WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

How the gays defined "Santorum"

By John Aravosis at 1/25/2012 11:33:00 AM

One man is responsible for ruining the presidential aspirations of Rick Santorum. Well, okay, two men. One is Rick Santorum, and the other is Dan Savage.

Rosie Gray of Buzzrfeed says that Santorum defined him as the gays' nemesis, and while that may have worked in a previous era, it's not working today. In part because people want someone to fix the economy, not fix their gay neighbors. But also because of the "well organized gay political movement," as she calls it. I'm not so sure we're well organized, but we are spunky.

I've been writing about the gays and lesbians who just keep getting in the GOP candidates' faces in the various primary states. I don't think it's the gay mafia coordinating any of this, I think it's just individual gays and lesbians who are ticked off and not gonna take it any more.

And that leads us back to Dan Savage. We all were pretty ticked with Rick Santorum when he made his famous "man-dog" comparison to same-sex marriage nearly ten years ago now. But one guy took our anger and turned it into a highly effective action, and that was Dan. With the help of his readers, he redefined "Santorum" in a way that wasn't just funny and gross, but also in a way that is now dogging (no pun intended, originally) Rick Santorum everywhere he goes. It gave proof to the truth that Santorum is a gay-hater. It gave the media a hook to believe the truth about Santorum, but also to report on it. And it gave gay people hope, and passion, and inspiration for continuing to take on Santorum. And as Buzzfeed's Gray notes, Rick Santorum is now unable to run from his past. All because of the well-organized gays.

Not bad.

It's ironic therefore that Rick Santorum keeps getting glitter-bombed while his nemesis, Dan Savage, also keeps getting glitter-bombed. Yes, the gay man single-handedly responsible for inspiring the entire community to take down the most dangerous presidential candidate we might face is now also the man who simply must be destroyed at all costs.

Dan isn't perfect, but he's damn good, and a good guy too. If

the activists attacking him had their way, we might be looking at a much stronger Santorum candidacy today. I hope they keep that in mind as they attempt to destroy one of the gay community's finest assets.

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AgressiveProgressive

Granted. I'm not a big fan of Dan's right now because of his alleged reported support of Ron Paul but I agree with the article here. Leave the guy alone. His efforts have helped make one of the most dangerous presidential candidates a footnote.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal American politi...

He's not supporting Ron Paul. He endorsed Obama's re-elect like last June, which kind of annoyed a number of people.

The Right's Field
John Aravosis
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Ah ok, just googled it. You mean this (and he's not entirely wrong):

"There is no comparing Paul and Santorum, said Savage, because Paul is a leave-us-alone libertarian. "Ron is older than my father, far less toxic than Santorum, and, as he isn't beloved of religious conservatives, he isn't out there stoking the hatreds of our social and political enemies," he explained. "And Ron may not like gay people, and may not want to hang out with us or use our toilets, but he's content to leave us the fuck alone and recognizes that gay citizens are entitled to the same rights as all other citizens. Santorum, on the other hand, believes that his bigotry must be given the force of law. That's an important difference."

http://www.slate.com/articles/...

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to AgressiveProgressive
3 Likes

Mike_H Top 500 Liberal/progressive. B...

Yeah, we have to be very careful not to lump all "not-liberals" together. I'd MUCH rather have a conservative-with-a-small-c who is perfectly happy to let me live my gay life without interference, than a "Family Values Conservative" who has a goal of re-criminalizing homosexuality.

I don't need all Republicans to love me, endorse my existence, and beg to attend my gay marriage. Heck, they can continue to personally dislike any and all gay people *as long as* they have no problem with us being treated as equal citizens.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis

S1AMER Top 500

Attacking Dan Savage strikes me as one of the least productive efforts imaginable.

And it makes me wonder why or how those doing so think it could in any way, shope, or form aid their cause.

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- ► 23 Jan (5)
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- ► 19 Jan (5)
- ► 18 Jan (5)
- ► 17 Jan (7)
- ► 16 Jan (2)
- ► 14 Jan (1)
- ► 13 Jan (4)
- ► 12 Jan (4)
- ► 11 Jan (4)
- ► 10 Jan (4)
- ► 09 Jan (5)
- ► 08 Jan (3)
- ► 07 Jan (1)
- ► 06 Jan (5)
- ► 05 Jan (7)
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2 weeks ago 2 Likes Like Reply

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

Bravo!!! (LOL at disorganized but spunky--true!)

2 weeks ago 1 Like Like Reply

Butch1 Top 10

I think Rosy Gray has that backwards. WE are HIS nemesis not the other way around. He and his wife think we pick on him and he loves playing the victim so well. I bet he was always the first in his class in Parochial school to raise his hand to want to play "Christ on the Cross" in the Passion Plays around Easter. He and Vitter could fight over whom gets to wear the diaper. ;-)

He was the one who started this "man on dog" baloney and he deserves every bit of our derision. He is a dense bigot and doesn't deserve to be anywhere near the White House let alone near Congress ever again. The man is dangerous to the human rights of gays and of women. He is a two issue jerk that lets his religion run his life and wants it to run ours as well.

This country has no place for a Theocracy. We're having enough problems fighting for our freedom being taken away by the 1% running this government and we do not need religious idiot bigots like Santorum trying to turn this into Uganda or Iran. If he wants a religious state, go move to... show more

2 weeks ago 3 Likes Like Reply

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 50

I really don't think the trans folk can destroy Dan with a few glitter bombs.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal American politi...

Oh, don't be so sure. First of all, imagine if you're Dan, knowing that it's not really safe to be in public anywhere - how would that make you feel? Next, how do you think MTV feels about this, you don't think that after a while it might start to make them rethink his TV show? He's our best voice on TV right now. No one argues as well as him on our issues on tv, no one. Watch some of the clips, he's been

pretty amazing.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Mike_in_the_Tundra
3 Likes

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 50

I've never heard how Dan feels about the glitter bombs. He doesn't strike me as the type who would avoid being in public because of a glitter bomb. I know you know him better than I do, but that doesn't seem to go along with his persona.

I'm just drawing blanks here. Why would that affect him being on MTV? Wouldn't the Gs Ls and Bs be a larger part of the audience than the Ts?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal ...

Controversy. What if they start disrupting his shows? At some point you risk becoming damaged goods. For everyone's sake, let's hope it doesn't come to that. On a more personal level, it also has to be awfully creepy to worry about these freaks every time you step outside. He has a kid. And while maybe Pat Buchanan deserves worrying about every appearance he makes, Dan Savage does not.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
Mike_in_the_Tundra
1 Like

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 5

A few hours make a big difference. I'm now inclined to agree with you. I was following some links and came upon The Transadvocate where you are routinely referred to as The John. It didn't seem to be an affectionate name.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

in reply to John Aravosis
1 Like

John Aravosis Top 5

My demonization began back 2007 when I dared to express an opinion about a civil rights bill that I personally started working on back in the early 1990s. If you're gay, you're only permitted to have an opinion about your own civil rights and your own civil rights legislation if it agrees with the NGLTF/trans activist approach. I dared to ask questions, was demonized by trans activists and the NGLTF crowd, and they still come after me today. Great way to win people over - far too many of the blogs now are afraid to even write about trans issues as a result. That is not helpful to a community that is already underrepresented.The sane rational people need to take their community back and start speaking up.

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to Mike_in_t

friday_freakin_jones

Sort of like in the Atheism community, Rebecca West gets so many death and

rape threats I'm surprised she has the courage to step outside anymore.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis

Butch1 Top 10

There is no reason for this. Religionist's can become so radical that it becomes a disease as well when religion takes them completely over that their rational mind doesn't function and their delusions take over. These murderers that go after the doctors like Dr. Tillman are a perfect example. "Doing it for the Lord." Atheists are generally very peaceful people, I should know, I am one. ;-)

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_freakin_jones

Butch1 Top 10

Especially the idiot that threw that jar or glass. That is just too dangerous and that person should have been arrested if they weren't. That went too far.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis

enough already

Reahlly, dahlinks.
What the fuck do these nasty people hope to achieve?
First, the trans community does not have all that many allies among gays. I am one and a loud one at that. It frequently leaves me the only cis-gendered white gay man pleading the "T" cause in our alphabet soup during discussions.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 50

The trans community is leaking allies. It might help if they stopped with the cis stuff.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to enough already 8 Likes

friday_freakin_jones

Unfortunately, the only descriptive terms that fit all seem to be designed to place trans people in an abnormal category. Alternatives to "cis-gender" would be "Natural Born," "Real," and "Normal" so far. The closest thing to equal terminology available would be the clumsy "non trans" designation. And really, it's sort of mean to define polite speech as "in a form where you present yourself as unnatural, unreal, or abnormal."

After all, "cis" is just a Latin prefix meaning "on the same side as." "Trans" is a Latin prefix meaning "on the opposite side of." It's just an attempt to make the two categories rhetorically equal. No denigration was ever intended.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
Mike_in_the_Tundra
1 Like

DavidinPS

Yes but denigration is perceived. We don't like it. Please don't' use it. You don't get to decide how we describe ourselves just as we don't get to decide how you describe yourselves. Fair enough?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
friday_freakin_jones
1 Like

friday_freakin_jones

Wasn't this all originally in regards to Dan Savage using terms like "stupid tranny" and "shemales?" And now we come full circle. Denigration has been perceived. Fair enough?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
DavidinPS

Butch1 Top 10

It was those stupid News Papers that would post all the prostitutes and "escort" services that used all of those words to "sell" their products. I know that is where I would see those words used. They were accepted during the last decade and then I think the trans-community finally made people aware that it was not cool to use them. Dan even admitted he has grown from those times as well. I think he's allowed, don't you?

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to friday_fre

friday_fr...

I don;t see the growth you mention. Dan was glitterbombed at that UCI event while doing a Q&A for his "Savage Love" 'cast while his multiple mentions of the words "freaky tranny porn" and "shemales" were still echoing in the rafters. I

doubt he would have read it aloud with such glee had the question card contained the N word. or maybe he would, this IS Dan Savage after all, he loves to shock people as much as he can manage.

2 weeks ago Like in reply to Butch1

friday_freakin_jones

Oh, and how WOULD you like to prefix the word "gender" to describe someone who is not trans? Please fill in the blank as you think would be fair and polite: David is ___gendered.

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to DavidinPS
1 Like

John Aravosis Top 5

That's easy,

"not trans." I've never had a problem describing someone who either is trans or isn't trans (there I did it again without using cis). You guys have created a false problem by suggesting that we simply must have a word for non-trans. We already have:

non-trans.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_fre
2 Likes

friday_fr...

Ah, so if I say "I am proud to be trans" then for you an expression of pride in your gender identity would be "I am proud to be not trans?" I don't think the terms are equal in that way.

2 weeks ago Like
in reply to John Aravosis
2 Likes

Butch1 Top 10

I would say, " I don't know whether David is transgendered or not."

How's that?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_fre

friday_fr...

Not very good. If people can only define their gender

identity in relation to transgender people, then if David is not transgender, you have to mention transgender in order to define his gender identity by saying "David is not." Not what? Not transgender. So David doesn't have a gender identity that can be defined without reference to transgender? I seriously doubt that.

2 weeks ago Like
in reply to Butch1
1 Like

Guest

Comment removed.

2 weeks ago Like
in reply to friday_freakin_jones

friday_freakin_jones

Isn't that tossing out the baby with the bathwater, saying a technical term used in some rarified discussions of gender expression rights is considered offensive because it's used in combination with other

descriptive terms like "rich" or "gay" sometimes?

Hey, it just occurred to me, I wouldn't mind having "rich, white, pansexual, trans woman" attached to a description of ME, as long as I got to really OWN that "rich" part. Yeah! :D

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Guest
1 Like

Mike_in_the_T...

I can own the gay and men part. The rich part is downright laughable. I'm also rather certain my Latina mother would not agree with the white part.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_fre

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 50

I really don't regularly refer to my transgendered friends as transgendered. Other than in a disagreement like this, I'm not certain there would be too many reasons to do that. However, the transgendered community seems to throw in cisgendered whenever they can. Also when, I see or hear it, it seems to be existing along with some other adjectives that are far from complimentary. The number of times I read something like "rich, privileged, white, gay, cisgendered men" are starting to pile up.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_freakin_jones
1 Like

Butch1 Top 10

I call my transgendered friends by their first names. ;-)

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
Mike_in_the_Tur

fritzrth Top 50

Hmmm. "Gay" is designed to place trans people in an abnormal category? "Heterosexual" is designed ...?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
friday_freakin_jones

BrandySpears

Cis-gender is a far more "clumsy" word than non-trans. When using the prefix non, all you would be saying is that the other person is not trans. You haven't created a label for that person and placed it on them without their consent. No group of people has the right to do that to another group of people. I am not a Jew. I do not refer to myself as goy or Gentile. I am a non-Jew.

If you want to engage in polite speech, cease and desist from using labeling the other person especially after they ask you to. That's a polite concept except on the internet.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
friday_freakin_jones
1 Like

friday_freakin_jones

Then why get all bent out of shape when trans people get bothered about prominent gay men slinging terms like "stupid

trannies" and "shemales" at us?

If you want to engage in polite speech, cease and desist from using labeling the other person especially after they ask you to. That's a polite concept except on the internet.

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to BrandySpears

BrandySpears

Dan said "stupid tranny" (singular) pointed directly at an individual and not at all transgender people. He also called the same person "selfish tranny". I don't agree that the person was selfish or stupid. A sex-advice columnists was answering a question about a family dealing with a person transitioning that he should have referred to a family therapist. (That's my 2 cents).

Do you agree that thousands of people refer to themselves and self-identify as shemale? That's how their online personal ads read. That's their descriptor of themselves. Ignoring that these people exist is wrong.

I use the word

tranny all the time in conversations. I'm not bothered when other people refer to me as a tranny. Feel free.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_fre
1 Like

friday_fr...

Swell, so on the one hand "cis" is offensive because some gay and lesbian people don't like it, but "tranny" and "shemale" are OK because some trans people are OK with it? There is no overlapping territory between those positions where I can stand. One of those points has to give.

2 weeks ago Like
in reply to BrandySp

BrandySp...

*I am replying to friday_ here since it seems we've reached the reply

limit.

I have no problem with people who want to refer to themselves as cis-gender. That is there choice. I also have no problem with people who self-identify as tranny, shemale, gender-queers, fem-boys, etc. Their descriptors belong to them. I wouldn't trivialize a self-identity as simply being "OK with it".

So are you saying that as long as people use the word tranny or shemale you are not going to stop referring to individuals as cis-gender even when they ask you too? That seems rather childish.

2 weeks ago Like in reply to BrandySp

Butch1 Top 10

Whether it wasn't intended it still happened and to fix it one needs to quit dismissing when gays say they are offended when they are called that and just quit calling them it.

If we prefer to be called what we are, "gays" then please show us the respect you would want us to show you and call us by the names WE choose not what YOU choose for us. It seems as though as a group, you finally found a comfortable name that felt good and then tried to fit everyone else who had already been established with an history before you with a new resigned name that would now fit your new place. That is not how it works. You need to find a way to fit yourselves into what is already established an make it work, not the other way around. You don't make up a lot of new names so that your name will make more sense. You make yourself fit into the scheme of things. We are already here and we already have our names and are not going to change them. Kindly stop trying to and please call us by what we ask. Anything else would be obviously insulting us... show more

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to friday_freakin_jones

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

"cis-gendered" is not a word.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to enough already 6 Likes

Bonze Blayk

You may not care for it, but "cis-gendered" is indeed a word.

And it's not an insult; it's merely descriptive, originally invented as a clever counterpart to "transgender" by

analogy to the use of the prefixes "cis-" and "trans-" in chemistry.

And if you're willing to accept that the "gender awareness" of individuals is real and is a difference that is to some degree biologically based, and variations from "normal" brain development are present in those who are "transgendered" — a proposition that is supported by modern research in the pre-natal development of brain structures and differences in brain structure caused by hormonal influences — well, it just makes sense.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C...

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Skeptical Cicada

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

Wikipedia is not a dictionary.

The trendy trans slang is a slur.

And I will define my identity myself, if that's quite fucking okay with you. And, actually, I'll define my own identity myself even if it isn't fucking okay with you.

Before condescending, please consult one of the many previous discussions of this slang slur on this blog, including one where we thoroughly explored the meaning of the "cis"prefix (on this side of), found it to produce gibberish when attached to words like "gender" and "sexual," and explored the offensivenss of referring to gay men by a prefix that is a near homonym for "sissy."

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Bonze Blayk
1 Like

Bonze Blayk

Well, for starters:

If you don't understand that "sex" and "gender" are different things, and that external physical sexual characteristics sometimes do not correlate with a person's internal sex-related characteristics (i.e., "brain-sex"/gender identity), then you'll have difficulty understanding the distinctions being made here.

And the fact is: The term "cis-gender" as a counterpart to "trans-gender" was derived from the analogy with chemistry:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C...

… and its first use and derivation was first explained in this post made in 1996 to the Usenet "soc.support.transgendered" group:

http://groups.google.com/group...

… and it's kind of funny that gay men who understand themselves as normally gendered MEN would get upset over a "near *homo*nym", when that "near homonym" implies, NOT that they are "sissies", but EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE… that they are basically normal men who just happen to be sexually attracted to other men?

Whatever; my own personal take here is that, for a person leading a pseudonymous existence as "Skeptical Cicada" on a

blog, you're mighty touchy about your "identity".

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
Skeptical
Cicada

John Aravosis Top 5

A lot of people don't like the word, I find it offensive and it sounds quite often like it's being used as a slur (the context often seems negative). When you choose to make up a word for someone else, especially when the person doesn't like it, and insist on using it anyway, it's a recipe for trouble. It's a bit like me trying to explain to you logically and rationally why your distaste for the word "tranny" is silly since after all, grammatically, it's just a short version of a longer word, and in fact the "y" at the end in standard English indicates the diminutive, which indicates endearing affection.

Sometimes English lessons, and chemistry lessons, don't quite capture the nuance of language.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
Bonze
Blayk

3 Likes

Bonze Bl...

Um, John, in fact I don't have a big objection to the word "tranny", but I don't think it's a particularly useful term, since it lumps togethe r several *radically* different types of folks who happen to have gender presentations which vary from that expected of the sex they were assigned at birth?

"... grammatic ally, it's just a short version of a longer word..."

Ay, but *which one?* "Transsexual" ? or "Transvestite" ?

There is kind of a difference, right, John? ;-)

2 weeks ago Like in reply to John Aravosis

Butch1 Top 10

It was made up by a transgendered person to define any of us. I already have a definition and do not need another name. You did not even ask us, you went ahead and labeled us. When we ask you to stop, you rudely refuse and continue with the same explanations we have already heard. We are gay and that is what we prefer to be called. We do not want the prefix "cis" attached to it, period. Do you suppose you could honor us by not insulting us by doing that? If not, it is just a sign that you do not respect us or our request that you stop doing it.

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to Bonze Blayk

BrandySpears

It is a label - an uninvited one. I use the prefix non. Non does not place a label on the other person.

2 weeks ago Like Reply in reply to Bonze Blayk

John Aravosis Top 50 Li...

See, there you go being a rational sympathetic trans person again. ;-)

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to BrandySpears

Butch1 Top 10

That's right, I do not care for it so take heed and quit using it if it offends.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Bonze Blayk

Butch1 Top 10

Agreed. The only thing I recognize cis to is spelled differently and it is sister.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Skeptical Cicada

Just an elbow

You need to drop that "cis" crap now. I wasn't there when others decided that's what I should be called, and I take umbrage at the way it's being used.
Dump it in the heap with all the other divisive slurs.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to enough already 7 Likes

Butch1 Top 10

Agreed.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Just an elbow

Jim Olson Top 50 Senior Pastor at Center Co...

concur. cis-gendered? ridiculous.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to enough already 2 Likes

Butch1 Top 10

Amen for buying into that nonsense.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Jim Olson

Gridlock Top 10

You lost any validity at "cis"

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to enough already 2 Likes

Butch1 Top 10

Amen. . .

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Gridlock

Mike_in_the_Tundra Top 50

"I'm not so sure we're well organized, but we are spunky"

Good point. Trying to organize a bunch of gay guys is like herding three month old cats. The only way to do that is to have something at the end they really want. I never tried to organize a bunch of lesbians, but I sort of think that would be equally as difficult.

2 weeks ago 1 Like Like Reply

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal American politi...

It's not just gay men or lesbians,. it's the community as a whole. Who is our "leader" - we don't have one.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Mike_in_the_Tundra
1 Like

fritzrth Top 50

And even if it weakens our effectiveness somewhat as a community, I'm glad we don't have a leader. The diversity of our issues can be a strength as well and helps us fight on multiple fronts at the same time -- marriage, ENDA, transgender issues, military service. If only people realized this and didn't demand that everyone of us work on their own pet project. Our differing issues should complement, not compete with, each other.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis
1 Like

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

You mean Joe Solmonese isn't Queen of the Gays? He seems to think he is. :)

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to fritzrth
1 Like

fritzrth Top 50

Now, how did I forget that? Is there a "shame on me" emoticon?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Skeptical Cicada
1 Like

FunMe Top 50

The vest sweaters defined Santorum as gay. ;-)

2 weeks ago Like Reply

Williamm Ray, PhD

Under-30 Republican voters in the U.S. favor Ron Paul as their party's presidential nominee -- good news from a libertarian point of view -- but Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum remain in the Dark Ages on gay marriage rights for Americans, as explained in today's blog:
http://www.newweddingplanet.co...
(Edited by a moderator)

2 weeks ago Like Reply

BrandySpears

I would also include Ron Paul in that Dark Ages camp. A fundamental right, as defined by SCOTUS, of the people should not be left up to the whims of the states. As a person who fought hard against Prop8, I'll air on the side of Virginia Loving and not Ron Paul.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Williamm Ray, PhD
2 Likes

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

Ron Paul is not a libertarian when it comes to marriage equality. Rather, he has a list of bullshit dodges and evasions. Libertarianism

does not suddenly endorse morals legislation because it was enacted at the state level instead of the federal level. The conflation of libertarianism with federalism has been absurd. And when pressed, he will say that if he were a state legislator, he would vote to ban gay marriage. But you have to hold him down and force that answer out of him. He does everything possible to create a false impression of open-mindedness on social issues with his federal-bashing. It keeps his army of rather ill-informed young straight people from realizing how anti-gay Paul is.

And, I hate to be overly personal, but who creates a username with their academic credentials in it? Good grief. If it doesn't show through in the substance of the comments, slapping an academic credential on the username isn't going to make any difference. It screams insecurity.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Williamm Ray, PhD
2 Likes

Zorba Top 50 Χαίρε, ω χαίρε Ελευθεριά!

A "libertarian" point of view? Really? Really???
I always thought that "libertarians" wanted to strictly limit government and maximize individual liberty. Ron Paul not only has weaseled on same-sex marriage (he said that he is personally opposed to it, but that it is up to "the states"- just as he thinks that civil rights are "up to the states"), but he is also "an unshakable foe of abortion." He introduced the "Sanctity of Life" act several times at the federal level, defining "life" as "beginning at conception." This is a "libertarian"? I really think not.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Williamm Ray, PhD
2 Likes

judy brown Top 500

Glitter-bombing Republican politicians doesn't accomplish much, and glitter-bombing Dan doesn't accomplish much.

However, what Dan did to Santorum has accomplished plenty.

That's the difference.

2 weeks ago 4 Likes Like Reply

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal American politi...

That was like a jam-packed political haiku. Well done.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to judy brown

Wilberforce

Another nice try, John. But the trans community is not going to join our side anytime soon.
Unfortunately, many queer groups are emotionally immature and don't respond to reason.
The guys at JMG were crushed by fundamentalists early on. Now they spend their days trashing our freinds in the church.
People at IGF have never out grown the extreme selfishness they learned from republican parents.
They trash our freinds in the democratic party.
And just read the comments at Bilerico and Transadvocate to see what trans people think of us.
They despise our culture and lie about our leaders nonstop. Considering the harm they've done to us, I wonder if it isn't time to get them out of our movement.
They destroyed enda. They've tried to destroy both of our strongest leaders, Barney and Savage.
And they claim that our entire culture is transphobic, from camp to drag to our jocular speech to our political priorities.
Again, people with emotional issues don't respond to argument. So maybe it's time to stop trying and just turn the trans community loose.

2 weeks ago 1 Like Like Reply

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

I don't spend much time at JMG because it's too obsessed with every little slur that some right-winger puts out. To me, that's just background noise; no need to spend so much time talking about it.

On the other hand, it is not as though those churches in question have actually changed very much. Progress actually doesn't depend on winning over every bigot-infested church. Nobody ever won over the Klan, for example; they just went around them and marginalized them. That's an alternative--and the more realistic option with many of these churches.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Wilberforce

BrandySpears

The trans community is on your side whether you want us to be or not :) It's the whacktivists that need to be excluded from dialogue and not the community as a whole.

Curious about your JMG comment? Are you referring to his atheism?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Wilberforce

Wilberforce

I would like to agree with you. But look at the comments at Bilerico. They almost all support the glitter. And they've been particularly nasty for the past year. I just can't ignore that anymore.
As for JMG, they have redefined the word atheist. Used to mean someone who doesn't believe in god. Now it means someone who must spit hatred at anyone who does. And they do, even at our allies in the liberal church.
They're so deluded, they can't tell the difference between Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson.
It makes me so sad to see emotionally immature people sabotage our movement by trashing our allies. Hopefully they won't stop us from respecting each other. And maybe mature voices will win out eventually.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to BrandySpears

BrandySpears

I don't know about redefining. Remember "the most hated woman in America" Madeline Murray O'hare? One of my heroes as a kid:)

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Wilberforce
1 Like

Kissingintongues

Madalyn Murray O'Hair was a nasty, racist, gay-hating dirtbag who was murdered from her stupidity after she ran off with money that was her organization's, not hers.
Great hero to have as a kid.
Bravo.
Wake up.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to BrandySpears

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal America...

I was just going to say that a number of trans people, including Brandy, have come here and have made clear that these guys don't speak for them. And that's great, and important for them to speak out now and more.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to BrandySpears
1 Like

caphillprof Top 50

My inclination would be to support equality and fair treatment for members of the trans community, but not now. To much immaturity in that community.

2 weeks ago 3 Likes Like Reply

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

I was doing supportive things, but I have to say I've stopped.

2 weeks ago in reply to caphillprof Like Reply
2 Likes

Kathy

The news story does not identify the protestors as trans. They identify themselves as queer & cite many other concerns besides trans issues. There has been a single person identified from that group as trans at all. Of the entire huge group of six kids.

You're purposely misrepresenting the facts when you

say it does. And knowingly doing so.

Don't support glitterbombing - It's silly and doesn't achieve anything.

But - I do look forward to your many articles taking gay guys to task over using the tactic.

Regarding immaturity - one merely needs to look at the guys commenting here to see the apotheosis of that quality.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

Skeptical Cicada Top 50

Actually, the best example of immaturity I've seen lately is sabotaging a piece of civil rights legislation that has been pending for 40 years because there weren't enough votes to include every last little detail of restroom rules in it, something that could easily have been accomplished by administrative regulations implementing an enacted law.

The decision to adopt a perfect-or-sabotage strategy is one that I assume the transgender community made fully cognizant that the sabotage option (the only one that was ever realistic) would alienate a large segment of the LGB community. And the strategic decision was made anyway. So I won't personally tolerate a solitary peep of complaint now about the inevitable consequences. I won't show one more iota of concern now than the transgender community showed then.

That Rubicon was crossed in 2010.

2 weeks ago in reply to Kathy Like Reply
1 Like

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal American politi...

As I already explained in numerous comments below, the trans community created the environment in which the attacks on Dan have happened - it's because the trans community thinks he's the enemy that this is happening. Now you can quibble about whether these are just some activists in the community and/or their NGLTF-loving gay buddies (and both are

a problem), but the fact remains that they've created a culture of demonization of anyone who doesn't see the world in their weird-PC-nouns kind of way. This latest attack on Dan (and I use the word in a general sense) is part of the continuing attacks that the trans community, or trans activists, have made on Dan, and they're part of the larger ongoing trend of eviscerating every gay person who says one thing out of line with the PC rule book of how one is supposed to speak about trans issues. This problem goes far beyond this one incident. That's why I'm writing about it. You guys need to take your own community back from the crazy activists and your PC allies in the gay community.

2 weeks ago in reply to Kathy Like Reply
3 Likes

Zoe Brain

So let's see - a group of Militant Gays and Radical Lesbians glitterbomb Savage, and it's Trans who should rein in their own community. Right?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis

Wilberforce

So let's see - the trans community spit hatred at gay men for the past year, and you have no responsibilty for that. Right?

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Zoe Brain
1 Like

John Aravosis Top 50 Liberal ...

Every attack until now has been done by trans people, and the attacks are happening because the trans community decided to demonize Dan and make him public enemy number one. So, yes, if you are responsible for motivating the people who attacked him, and they're doing it in your name, and the previous attacks were done by you, then yes you are responsible for putting a stop to it. Especially

when this is part of a larger pattern of intolerance by your community. I've already written ten times below, this is not an isolated incident. There is a real problem here. A lot of people are no longer comfortable writing or talking about your issues, even in a good way, lest they tick off your PC defenders. It's a real problem and it needs to be talked about, not denied. Or it's going to get much worse. If the goal is to decrease tensions between the two communities rather than fomenting a civil war, then we need to be able to talk about this stuff, recognize it, and address it.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Zoe Brain
1 Like

Shaed Greenwood

They're not doing it in trans people's name. Dan has pissed off a lot of people, and this group had a grocery list of criticisms.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to
John Aravosis

Butch1 Top 10

Then be specific and name them and the groups and their issues and criticisms. Being vague about their grocery list doesn't help either. Get the list out and let's get the issues on the table so they can be addressed. These attacks are puerile if they are not going to be resolved when Dan is actually serving our communities.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Shaed Greenwood

John Aravosis Top 5

Again, they've all been trans until now. Second, the language is the same language that's used against me and everyone else who fails to dot and i or cross a t when talking about trans issues, so it's an interesting coincidence. Third, again this is part of a larger problem I'm trying to notify you guys about. This isn't about Dan. I've been just as demonized, and I could name a number of other people who have expressed the same concern about not feeling comfortable writing about trans issues for fear of being attacked.
There is a problem here. Feel free to deny it. I said my told you so four years ago, and pretty much everything
I predicted is coming true.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Shaed Greenwood

Wilberforce

'You guys'? Were you given permission to use that term? It's vaguely masculine, and you're addressing more than one gender here.
I'm sending this directly to Bilerico, where you'll receive a severe drubbing.

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to John Aravosis
2 Likes

Butch1 Top 10

Ha! Oh No Mr. Bill . . . . .!!!!

2 weeks ago Like Reply
in reply to Wilberforce

Tatts

Not only did he/we ruin Senator Frothy's chances of becoming President, but Vice-President as well. After all, what sane person would want Santorum in the...number 2 spot?

2 weeks ago Like Reply

Butch1 Top 10

Not without a tissue or two. I guess that Depends. ;-)

2 weeks ago in reply to Tatts Like Reply

Kissingintongues

up. Dan Savage is SUCH an ASS...et. He invents a disgusting, dishonest, filthy tactic like redefining Santorum as part of the awesomely ethical, honest and intellectually honest GBLT political tactical agenda.. goals.
I think 'glitterbombing' is flaky, immature, desperate attempt for attention. It voids honest discussion, dealing honestly with issues. I think Savage & Santorum needs to have a fan with them & blow the glitter back in the faces of the Daff Patrol wacktivists. Pathetic.
Savage pushes the filthy slime in his dishonest smear campaign of cheap, ends-justifies-the-means ridicule, and he gets glitterbombed by pea-brained weirdos because he's FOR gay marriage?!
What dim-witted loser far leftist lunkheads.
What a great movement we have.
Yeah- FAR right, but let us gloss over or ignore the FAR leftist fringe bowel movement.

2 weeks ago Like Reply

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