



**Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

## **DEMANDING THE TRUTH**

**No Mob  
Veto**

“(M)embers of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion Council responded forcefully to a full-page ad in the New York Times that implies there is an organized attempt to foment mob intimidation and violence toward the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints due to its actions dehumanizing lesbian and gay people in the recent election campaign, particularly in California around passage of Proposition 8, which stripped gay families of the right

to a civil marriage. The ad was sponsored by NoMobVeto.org, a project of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

“When did the LDS Church become the victim? It’s hard to believe, but that is exactly what it is trying to convince the public of. It is continuing to spend an excess of dollars in an attempt to mislead the public and transform its image. But the truth is that this is the same church that conducted a national broadcast to every temple, calling on members to organize and write checks to the Prop 8 campaign. The same church that donated more than half of the \$40 million behind Prop 8, even though California Mormons represent just 2 percent of the state's population. Yes, it’s the same church.

“Don’t allow them to replace the truth with their own version of the truth. Use our Religion Council’s message today to take action and demand the truth:

“**Click here**<sup>(1)</sup> to write a letter to the New York Times.

“**Click here**<sup>(2)</sup> to send an email to the Becket Fund, the organization that paid for the misleading New York Times ad.

“**Click here**<sup>(3)</sup> to share your personal story with NoMobVeto.org and let them know how the passage of Prop 8 affected your life.”

Read more **here**<sup>(4)</sup>.

Source: Human Rights Campaign

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/help/lettertoeditor.html>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://www.becketfund.org/index.php/article/762.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.nomobveto.org/story.php>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.hrc.org/news/11623.htm>

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## **PROP 8: THE MUSICAL**

“Written by Marc Shaiman.

Directed and staged by: Adam Shankman.

Cast includes: Jack Black, John C. Raily, Jordan Ballard, Margaret Cho, Barrett Foa, J.B. Ghuman, John Hill, Andy Richter, Maya Rudolph, Rashad Naylor, Nicole Parker Kathy Najimy, Rashida Jones, Lake Bell, Seth Morris, and many others.”

Watch the video [here](#)<sup>(5)</sup>.

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/c0cf508ff8/prop-8-the-musical-starring-jack-black-john-c-reilly-and-many-more-from-fod-team-jack-black-craig-robinson-john-c-reilly-and-rashida-jones>

## **MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT EQUALITY FOR GLBTS**

“A new survey conducted in the wake of the passage of California’s Proposition 8 reveals that 75 percent of Americans support marriage, adoption and inclusive hate-crime laws for GLBT people.

“The Pulse of Equality survey was commissioned by The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and conducted by Harris Interactive. Results showed that three quarters of U.S. adults (75%) favor either marriage or domestic partnerships/civil unions for gay and lesbian couples. Only about two in 10 (22%) respondents said gay and lesbian couples should not have legally recognized marriages or unions.



“The survey showed a nearly even divide among respondents on the specific issue of same-sex marriage with 47 percent favoring and 49 percent opposing its legalization. Gay and lesbian couples are able to marry in Connecticut and Massachusetts and comprehensive civil union or domestic partnership laws exist in only five other states and the District of Columbia.

“The survey showed a rapid and significant shift in favor toward GLBT people. Nearly 20 percent of respondents said that their feelings about gay and lesbian people have become more favorable



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during the past 5 years. According to GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano, the shift is enormous in terms of the large body of research on attitudinal shifts in public opinion.

“When I was an elected official, if someone told me I could move 19 percent of people over five years, I would be amazed,” Giuliano said.

“There were several factors that contributed to this shift, including: knowing someone who is gay or lesbian (79%), the fact that laws have been passed that protect gay and lesbian people (50%), opinions of family or friends (45%) and religious leaders (21%), news coverage of gay and lesbian issues (41%), and seeing gay or lesbian characters on television (34%) and in movies (29%).” ...

“Certainly in the last five years you’ve had “Desperate Housewives,” “Brothers and Sisters,” and “Ugly Betty” and, in film, *Brokeback Mountain*,” Giuliano said. “What those pop culture activities do is cause reason for conversation, and when people have conversations it leads to people being more supportive. So, it is a subtle but important opportunity that we have to live open lives.”

Read more [here](#)<sup>(6)</sup>.

Source: Out & About Newspaper

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://outandaboutnewspaper.com/article.php?id=3167>

## **HUCKABEE SAYS GAY RIGHTS NOT SAME AS CIVIL RIGHTS**



“On ABC’s ‘The View,’ former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee discussed his pride that an African-American has been elected president. When host Joy Behar asked if he feels the same about gay rights, he said that the two were ‘a different set of rights,’ and suggested that the gay rights movement hasn’t

suffered enough violence to be a real issue:

“Huckabee: It’s a different set of rights. People who are homosexuals should have every right in terms of their civil rights, to be employed, to do anything they want. But that’s not really the issue. I know you talked about it and I think you got into it a little bit early on. But when we’re talking about a redefinition of an institution, that’s different than individual civil rights.

“Behar: Well, segregation was an institution, too, in a way. It was right there on the books.

“Huckabee: But here is the difference. Bull Connor was hosing people down in the streets of Alabama. John Lewis got his skull cracked on the Selma bridge.” ...

**THE DAILY SHEET**

A production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum  
[www.davecullen.com/forum](http://www.davecullen.com/forum)



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"Huckabee is echoing a newly popular conservative trope. Last week, Tony Perkins claimed that gay rights and civil rights are 'totally different.' Tara Wall, deputy editorial page editor at the Washington Times, wrote today that '[t]here is no comparison' between blacks' struggle and gay people's struggle because '(b)lacks were stoned, hung, and dragged for their constitutional right to 'sit at the table.' Whites — gay or not — already had a seat at that table.'

To suggest that a civil rights movement must meet some sort of violence threshold is an incredibly dangerous argument — not to mention blind to the serious violence gay people have already suffered. 16.6 percent of all hate crimes reported by the FBI in 2007 'resulted from sexual-orientation bias,' and the number of hate crimes directed against gays and lesbians increased six percent from 2006. More striking, a 2007 study by the University of California, Davis, found that '[n]early four in 10 gay men and about one in eight lesbians and bisexuals in the United States have been the target of violence or a property crime because of their sexual orientation.'

The murders of Matthew Shepherd in 1998 and 15-year-old Lawrence King earlier this year brought renewed public focus to the lethal danger of homophobia. ... Harvey Milk struggled for the political rights of gay people — just like civil rights leaders pushed for African-Americans' political rights — and he was ultimately killed for it."

Read more [here](#)<sup>(7)</sup>.

Watch the video [here](#)<sup>(8)</sup>.

Source: ThinkProgress.org

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://thinkprogress.org/2008/11/18/huckabee-gay-rights/>

<sup>(8)</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-29\\_JLpB\\_A4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-29_JLpB_A4)

## **VATICAN SAYS GAYS DON'T NEED PROTECTION LAWS**

"The Vatican has come out against a United Nations resolution that calls on all governments to decriminalize homosexuality. The resolution, Archbishop Celestino Migliore said, would 'add new categories of those protected from discrimination' and could lead to the decline of heterosexual marriage, Reuters reported.

'If adopted, they would create new and implacable discriminations,' Migliore said. 'For example, states which do not recognize same-sex unions as 'matrimony' will be pilloried and made an object of



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pressure." ...

'No other religion in the world is granted this type of status on the world stage,' Catholics for Choice president Jon O'Brien told Advocate.com."

Read more **here**<sup>(9)</sup>.

Source: advocate.com

<sup>(9)</sup> [http://advocate.com/news\\_detail\\_ektid67608.asp](http://advocate.com/news_detail_ektid67608.asp)

## **NEED EQUALITY? GET 'MILK'**

"That might be one way of summing up how some gays and lesbians regard the new Gus Van Sant film, a biopic named after openly gay San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, an openly gay politician who was gunned down thirty years ago.



"The film revolves in part around a fight to fend off the so-called Briggs Initiative, which would have outlawed gay teachers in the public schools, along with any and all sympathetic or positive expression for gays and lesbians.

"How times change... or not: like Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that voters approved earlier this month, the Briggs initiative targeted gays for exclusion from a realm in which heterosexuals are welcome.

"The film comes from the same studio that produced 2005's grassroots hit *Brokeback Mountain*. That film did unexpectedly well across the nation, despite predictions that only urban audiences would want to see a film about two Wyoming ranch hands secretly in love with one another, even if the cowboys in question were played by Jake Gyllenhaal and the late Heath Ledger.

"But for gay activists looking for a new avenue to express their anguish and alarm over the precedent set by the passage of Proposition 8, *Milk* means more than a chance to see a gay drama get the A-list treatment at the Cineplex.

"The San Francisco Chronicle quoted Rea Carey, the director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who posed the question, 'What changes any one of our lives?'



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"Said Carey, 'It can be a media image.

"'I certainly hope Milk does that.'

"Wyoming newspaper the Casper Star Tribune carried a Los Angeles Times story on Nov. 24 in which doubts were raised about the ability of Milk to draw the same sort of audience response as Brokeback Mountain did three years ago."

Read more **here**<sup>(10)</sup>.  
Source: edgeboston.com

<sup>(10)</sup> <http://www.edgeboston.com/index.php?ch=news&sc=&sc2=news&sc3=&id=83885>

## **PROPOSITION 8 RAISES ISSUES ABOUT DIVERSITY, TOLERANCE ON CAMPUS**

"Earlier in the year, hundreds of gay couples traveled to California to be recognized by the state in marriage. Election Day, California's Proposition 8 overrode the state's Supreme Court decision to recognize same-sex marriages. In the wake of President-elect Obama's nomination, and the significance this election has had for racial diversity, tolerance and acceptance, some students feel the outcome of Proposition 8 is a step backward.

"Proposition 8's impact has been felt around the country, regardless of sexual orientation.

"Kim Bell, a senior in anthropology, said she was really disappointed by Proposition 8's passing, at first. But now, she said she feels 'like it's sort of a good thing in a way because more people have had to think about it. It's a national issue now, when before it was just in California.'



"Bell said the institution of marriage is important to her.

"'To say that you're married, I think, has a higher status in people's minds right now, so I want that,' she said. 'Also I am religious, and I would love for my religion to be incorporated through something like a marriage.'

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"Bell, who came out in the second semester of her freshman year, said she feels generally accepted by the overall campus community.

"Over the years, everything's gotten better," she said. "When I was a sophomore, people laughed at me a little bit, but none of that anymore. I also think I ignore that better than I used to."

"Bell mentioned the help and support of groups like AEGIS when she was coming out. The president of AEGIS, Matt Evans, describes the group as 'a welcoming and affirming group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight allies here on campus. We provide networking events as well as fun and informational programs for students.'"

Read more **here**<sup>(11)</sup>.

Source: Student Media of North Carolina University

<sup>(11)</sup> [http://www.technicianonline.com/features/proposition\\_8\\_raises\\_issues\\_about\\_diversity%252C\\_tolerance\\_on\\_campus](http://www.technicianonline.com/features/proposition_8_raises_issues_about_diversity%252C_tolerance_on_campus)

## Forum Footnotes

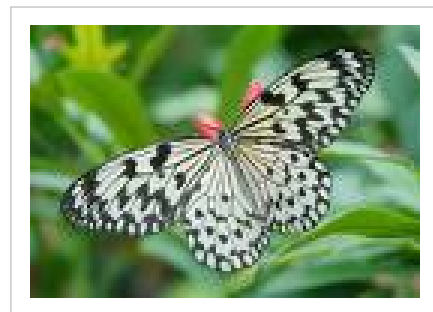
### FUN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**This week's Question:** What are the names of the Three Musketeers?

Let us know the answer on the **response thread**<sup>(12)</sup>.

**Last week's Question:** What do these terms have in common - Sailor, Dead Leaf, Paper Kite, Blue Striped Crow, Great Egg Fly?

**The answer:** They are all kinds of butterflies - some might have thought this question too easy, yet it is still being researched in the response thread 🤔.



<sup>(12)</sup> <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=8377.msg1450948#new>

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## POST OF THE DAY



In the **Slash Discussion and Recommendations thread**<sup>(13)</sup>, this question was posed:

**Why do you read and/or write slash?** Here are a couple of the answers:

From **Sason**: "I don't know why!!! I mean, they are fictional characters, written about fictional characters.....some kind of double fiction..... but maybe the answer is that OS Jack and Ennis are so real to me, that I don't see them as fiction at all..... but that still doesn't explain the obsession to read other stories about them.....hell, I don't know! I just know that I have to read about them, and have no interest in reading anything else."

From **Fizzerbass**: "I read because my heart would have shriveled up and died long ago if I didn't find the wonderful world of fanfic. I write because the voices in my head tell me to." 😊

<sup>(13)</sup> <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=30061.5865>

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Today, give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he or she sees all day."

~ Quoted in *P.S. I Love You*, compiled by *H. Jackson Brown, Jr.* ~



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**PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY: PHOTO CAPTIONING FUN 4**  
**By TwistandShout**

**SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**



**Sleep in heavenly peace . . .**

**Contributors: KittyHawk, Sason, BayCityJohn, Fizzerbass, TwistandShout**



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## **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.

### **4<sup>TH</sup> 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

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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](mailto:tds@davecullen.com).

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