

Here's What the Mission Riots Looked Like After the Giants' Victory
(<http://valleywag.gawker.com/heres-what-the-mission-riots-looked-like-after-the-gian-1652846299>)



([\[despite-his-tec-1652482880\]\(http://valleywag.gawker.com/can-san-franciscos-puppet-mayor-survive-despite-his-tec-1652482880\)\)**](http://valleywag.gawker.com/can-san-franciscos-puppet-mayor-survive-</u></p></div><div data-bbox=)**

Can San Francisco's Puppet Mayor Survive Despite His Techie Friends?
(<http://valleywag.gawker.com/can-san-franciscos-puppet-mayor-survive-despite-his-tec-1652482880>)



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San Francisco Gentrifies Out Its Last Remaining Lesbian Bar
(<http://gawker.com/san-francisco-gentrifies-out-its-last-remaining-dyke-ba-1650096335>)



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Kevin Montgomery (<http://kevinmonty.kinja.com>)

39,691 🔥 14 ★ ▼

Filed to: **SAN FRANCISCO (TAG/SAN-FRANCISCO)** 10/23/14 9:30pm (<http://gawker.c>)



San Francisco's insatiable thirst for twee cocktails (<http://40goingon28.blogspot.com/2014/09/picturing-perfect-bar.html>) and ridiculous rents has claimed its latest victim. This time, the famously gay-friendly city's last remaining lesbian bar has been forced to close its doors.

SFist reports (http://sfist.com/2014/10/23/oh_no_citys_only_lesbian_bar_the_le.php) The Lexington Club, "the city's only, long-standing, dedicated bar for gay women," announced this afternoon that it is being sold to an undisclosed buyer. And the LGBTQ mainstay is closing for the familiar reasons: climbing rents coupled with a clientele that can't afford to live in the city any longer.

An open letter penned by the iconic bar's owner lays it out (<https://www.facebook.com/LexingtonClub/posts/10152758004223503>). Emphasis added:

*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.*

This is the latest gentrification watershed moment for the city of watershed moments. Countless (<http://hoodline.com/2014/05/flax-art-design-might-get-replaced-by-residential-units>) cultural (<http://www.sfweekly.com/exhibitionist/2014/03/18/drag-queens-say-farewell-to-mission-institution-esta-noche>) institutions (<http://valleywag.gawker.com/how-quickly-a-genius-startup-can-tank-1599840136>) (<http://missionlocal.org/2014/04/most-of-block-could-be-demolished-for-housing/>), from historic (<http://uptownalmanac.com/2014/09/caf e-du-nord-become-restuarant-and-bar>) music venues (<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Residential-development-threatens-S-F-s-music-5680418.php>) to bookstores (<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/marcus-books-reportedly-evicted/Content?oid=2793504>), have been chopped in the name of economic progress. On top of that, San Francisco's eviction rate (<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/San-Francisco-evictions-surge-report-finds-4955020.php>) keep climbing, rents have recently surpassed (<http://sfist.com/2013/11/14/new-census-numbers-confirm-that-yes.php>) New York City's, and the median home price (<http://www.sfgate.com/business/networth/article/1-million-city-S-F-median-home-price-hits-7-5626591.php>) is now over \$1 million dollars. Sometimes it is hard to believe the city hasn't yet bulldozed The Painted Ladies to make way for condos.

But this one particularly stings. The Lex—as it's known locally—isn't just another San Francisco treasure closing: its loss signals the final erasure of lesbian bars from the city.

Unfortunately, the bar's closure is hardly shocking, no matter how devastating it is. Situated in San Francisco's Mission District, The Lexington Club is located only a few dozen yards down from Valencia Street. Years ago, Valencia was the city's queer center (<http://www.thebolditalic.com/articles/3095-san-francisco-has-an-evil-twin->) with lesbian bars and venues lining the street. Now from The Lex's doorstep, you can watch as hundreds of tech shuttles growl past every day, bringing prosperity (<http://uptownalmanac.com/2013/03/liz-claiborne-pushing-adobe-books-eviction>) and mass-evictions (<http://www.antievictionmappingproject.net/techbusevictions.html>) in their wake.

It's no wonder *The Advocate* has begun ranking (

[gayest-cities-america\) \(http://sfist.com/2014/01/06/advocate once again tries to convin.php\)](http://sfist.com/2014/01/06/advocate_once_again_tries_to_convin.php)
Oakland as more LGBT-friendly than San Francisco.

To [contact \(http://a.quil.la/QRMTW\)](http://a.quil.la/QRMTW) the author of this post, please email kevin@valleywag.com (<mailto:kevin@valleywag.com>).

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Kevin Montgomery's Discussions (<http://gawker.com/san-francisco-gentrifies-out-its-last-remaining-dyke-ba-1650096335>)

[All replies \(http://gawker.com/san-francisco-gentrifies-out-its-last-remaining-dyke-ba-1650096335/all\)](http://gawker.com/san-francisco-gentrifies-out-its-last-remaining-dyke-ba-1650096335/all)



Michael Zaite (<http://michaelzaite01.kinja.com>) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 9:33pm (<http://gawker.com/http-youtu-be-bcawqfsmtn4-t-49s-only-thing-i-can-thin-1650120662>)

(<http://michaelzaite01.kinja.com>)



Only thing I can think of anymore. And that was in the 90's when they made Mr. Show!



<http://hubcapjenny.kinja.com>

[HubcapJenny \(http://hubcapjenny.kinja.com\)](http://hubcapjenny.kinja.com) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 9:42pm (<http://gawker.com/i-just-have-to-wonder-why-san-francisco-these-tech-co-1650123968>)

I just have to wonder: why San Francisco? These tech companies seem to largely be self-enclosed spaceship campuses. They could set have set down anywhere in the US - North Dakota, Alabama, New Mexico. Tons of largely empty places with natural beauty, low costs of living and low taxes, easier transportation and state governments that would bend over backwards for you. Why'd they pick a quirky Californian city, hard to get around and build in, with lots of history to bulldoze?

28  49  [Reply](#)



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[UncleCCClaudius \(http://uncleccclaudius.kinja.com\)](http://uncleccclaudius.kinja.com) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 9:50pm (<http://gawker.com/to-all-the-pearl-clutchers-in-the-gray-the-business-de-1650126732>)

To all the pearl clutchers in the gray, the business describes itself as "Your Friendly Neighborhood Dyke Bar."

1  40  [Reply](#)



<http://rightsaidfreddurst.kinja.com>

[rightsaidfreddurst \(http://rightsaidfreddurst.kinja.com\)](http://rightsaidfreddurst.kinja.com) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 10:15pm (<http://gawker.com/eighteen-years-ago-i-opened-the-lex-to-create-a-space-f-165013569>)

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.

"Who gives a shit? Who cares about the neighborhood?"-Dropbox

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<http://borgohuris.kinja.com>

[borgohuris \(http://borgohuris.kinja.com\)](http://borgohuris.kinja.com) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 11:25pm (<http://gawker.com/ive-been-doing-a-lot-of-big-city-traveling-and-this-sor-1650156465>)

I've been doing a lot of big city traveling and this sort of thing is happening everywhere. Not just for LGBTQ places but anything with a shred of cultural and unique significance. American cities are becoming very bland and vanilla. The shame is that instead of people moving into the cities and embracing the lifestyle there, they are dragging every soulless convenience from their suburban childhood. This can be blamed on yuppies who aren't accustomed to assimilating to other cultures. They also have the money or "[rules \(http://valleywag.gawker.com/dropbox-douchebags-tried-to](http://valleywag.gawker.com/dropbox-douchebags-tried-to)

[kick-children-off-a-soccer-1644947724](#))" to remove anything uncomfortable to their sensibilities. When people have never experienced otherness and learned to adapt, it's nearly impossible to convince them that maybe, just maybe their shit isn't all that and not the way it is "supposed to be".

I predict that smaller cities near big cities will become more attractive to non yuppies and also possibly Midwest cities because the shitty weather seems to keep away a certain amount of douchebags. It's also crazy affordable and has the whole rust belt "grit" going on.

8  42  [Reply](#)



http://question_of_fact.kinja.com

[Question of Fact \(http://question_of_fact.kinja.com\)](http://question_of_fact.kinja.com) ▶ Kevin Montgomery

10/23/14 9:37pm (<http://gawker.com/not-being-a-smartass-but-i-thought-dyke-was-a-slur-1650121815>)

Not being a smartass, but I thought the word "dyke" was a slur.

10  7  [Reply](#)



<http://kevinmonty.kinja.com>

[Kevin Montgomery \(http://kevinmonty.kinja.com\)](http://kevinmonty.kinja.com) ▶ Question_of_Fact

10/23/14 9:49pm (<http://gawker.com/the-owner-self-identified-the-bar-as-such-so-thats-how-165012666>)

The owner self-identified the bar as such, so that's how I identified it.

6  32  [Reply](#)



<http://oliviapopeswineglassisalwaysfull.kinja.com>

[Olivia Pope's Wine Glass \(http://oliviapopeswineglassisalwaysfull.ki...](http://oliviapopeswineglassisalwaysfull.kinja.com)

10/23/14 10:04pm (<http://gawker.com/im-not-usually-one-to-clutch-my-pearls-but>)

I'm not usually one to clutch my pearls but I'm not okay with you using it as a headline (for what I feel was an attempt to increase clicks/comments) even if the owner identifies the bar as such. There's a big difference between a lesbian using that term and a straight (or even gay) male using it. But having it shouted at you by guys when you're just holding hands with your girlfriend will make you feel that way.

4  17  [Reply](#)



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[Kevin Montgomery \(http://kevinmonty.kinja.com\)](http://kevinmonty.kinja.com) ▶ Olivia Pope's Wine Glass

10/23/14 10:51pm (<http://gawker.com/i-changed-the-headline-admittedly-ive-lived-in-sf-for-1650147168>)

I changed the headline.

Not that it excuses it, but I've lived in SF for a while now and grew up just outside of Northampton, MA and in the communities I've surrounded myself in, it's rarely used as a pejorative. I honestly didn't even register the potential offensiveness, as many people locally refers The Lex as a "dyke bar." And I promise you that I didn't do it in some cynical attempt to drive pageviews.

I'm upset with myself for disappointing you, the readers. If it's any consolation at all, the term was used with love. And I am crestfallen that the LBGTQ community is losing more of their cherished spaces in the city.

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<http://oliviapopeswineglassisalwaysfull.kinja.com>

Olivia Pope's Wine Glass (<http://oliviapopeswineglassisalwaysfull.kinja.com>)
10/23/14 11:09pm (<http://gawker.com/thank-you-really-i-live-in-california-now-and>)

Thank you, really. I live in California now and mostly take it for granted but I'm from Texas and words like that still mean so much more there than they do here.

Thanks for your response, I do appreciate it—and you changing the headline.

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<http://pffffffftttt.kinja.com>

Pffffffftttt (<http://pffffffftttt.kinja.com>) ▶ Kevin Montgomery
10/23/14 11:38pm (<http://gawker.com/last-remaining-lesbian-bar-pretty-sure-the-wild-side-w-1650160246>)

Last remaining Lesbian bar? Pretty sure the Wild Side West is still open.

<http://www.wildsidewest.com/> (<http://www.wildsidewest.com/>)

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<http://kevinmonty.kinja.com>

Kevin Montgomery (<http://kevinmonty.kinja.com>) ▶ Pffffffftttt
10/24/14 9:49am (<http://gawker.com/heres-what-sfists-jay-barmann-said-about-wild-side-west-1650250>)

Here's what SFist's Jay Barmann [said](#)

(http://sfist.com/2014/10/23/oh_no_citys_only_lesbian_bar_the_le.php) about Wild Side West:

Some may argue the case for [Wild Side West](http://www.wildsidewest.com/) (<http://www.wildsidewest.com/>), 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.

I trust Jay's take on this.

In the same vein, you could also consider El Rio a lesbian/queer bar (it was founded as such). But in recent years, it has very much become a 'mixed' bar.

2  1  [Reply](#)



<http://hollylujah.kinja.com>

hollylujah (<http://hollylujah.kinja.com>) ▶ Kevin Montgomery
10/24/14 11:01am (<http://gawker.com/yeah-wild-side-west-is-kind-a-comfy-neighborhood-pub-16502897>)

Yeah, Wild Side West is kinda a comfy neighborhood pub full of doggie water-bowls, and the El Rio has been mixed for a long time now (and is a great venue for bands). Bernal Heights still has some vestiges of its lesbian-'hood vibe left, but with the whole general expensivication and gentrification thing, the character of *most* neighborhoods has gotten hopelessly diluted. NObody has "their own special space" in the city anymore.

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