

Satisfying all
your cravings...



rebel jeweler
soul and style

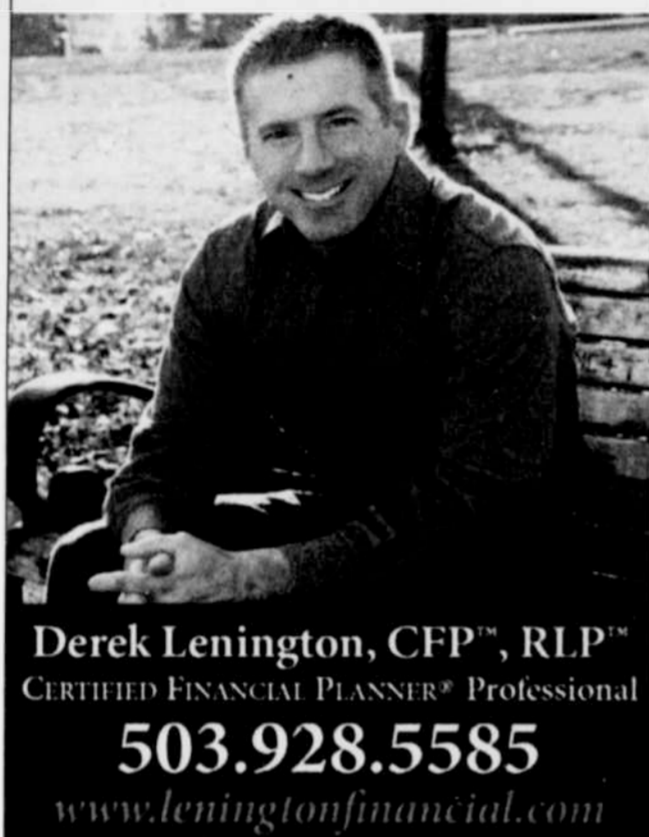
1033 NW Couch
www.rebeljeweler.com
503.224.4485

Leningtonfinancial
BUILDING WEALTH AND WELL BEING

Providing **fee-only** advice
to the LGBTQ community.

We receive no commissions.
We sell no products.
We require no minimums.

**Retirement Planning
Investment Advice
Budgeting
Domestic Partner Planning**



Derek Lenington, CFP™, RLP™
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® Professional
503.928.5585
www.leningtonfinancial.com

politics

Party Time

A British Parliamentary candidate-turned-Portland resident compares LGBTQ politics across the pond

BY ALEX BRYCE

ED. NOTE: *Alex Bryce is a British writer, commentator and equality campaigner. He worked as a political researcher, speechwriter, adviser and election campaigner for the Labour Party in the Houses of Parliament and at age 23 was selected to be a Labour Party Parliamentary candidate. He moved to Portland with his partner in September.*



after a brief look at some of the comments on homosexuality made by Cain's rivals in the race for the Republican nomination, I'm fairly certain they would have all—maybe with the exception of Jon Huntsman—been sacked at some stage by Cameron.

However, the homoerotic love (okay, I exaggerate) the Conservative Party leadership now has for the LGBTQ community is a relatively new phenomenon—they are still responsible for every piece of anti-gay legislation ever introduced in the U.K. This led me to ponder what caused them to change and if this is in any way applicable to politics here in the United States.

Cynics would argue that the change was driven more by a desire to be seen as electable than by sincerely held beliefs. There is certainly some truth in this. In Britain, unlike over here, where the legislature and the executive branch are separate, all the elections of any real national significance take place at the same time on General Election Day, when members of Parliament are voted in. The outcome of this determines which party forms the government and, in turn, who becomes prime minister. David Cameron moved his party into the ideological middle ground by shedding its image of being out of touch, socially illiberal and old-fashioned. Part of this transformation was embracing LGBTQ rights and equality.

When gazing across the pond from Britain, it is easy to fall into the trap of seeing the U.S. as one homogenous country with fairly consistent values and beliefs throughout, much like the U.K. I call this "Small Island Syndrome." The United Kingdom is actually smaller in size than Oregon—that's right, the whole country is smaller than this state. Most

To an outside observer, it is hard to fight the urge to constantly draw comparisons between our two vastly different political systems, particularly given the many cultural similarities and reference points we share—and particularly when it comes to social issues and LGBTQ equality. British politics seem dull by comparison to their equivalent here, where both parties seem to genuinely stand for something that their opponents despise.

A few weeks ago, I was hit with a stark reminder of how differently homosexuality is viewed by the Republican Party and its British counterpart, the Conservatives. David Cameron, the U.K. prime minister and Conservative leader, made two significant appearances on the main European LGBTQ news site I visit regularly: the first for mercilessly sacking and publicly slamming a lowly local representative for making homophobic comments, and the second for pledging to introduce full gay marriage to replace civil partnerships.

On the very same day, I heard Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain making remarks that would have resulted in a humiliating public sacking had he been a Conservative member of Parliament or local elected representative in the United Kingdom. In fact,

Looking for
a
unique present
this year?

Our Gift Cards
start at only
\$25

EYES!

ON BROADWAY
2300 NE BROADWAY
PORTLAND, OR 97232 503-284-2300

REMEMBER
many insurance and flex accounts
expires on December 31st

'Tis the season to give your family the legal protection they deserve.

**Adoptions
Surrogacy
Divorce/Custody
Wills/Trusts
Employment
Business Law**



Beth Allen Law
811 SW Naito, #420
Portland, OR 97204
503.241.3103
www.BethAllenLaw.com

