

Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

ELECTION REFLECTIONS

Musings and reflections on the recent U.S. election, by Brokies around the globe:

From Forum member **montezumae**

"We Europeans have learnt so much from (the Election thread), thanks all, I have got to get used to the idea that something good can come out of the US. And of course - let us know when you're coming over here, you can be proud of your country again, and proud of your compatriots. Alma - special thanks for your account of making a difference. Fantastic."



From Forum member **Jaysmommy**



Tuesday December 2nd, 2008



From Forum member **chuckyv**

"Reading all the comments coming in thick & fast, I really get a wonderful sense of history being made. About 90 minutes ago I woke up to the news, here in South Africa it is about 7 hours ahead of New York city. Really momentous. I watched Obama's speech live, and was wondering what Rosa Parks & Martin Luther King Junior would have been thinking. Congratulations to your new president. And congratulations to all who voted, what a poll."

From Forum member **alma**

"I have a photo of my little canvassing buddies from Precinct #44 that I want to share with you: The two in pink walked to every single door with me and were just adorably delightful."



"Having been a weekly canvasser for months, the canvass captain asked me to go to one of our most important precincts (what I was told would be a tough one). It was a section 8 housing area. I arrived in blinding, gorgeous sunshine. Got out of my car and instantly, was surrounded by little kids. Two little girls in pink walked with me the whole way. This particular set of apartments was filled with immigrants and African Americans. They got so excited when they saw me coming.

"I talked with so many people. But what really got to me were these kids. I'd approach a door and Jayla would say, 'Stand on the stoop. They've got a dog and he bites.' Or they'd try to get me to go to their mama's door (and of course I would!). I saved four votes of those who had been turned away from the polls on erroneous premises (they were told they couldn't vote even though they were registered but in the wrong county). I helped many find out where to vote, reminded them to go. We passed over this precinct twice.

"This is a precinct that never goes blue. I knocked on about 70+ doors. Tonight, we found out from the poll worker for that precinct that we WON precinct #44.... by 11 votes. 11. Unreal!!!! The poll worker just hugged the hell out of me, told me how they streamed in all afternoon (I canvassed between 12:30 and 4:00 for that precinct)." ...

Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

"Each of us makes a difference... every conversation, every effort to reach out to each other. I felt it for the last ten months... and tonight saw the results."

From former Forum member **Cynical21** (reprinted from a LiveJournal post, and used with permission)

"THE UNITED STATES HAS ELECTED A BLACK PRESIDENT!!!! And to some among us - me included - that ranks right up there with water-walking as a miracle. I can remember a time, and I'll bet many of you do too, especially if you're past the half-century mark, when I would have scoffed at the very idea. What a wonderful achievement in a society that is barely fifty years past the first upheaval of desegregation!

"I remember those days, and, as a native of the deep South, I remember them more clearly than most, but my memories might surprise a lot of people - people who made assumptions (and who can blame them?) based on the grainy black and white images of flickering TV screens, showing ugly riots in Little Rock, and bloody face-offs in Birmingham and grim confrontations in Selma, etc. While there is no way of denying the hateful and viciousness of those images, there is also the fact that there were many, many people who lived in the South who were appalled by what they saw, and ashamed of the legacy of prejudice and bigotry. People like me, and my father. I remember perfectly well that my response to these events - and his - was shock and surprise. It sounds really foolish to admit it, and socially irresponsible to say the least, but the simple truth was that neither he nor I had ever had much contact with black people. It was, of course, to our shame that we'd never spared much thought to their plight in life, but it was an elemental truth. Not knowing didn't absolve us, of course; it just made us ignorant.

"I don't really know if our actions thereafter made up for our lack of action before, but we tried - and we both had learned a huge lesson; we never again assumed that things were 'all right' simply because we didn't know any better, and we both became passionate in our belief that nice, neat apple carts that conceal necrotic truths beneath a facade of rosy perfection are in dire need of upsetting." ...



"This election was a long time coming, and fills me with hope. I've heard local pundits (this is STILL the Deep South, after all) observe that things may have changed elsewhere, but it's still indicative of the survival of old attitudes that Obama could carry only 40% of the vote in Louisiana. But wait a minute here. Though it's definitely indicative that conservatism is still fairly rampant, and racism still exists, there's another statistic that is slightly comforting. The population is only 32% black. So there were some non-blacks who went to the polls and voted for a black



Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

man. Of course, I know this to be true because I'm one of them - but I wasn't alone. And while the demographics of the electorate and the election pretty much reflect the white/non-white ratio, I choose to look at this as a sign of evolution. Slowly, reluctantly, and probably kicking and screaming every inch of the way, the South is evolving.

"At the same time, in another election on that same day, there was proof positive that evolution is an ongoing process, and there's still a long road to travel. I'm speaking, of course, about Proposition 8. Equality, it seems, is not yet within our grasp.

"However, I choose to find hope in all this - in the fact that only a few decades separate the horror of Jim Crow from the election of a black president. Horrible as it was, incidents like the murder of Matthew Shepard forced some people to open their eyes and take a hard look at so-called 'Christian' values that empower bigotry and prejudice. More than anything, I think, I am appalled by the attitude and the activism of the Mormon Church and their crusade against homosexuals. Where, in their drive to persecute and victimize, is there the slightest nod to the notion of loving all who are created by their God? More and more, as I grow older, I question the mindset of those who seem to believe that the purpose of religion is to find things - and people - to condemn.

"I hope - and believe - that a day will come when this country will understand that judging - or condemning - someone based on who they love is every bit as wrong, as despicable, as judging based on the color of skin, or the practice of religion, or ethnic origin - or any other arbitrary method for dividing humanity into 'US' and 'THEM'. Are we not, according to the sacred books of virtually all major religions, the children of God? And are we also not ALL, according to a rather impressive document known as the Constitution of the United State of America, created equal? According to the old guard, not yet, perhaps - but evolution will ultimately succeed where bigotry and backwards thinking fail. I insist on having hope.

"I believe in evolution."

PROJECT POSTCARD

"President-elect Barack Obama has made a lot of promises to the LGBTQ community. We have to make sure he follows through. What better way to do it than to send him a friendly little reminder? Here's what you do...

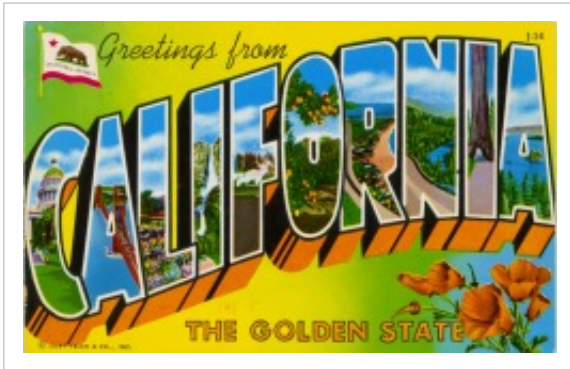
"Buy a postcard. It would be great if it had the name of your city or state on it, but feel free to get creative. Make your own, use one that you have around the house, or grab a free one at your local restaurant. Heck, why not get a bunch of different ones? The more, the better.

THE DAILY SHEET

A production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum
www.davecullen.com/forum



Tuesday December 2nd, 2008



“Address it. A handwritten card is always best, but feel free to print out labels if you’re going to send multiple cards. Here’s the address...

President-elect Barack Obama
Presidential Transition Office
Kluczynski Federal Building
230 S. Dearborn St., 38th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

“Write a message. I recommend that we all write the same thing, so that our message can’t get any clearer. Our postcards should read...

Dear President-elect Obama,

Please ask Congress to repeal D.O.M.A.! All Americans should have the right to marry. Thank you in advance for advocating for the civil rights of your LGBT citizens.

“Sign your name. There is nothing more powerful than that.

“Buy postage and drop your postcard(s) in the mail. Wasn’t that easy?

“Now, repeat. Send one a week. Or better yet, one a day. Have a postcard party and have all your friends do it too. Email these instructions to your loved ones so they can join in the fun. Think of the statement that thousands and thousands of postcards from around the country will make.”

Read more **here**⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.civilrightsfront.com/>

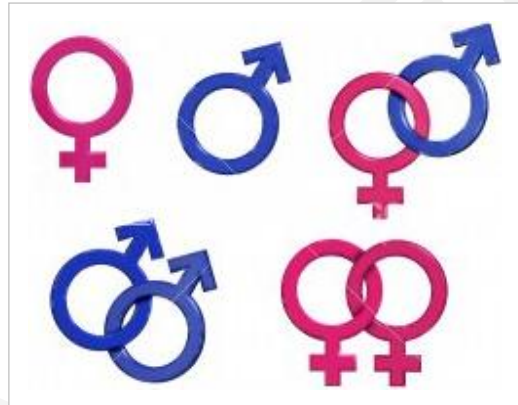
Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

ON THE AGENDA: STRENGTHENING CIVIL RIGHTS

Obama-Biden have recently published their plan for LGBT civil rights. Have you ever seen this happen before?

Support for the LGBT Community

"While we have come a long way since the Stonewall riots in 1969, we still have a lot of work to do. Too often, the issue of LGBT rights is exploited by those seeking to divide us. But at its core, this issue is about who we are as Americans. It's about whether this nation is going to live up to its founding promise of equality by treating all its citizens with dignity and respect." -- Barack Obama, June 1, 2007



"Expand Hate Crimes Statutes: In 2004, crimes against LGBT Americans constituted the third-highest category of hate crime reported and made up more than 15 percent of such crimes. Barack Obama cosponsored legislation that would expand federal jurisdiction to include violent hate crimes perpetrated because of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability. As a state senator, Obama passed tough legislation that made hate crimes and conspiracy to commit them against the law."

"Obama and Biden will strengthen federal hate crimes legislation, expand hate crimes protection by passing the Matthew Shepard Act, and reinvigorate enforcement at the Department of Justice's Criminal Section."

"Fight Workplace Discrimination: Barack Obama supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and believes that our anti-discrimination employment laws should be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity. While an increasing number of employers have extended benefits to their employees' domestic partners, discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace occurs with no federal legal remedy. Obama also sponsored legislation in the Illinois State Senate that would ban employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

Read more **here**⁽²⁾.

⁽²⁾ http://www.change.gov/agenda/civil_rights_agenda/

Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

eHARMONY TO OFFER SAME-SEX MATCHING SERVICES



“Three years after a New Jersey resident filed a discrimination suit against Web-based matchmaking service eHarmony.com, the online dating portal has settled out of court and agreed to offer same-sex matchmaking services to members.

“Garden State resident Eric McKinley filed suit against the California-based company in 2005. As part of the settlement, eHarmony agrees to provide new services for members identifying themselves as ‘male seeking a male’ or ‘female seeking a female’ by March 2009.

“eHarmony did reserve the right to provide a disclaimer -- that its compatibility-based matching system was developed solely on the basis of researched focused on married heterosexual couples.

“‘I applaud the decision of eHarmony to settle this case and extend its matching services to those seeking same-sex relationships,’ New Jersey Division on Civil Rights director J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo said in a statement.”

Read more [here](#)⁽³⁾.
Source: [advocate.com](#)

⁽³⁾ http://advocate.com/news_detail_ektid66529.asp

SETTING THE AGENDA ... THE GAY ONE

“It remains to be seen what change under Barack Obama will really mean. But with a margin of victory for a presidential candidate not seen in decades and an expanded Democratic majority in Congress, we can bet that some measure of change is assured.

“Prior to his election the gay rights agenda risked becoming nothing more than a wish list. While gains made on the state level are meaningful and serve to build momentum, they will ultimately be only tokens of equality without securing a majority on the Supreme Court to uphold the promise of the words written by Thomas Jefferson that ‘all men are created equal.’ Obama’s election greatly increases the likelihood of that happening.

“In the meantime, it’s come to the point where we must see action by Congress toward meeting



Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

the goals of our movement for equality. The Human Rights Campaign Fund began in 1980 with the purpose of lobbying Congress for this very reason. Since then, no major piece of legislation has been passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the president. On the contrary, we have seen a ban on gays in the military and the Defense of Marriage Act passed. Our only successful defensive maneuver was to prevent the passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment.

"Given our record, a change in strategy is warranted. The 'stay the course' crowd's response to this is usually a 'let's wait our turn' attitude. Our time at the back of the bus must end. Now.

"There are tens of thousands of married couples. Our people serve at the highest levels of government. LGBT money is a major source of funding for politics and our economy. Corporate America treats us more equally than the laws of our country, as do our children. Thus we are reminded on a daily basis that prejudice and discrimination are not inherent -- they are taught and regularly used as weapons of fear."

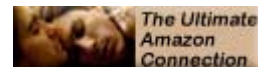
Read more **here**⁽⁴⁾.
Source: advocate.com

⁽⁴⁾ http://advocate.com/exclusive_detail_ektid66505.asp

Forum Footnotes

DOING ANY HOLIDAY SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON?

If so, remember to enter the store through our forum store!
Just click the button below or the one at the bottom of each page.
Thanks for your support of the forum!



POST OF THE DAY

By **MiralParis7** in the **Slash Recommendation and Discussion thread**⁽⁵⁾. In part:

"I was walking through a bookstore and found *Heath Ledger: Hollywood's Dark Star* staring me in the face..... So I sat in a chair and read.

"As far as his life, the book painted a very nice portrait of it. As his father said, "He knew he was loved." Not



THE DAILY SHEET

A production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum
www.davecullen.com/forum

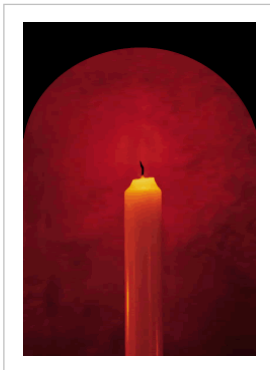
Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

everyone can get though a parents' divorce fairly easily, but he did. He didn't lack for money and he didn't have to work terribly hard to get parts. His life was a good one and he enjoyed it. "As far as his death, it was the 'perfect storm.' I learned there were some pretty good reasons on Michelle's side for the divorce, some described outright and some in the subtext, but they were so incredibly typical for Hollywood marriages, they were almost boring. He seemed to fear not getting joint custody (whether or not that was true) and several people mentioned he did not do well living alone.

"The saddest part to me is that like a lot of artists at the very top of their game, he was never fully satisfied with his work.... Heath would say that all of his mistakes (his earlier films and TV shows) were on film (supposedly to be seen forever).

"Was doing the Joker fun, as he says it as many, many times? It must have been. But he also talked about having to shake off the characters afterward and remember that their feelings were not his own. But what had much more of an impact his is ongoing fight with paps who closed him in and battled him to the point that he wept an hour with his dad and gave up on his dream of living at home with Michelle and raising his daughter there. Imagine giving up your own homeland?"

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=30061.msg1448313#msg1448313>



CANDLES LIT IN HIS HONOR

To light a candle for Heath, choose any [unlit candle](#) at **Gratefulness.org**⁽⁵⁾, then there are a series of screens that allow you to personalize the candle and leave a message if you choose. Each candle lasts 48 hours.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.gratefulness.org/candles/candles.cfm?l=eng&gi=heath>

Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

QUOTE OF THE DAY

In remembrance of World AIDS Day



"The global HIV/AIDS epidemic is an unprecedented crisis that requires an unprecedented response. In particular it requires solidarity -- between the healthy and the sick, between rich and poor, and above all, between richer and poorer nations. We have 30 million orphans already. How many more do we have to get, to wake up?"

~ Kofi Annan ~

PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY: Photo Captioning Fun 4
By gnash



that's it, ennis, just pour your heart right into mine. don't worry if you spill.



Tuesday December 2nd, 2008

Contributors: **MiralParis7, Cynical21, BayCityJohn, KittyHawk, gnash, montezumae, Jaysmommy, chuckyv, alma**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have ideas about initiating a gathering, go to **Start Your Own Threads** and get the ball rolling to plan a get-together near you.

4TH ANNUAL BROKIE REUNION - ARIZONA SPRING FLING April 17-19, 2009

<http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=29613.0>

Let us know of any events you'd like listed here

The Daily Sheet is a production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum at www.davecullen.com/forum.

Editor: **MissYouSoMuch**

Editors emeritae: **CactusGal, Marge_Innavera, tellyouwhat, Stilllearning**

Formatters/Researchers: **denim girl, gnash**

Footnotes section produced by **Stilllearning**

Today's edition was formatted by **denim girl**

We count on you to send us your news items, questions, and nominations for posts of the day. If you have items you'd like to see published, send them to tds@davecullen.com.

To subscribe to The Daily Sheet, click the "Notify" button at the top or bottom of the page. When a new issue of TDS is posted, you will be notified by email.