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ABOUT US

Representing Gay Conservatives + Allies



[Our Mission](#)

[What We Believe](#)

[Our Position on Marriage](#)

What we believe

The so-called "gay agenda" has been defined narrowly by the gay left. In contrast to the approach of the left, GOProud's agenda emphasizes conservative and libertarian principles that will improve the daily lives of all Americans, but especially gay and lesbian Americans.

Board of Directors

Our Core Beliefs & Tenets

1 TAX REFORM

We support replacing the current tax code with the Fair Tax. The Fair Tax would treat everyone – gay or straight – equally. Until then, we support death tax repeal; domestic partner tax equity; cuts in the capital gains and corporate tax rates to jump start our economy and create jobs; a fairer, flatter and substantially simpler tax code.

2 HEALTHCARE REFORM

Repeal of Obamacare; encourage free market healthcare reform. Allow for the purchase of insurance across state lines expanding access to domestic partner benefits; emphasizing individual ownership of healthcare insurance – such a shift would prevent discriminatory practices by an employer or the government.

3 SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

The only way to permanent solvency in the Social Security system is through the creation of inheritable personal saving accounts. Personal savings accounts would give gay and lesbian couples the same opportunity to leave their accounts their spouses as their straight counterparts.

4 RESPECTING THE PROPER ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY

We believe our Constitution should be respected and that judges appointed to the federal bench should recognize the proper and appropriate role of the judiciary as laid out by our Founding Fathers.

5 HOLDING THE LINE ON SPENDING

Standing up for all tax payers against wasteful and unnecessary spending to protect future generations from the mount federal debt.

6 FIGHTING GLOBAL EXTREMISTS

Standing strong against radical regimes that refuse to recognize the basic human rights of gays and lesbians, women and religious minorities.



7 DEFENDING OUR CONSTITUTION

Opposing any anti-gay federal marriage amendment. Marriage should be a question for the states. A federal constitution amendment on marriage would be an unprecedented federal power grab from the states.

8 EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

Protecting 2nd amendment rights. The answer to stopping bias motivated crime is not the Hate Crimes laws, instead we support empowering individuals to lawfully protect themselves.

9 RESPECTING STATES RIGHTS

Supporting a strong 10th Amendment that limits the scope of the federal government and empowers states; repealing the federal Defense of Marriage Act and return power to regulate marriage and family law to the states.

10 EDUCATION REFORM

The answer to the serious problem of bullying is not more federal intervention in education. Instead, we support empowering parents and families by supporting school choice initiatives and protecting the right of parents to homeschool their children.

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GOProud is a national organization of gay and straight Americans seeking to promote freedom by supporting free markets, limited government, and a respect for individual rights. We work on the state and federal levels to build strong coalitions of conservative and libertarian activists, organizations and policy makers to advance our shared values and beliefs.

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Annex B



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For Immediate Release
January 14, 2013

GOProud Board Announces New Officers and Expansion of GOProud's Mission to Include State Work

Statement of the GOProud Board of Directors

(Washington, D.C.) – On Saturday January 12th, the GOProud Board of Directors met in Washington, D.C. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Board of Directors issued the following release:

“This weekend, the GOProud Board of Directors elected new officers for 2013. Lisa De Pasquale was elected to a full-term as the Chair of GOProud’s Board of Directors, Bruce Carroll was elected Vice-Chair and Jessica Lee was elected Secretary.

“The GOProud Board of Directors also voted unanimously to expand the organization’s mission to now include state work. Over the next few months, GOProud will be chartering state affiliates to help carry out the important work of the organization on the state and local level.

“GOProud has seen significant growth in the three and a half years since our founding. The GOProud Board has 100% confidence in the management team – led by Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia, and we look forward to continuing to work with our conservative and libertarian partners to improve the lives of all Americans – including gays and lesbians.”

#

GOProud is a national organization of gay and straight Americans who seek to promote freedom by supporting markets, limited government, and a respect for individual rights. We work on the state and federal levels to build strong coalitions of conservative and libertarian activists, organizations and policy makers to advance our shared values and beliefs. 426 C St., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

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Annex C



GOPROUD PATRIOTS

GOProud is an unapologetic voice for gay conservatives and their straight allies.
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GOPROUD

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Annex D



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Upcoming Events

Come out and have a good time with us! You will be helping to support all the good work we do and have a ball at the same time. You can't beat that.

GOProud often sponsors events or participates in other organizations' events throughout the year. Check here often to see what we're planning. We're fun. Really fun. So you won't want to miss any of our events.

Below is a list of our events or conferences where GOProud will have a presence this year. We hope to see you there!



GOProud's Big Party with Andrew Breitbart
2011

GayPatriot.org Steak Dinner

Glendale, CA

February 25, 2013

7:00 pm PST

[Outback Steakhouse](#)

Please [click here to register](#).

Bruce Carroll's blog, [Gay Patriot](#), will be hosting Meatless Monday & The Great Steak Dinner Bet Payoff on Monday February 25th in Glendale, CA.

Bruce, who is vice chair of GOProud's Board of Directors, will be discussing GOProud's new efforts at chapter development and outreach.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy a hearty steak dinner and learn about new opportunities with GOProud!

All the information for the event can be found [here](#).

New Hampshire Meet & Greet

Dover, NH

February 13, 2013

6 pm - 8 pm

[Orchard Street Chop Shop](#)
Please click here to register.

Please come to meet GOProud's Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia and hear about our plans for 2013. We are growing and organizing in New Hampshire. We hope that you'll join us!

Boston Meet & Greet

Boston, MA

February 11, 2013

6 pm - 8 pm

[Colonnade Hotel](#)

Please click here to register.

Please come to meet GOProud's Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia and hear about our plans for 2013. We are growing and organizing in Massachusetts. We hope that you'll join us!

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Annex E

March 11, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my organization's support for the respective objections brought by GOProud and Metroplex Republicans to the application for the .gay TLD filed by dotgay LLC ("dotgay").

The Fabulous Blue Tent Committee is a national network of gay conservatives in Canada.

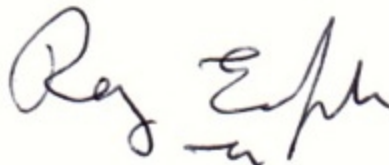
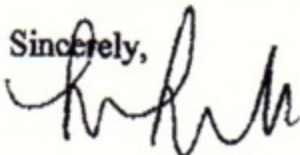
While a specific .gay TLD will be a momentous milestone in the gay struggle for civil rights, dotgay fails to represent the broad spectrum of interests that exist in the gay community. The voice of gay conservatives constitutes but one band of that spectrum of gay groups unrepresented by dotgay. Much like in the United States, conservatives represent a substantial part of the gay community in Canada. Yet in preparing its application, dotgay never contacted any member of the Blue Tent Committee, much less called for participation in applying for the .gay TLD.

An even more pressing concern is dotgay's mechanism for preserving the .gay TLD's community character. Proposing the implementation of an "authentication" system to restrict registration to "qualified registrants," dotgay fails to define the criteria it would use to determine membership in or exclusion from the .gay community. A system lacking such definition is very prone to abuse and exclusion of applicants who otherwise should be included in the gay community. For example, how will the "Authentication Partners . . . responsible for approving all registrations" be designated, and by what criteria would an application be determined to have been brought by "qualified registrants"? Indeed, any scheme to measure the extent to which an applicant is or is not "gay" seems patently absurd and untenable. However, this is exactly the system dotgay seeks to put in place.

Nor does a "community watch" mitigate the risk of over-exclusion from the .gay TLD community. Insofar as the gay community tends to be politically liberal, groups such as the Fabulous Blue Tent Committee and GOProud would face exclusion not for failing to belong to the gay community but for simply holding political and ideological views contrary to those that may operate the TLD. As a result, the community will unjustly shortchange a significant portion of individuals which should otherwise be allowed to participate in the .gay namespace.

Without question, we support the creation and development of a .gay TLD. However, the will be detrimental to any minority within the gay community. It is to avoid the real risks that this model poses to conservative gays and lesbians groups that the Blue Tent Committee offers its endorsement of the objections filed by GOProud and Metroplex Republicans.

Sincerely,



Roy Eappen
Fred Litwin
Jamie Ellerton
Organizers, the Fabulous Blue Tent Committee

Annex F



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Guess Who's Coming to CPAC?

GOProud has taken the conservative and LGBT movements by storm by being brash, loud and uncompromisingly conservative -- and just as uncompromisingly gay

By *Chris Geidner*

Published on *February 9, 2011, 2:25pm* | [Comments](#)

Andrew Breitbart does not play nicely with others.

He's prone to endless fits on Twitter, pointing his fire hose of tweets at a person for hours or days. His enemies – most of the political left – appear to feel the same way about him as he feels about them. Many of his recent biggest splashes – from promotion of James O'Keefe's ACORN videos to then-USDA official Shirley Sherrod's comments at an NAACP event -- have turned out, on further investigation, to be something less than he had claimed. His Big Government, Big Journalism and Big Hollywood websites can be – to borrow a phrase – nasty, brutish and short.

Like his tweets.

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More than 30,000 people receive each of those tweets, though, and far more point their browsers to his websites each day. He is a powerful voice in a conservative movement that has many people attempting to curry favor and influence the debate daily. Breitbart revels in the extent to which he plays a role in that.

And now, he's added to that role by becoming a member of the advisory council of the gay conservative group GOProud. And he's not alone.

Alongside conservative tax icon Grover Norquist, right-wing radio host Tammy Bruce and Fox News *O'Reilly Factor* regular Margaret Hoover, as well as former Republican party official Liz Mair, Breitbart is one of a growing number of unexpected voices supporting the upstart gay conservative group.

What's more, Breitbart has opened up a side of himself that those on the left (and some on the right) never thought they would – and might not want to – see.

"The majority agrees on the humanity of gay people – and to treat gay people like you treat all people," Breitbart says, talking with *Metro Weekly* the week before CPAC – the annual conference that brings a slew of conservative students, activists and would-be presidents to town.

With GOProud's emergence, former Republican National Committee chairman Ken Mehlman's coming out, the Log Cabin Republicans' lawsuit aimed at ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the leadership of Federalist Society hero Ted Olson in the challenge to Proposition 8 in California, "gay rights" have often looked like a conservative movement





GOProud
(Illustration by Scott G. Brooks)

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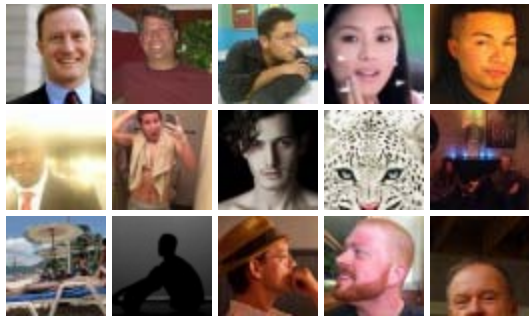
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Elected Republicans, however, have almost universally opposed those issues. On Feb. 7, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) [said](#) he thought it would be "reasonable" to rescind funds for implementing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal – a move that prompted a [sharp rebuke](#) from GOProud the next day. And GOProud's participation itself in CPAC led to a stand-off between GOProud and the religious right, prompting a [call](#) from a coalition of social conservatives in the days before this year's CPAC to exclude gay conservatives from next year's CPAC.

Calling this "a maturing point for the conservative movement," Breitbart minces no words: "If being conservative means rejecting gay conservatives because they are gay, then fine, I'm not a conservative."

Of course, Breitbart is a conservative, and his disdain for "activist gay left" – and most of the media – comes through loud and clear.

If there's one gay place in D.C. where Breitbart's blunt, take-no-prisoners style of conservative political combat fits perfectly, it's the offices of GOProud – a half-dozen blocks from the Capitol and a world away from the Human Rights Campaign and other LGBT organizations.

Jimmy LaSalvia and Christopher Barron, the co-founders of GOProud who serve as its executive director and board chairman, respectively, wouldn't have it any other way. They're not Log Cabin Republicans, though both men have histories that intertwine with that group, and both clearly find that LCR's ability to play well with the majority of other LGBT organizations is not necessarily an advantage.

"Fundamentally, we're a conservative organization," says Barron, "and we're trying to stop the left's agenda."

LCR's executive director Clarke Cooper, on the other hand, says of his organization's coalition work with other LGBT organizations, "Nothing moves forward without moving together."

Those six words could fit quite well as the antithesis to GOProud.

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"We're not trying to ... sneak the left's agenda into the conservative movement. That's what people recognize," Barron says. "That's why people like Breitbart have joined our advisory council."

One year since Barron and LaSalvia first attended CPAC on a tight budget and little to no outside presence or financial support, the hyper pair have led the organization through a debate with far-right conservative website World Net Daily's Joseph Farah and a "Homocon" conference featuring headliner Ann Coulter. They've been through an election cycle that included an unsuccessful attempt to unseat the longest serving out gay member of Congress, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) but did include the election of Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), who later provided one of the votes to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

And by taking on tax and foreign policy issues – as well as traditional gay issues like DADT repeal – they've made an impact on the right, says Norquist, who told *Metro Weekly*, "GOProud has exhibited a great deal of patience, and not everyone in the gay community has exhibited that patience. And they've been team players, which is important."

The duo has taken their brash tactics to the top, hosting what Barron calls "the hottest ticket" at CPAC -- the "Big Party," co-hosted with Breitbart and featuring a performance from singer Sophie B. Hawkins, who identifies as omnisexual and has a female partner.

Barron and LaSalvia are loud and proud – despite the fact that they may not be popular in the rest of the gay political world. But sometimes the taunts from the left even get to them.

Turning serious, LaSalvia says, "You can question our tactics, you can question some of the stunts we pull and some of the things we say, but nobody should question our motives – because we're gay Americans, too."

Although their message often hits deaf ears from those outside the conservative movement and the payoff at this point is more often found in spirit and tone than in action and legislative victories, it's a message that resonates inside the conservative movement. It's also a message that players from all corners of the political world would be foolish to ignore.

The Build-Up



SITTING WITH BARRON and LaSalvia a week before CPAC comes to town, the two are giddy with anticipation, both for the event and for the group's future. The change from a year ago is palpable.

"I mean, last year, it was two guys and a laptop," says Barron.

Adds LaSalvia: "We had pamphlets, too."

With the large "Don't Tread On Me" flag that has become a Tea Party mainstay as a backdrop in their basement office, Barron says, "Last year, we were struggling just to survive at that point. We were literally trying to cobble together the money to afford to go to CPAC."

LaSalvia, who generally plays the second, calmer fiddle to Barron's larger-than-life personality, pipes in, "We were going into CPAC on fumes."

It didn't seem to be a turning point until Liberty University School of Law decided to pull out of co-sponsoring the event. As its dean [told Metro Weekly](#) at the time, "We'll always be a part of CPAC, but we don't believe it's appropriate to be a co-sponsor when another co-sponsor actively works to undermine a mission of its other co-sponsors. And that's what GOProud does."

And Ryan Sorba, a college activist with Young Americans for Freedom took to the stage and condemned CPAC for including GOProud at the conference – a move that led to his being booed off the stage.

Breitbart points to that moment as a key in the evolution of GOProud and the



GOProud's Barron and LaSalvia

(Photo by Todd Franson)

conservative movement. "I think that if you saw how [Sorba] was treated ... by the CPAC crowd when he cast aspersions on gays, I thought that that was a heroic moment in CPAC – when spontaneously he was rejected by the conservatives in the crowd. And to me that was a reflection of the conservative movement that I am very comfortable being a central part of."

GOProud was now squarely in the public eye. And they ran with it.

"The attention we received last year at CPAC was about maybe 10 percent of what's happening this year," says LaSalvia. "But that 10 percent ... launched this organization."

Despite the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) having a booth in the same aisle as GOProud at the convention in 2010, it was a setting that drew attention to what might be a new spirit in the conservative movement.

Despite LCR's involvement in one way or another in previous CPAC conferences, their dedication is to serving, as Cooper says, as a "part of the institutional body of the Republican National Committee." This, by intention or accident, has kept LCR from taking on the prominence at CPAC that GOProud, as a conservative group not affiliated with the party, has been able to seek.

Mair, the GOProud advisory council member who served as the online communications director for the Republican National Committee during the 2008 election, says, "The reality is GOProud's positions, particularly on economic issues and also when it comes to national security issues ... are very, very well within the mainstream [of the conservative movement]."

LaSalvia, the details guy, talks numbers: "It opened doors to us that have helped us to grow our organization. Ever since that day, we've gone from about 2,000 people in our universe to about 10,000 people in a year. And we've raised a lot more money."

Barron is characteristically blunt.

"We grabbed this plot of political land that nobody else wanted, that nobody else had been interested in, that no one else was involved in, no one was talking to, no one cared about and we have occupied it completely and totally by ourselves."

Mair says that the shift makes sense, demographically.

"If you scrutinize polling data and you scrutinize what's going on demographically and how people are thinking about a wide array of political issues now, one of the things that you will notice is that there is a generational shift when it comes to so-called 'gay issues' and that people are thinking about a lot of that differently.

"And that's true, I think, across the board," she continues. "It's not merely true with liberals in American society. It's true with a lot of folks who would consider themselves completely conservative and very strongly conservative."

And GOProud considers itself conservative. Very strongly so.

The Difference

GOPPROUD TAKES criticism from LGBT people on the political left as often -- if not more than -- it does from the religious right. Unlike LCR, which lobbies for legislation like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and often works with LGBT community organizations (as well as Republican Party groups), Barron agitates against the entire premise of most of the LGBT organizations in existence.

"The problem is that the gay left has decided what qualifies as pro-gay and what qualifies as anti-gay, and a whole bunch of the stuff that they think qualifies as pro-gay, I don't think has anything to do with being pro-gay," says Barron. "And, a whole bunch of stuff that they think is anti-gay, I don't think is anti-gay at all."

Barron sees his mission as changing that.

"I think that, over time, obviously, people's position on gay issues is evolving, and I think it helps to have a gay voice out there that says, 'You don't have to be with them on all the things they say you have to be with them on.'"

Saying that's "one of the things that drives the left crazy," Barron becomes angered when describing the complaint that GOProud is "providing cover to our enemies," as gay left blogger Joe Jervis (Joe. My. God.) – a near-constant critic of GOProud – puts it.

Barron isn't having it.

"No, we're not giving cover to bigots," he argues. "What we're doing is separating the people who don't agree with the left-wing agenda from the real bigots. You can be

against ENDA and hate crimes and federal safe schools legislation and not be a bigot. If you're Tony Perkins, you're a bigot. You're against all of that stuff not because of any federalist reasons, but actually because you're just a nasty, anti-gay bigot."

Jervis defends his tactics against GOProud, saying, "What they're actively advocating is blockage of some pretty critical LGBT rights that the movement has only begun to scratch the surface of."

Pointing to GOProud's opposition to ENDA and hate crimes penalty enhancement legislation – while admitting that people of varying political persuasions (including, at one point, himself) also opposed hate crimes laws – Jervis says, "GOProud is about as far right as any political group, gay or straight."

GOProud's strategy for equal rights for gays and lesbians is very much a *conservative* strategy. It seeks implementation of the "fair tax," without mentioning the repeal of DOMA. Although not listed as a legislative priority, Barron does say, "Of course, we support the repeal of DOMA" – though on federalism and not equality grounds.

Regarding ENDA, Barron says, "We believe it isn't the proper role of a limited federal government and that it is a solution in search of a problem. The truth is that the private industry has been way ahead on protections and benefits for gay and lesbian Americans."

GOProud is pushing to allow for purchase of insurance across state lines to "expand[] access to domestic partner benefits." The group supports a foreign policy aimed at "standing strong against radical regimes that refuse to recognize the basic human rights of gays and lesbians, women and religious minorities"

And, yes, GOProud supported DADT repeal. But, Barron says, in their way.

"Part of the reason why, I think, conservatives haven't been there on things like 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is quite honestly, nobody's bothered to talk to them," he says. "Nobody's bothered to show common ground."

He argues that other groups – hinting toward LCR and the Human Rights Campaign – take what he calls "Democratic talking points" and simply "slap 'conservative' or 'Republican' on it."

But, he says, "We know – Jimmy and I know – that there are words that get said that the

left thinks are warm and fuzzy to people that actually automatically turns conservatives off. Instantaneously."

Such as?

"Inclusion," Barron says.

LaSalvia chuckles: "Equality."

Barron, with an eyeroll: "Fairness."

"Immediately, the antennae go up, and they think this is some B.S., P.C., lefty conspiracy to undermine the conservative movement," says Barron. "You cannot come in sounding like the other guy."

GO Proud is different. And it's different, he argues, in a way that works.

"When you demonstrate some common ground, when you say, 'You wanna know what? We actually think that these policies that you support anyway are good for gay people, and here's why,' then all of a sudden they say, 'Well, wait a second, maybe I don't have a problem with gay people. All of these crazy things that we've been told by the Tony Perkinses of the world aren't true. These guys and gals, they're not here trying to snatch my children, they're not here in leather chaps.'"

Barron pauses. "Not that there's anything wrong with leather chaps."

Back to his hypothetical conservative Republican.

By simply being in the room as a true conservative, Barron argues, something changes. They conclude, "in fact, [we] sound just like all of the rest of the folks that are here."

That, however, has not been enough for the Tony Perkinses.

The Boycott

THE CPAC BOYCOTT list consists, primarily, of a who's who of the groups generally described as anti-gay organizations: American Family Association, Concerned Women for America, Family Research Council, Media Research Center, National Organization for Marriage.

"CWA has decided not to participate in part because of GOProud," said Peggy Nance, the group's spokeswoman. Other groups made similar statements.

LaSalvia sounds fine with that decision.

"There are socially conservative groups who are a part of CPAC. You have the pro-life groups, you have education – school choice groups, all kinds of Second Amendment groups," he says. "Lots of social conservatives are represented at CPAC.

"And we're at CPAC. It's still the preeminent conference of conservatives in the country. The groups who aren't there are the anti-gay groups. That's it."

Breitbart, not often thought of these days as one who pokes at the right, expresses confusion, whether real or feigned, at the boycott attempt.

"I've seen gay groups estimate the percentage of gay people in our country as high as 10 percent, and I've seen groups that aren't amenable to gay rights or whatever say, 'No, no, it's closer to two to three percent.' Well, when those people minimize the amount of people there are – two to three percent – what is their fear of that two to three percent coming into the Big Tent and disagreeing with you on three percent of the issues?

"None of it makes sense to me."

Going to the substance of what he says is the primary reason for his support of GOProud, Breitbart says, "I believe, to the core of my being, that what I'm doing is supported by the vast majority of the people who consider themselves conservatives in this country."

He adds, though, "I'm not here to play the Meghan McCain or the Barbara Bush role. Anyone that would indulge the left's marginalization tactic of putting on that 'NOH8,' over-the-mouth thing – which equates honest disagreement over gay marriage as an act of hate, an unbelievably loaded term – I have no time for."

Speaking about his involvement with GOProud, Breitbart sounds almost professorial – in a way that conflicts with some of his actions in other political spheres.

"I'm for the debate. I'm for any debate," he says. "I believe in a democracy when debate is free and open and free from the constraints of political correctness – that the best ideas win."

And that's exactly what Norquist says GOProud's presence does: "The key issue is, 'Let's make sure everyone is invited and welcome in the party' – and then we're going to have a nice, long conversation about lots of stuff."

Not everyone agrees with Breitbart and Norquist, even outside of the right-wing anti-gay groups. The Heritage Foundation and Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) are the two biggest names to drop out of CPAC based, at least in part, on GOProud's role at the conference.

This is Barron's time to go on the attack.

Of the Heritage Foundation's decision, he says, "They've chosen to – and it's a mystery to me why – but they've chosen to align themselves with the losers."

Asked to explain, Barron places the blame at the feet of Cleta Mitchell, the big-name Republican D.C. lawyer who was the attorney for the groups trying to keep marriage equality from coming to the District. Mitchell did not respond to multiple requests from *Metro Weekly* for comment.

"I think there's a couple people in Heritage who, at the behest of Cleta Mitchell – who is just a nasty bigot ... she got some of the people at Heritage early on fired up about this," Barron says. "We tried very, very hard to smooth this over and to avoid any public fight with Heritage and then when Heritage came up with their excuse about how this wasn't about GOProud – first of all, we knew it was, we knew it was six months ago – but we were willing to publicly let them."

He puts on his "really, I'm a nice guy" face.

"Look, Heritage does a lot of good work, and I didn't want – it looks terrible for them, and I didn't want to have them humiliate themselves. But they've seemed hell-bent on it. Their story keeps changing and now we're down to the truth, which is: It was about us. And they've lost donors. They've lost supporters."

With a nod of agreement from LaSalvia, Barron concludes, "There's a lot of people in the conservative movement who are looking very differently at the [Heritage Foundation]."

He's singing the same tune when it comes to DeMint, who is joined by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) in claiming GOProud as part of his reason for staying away from this weekend's conference.

Of those calling for the boycott, Barron says, "They're all excited that Jim DeMint is boycotting. And that's fantastic. I'm glad that he's willing to be on the Island of Political Misfit Toys with [World Net Daily's Joseph] Farah and the Concerned Women for America."

LaSalvia eagerly notes, "Cleta Mitchell is his lawyer."

The Party

MITCHELL'S EFFORTS notwithstanding, GOProud will be at CPAC.

Moreover, Barron points to the backing that his group got from the American Conservative Union, which puts on CPAC.

"It's a watershed moment for the anti-gay right to pick a fight with somebody like us and lose in such a high-profile way," he says. "I can promise you, they never saw this coming. They never thought they would lose this fight – or they never would have picked it. It's been completely embarrassing for them."

Barron looks at the landscape: "We've said all along that we don't think that the conservative movement is unwelcoming to gay people. There is a fringe element. A really nasty, anti-gay, bigoted element. And we have smoked them out, and we have marginalized them."

And, for the most part, that's true. Norquist says that CPAC is "running 15 percent ahead on registrations over last year, and last year we hit 10,000, which was a historic high that I didn't expect that we would reach again in a non-election year. But, it looks as though it will be another historic high."

Barron says that "everybody else important is going," and Mair notes that "[w]e have pretty much every single prospective 2012 Republican presidential contender speaking there."

One who is not attending, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (R), made clear on Feb. 7 that GOProud's attendance was not at all the cause for her absence, [telling](#) the Christian Broadcasting Network that she was "a little taken aback" that people thought her absence had anything to do with GOProud's participation. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) also will be absent.

Although Palin and Huckabee will not be attending, most of the rest – from former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R) to Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) – will. So will Breitbart. With streamers.

"It's rare that something moves me as much in seeing that people who were invited then caused a certain group of people to drop out," Breitbart says. "I wanted them to feel as welcome there as every other group. That was my motivation."

Apparently, motivation gets Breitbart to do big things.

On the night of Feb. 10, Breitbart and GOProud will host the "Big Party" as CPAC opens.

Barron is excited about the event, saying, "The ticket for our Breitbart party is going to be the hardest damn ticket to get all weekend. I mean, other organizations have moved their events so that they don't compete with us, and other organizations have begged us, saying, 'Please let us co-sponsor so that we can have tickets to make sure that we get in.'"

Gays throwing a party. Not exactly revolutionary.

When the agenda for CPAC was released, Jervis [pointed](#) to the absence of Barron and LaSalvia on any panels as a sign that GOProud will be, more or less, seen and not heard at CPAC. Barron dismisses that criticism, saying that there is much that they will be doing. "Jimmy and I don't have the luxury of sitting there on a panel."

LaSalvia says that the group "said no to a dozen different things."

Adds Barron, "We've said all along this isn't about the cult of personality of Jimmy and Chris. This is about our message, and you know who is a better messenger than me or Jimmy? A better messenger is Tammy Bruce, Margaret Hoover, Andrew Breitbart, Grover Norquist. Those are the people – I want them up there communicating our message. I don't need to be on the CPAC stage."

LaSalvia talks about all that he and Barron can accomplish during the weekend in terms of networking and setting up the next steps for GOProud. "You'll see GOProud people all over that stage."

Once CPAC is over, the gab can move on to what's next.

Barron says, "I know a lot on the nasty, anti-gay right think they're going to relitigate this again next year and come up with any different of a response – I've got news for them: This has been a P.R. disaster for them."

Of the boycotters, LaSalvia says, "They know that it's been a disaster, and so that sets the tone for the future.

"And you know what's the future? The future is a presidential race."

The Future

THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL race – particularly the Republican primary – is already well under way. "We've been talking to presidential candidates before now, and we're going to continue to talk to presidential candidates in the coming weeks and months," says Barron.

As LaSalvia points out, the first Republican debate is scheduled to take place in May – just three months from now.

GOProud is geared up to be "very engaged" in the 2012 elections, Barron says. "We have stuff in store for this presidential cycle that people are going to be like, 'I just can't believe this.' It's going to be so much fun."

"We'll be in the early states," LaSalvia says specifically.

It's clear GOProud is making waves. The question, however, is whether they're changing the shoreline.

Barron does point to the Republican votes that helped DADT Repeal Act to reach cloture, saying, "Without those Republicans, we wouldn't have had 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal." When asked for the three biggest specific successes achieved by GOProud, Barron's answers are more typical of community organizers than of D.C. political operatives.

He responds that the group has "smoked out and marginalized the truly anti-gay forces within the conservative movement," "built bridges to the conservative movement that have begun to change opinions about gay people and our lives" and "offered gay people a different way forward."

And, though that's just a beginning, even Equality Matters president Richard Socarides admits when discussing relationship recognition, "As I often say, everybody is entitled to

their journey on this."

On the right, Norquist points to modest – but, he says, solid – changes: "Right now, it's a sign the modern Republican Party is open to all comers, and the modern conservative movement as well."

Barron sums up his debates with LCR, with the left, with everyone, saying, "I understand that many of us want to get to the same destination, the same place, where sexual orientation just doesn't matter. And there are a lot of different paths to get there. And the fact that we have staked out one that nobody has been on before doesn't make that path any less legitimate."

Even an unabashed liberal like Jervis, who acknowledges that there is a base of gay people who vote for Republicans, says, "I do think they should go to CPAC. I do approve, with great amusement, of the shit-stirring they're doing there."

And they're making some friends in conservatives like Breitbart. "I have gay conservatives in my life that I want to march to battle with," he says. "They're the best of the group."

The battle – on the whole political field and among those on the right – is not a one-time event, as Norquist reminds those who are watching the relationship between gay conservatives and the conservative movement.

"That is a long-term conversation," he says, "and you can't pre-judge that."

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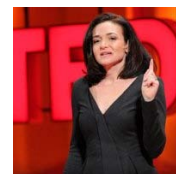
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GOProud or Go Home

Five reasons CPAC should embrace the gay conservative group.

By Daniel Foster

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GOProud executive director Jimmy LaSalvia

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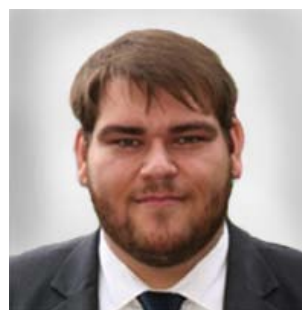
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For the second straight year, it looks as though neither the Log Cabin Republicans nor GOProud will participate in the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). There was a minor dustup when GOProud was asked to move along at last year's conference after the group had served as a sponsor in the previous two years, and the story has been given fresh oxygen by progressive MSNBC host Chris Hayes, who said that he would accept an invitation to appear on a CPAC panel (opposite Ralph Reed) only if GOProud were welcomed back into the fold. Though I don't agree with Hayes on much, he's right on this one. Here are five reasons why.

Comments

652



Daniel Foster

SMALL-G GAY, SMALL-C CONSERVATIVE

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GOProud is consistently big-C “movement” conservative on the important issues — especially on fiscal policy and the size of government, but also on social issues such as abortion. After all, GOProud was founded by a couple of Log Cabin Republicans dissatisfied with that group’s Main-Street-partnership-style centrism. This alone is a pretty good reason for their inclusion at CPAC. But arguably more interesting, and more important for a



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conservative advocacy more effective, is GOProud’s lower-case conservatism. Watch them operate and you realize that, unlike many social-issue activist groups on both the left and the right, GOProud understands that speed kills in the culture wars. A D.C. journo-acquaintance once complained to me, “What does GOProud actually *do* besides put out press releases?” Said journo is exaggerating, but it’s true that GOProud picks its spots. They’re playing the long game of acclimating gays to conservatism and conservatism to gays, and a large piece of that, frankly, is just sitting around quietly and behaving themselves. This is why GOProud leads with its full-spectrum conservative bona fides and why its position on gay marriage (officially agnostic and federalist, but with implied underlying support) is intentionally circumspect and backgrounded. It’s an approach that makes GOProud not only small-c conservative, but small-g gay, an illustration that one’s sexual preference does not require one to be wed to readymade big-g “Gay” identity politics.

GAYS SHOULD BE GETTABLE

According to post-election analyses, President Obama won the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) vote by about three to one, and LGBT voters constituted about 5 percent of the electorate. If you’re a conservative who thinks that’s

not a chunk of the vote worth fighting for, consider that nationally Romney and Obama split the straight vote 49–49. Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are all top-ten states in terms of total gay population, and New Hampshire, Colorado, and New Mexico are all in the top ten in terms of the percentage of gay residents. These are all fabled “battleground” states that Mitt Romney failed to carry in 2012, and that Republicans will have to woo if the conservative movement is to have a national political vehicle. All the intra-conservative talk about reaching out to Latino voters via immigration reform has been subject to wet-blanket reminders that Latinos tend to be liberal voters for all sorts of other reasons, not least because they fall into other demographic buckets that tend to break liberal. The data on gay Americans are scattershot, but there is some indication that something similar is going on here: That is, self-identified homosexuals tend to be younger, less white, and less educated than self-identified heterosexuals. One could look at this as reason for conservatives to despair of winning their votes, or as an opportunity to kill a number of demographic challenges with one stone. One reason to be hopeful about the latter is that, while it’s difficult to be secretly Latino, it’s fairly common to be secretly gay. (Living in New York City, I know both conservatives who are closeted gays and gays who are closeted conservatives — indeed, would anyone be surprised if Romney carried the closet vote?) Bringing GOProud into the conservative fold is the sort of symbolic action that could contribute to breaking up this two-way shame. It’s also the type of action that could have real spillover effects with the political middle, broadly speaking, as polls continue to show that the center of the country is becoming more gay-friendly.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Those polls, by the way, show movement among conservatives as well. The 2012 Gallup poll showing majority support for gay marriage also showed 30 percent support among Republicans. More noteworthy still, a contemporaneous *Washington Post*/ABC poll showed that Republicans ages 18–44 were evenly split on the question, 46–46. The smart money is on that split tipping in favor of “marriage equality” in the next few years, and even that probably underrepresents the momentum, because most young Republicans today are driven first by fiscal issues and exhibit a prominent libertarian

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streak, meaning that in addition to those who support gay marriage outright, there is probably a sizeable segment of conservatives who regard it with benign indifference. While “conservatives” are not always and everywhere synonymous with “Republicans,” it’s still true that if CPAC wants to be oriented toward the future of the Right, and not its past, it should feature a mix of participants that reflects the evolving reality of where conservatives and Republicans stand on the gay question.

CONTESTED CONSERVATISM

If there is significant internal disagreement among conservatives on any given issue, that disagreement ought to be represented at CPAC, which plays a unique role in the conservative movement. This is especially true in “wilderness” years such as this one. GOProud’s involvement in past CPACs caused a (relatively small) amount of controversy and disruption at the proceedings, and that may have been reason enough to ask them to stay home in 2012, a year in which conservative unity was especially important. But the election is over, and one of conservatism’s great intellectual strengths is that “conservatism” is a contested concept. If confabs such as CPAC aren’t going to reflect the robust and vital internal debate about the present and future of conservatism, what are they good for?

THE INTOLERANCE CUDGEL

Last, let’s stipulate that it is the business of the American Conservative Union and CPAC’s organizers to determine who is and isn’t represented at CPAC. I wouldn’t advocate, and I don’t think GOProud’s exclusion warrants, a widespread boycott. But the move against GOProud does seem to be all downside. It lacks even the abstract nobility of “holding the line” or “standing athwart” leftward cultural drift, because GOProud was a CPAC sponsor for two years before it was kicked out. Meanwhile, the active, purposeful decision to leave it out in the cold gives the Left — see Chris Hayes — a cudgel with which to beat the Right for its implied intolerance. And unlike, say, the mythic “war on women,” they will kind of have a point. “Tolerance” has been more or less weaponized by cultural progressives, coming to connote a forced embrace of all the “good” kinds of heterodoxy and a rejection of all the “bad” kinds. But



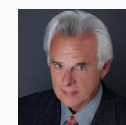
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tolerance in its original, and best, sense requires merely a respectful coexistence governed by a principle of charity, not a commandment to embrace or celebrate. CPAC could perfectly illustrate the difference by inviting GOProud back into the tent.

— *Daniel Foster is news editor of NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE.*



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AugustineThomas

Premise: A majority of folks are leftist yall, and I don't want to be having barbecues alone..

Conclusion: Lets become leftists!!!

ChrisSanchez

Thanks, August. That seems to be the meme: open immigration, accept homosexual marriage, let taxes go up, stop being prolife. Where is the end of such a list?

glenn1

Or it could be about trying and live up to the principles you espouse. You take your religion's hostility towards homosexuality and propose it as a political platform that anyone else who supports the constitution and liberty must abide by. I say you are a reactionary who is living in an anachronism.

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Annex H



Right Turn

Jennifer Rubin's take from a conservative perspective

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Pro-gay rights panel invades CPAC [Updated]

Posted by Jennifer Rubin on March 7, 2013 at 10:27 am

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A sponsor for the upcoming CPAC gathering, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, will use a room assigned to the free-market conservative think tank to conduct a pro-gay rights panel titled, "A Rainbow on the Right: Growing the Coalition, Bringing Tolerance Out of the Closet." CEI spokesman Brian McNicoll says via e-mail, "As a sponsor, CEI gets use of a room for two hours." For the "Rainbow on the Right" panel, McNicoll tells me that Fred Smith, a CEI head, is moderating. Liz Mair, Jonah Goldberg, Margaret Hoover and Jimmy LaSalvia of GOProud are all confirmed.

In addition, I am pleased to announce I will be acting as a moderator for a separate session.

CEI did not disguise its intentions from the CPAC organizers, who have been roundly criticized for excluding prominent conservatives such as Govs. Bob McDonnell and Chris Christie, as





House Speaker John Boehner at CPAC 2012-J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

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well as GOProud. McNicoll says, “We turned in the name [of the panel] and chose it so there could be no doubt what we were trying to do.” He says that there was “complete radio silence,” and the session was put on the schedule.

This is the revolt of a new generation of conservatives who are more inclusive and more media savvy. They understand that gay rights (I would say not unlike immigration reform) is increasingly a “gateway” issue for voters. If politicians are perceived as intolerant and unwelcoming on this issue, many voters, including those the GOP must attract in greater numbers (women, minorities, younger voters, moderate urbanites), won’t listen to them on other issues. Next year, perhaps this array of groups and

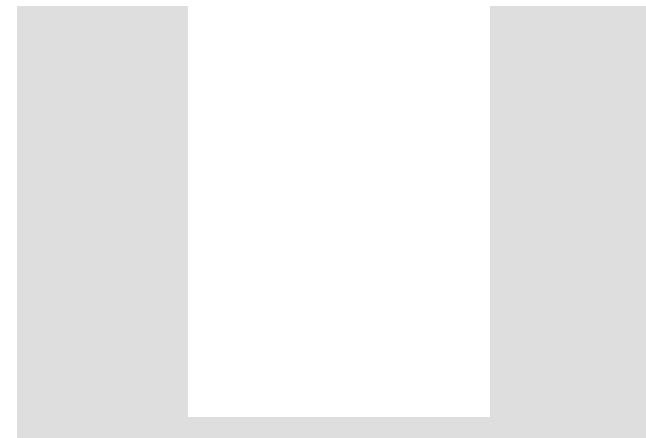
individuals will run a new CPAC-type confab, maybe even giving the old CPAC team a room to demonstrate the purpose of such a gathering is to increase, and not diminish, the movement’s appeal.

This post has been updated to correct the affiliation of Fred Smith and add the status of invited speakers.

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stoner829 wrote:

3/10/2013 2:30 PM PDT

As an American I feel the United States has really taken a back seat on gay rights behind an increasing amount of countries. Canada gave its LGBT citizens the right to marriage years ago and the sky there hasn't fallen. Straight couples are still getting married and having children..society there has not unraveled. People often use the argument "children do best with a mother and father." That is in a perfect world. I have friends who were legally married in CA before Prop. 8. They adopted two beautiful children from foster care. Their mother was a drug addict. Their house is so full of love. The kids are thriving in school and in life. No straight couples were interested in them because their son has health issues from his mother's drug abuse. Trust me..the world would be a much better place if there were more people out there like my friends...

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WBill wrote:

3/7/2013 6:57 PM PST

I doubt you read the comments because most are pure bile. But if you do, I want to say thank you, Ms. Rubin, for your involvement in the CPAC panel and, more importantly, for your always intelligent and insightful reporting and analysis.

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chert responds:


3/7/2013 7:39 PM PST

That is a rather surprising endorsement, WBill, since most posters here find Ms. Rubin to be puerile, ranting, hyper-partisan and silly - and never intelligent or insightful. I confess that, for my part, I read Ms. Rubin's writings merely for the amusement it generally affords, but your remarks will force me to take a closer look. I'm grateful for your comments.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/olUV3XxUuBv1e9fzxE5xHXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikkwhFQ%3D%3D/>

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Christianpastor responds:

3/7/2013 10:58 PM PST

Intelligent and intellectual? Gays "invade" conservative conference. Really?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/d9H76W1quh0UkCJ6PeBdO8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

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Jean Pierre Katz responds:

3/10/2013 11:04 PM PDT

Jennifer Rubin-Thank you for trying to bring some light into the dark CPAC conference.

I also want to thank you for your effort to block Hagel. I also tried my best on that one.

Many of the CPAC participants are completely against helping gay people in any way. They are even against the right of a gay person to be left alone on their jobs instead of being able to be fired at any moment just because they are gay.

It would be the right thing to do and good politics to have more Republicans come out in favor of protection from job discrimination.



The Phylis Schlafly wing of the party is entirely right wing Evangelical warriors and they are leading their party on a crusade of the political cliff.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/wLIBknk67SYhdz/qU9dyMTSbpxj4VHEqmK2UcynKLE1oGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



 Like ·  Flag



bearluvva wrote:

3/7/2013 4:44 PM PST

It is well past the time for the GOP to cut that crazy religious right nut bag leg off the stool. Unless they want to continue dwindling into obscurity.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/GqAL2HAzSSipCURoSkjpxcgoWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

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Jill5443 wrote:

3/7/2013 4:10 PM PST

I still haven't seen Ms. Rubin listed as a moderator on the CPAC program online. Actual confirmed speakers include: U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte; U.S. Representative Michele Bachmann; former U.S. Representative Ann Marie Beurkle; U.S. Representative Diane Black; U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn; former Florida Governor Jeb Bush; Producer, Writer and Consultant Pat Caddell; U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor; Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery Dr. Benjamin Carson; U.S. Senator Tom Coburn; U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli; former U.S. Representative Artur Davis; U.S. Representative Sean Duffy and Rachel Campos-Duffy; Heritage Foundation President-Elect Jim DeMint; Heritage Foundation President Dr. Edwin Feulner; ACU Board Member Carly Fiorina; former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich; Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal; U.S. Senator Ron Johnson; Producer Mark Joseph; NRA President and ACU Board Member David Keene; Screenwriter Howie Klausner; NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre; U.S. Senator Mike Lee; Mayor of Saratoga Springs; UT Mia Love; former U.S. Representative Connie Mack; U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; Producer Gerald Molen; U.S. Representative Tom Price; Radio Host and Breitbart TV Editor in Chief Larry O'Connor; former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin; U.S. Senator Rand Paul; Texas Governor Rick Perry; U.S. Senator Marco Rubio; U.S. Representative Paul Ryan; former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum; U.S. Representative Steve Scalise; Eagle Forum Founder Phyllis Schlafly; U.S. Senator Tim Scott; Director and Writer John Sullivan; U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; Donald Trump; former U.S. Representative Allen West; and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like  Reply  Share  Flag



chert responds:

3/7/2013 8:03 PM PST

An esteemed gathering, in short. Of nitwits.

User

ID:

<http://washingtont.com/olUV3XxUuBv1e9fzxE5xHXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikwhFQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 1 reader · Flag



chert responds:

3/7/2013 8:06 PM PST

Phyllis Schlafly, Allen West, Donald Trump and Sarah Palin. Can it get better than that? I mean, I've heard of rare gatherings of intellectual giants, but this ...

User

ID:

<http://washingtont.com/olUV3XxUuBv1e9fzxE5xHXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikwhFQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 4 readers · Flag



chert responds:

3/7/2013 8:11 PM PST

Wait a sec! Did I see the name of the redoubtable Michelle Bachmann on this list??? I'm speechless. Had Einstein, Rousseau, Aristotle, Da Vinci not already moved beyond this mortal coil, surely their presence at this august conclave would ave gone unheralded! My only question: where are Herman Cain and Rick Perry? Could deep thinkers of their calibre seriously be excluded from such a group?

User

ID:

<http://washingtont.com/olUV3XxUuBv1e9fzxE5xHXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikwhFQ%3D%3D/>



Like · Flag



chert responds:

3/7/2013 8:22 PM PST



Ah! I see Governor Perry is among the distinguished collective! (He would not mind me using that word, I hope ...?). As are equally illustrious French personages such as Jim DeMint, Wayne LaPierre (where was Sartre? Oh, right. Dead. Well, he would not be missed.). Mia Love - almost Congresswoman from the great state of Utah! Ken Cuccinelli - almost Governor of Virginia! Bobby

Jinda! Who can forget his fiery speech after President Obama's first landslide victory? (Would that he had replicated it for the second!). An unstoppable group! (They hate gay people and have barred them, but a small matter. What a group!)

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/olUV3XxUuBv1e9fzxE5xHXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrlKkwhFQ%3D%3D/>

 Like ·  Flag



des111168 wrote:

3/7/2013 1:50 PM PST

So kick CEI out. Let the libertarians do this stuff. This is the CONSERVATIVE Political Action Committee.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/DhHhke%2BqX8fuofZkBhiglBLoUCLbzMxgbTo%2BP96Aj/uyxbUXoLEHQ%3D%3D/>

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Nashville responds:


3/7/2013 2:00 PM PST

YEA thats right. Kick em out and hand the next election to the dems. Thats the way its headed now anyway

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 3 readers ·  Flag



Jill5443 wrote:

3/7/2013 1:32 PM PST

On the home page, there are 885 comments listed (but on the actual thread above only 775 -- now 776 with this comment). I wonder why that is?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

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sb433 responds:



3/7/2013 1:36 PM PST

Our friend MrMichael and his threads that were deleted due to violation of WaPo policy.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

 Like ·  Flag



Jil5443 responds:



3/7/2013 1:39 PM PST

That's not 100 posts though (lots more "personal attacks" from your side got dleeted).

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like ·  Flag



Jil5443 responds:



3/7/2013 1:39 PM PST

deleted

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like ·  Flag



sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 1:41 PM PST



only my guess to be honest, I could see where 10 comment threads with 10 replies each could equal 100.

And for the record, I don't hate anyone, I just like a good debate. Truce, til the next round

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

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Jill5443 wrote:

3/7/2013 1:05 PM PST

Ronald Reagan was the greatest President of the United States! Obama will not get HALF the mourners that attended Reagan's funeral.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader ·  Reply ·  Share ·  Flag



Nashville responds:


3/7/2013 1:08 PM PST

Reagan raised taxes eleven times as President.Reagan legalized abortion as Governor of California.Ronald Reagan supported gun control. Have to admit he was pretty good

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 3 readers ·  Flag



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 1:10 PM PST

Reagan wanted to shrink government; today's Republican Party wants to destroy it.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers ·  Flag



GayRightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 1:14 PM PST

Reagan gave WMD components to Saddam Hussein, financed the training of Bin Laden and sold missiles to Iran and then diverted the proceeds to fund rightwing terrorism in central America

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 3 readers ▪ Flag



sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 1:18 PM PST

Saint Ronny is totally awesome. Let's name something after him.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



Jil15443 responds:

3/7/2013 1:26 PM PST

gREAT IDEA, SB433.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like ▪ Flag



whatmeregister responds:

3/7/2013 4:10 PM PST

Is Congress allowed to name Porta-Potties after dead presidents? If so, I'm all for it.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/lufrTU5yanZKrrOjxohi2nrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrlKkwhFQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



GayRightsNow wrote:

3/7/2013 12:59 PM PST

O/T

Breaking: Brennan confirmed 63-34.

after that circus yesterday...hilarious

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader · Reply · Share · Flag



Jil5443 responds:

3/7/2013 1:00 PM PST

Sen. Rand finally GOT the answer to the question he's been asking (see latest thread).

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers · Flag



GayRightsNow wrote:

3/7/2013 12:38 PM PST

Both Obama and Bush feigned objection to same-sex marriage for electoral purposes. I don't think either of them personally give a damn about the issue.

The only reason Bush won't come out now is because he knows he's already done enough damage to his party without creating yet another rift. But both his wife and VP have voiced support, and also his 04 campaign manager, himself gay, who had no problem exploiting homophobia as the basis of an electoral strategy .

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers · Reply · Share · Flag



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:48 PM PST

Yea but don't you think it is possible that Obama was exposed to rational thinking pro gay marriage

argument and he simply changed his mind?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader · [Flag](#)



Jill5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:48 PM PST

IMPEACH OBAMA for lying to the American people!

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers · [Flag](#)



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:48 PM PST

I've changed my mind on a number of issues

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader · [Flag](#)



sb433 responds:


3/7/2013 12:49 PM PST

Lying? Like "Iraq has weapons of mass destruction," lying?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers · [Flag](#)



GayRightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 12:52 PM PST

i think it's been a political calculation for public officials

i just don't think Obama was dumb enough to fall for any of the inane arguments from the other side.

just my impressions

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



Jill5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:54 PM PST

Iraq DID have WMD (we gave them to him)!

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



GayRightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 12:55 PM PST

um, no jill ... we were told Saddam had ACTIVE wmd programs, including a nuclear program

it was lies.

all we found were rusty old shells from the 80's

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:57 PM PST

Conservative Republicans close their eyes to any facts or evidence that conflict with their dogma.

User

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<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 1 reader ▪ Flag



Jill5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:59 PM PST


GWB never lied:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/02/05/2462312/g...>

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

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sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 1:02 PM PST

SO the fact that he totally believed there were WMD negates the fact that he stood and told the American Public that there were and that was justification for a war?

User

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<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

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[View 14 more replies](#)



dsteh wrote:

3/7/2013 12:30 PM PST

"In addition, I am pleased to announce I will be acting as a moderator for a separate session."

Gosh Jenn, I didn't know you were gay too.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/7n/SfpJ/bhvxDLBMDi04xbidoaFyAQkMe2qIGpRSUmUC1YGyXPVjbA%3D%3D/>

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Jill5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:33 PM PST

Keyword: SEPARATE (not this) session.

User

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<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

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basket wrote:

3/7/2013 12:21 PM PST

Someone must have ghost written Rubin's column today. Not one word about how much the president hates Israel or one word about how much we should all hate Palestine. I know she could not have written this.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/djD4KP1NQcei5t4NyjdIESx25AluscfeNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikwhFQ%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 3 readers ·  Reply ·  Share ·  Flag



Jill5443 responds:



3/7/2013 12:33 PM PST

See did though.

User

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<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like ·  Flag



Jill5443 responds:



3/7/2013 12:47 PM PST

She

User

ID:

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 Like ·  Flag



Jill5443 wrote:

3/7/2013 12:16 PM PST

Less than 1 year ago, even our own President of the United States thought that "marriage" should be between one man and one woman. Why all of the HATRED against those of us who still think that?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 2 readers · Reply · Share · Flag



Nashville responds:


3/7/2013 12:18 PM PST

Because it discrimnates against your fellow Americans.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 3 readers · Flag



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:18 PM PST

And like it or not I AM AN AMERICAN

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader · Flag



sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 12:19 PM PST

Because you don't scream and shout about the sanctity of marriage when someone files for a no fault divorce.


Because you don't shun your leaders when they engage in sexual impropriety and adultery, but just claim, "oh he sinned, but he's forgiven"

Because you hold gays and lesbians to a standard not reflected when you look in a mirror.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 4 readers · Flag



Jil5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:19 PM PST

Well, at least give us the same 50 years it took Obama to evolve on the issue.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/T5Oq7eEjWBC7G6FUe5kRr/%2BLRzrUEvutW2vg8ijbb2doGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

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Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:21 PM PST

We don't care about your evolving We care about laws that discriminate. You can associate with whomever you want just don't pass laws that hurt gay people

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

Like Liked by 3 readers ▪ [Flag](#)



ZZim responds:

3/7/2013 12:22 PM PST

Jill5443 wrote: "Less than 1 year ago, even our own President of the United States thought that "marriage" should be between one man and one woman. "

He was lying and everyone knew he was lying.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/DCMyS67jyij4q05HiINKvXrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrikkwhFQ%3D%3D/>

Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ [Flag](#)



Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:24 PM PST

NOOOOO he wasn't lying thats the qway he felt at the time. Thankfully he was exposed to alot of genuine hard working gay people that wanted nothing more than to be treated the same

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/ZoTmfaofJwJFf550g/L/HfJkV59ZvvsMTJtiglgBnTVoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

Like ▪ [Flag](#)



sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 12:25 PM PST

And for the record, we don't hate you, we just think it's rather inane.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcJEG8goWI6YUHMFVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 2 readers ▪ Flag



GayRightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 12:29 PM PST

i agree with ZZ

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 1 reader ▪ Flag



GayRightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 12:32 PM PST

i also think GW Bush was lying when he feigned objection

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 1 reader ▪ Flag

[View 11 more replies](#)



WorkatHomeGuy wrote:

3/7/2013 12:06 PM PST

Excuse me, but is Rubin now acting as a publicist for CPAC, CEI and GOProud?

Doesn't this conflict with her duties as a publicist for the anti-Hagel movement?

Or her duties as a publicist for the anti-Obama movement?

Or her duties as a publicist for Senator Rand Paul?

Or her duties as a publicist for Bibi Netanyahu (or is that yahoo?)?

If I wanted to know who was speaking at a session of CPAC or whatever, I'd get the brochure. Spare us this drivel of who is speaking where and get back to peddling the crap she is paid to peddle.

And does anyone acutally care what happens at CPAC?

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/lfulwfp%2BGHIs6pnMLrbU6HrE7VgS76krNWZjM5N3fM%2B%2B%2BfrlKkwhFQ%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 4 readers · Reply · Share · Flag



ERA wrote:

3/7/2013 12:03 PM PST

Nashville said it well. What's to stop the next group of young men who decided they would like to marry their Mothers, or girls who want to marry their Fathers?

A union or partnership, or really close roommates should make gay people happy, as long as they get the tax breaks and other legal rights of married couples. The rest of the rhetoric is aimed at imposing a specific group's lifestyle on society as a whole, and yes its not something we want our kids exposed to until they are old enough to choose differently.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/gC3UCya6Rm6z90hy9p8E54zZKCWo87l4lygMxTezs6ZoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 1 reader · Reply · Share · Flag



RightsNow responds:

3/7/2013 12:05 PM PST


if you want to marry your sister, cat or toaster, argue your case in court like we did

let us know how it turns out.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/BhJ3QuVBUadchcEBOYwzujp1sZwaf5%2B5z2cGaKXYIjFoGeVxxhJF5A%3D%3D/>

 Like Liked by 8 readers · Flag



sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 12:05 PM PST

Actually we have a compelling state interest to prohibit close familial relations from marrying. It's called genetics and the increased likelihood that offspring from said unions would require additional state resources.

But if hitting it with your mom turns you on, there's nothing I can do about it.

User

ID:

<http://washingtonpost.com/LLGk3sgW9czBxtTURcUEG8goWI6YUHMfVINQOUtKBgd/tT03sC7QkQ%3D%3D/>



Like Liked by 5 readers ▪ Flag



uwra responds:

3/7/2013 12:07 PM PST

Memphis said it well. What's to stop the next group of young white who decided they would like to marry African American people, or Latinas who want to marry their whites?

A union or partnership, or really close roommates should make these people happy, as long as they get the tax breaks and other legal rights of married couples. The rest of the rhetoric is aimed at imposing a specific group's lifestyle on society as a whole, and yes its not something we want our kids exposed to until they are old enough to choose differently.

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sb433 responds:

3/7/2013 12:09 PM PST

For the record, having adult-onset type II diabetes is a lifestyle choice.

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Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:11 PM PST

What I said was that the greatest enemy of religion is critical thinking

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Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:12 PM PST

The thing that would stop that is that the goveremnt could meet the level of scrutiny required.

They can't when it applies to gay marriage

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ERA responds:

3/7/2013 12:14 PM PST

"the increased likelihood that offspring from said unions would require additional state resources".
Someone else put it best; all those entitlements the Democrats like to give out require workers to pay for the older generation.

Yes, its in society's best interest to promote marriage between a man and a woman that in most cases will lead to procreation, and future generations to pay those bills. And yes, regardless of your political views, it is healthiest for children to grow up with a father and mother - that has never changed.

User

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Nashville responds:

3/7/2013 12:17 PM PST

Well thats exactley what the Supremes will be looking at. You probably thought they would throw out Obamacare but how'd that work out for ya?

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ERA responds:

3/7/2013 12:26 PM PST

I can't speak for the Supreme Court, but as I've said throughout, people are free to do what they wish in their bedroom, and I don't blame them for fighting for legal rights, but it does not change the need for society to promote marriage and having children in the traditional sense.

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Jil5443 responds:

3/7/2013 12:31 PM PST

BTW: people are NOT free to murder, do drugs, abuse children, rape, solicit sex for payment, etc. etc. in their bedrooms.

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harkadah wrote:

3/7/2013 11:59 AM PST

"In addition, I am pleased to announce I will be acting as a moderator for a separate session."

the debate?

LGBT Republicans Say Nuke Iran: Its Santorum on Graham!

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The Politics and Government Blog of The Times

October 21, 2010, 7:36 pm | 31 Comments

Gay Conservative Group Attacks Congressional Democrats

By ASHLEY PARKER



Just as “The Real Housewives of D.C.” is drawing to a close, the nation is about to get “The Real Democrats of Washington, D.C.”

On Thursday, GOProud, a national gay conservative organization, released a 30-second television advertisement set to air in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts and New York that spoofs the popular Bravo “Real Housewives” franchise and goes after the “The Real Democrats of Washington, D.C.” — specifically, Senator [Barbara Boxer](#) of California, House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) of California and Rep. [Barney Frank](#) of Massachusetts.

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The buy, expected to be in the \$50,000 range, marks the first time that a national gay organization has launched a television ad campaign attacking Democrats. The group is buying time on Bravo (naturally) and Lifetime, with the hope of targeting young female and gay male voters. The ad will start airing on television Monday, and will run through the week.

The ad, which looks like a trailer for a wonky reality television show, begins with an announcer stating, “If you thought the housewives were dysfunctional, wait until you meet the real Democrats of Washington, D.C.”

“They’re catty! They’re arrogant! And they’re in charge!” the ad continues, as a sound bite from each of the three Democrats plays against the backdrop of a pink-hued Washington skyline.

The ad concludes: “Under Democrats, reality bites.”

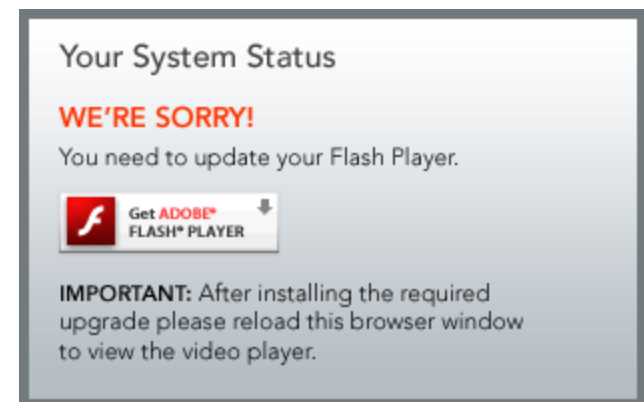
Christopher R. Barron, the chairman of GOProud’s board of directors, said, “We are running this ad because it is time that Democrats were held accountable and because we believe that all voters, including gay and lesbian

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FiveThirtyEight

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voters, deserve better than the behavior from this Congress.

He added, "We believe strongly that if you want to grow our economy and create more jobs for gay people, and for all Americans, then the best thing voters can do is fire Democrats."

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McConnell Stands With (and Raises Money Off) Rand Paul

In a fund-raising pitch, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky touted his support for Senator Rand Paul's filibuster of John O. Brennan, even though he opposed Mr. Paul's candidacy in 2010.

March 11

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In a Break for Senate Democrats, Durbin to Run for Re-election in Illinois

Senator Richard Durbin, the Senate's second-ranking Democrat, has decided to try to stick around for another six years, according to Senate officials familiar with his decision.

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Obama to Address Gathering of Donors and Activists

President Obama will speak Wednesday night at a dinner for donors and activists at the first gathering of Organizing for Action, the nonprofit group created by former

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rdgelman - Leesburg, VA

I've always considered myself to be a fiscal conservative and I'm not happy with the way the Dems have steered the economy in the last 4 years, but I cannot understand anyone being female or gay voting Republican in this election. They GOP are so full of hate, so determined to keep us as second class citizens ... we should not have to choose between upholding important social and moral issues that matter and choosing smaller government.

Sept. 10, 2012 at 2:31 p.m.



Adam - Union County, NJ

If Republicans were "economically principled" we wouldn't be trillions of dollars in debt.

Oct. 25, 2010 at 6:28 a.m. - RECOMMENDED 2



Steve Bolger - New York City

The theory of relativity is as groundless as the theory of evolution to the people who claim to speak for an immortal sentence of the whole universe through the Republican Party.

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campaign officials to help advance the president's agenda.

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Political news from today's Times and around the Web, plus a look at the latest happenings in Washington.

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Cory Booker, Twitter Visionary

The Newark mayor took the stage at the South by Southwest conference to extol the virtues of using Twitter to help improve government.

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