

Idaho LGBTQ Oral History Project

Nicole LeFavour



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

ALBERTSONS LIBRARY

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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 and Archives 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.

Name: Nicole LeFavour

Biography: LeFavour was born in Aspen, Colorado in 1964. LeFavour worked as a supporter on the No On One campaign and recorded a segment for the “It Gets Better” campaign. LeFavour discusses the hardships she has faced as an openly gay woman. As a senator during this interview, Nicole focuses on the importance of passing laws and creating understanding in order to create safe work and living environments for the LGB community.

Keywords: Senator, “It Gets Better Campaign, No On One campaign, Brian Bergquist, Pass the Boot blog, Human Rights Commission, drug/alcohol abuse, suicide, internet, Gay/Straight Alliances, children

Interview date: 2011

Interviewer: Dina Denney

Interview duration: 1:11:50

City: Boise

Timed Notation:

0:00:00	Intro
0:00:25	Full name, birthplace and date of birth
0:00:45	Family/childhood
0:02:11	It Gets Better Project/coming out
0:04:00	Beginnings in politics/first girlfriend
0:05:22	Support in school system as a child after mother came out
0:06:40	Aware of sexual identity
0:08:05	Influence in coming out/childhood experiences with Mom’s partners
0:10:00	Reaction to coming out by friends and family
0:11:58	Meeting partners after coming out/Carol her partner of 11 years

0:15:38	Advice given after coming out
0:16:34	Safety threatened after coming out
0:21:03	Advice for someone who is being threatened
0:22:22	Hate crimes in Boise
0:25:30	People feeling more comfortable to report hate crimes
0:26:00	The workplace
0:30:11	Blog from coworker who published anti-gay material
0:32:30	People need to talk about gay issues
0:35:00	Sacrifices to work on legislation
0:37:00	Human rights issue "Add the Words." If it passes what will be the impact
0:40:05	Safe places to go in Boise
0:42:10	Victims of hate crimes
0:44:40	Places to avoid/police reaction to hate crimes
0:51:25	What sparked your curiosity to be a writer/educator?
0:52:22	Historical influences
0:56:15	Inspirations from science
0:59:38	Resources for someone considering coming out
1:06:18	Advice for parents
1:08:10	Advice for coming out
1:09:09	Walls Nicole put up as a child