



WEDNESDAY, JULY 06, 2005

## Bisexuality Study: NYT Gives Prominence To Disgraced Researcher

by Michael in New York on [7/06/2005 11:38:00 AM](#)

Everyone is probably familiar with this [New York Times article about a study on bisexuality](#). It was one of the top five emailed stories on the NYT website and probably got picked up around the country. I ignored it at first because a casual glance at the study and its methodology led me to conclude it was shoddy and suspect. At best, it seemed like the typical mainstream press distortion of research: one little study makes one little observation and it gets trumpeted around the country as a "fact," in this case the idea that men aren't bisexual, they're just either gay, straight, or lying.

You would think, you would *hope* that the New York Times would do a little research of its own before splashing the work of Dr. J. Michael Bailey, a professor of psychology at Northwestern and the study's lead author. But no. It took threader Kathleen to alert me to what the NYT should have known before presenting this study uncritically.

1. Dr. J. Michael Bailey had to step down from the chairmanship of the psychology dept. at Northwestern just last year because of ethics charges related to earlier research.

2. Bailey has been [linked to a racist, neo-eugenics movement called the Human Biodiversity Institute](#) by the Southern Poverty Law Center

3. Bailey's previous attention-getter was a book on transgenders that extrapolated from about nine transgenders he claimed to befriend into a study. Many of the people profiled claimed convincingly they had no idea they were part of a research study. (A violation of ethics.) One claimed Bailey slept with them. (Also a violation.) Though ostensibly science, it contained no footnotes. This book led to the investigation of Bailey that resulted in his stepping down as chair, though he remains a professor at Northwestern. [The Chronicle of Higher Education profiled Bailey and the controversy, all but labeling him as a closet case.](#)

4. Bailey claims to be gay-friendly but is so at odds with the GLBT community at Northwestern that campus groups urge people NOT to cooperate with his studies. Gee, think that might make any research he does there harder to accept as valid? (Bailey has reportedly [found it difficult to recruit people](#) for his research.) The Chicago Free Press paints [a rather sad picture of Bailey trying to convince people he isn't anti-gay](#) or biased by calling for a public meeting virtually no one attended, just weeks before the New York Times would treat his latest research as front-page of the Science section newsworthy.

JOHN'S PHOTOS



TRY OUT  
**HIDE-N-SEEK**  
4000

SHARE YOUR INVENTION AT [INVENTNOW.ORG](#).  
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE. KEEP THINKING.

»Invent Now

### HOT OFF THE WIRE

- P Ben Smith**  
Going small - My story tonight: President Barack Obama came alive about 50 minutes into Wednesday night's news conference - when somebo  
*8 minutes ago*
- H HuffPost Politics**  
Huckabee's Huck Pac In Turmoil With Staff Turnover, Mounting Debts - Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's political action committee, Huck Pac, is undergoing a "restructuring," Executive Director Sarah Huckabee said Wednesday....  
*22 minutes ago*
- D Daily Kos**  
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - \*Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...  
*1 hour ago*
- E Eschaton**  
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.  
*1 hour ago*
- C Crooks and Liars**  
Open Thread - Open Thread below...  
*1 hour ago*

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV



Next 6




In honor of Senator DeMint



Traditional media has to debunk the birthers



The right-wing media, the voices of the GOP, in

I collect with  vodpod Visit our see all 323 videos > AMERICAblog TV site.

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS

[Blog RSS](#)

[1,482 readers](#)

BY FEEDBURNER

[AMERICAblog TV RSS](#)

[Twitter RSS](#)

[Twitter Feed](#)

[Mobile Version](#)

[Google](#)

Get the blog by email:

[Subscribe me!](#)

**Top Ad**

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

**The Treatment**

Obama Has a Grown-Up Talk With America (Gulp)  
*1 hour ago*

**Ezra Klein**

Tab Dump  
*5 hours ago*

**Wonk Room**

Sen. Byron Dorgan: The 'Trade' In Cap-And-Trade 'Makes No Sense To Me'

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
  Web

**Search**

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

**Blog Archive**

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

**Donate**

---

Recurring monthly donation

\$

**Donate**

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

**Why AMERICAblog?**

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

**What issues do you cover?**

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

**Who are you?**

**John Aravosis**  
Editor  
Washington, DC

**Joe Sudbay**  
Deputy Editor  
Washington, DC

**Chris Ryan**  
Associate Editor  
Paris, France

**Robert Arena**  
Contributing Editor  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Jacki Schechner**  
Contributing Editor  
Washington, DC

