Activism in the Archives

Cheryl Oestreicher
Head, Special Collections and Archives
archives.boisestate.edu
“Telling stories of our pasts is a quintessentially human activity. Story is crucial to our construction of meaning and is carried by our dream of the impossible.

Without story we are without soul.”

Verne Harris
Archives and Justice: A South African Perspective
“Archival materials provide surrogates for human memory, both individually and collectively and, when properly maintained, they serve as evidence against which individual and social memory can be tested. Archivists preserve such primary sources to enable us to better comprehend the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future.”

Society of American Archivists
Code of Ethics
Before Title IX
No on One Campaign

Idaho group pushes for anti-gay law

Initiative will give a license to others to hate, says Idaho's Human Rights Director.

By Tom Pifle
Social Services Editor

As Oregon's gay rights initiative came to a sudden, unexpected end, another group in Idaho promised to move on.

Last Monday, chairman of the Oregon Human Rights Commission John Mahoney announced that he would not push the initiative in Oregon.

Two days later, the Boise State Daily Press reported that a group in Idaho was planning to push an anti-gay law initiative.

"We're not going to let this happen," said Boise State Daily Press editor John Mahoney. "We're going to fight back and make sure that our people are protected."
Idaho LGBTQ Oral History Project

IDAHO LGBTQ ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Oral History Project began as a key component of a cross-listed Boise State University course, Intro to LGBTQ Studies (GEN 380, HIS 381, SOC 497). Dr. Riley Caldwell-O’Keefe taught the course and designed the project as an interactive learning tool to help students understand LGBTQ history, with special emphasis on Idaho history, and the impacts of this history on local individuals. In addition to this history and context, students learned interviewing techniques throughout the semester. We discussed ethical considerations and obtained Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for the project. Throughout the process, we worked with Boise State Special Collections librarians, Alan Virta and Cheryl Oestreicher. The culmination and digital release of the collection would have been impossible without them. We are thrilled and honored to offer these first-person insights which help provide a more well-rounded and comprehensive story of Idaho history.

https://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/idlgbtq_oral_histories/
Your Family, Friends, and Neighbors

Mission Statements For:

Your, Family, Friends, & Neighbors

Your Family, Friends & Neighbors, Inc. promotes respect, understanding, and tolerance for lesbian and gay people, provides a voice in Idaho for gay and lesbian human rights issues, and exposes and reduces anti-gay hatred and violence that is sweeping through the country. We are both gay and non-gay citizens dedicated to developing recognition of the diversity that is inherent in our community. We will accomplish our goals through:

- organizing an annual gay and lesbian freedom parade and festival in the city of Boise;

- sponsoring National Coming Out Day activities;

- producing educational events and media campaigns that foster awareness of discrimination against lesbian and gay people, anti-gay violence, and the impact of heterosexism and homophobia on teens and adults;

- monitoring anti-gay bigotry in the media and the community;

- promoting institutional change in both the private and public sectors;

Speak Out Idaho

An Educational Outreach Project of Your Family, Friends, & Neighbors, Inc.
P.O. Box 768 Boise, Idaho 83707 - Tel (208)344-4295 Fax (208)344-4498

Suggested Media "Dos" & "Don'ts"

Do include the viewpoint of somebody who is actually gay or lesbian when reporting on a gay or lesbian topic. Better yet, solicit more than one gay or lesbian viewpoint, since our community is not monolithic.

Do use the term "sexual orientation" (or "gender orientation") instead of "sexual preference" or "sexual choice." Most authorities agree that a person's basic sexual orientation is established at a very young age and, as a rule, can be hidden but not changed in later life.

Do apply equal standards of acceptability for publication of letters to the editor and signed columns concerning minority issues. If a column demeaning African Americans as subhuman would not be accepted, a column demeaning gay people as abnormal should likewise be rejected.

Do not insist on presenting "Hitler's view." Anti-gay zealots are in no sense "responsible spokespeople" about lesbian and gay issues, yet their hate often gets presented whenever any lesbian or gay topic is covered. A Ku Klux Klan member or a neo-Nazi is not included to discuss "the other side" in every story about African Americans or Jews.
THANK YOU

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