirm that with even more authority. There's even 3 owl buses within spitting distance.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → Huntington · 6 days ago

Natives to go to Golden Gate Park. Just sayin'.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



danpartridge → Huntington · 7 days ago

I think Chloe means it's more central, in that it's easier to access that area on, say, BART or the major MUNI trains. To me it looks more central on a map of SF, too. I get your point, though.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → danpartridge · 7 days ago

Yeah, who goes to Bernal for a night out unless you live there?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



robotsrule → Huntington · 6 days ago

It's the center of the new Marina.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Yes Yes WSW is not the same. Fine opinion by me, lets not put Bernal on the map.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago

Pretty sure the Lexington has been in business (and as a lesbian bar) for more than 18 years.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



hellonfriscobay → some_jerk_from_the_eastbay · 7 days ago

Nope. I was temping at the title company where Leila (whom I went to school with) came to get her liquor license and that was no earlier than 1996.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RealFakeSanFranciscan · 7 days ago

Wild Side West owns the property it's on. The owners are very, very lucky. As are their customers.

11 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Is this a thread or an excuse for everyone to state how "offended" they are, by everything? Relax everyone. We're all just going to miss this bar.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → Chloe1984 · 7 days ago

Chloe, you live in SF, so every minor inconvenience is elevated to the status of a natural disaster

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Chloe1984 → RoyTT · 7 days ago

HAHAHA, I literally laughed out loud at that one. Fair point. :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Michael Smith · 7 days ago

When did this site become a place for RoyTT to say stupid stuff all day long?? Can't you go back to trolling sfgate or such?

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch → Michael Smith · 7 days ago

He should be banned imo - the comments section is basically pointless now.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



RoyTT → JimmyFooFormerlyMyBitch · 7 days ago


How can anyone be banned under Disqus?


All it can ban are email and IP addresses.


1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›




fizzandpop → RoyTT · 7 days ago


 Seriously. A LOT of people want you to shut the fuck up
15 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **RoyTT** → fizzandpop · 7 days ago
Is that why you got zero up votes for that post?
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **fizzandpop** → RoyTT · 7 days ago
Roy, you're a cunt
5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **RoyTT** → fizzandpop · 7 days ago
Now readers know for sure that you cannot refute me. Thank you for the concession.
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **Brock Keeling** · 7 days ago
The Mission.
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **10songsblog** · 7 days ago
OK well, this sucks because I like ling standing hangouts but while we are are griping and groaning can I complain there is no strictly bi-sexual bars. Even transexual have Diva's/ We bi people got nothing and have to wonder into a bar/club guessing if certain patrons are into both. LOL! I like the mystery but up to a point...
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **RoyTT** → 10songsblog · 7 days ago
If you are attracted to everyone then any bar is good enough
2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **HappyHighwayman** · 6 days ago
Sucks but in the end a business needs to survive on its own merits. Capitalism is brutal.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **MPetrelis** · 6 days ago
Are you paying attention to the changing San Francisco landscape - economically, culturally, housing - and related issues? If you're pissed off, vote Petrelis
^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **nhr215** · 6 days ago
Sounds about right. There is really no need for those types of establishments in SF anymore since the "dykes, queers, artists, musicians and neighborhood folks" have left town in large numbers. What will likely replace it will be another bland "upscale" (i.e. wood panel and aluminum trim) clone bar catering to the local yuppie crowd. C'est la vie.

Its quite something to watch SF transform so quickly. Unfortunately it has become a much more boring uninteresting place to live as the interesting people, venues and events slowly disappear. Of course it has been replaced by the "convenience culture" of the techie/startup set. To bad convenience does not make life interesting, meaningful,fun or exciting. It just makes thing boring and comfortable.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **pantherblue** · 4 days ago
At the end of the day a bar is a BUSINESS. Rhetoric about gentrification, "tech trash," and "losing our queer spaces" is irrelevant if you can't figure out how to keep your brand fresh and enticing, your customer base growing or at least stable, etc. Yeah, I know, it's lame to have to think about all that when you're fighting the patriarchy. And it's more fun to indulge in that now entrenched SF tradition of self-righteous grandstanding. Alas, money rules, and property owners rule. But there is nobody preventing some gals getting together to invest/buy a new space. And, after all, 18 years was not a bad run, though there our other bars, dive or not, who manage to keep going.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›