

LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

# **That's so Gay**

**A Beginner's Course to the LGBT Community**

Prepared by Vincent E. Vigil, LGBT Resource Center Director

# Terminology Quiz

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- M2F, F2M
- Ally
- Queer
- Gender vs. Sex
- GLBT vs. LGBT vs. GLBTA
  
- **Tip:** Use what students identify as

# Coming Out: Sexual Orientation

- Average age for people to become aware of their same gender attractions has changed throughout the decades

In summary:\*

- 1960's, girls 17 & boys 14
- 1990's, girls 12 & boys 10
  
- A steady decline in age
- Why?

\*Taken from [The New Gay Teenager](#), 2005

# Coming Out: Communities of Color

- Homophobia from racial community
- Racism from LGBT community
- Regional Experiences
- Vincent's dissertation
  - largest theme: Having a direct experience with discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or race

# Coming Out: Transgender

- Coming out earlier – statistics are slim
- Experiences at the Transgender Summit
  - Healthcare
  - Employment
  - Youth
- 2004, 55% of transgender students reported being physically harassed due to their gender, gender expression or sexual orientation.\*

\*Taken from GSLEN National School Climate Survey (2004)

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# Glance of LGBT Statistics

At USC and Beyond

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## GSAs in the High Schools

- 2004-05 Academic Year, GSAs established at U.S. schools at the rate of three per day \*
- October 2005, 3,000 GSAs at U.S. Schools
  - Nearly 1 in 10 high schools
  - 290 middle schools
- March 2007, 608 registered GSA's in California\*\*

\* Taken from GSLEN, [www.gslen.org](http://www.gslen.org)

\*\* Taken from GSA Network, [www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org)

# LGBT Acceptance at Institutions

- November 2006, 115 LGBT Resource Centers
- January 2007, majority (61%) of incoming 2006 freshmen approve of same-sex matrimony\*
- 2005, approximately 300 institutions across the nation adopted domestic partner benefits\*\*
- Public universities in 20 states provide benefits to employees' domestic partners.\*\*

\*Taken from UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, Cooperative Institutional Research Program

\*\*Taken from American Association of University Professors, 2005



# Transgender Non-discrimination

- October 2006, 70 colleges and universities include gender identity and expression in non-discrimination policies\*
- 46% institutions include gender identity and expression protections in their non-discrimination policies are located in the Northeast
  - West: 24%, Midwest: 22%, South 8%
- A handful (14) of institutions have changed forms in housing, admissions, student-life, etc. to include a “self-identity” option.

\* Taken from Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, Genius Index

# USC Statistics for Improvement

## Senior Survey

- Spring 2005, majority (65%) of 2005 graduating seniors are “unfamiliar with LGBT issues or concerns”

## Bias Protocol

- August 2006, Residential Education created the Bias Protocol
- October 2006, 13 incidents reported, 5 dealt with sexual orientation and 1 dealt with gender expression

## Improvements at USC

- 2005-06 Academic School Year, increased attendance at every LGBT event
- August 2006, the Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students, Top 20
- October 2006, Diversity Leader in GENIUS Index (Gender Equality National Index for Universities & Schools) one of 75 schools
- Today, 135 Faculty & Staff Allies registered

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# **Current Hot Topics**

In the Media and Beyond

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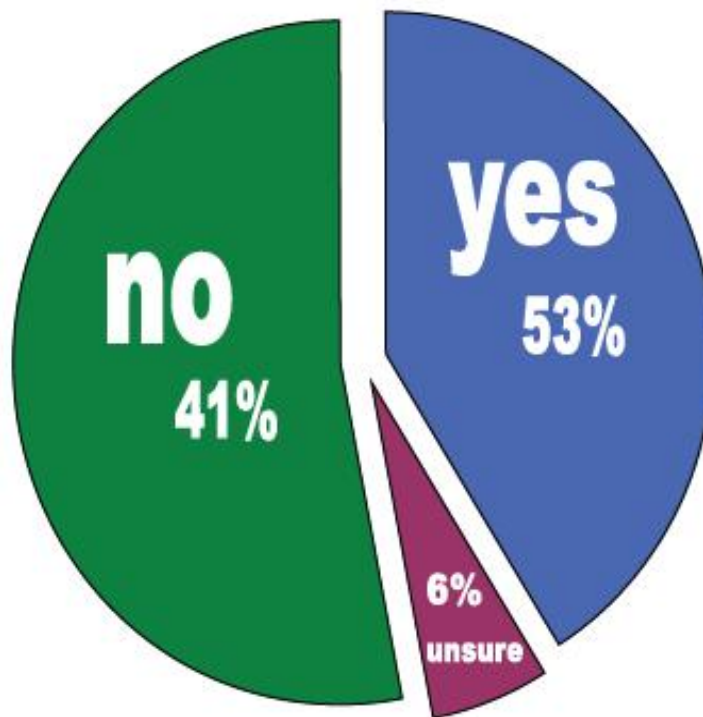
# Marriage Equality

- 7 states that recognize same sex couple recognition through civil unions (CU) or domestic partner benefits (DP)\*
  - California, DP
  - Connecticut, CU
  - Hawaii, DP
  - Maine, DP
  - Massachusetts, Gay Marriage
  - New Jersey, CU
  - Vermont, CU
  - District of Columbia, DP

\* Taken from [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

## “Faggot”

Has the word “faggot” – the new f word – become as verboten as the n word?\*

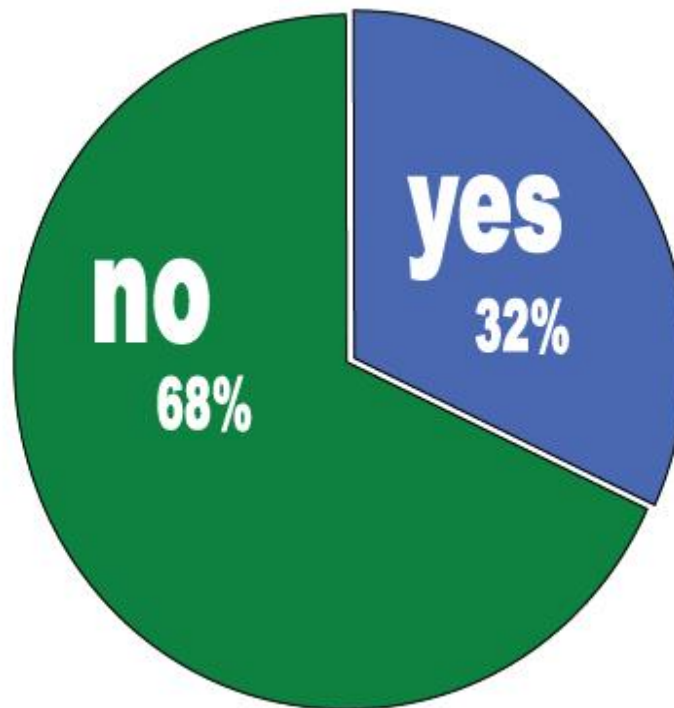


Total: 1366

\* Taken from Advocate Magazine, April 10, 2007

## Democratic Leaders

Do you trust the Democratic leaders in Congress to take up gay rights issues?\*

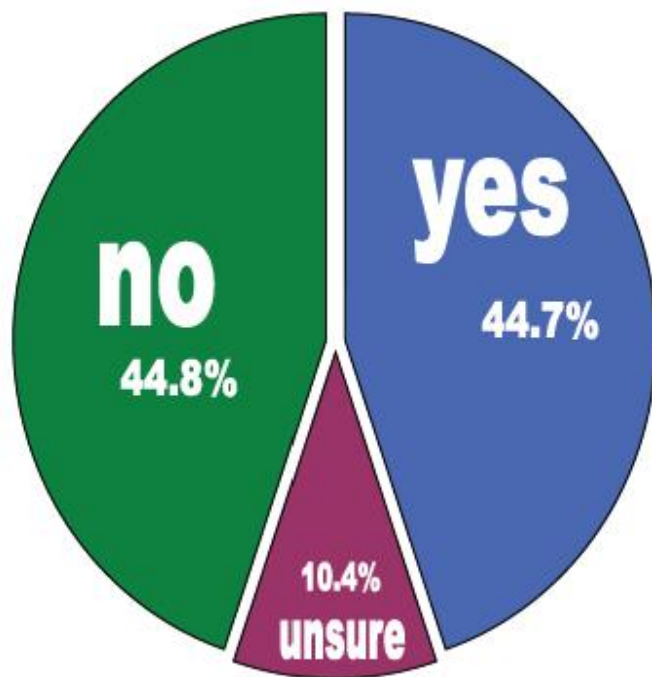


Total: 1016

\* Taken from Advocate Magazine, January 30, 2007

# Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy

Will Congress abolish "don't ask, don't tell" this year?\*



Total: 883

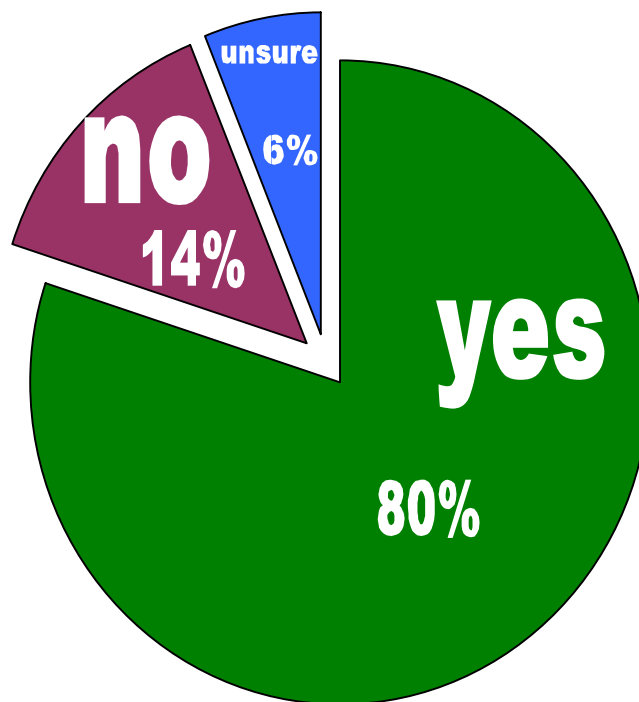
\* Taken from Advocate Magazine

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## Gay Acceptance in Hollywood

Now that Ellen, a gay woman, has landed the hosting gig for the Oscars, do you think an openly gay man will follow suit?\*



Total: 4460

\* Taken from Advocate Magazine, March 27, 2007

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# USC LGBT Student Experiences

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# USC Experiences for LGBT students

- Fall 2006, seven student narratives collected from LGBT students affiliated with the center
- Question: Think back over your experience as a college student and identify one incident or experience on campus that reinforced being a racial/ethnic minority or incidents based upon your sexual orientation and gender on campus. This could have been either positive or negative.
- 4 experiences were negative while 3 were positive
- Homophobia was a major theme presented from the experiences

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## Experience #1

"I have had very few negative experiences on the USC campus in regards to being homosexual. Since I do not consider myself a racial minority, this is not something I have had to deal with. I believe USC in general fosters a supportive environment for minorities both in sexual orientation and race. I can remember once when a group of "frat-ish" guys threw a pink circus animal cookie at a friend of mine, who is gay, in front of Leavey Library. They then said something like "fag." This is the only incident of direct homophobia that I have witness while here."

## Significance & Resolution

“I think this experience was important to remind me that people do actually still exist out there who fear others. Being of a minority sexual orientation, this is probably something I will always have to deal with to some degree. However, it is just another exercise to fight back against hatred.”

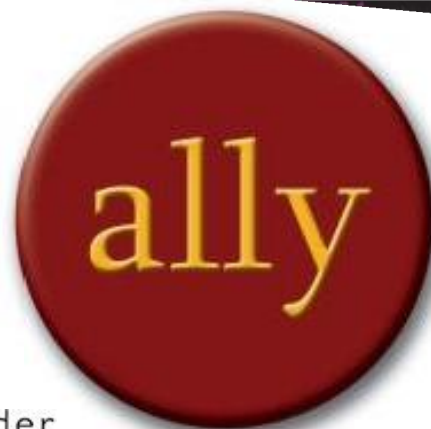
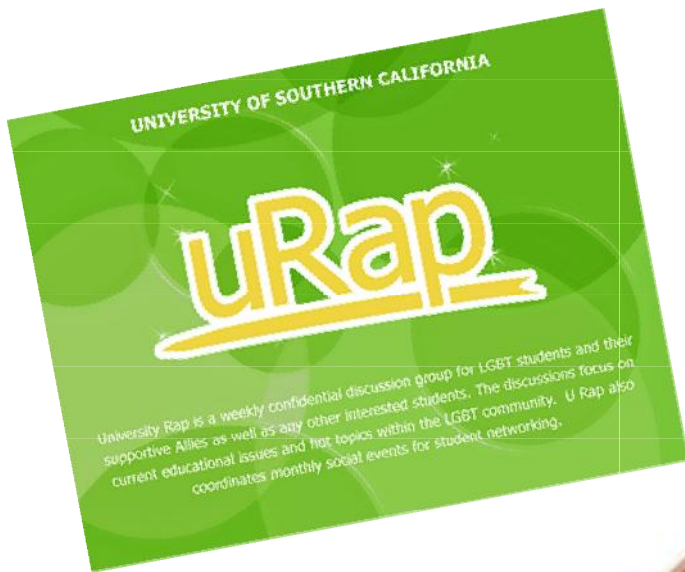
“I believe in this situation my friend and I just ignored the perpetrators. They were not worth wasting our time.”

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# USC Campus Resources

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**CENTER**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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**How can allies help?**

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## What can you do?

- **Speak Out** against inequality
- **Get Involved** with LGBT events or organizations
- **Educate Yourself** about the LGBT community
- **Be Visible** as an ally