

OUTWRITE

Totally Gay and then Some Issue 1 - March 2007

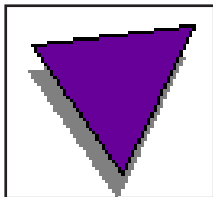
THE OUTLINE



Anti-Smoking Campaign targets LGBT people p.3



Personal interview with LGBT activist Will Wemer p.4



The truth behind "purple power" in LGBT history p.6



Gay rowers take to the screen in *Sommersturm* p.7

Gay Republicans: Winning battles, fighting wars

EricA Boehnlein
Editor-in-Chief

Inside the barricades of Camp Taji, the desert air is hot, but not the kind of hot that makes you want to jump into a pool. It's the kind of hot that makes you sweat so much that you stop sweating. It's pushing 130 degrees.

Just outside the camp, a convoy filled with baby-faced soldiers makes its way to the checkpoint. They could have died. They could still die. Some of them will die.

Up in the guard tower, seated behind a .20 caliber machine gun, 22-year-old Jane Smith* surveys the scene and wonders how she became a soldier, faithfully obeying the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. She tries to remember how in her right mind she voted for the man who put her here.

Smith considers herself a Democrat and is openly lesbian. She supports gay-rights issues and regularly votes for Democratic candidates in local and state elections. But on Nov. 2, 2004, she cast her vote for super-conservative, anti-gay candidate George Bush. And looking back, she doesn't really regret it.

"Bush wasn't a great candidate - and I'll concede that point - but his voice was consistent, and I knew as a soldier if he was going to send me or anyone else in uniform [to Iraq], he was going to ensure that we had the best of everything," she says.

In order to vote for the candidate that best matched her views, Smith was forced to prioritize the issues that were most important to her.

"Bush may have some policies I don't agree with, like his inability to separate church and state, his outlook on gay marriage and gay rights, and sometimes even his policy on war," she explains. "But he's predictable. He has one steady argument, and he follows it."

Smith isn't the only gay person to place foreign affairs above gay rights in their personal political agenda. Roughly 20 percent of gay and lesbian voters voted Republican in the last presidential



election, suggesting that the political agenda in the LGBT community is not as clear-cut as many people think.

"There are a significant number of gays who identify as Republican," Susan Burgess, a political science and women's studies professor at Ohio University, explains. "This shows that sexual identity does not map onto other things directly. That's part of what's interesting about it. It's not as stable as people think, it can move across political lines as well as other categories in surprising ways."

Though the term "Gay Republican" surprises many people outside of the LGBT world, people within the gay community are usually aware of and oftentimes leery of conservative-leaning gays and

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OUTwrite Info

OUTwrite is published by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Programs Center at Ohio University. OUTwrite is a journal and newsletter for LGBT students, faculty and staff at OU. OUTwrite accepts submissions in the form of letters to the editor, in-depth features, entertainment reviews, and poetry. Letters to the editor should be no more than 500 words. In-depth features and reviews should be no more than 1000 words. Poetry should be less than 20 lines. All submissions are subject to editing for length, content and clarity. OUTwrite reserves the right to deny inclusion of any submission at the discretion of the editor and/or publisher.

All submissions should be sent to eb349604@ohio.edu.

OUTwrite Staff

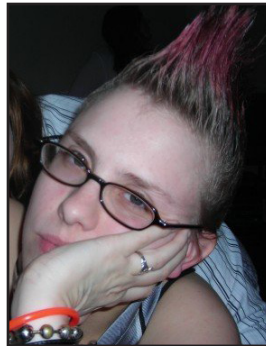
EricA Boehnlein
Editor-in-Chief

Mickey Hart
Publisher

Letter from the editor

As I sit here, staring at my computer screen, hours after this publication should have been sent out, trying to figure out what to write about, it hits me. I'm lucky. Not in the I-just-found-five-dollars kind of way. No, the truth is, I'm really lucky.

I'm lucky to have been accepted to this university. I'm lucky that I'm surrounded by people who love me and accept me for everything that I am. I'm lucky to be dating the most amazing girl I've ever met, and to be able to hold her hand in public. I'm lucky to be working in the LGBT Programs Center, which gives me the opportunity of a lifetime. It allows me to change the world, even if that world is just Athens, OH, or Ohio University, or maybe just my house. I get to change the world.



Maybe that's why this project is so important to me. OUTwrite can be that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for everyone. Originally we thought of OUTwrite as a simple newsletter, but Mickey and I realized that this community needed something more. We needed an outlet, a place for the entire LGBT community to come together and share something, if only the fact that we are all LGBT people.

This journal is for you, the student, the professor, the administrator, the sports coordinator, the custodian, the one who just wants to have their voice heard. This is your forum, this is your journal. If you have something to say, then say it. Anything you can think up is welcome as submissions. My hope is that this journal will become a living archive for current and future members of our LGBT community.

How will you change the world? OUTwrite wants to know.

-EricA Boehnlein

Letter from the publisher

This journal is created in the spirit of community building. For years my work and volunteer efforts have focused on creating a stronger sense of community for LGBT people at OU/Athens. My hope is that this journal will be an effort that enhances the community for our part of the LGBT world.

I know three things about the LGBT community at OU: 1. We have more going on than many rural-based university communities. This is something of which to be proud! 2. We do not have a strong enough sense



of community and we have much more that could be in place to make all our lives better. These are our challenges. 3. While it feels like community building efforts have reached a limit, we have not reached our capacity! For our community to grow, we need more folks to give more time and attention to meet the challenges mentioned above. How can you make our community stronger? This is a call to action.

Becoming part of this journal is just one way you can help create our community. EricA has created an excellent first edition. However, we want future editions to be more reflective of the diversity that is our LGBT community. Our hope is to publish this journal 2-3 times during future quarters. Our success depends on you.

-Mickey Hart
MARCH 2007

4 OUR HEALTH: Commit to quit, the gay way

Smoking has infiltrated most of the LGBT community in the United States and beyond, showing no signs of stopping. One group, however, is speaking out against smoking as a trend and challenging all LGBT people to throw their cigarettes away and think of a better pick-up line than, "Do you have a light?" In conjunction with the American Cancer Society, the Gay American Smoke Out has been going strong since its founding in 1994.

Fast Facts

The LGBT community has the highest rate of smoking than any other minority population

90% of smokers begin before the age of 20

35% of Gay Americans smoke

44% of LGBT high school students smoke

If 8% of lung cancer victims are LGBT, then the disease kills 12,000 gay people each year

Smoking is associated with a higher risk of contracting HIV

Why You Should Quit

1. Illness recovery time is longer for smokers (Come on, like you have time to be sick)
2. Smoker's bodies require extra amounts of sleep (Who has time for sleep?)
3. Food tastes better to non-smokers (Mmm... smoked grilled cheese)
4. Over 70% of smokers want to give it up (You're not alone)
5. Approximately half of all smokers will be killed by their habit (Hey, we need you) 🏳️‍🌈

LGBT Programs Center Mission

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Programs Center advances the missions of Ohio University and the Division of Student Affairs by serving people of all sexual orientations and gender identities as individuals and as groups. We are committed to fostering human development and cultivating an inclusive, open, and supportive community through education, support, collaboration, and advocacy at Ohio University and beyond.

OUT of control



www.alarmingnews.com

"I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, but it turns out you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot.'"

- Ann Coulter, Conservative Commentator

See the video: <http://thinkprogress.org/2007/03/02/coulter-edwards/>

OUT OF THE CLOSET

WILL WEMER

AND INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Year: Junior

Major: Journalism/Poli-Sci

Orientation: Gay

Relationship Status: Taken

Zodiac Sign: Virgo

Favorite Book: AP Stylebook

Favorite Food: Pad Thai

LGBT Involvement: LGBT

Affairs Commissioner of Student Senate, former Vice President of ALLY.

Proudest OU Moment:

When Athens County defeated Issue 1 in the 2004 election.

Advice for Future LGBT

Leaders: "If you're not going to, who will?"



Photo courtesy of Will Wemer

Career Ambitions: "I'm probably going to end up working in Washington, something in the public sector."

Most Embarrassing OU

Moment: "I hit my head on the Clippinger Lab sign on my way to Ping."

Best Thing About the LGBT

Community: "It's a passionate group of people who are willing to stand up and take action."

Know someone who's making a difference? Share them with OUTwrite! Email eb349604@ohio.edu.

Conservative Gays explain political beliefs

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lesbians.

Mark Hykes, 20, a sophomore at Ohio University, has often faced criticism from other gay students because of his political affiliation.

“Last year I had a major mental breakdown because everyone was criticizing me. I had my family members yelling at me for being gay and I had gay people yelling at me because I’m a Republican and have conservative values. I was completely singled out,” he says.

Another gay Republican and ROTC member at Ohio University, David Jones*, 23, argues that the gay community is contradictory in nature and does not support the diversity of its members.

“Even with how accepting the LGBT community tries to be, they still manage to discriminate against others,” he explains. “What most of the LGBT community doesn’t understand is that all Republicans aren’t bible-beating conservatives.”

In order to give a voice and community to gay and lesbian Republicans, the grassroots organization Log Cabin Republicans continues to push a gay-rights agenda through the GOP. The organization preaches the idea that “fairness and freedom will prevail over intolerance and exclusion.”

Started in the late 70s, the Log Cabin Republicans is a group of gay, lesbian and bisexual voters dedicated to the Republican Party. They generally support “low taxes, limited government,

strong defense, free markets, personal responsibility, and individual liberty,” but also “stand up for the idea that all Americans deserve to be treated equal-regardless of their sexual orientation.”

With these principles, the Log Cabin Republicans have strived to change the GOP from the inside-out. But not all gay Republicans agree with their tactics.

Hykes says he thinks the Log Cabin Republicans are forcing the gay community to take a step backward in their fight for equality.

“I think [the Log Cabin Republicans] are just pissing people off. Think about it, when you say something you think is right, and someone disagrees, they argue back. If we keep pushing the straight Republicans, they’ll just argue back. If we back off then maybe they’ll finally see us as more ‘like everyone else,’” he explains.

Though Hykes disapproves of the Log Cabin Republicans, he unknowingly supports many of the same issues they support. One of these is the repealing of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy (DADT).

The Log Cabin Republicans take a firm position against DADT. In fact, earlier this year they sponsored the Call to Duty National College Speaking Tour, which traveled to 20 different universities around the country, debating DADT. With an estimated 65,000 gays, lesbians and bisexuals currently serving in the military, the Log Cabin Republicans argue that DADT is only “harming military readiness,” because roughly 10,000 “valuable, mission critical personnel” have been discharged from the military in the past 10 years.

While gay Republicans generally tend to agree with the issues supported by Log Cabin Republicans, Leslie Joyce, 24, a former active reservist in the army, has a different view of DADT, seeing the policy as a beneficial tool to maintain order among

units.

“It’s a good policy, though it doesn’t prevent gay-bashing. But it’s not just about if you’re gay or not. In the army, you’re not even allowed to debate political issues,”

Joyce explains. “‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ keeps everyone focused on the task at hand. It keeps some people safe and helps them figure out if they should be in the military or not.”

But DADT isn’t the only issue on the Log Cabin Republicans’ agenda. Marriage Equality continues to be a central issue for both liberal and conservative gays and lesbians. Yet unlike liberal gays, many gay republicans see marriage equality as an issue that isn’t necessarily worth the fight.

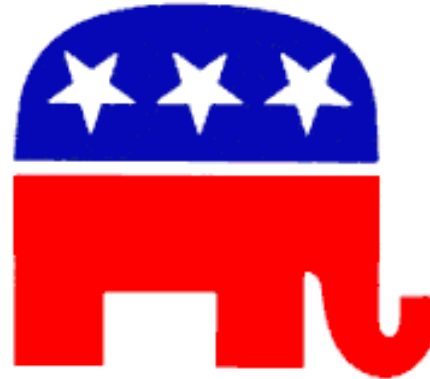
Chris Creamer, 21, a junior at Ohio University, sees marriage equality as unimportant, compared to the other issues he supports.

“I’m a fiscal conservative,” Creamer says. “And gay marriage is not such a big issue that I’m going to change party alliances for it. The Republican Party may stand for something that I don’t believe in, but they stand for plenty of things that I do stand for as well.”

For Smith, who has been in Iraq for nearly three months, marriage equality seems to lack relevance when the stakes are life or death.

“How can I complain about my right to marriage?” She questions. “While yes, it is important, not being able to marry isn’t anything compared to having no voice at all, or living in a shack without the opportunity to feed my family, with no running water, no sanitation system, without the ability to read or write, and without the opportunity to send my children to school. That’s why when I voted, I supported the war and that’s also why I still support the war.”

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OUT in Why Lavender? HISTORY

We all know that lavender has been the color of choice for the gay community since the beginning of time, aka the Stonewall riots, but no one really seems to know why.

Some have argued that lavender was the result of mixing blue and pink, the two primary colors of gender-identification. Others have suggested that lavender was chosen because of its representation of bisexuals, as can be seen on the bisexual flag which is pink, lavender and blue. While these are plausible theories, an even better explanation lies just within the city limits of Sayville, NY.

According to www.suphawut.com, "The color purple (and lavender) became the colors of the gay movement because it is the main color of Sayville (*Gayville*), NY, where almost all the veterans of Stonewall spent time."

Sayville's official city color is purple with gold trim and can be seen on Sayville's city website, as well as their gay celebration site. Even Sayville High School sports purple with gold trim.

We know that many LGBT people spent their time in

Sayville, but why?

Before World War II, Sayville was a huge resort area and contained many theatres and movie studios. This type of community was a perfect place for LGBT people, especially those without children. Also, Sayville is located just inland from the infamous Fire Island, which served as one of the gayest hotspots in the country during the '70s.

Fire Island is a tucked-away pines area that served as a sort of hiding spot, primarily for gay men. Fire Island consisted of over-the-top houses and unofficial clubs, which are perhaps best described in Larry Kramer's *Faggots*, a book which explores the gay male culture of the '70s.

According to www.geocities.com/sayswamp, since there is only one road connecting Fire Island to the mainland, the only way to get there is through Sayville. In addition, most Fire Island inhabitants actually lived and worked in Sayville, making it one of the biggest gay populations in the United States post-WWII.

So, why lavender? It's safe to say we owe all our "Purple Power" to the little-known city of Sayville, NY.

- EricA Boehnlein

Students explore Gay Republican contradiction

REPUBLICANS from Page 5

Supporting the war in Iraq is one reason many gays and lesbians align themselves with the Republican Party, but it is not the only reason.

Hykes says that though he didn't vote in the last presidential election, he is a registered Republican because of his activism with various conservative issues.

"I'm a member of the pro-life club here at OU. I've participated in rallies in front of abortion clinics, protested in front of anti-war protestors and shook Bush's hand when he came to my home town," he says. "I was Republican long before I even accepted myself as gay."

But just because Hykes has accepted himself as both gay and Republican, doesn't mean that the rest of the LGBT community has. In fact, both Hykes and Creamer have faced harsh criticism from liberal gays and

lesbians in their community.

"I get more cross looks from people when I tell them I'm a Republican, then I do when I tell them I'm gay," Creamer says. "It's hard for me sometimes because the College Republicans feel one way, but the LGBT community feels another, and I'm stuck in the middle."

Jones too is often criticized for being a gay Republican and says that many liberal gays and lesbians see gay Republicans as having a conflict of interest.

"I do find my politics criticized more often because they're not mainstream views. I don't prescribe to the gay rhetoric of politics," he says. "I don't let my sexuality dictate every decision I make in life. Other issues like government and foreign affairs are more important to me. Liberal gays don't seem to understand that."

And understanding or perhaps a lack


thereof continues to be the main problem for people in and around the LGBT community, both liberal and conservative. As Smith points out, from her 5-by-7 room, tucked away in the heart of Iraq, "People are just scared of what they don't understand."

Gay Republicans all have different reasons for voting conservatively, but Smith says it's not as important what candidate someone votes for, as it is that they can defend why they're voting for that particular candidate.

How then, as an openly lesbian Democrat, could Smith vote for an anti-gay Republican candidate?

She pauses then responds firmly.

"Because I'm a soldier."

*Names have been changed in order to protect the identity of those in the Armed Forces. 

German Movie Makes a splash

It's about time that gays break into mainstream cinema head-first. It seems as if gays are only portrayed in movies as closeted characters, like those in the scenic story of "Brokeback Mountain," or as scheming recruiters, as in the light-hearted, fluff storyline of "Imagine Me and You."

In search of a movie that represented a good, gay coming-of-age film, I stumbled upon "Sommersturm," (Summer Storm), a German film depicting conflicted main character Tobi (Robert Stadlober) as he comes to grips with his sexuality and his growing affection for his best friend, Achim (Kostja Ullmann).

The classic tale of "boy falls in love with best friend, who in turn falls in love with girl," twists and turns in a scene placed during a week-long rowing camp. When the gay team from Berlin, appropriately named "Queerstrokes," arrives, Tobi finds himself caught in a storm that is no longer just a weather pattern.

As the movie progresses Tobi tries to understand his sexuality, attempts to kiss his best friend, and gets personal with a Queerstrokes rower, but with the final race quickly approaching, he struggles to remain



focused and dedicated to his team.

A light-hearted and simple movie about homosexuality, this tale of friendships and secret desires flourishes with each stroke of the oar. It will make you smile and wish you had come out to a group of dripping rowers.

- Alex Jabs, contributing writer

WHO YOU ARE

APRIL VALE

I want to be me, happy and free
Free to be real and free to be seen
I don't want to hide behind a disguise of
miserable lies
Until the day I die

To love another, there is no guide
No right or wrong, no where to hide
I want to come out, from the pain I hide
For fear that loved ones will disappear

They say you will find out who your
true friends are,
If they stick around, or go afar
Whatever the case,
You must be who you are.

CORNER

POETRY

Laughing
OUT
Loud

Q. What do Gay
horses eat?

A. Haaaaaay!

Got a funny joke? Email it to eb349604@ohio.edu.

Queer Quiz

HOW MUCH LGBT TRIVIA DO YOU KNOW?

1 What event in June 1969 is credited as the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement?

- a. Stonewall Riots
- b. The first Pride Parade
- c. The birth of our very own Mickey Hart

2 Which president openly recognized civil unions for gays and lesbians as an important issue?

- a. George Bush Sr.
- b. Bill Clinton
- c. George Washington

3 This piece of LGBT literature is revered as one of the most groundbreaking novels on gender. And it's written by Leslie Feinberg.

- a. Stone Butch Blues
- b. Faggots
- c. Stonewall Gays

4 Which one of these writers is not an LGBT person?

- a. Virginia Woolf
- b. John Greenleaf Whittier
- c. Ralph Waldo Emerson

5 In which movie did oscar winner Hilary Swank portray Brandon Teena, a FTM trans who was murdered after revealing his identity?

- a. Stone Butch Blues
- b. The Laramie Project
- c. Boys Don't Cry

6 Where was the site of Matthew Shepard's tragic death?

- a. Laramie, Wyoming
- b. South Amboy, New Jersey
- c. Wichita, Kansas

7 What superhero does Mickey Hart have a slight obsession with?

- a. Superman
- b. Batman
- c. Wonder Woman

8 The LGBT Programs Center is in what building and what room?

- a. Lindley 235
- b. Baker 354
- c. Baker 215

The Answers...

1. a, 2. b, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c, 6. a, 7. c, 8. b

MARCH/APRIL 2007

25	26 First Day of Classes	27 EWO	28 Open Doors	29	30	31
1 SpeakOUT! Workshop 4-6 p.m. Baker 354	2	3 SHADES EWO	4 Open Doors	5	6	7
8	9	10 EWO	11 PRIDE	12	13	14 CASA DANCE
15	16	17 SHADES	18 Day of Silence	19	20	21 WEEK

SHADES

Meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in Baker 205/354

OPEN DOORS

Meetings Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at United Campus Ministry (UCM)

EMPOWERING WOMEN OF OHIO

Meetings Tuesdays at 9 p.m. in Baker 235/226

ALLY

Meetings Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. in Baker Room TBD

UNIFY

Meetings Mondays at 7 p.m. in Jefferson Library

OUT@WORK

Contact Mickey Hart at hartm@ohio.edu for details

ACTOUT

Meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in Baker Room TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open Doors Meet & Greet - April 23
 Book Club Discussion - April 29
 Take Back the Night Week - May 1-5
 Mom's Tea and Social - May 5
 Open Doors CASA Dance - May 12
 Pride Graduation - May 13

For more information visit www.ohio.edu/lgbt



Stephanie Thompson

"We want you to come to Casa nights," said seniors Meredith Jensen and Kim Rogers after a night of dancing. (Above)

Every second Saturday of the month Open Doors hosts dance parties at Casa Nueva to benefit their organization. Last month, Empowering Women of Ohio lit up the room with their glowstick sale and two new DJs blasted all the latest dance hits. 🏳️‍🌈



Stephanie Thompson

With looks of intensity, seniors Matt Mossman and Stephen Reese try to figure out what song to play next. (Above)



As part of the EWO fundraiser, junior EricA Boehlein helps a customer put on his glowstick bracelet. (Left)



Stephanie Thompson

Stephanie Thompson