

# Tapestries: Interwoven voices of local and global identities

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## Orientation Day

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# Orientation Day

Spencer Retelle

Hi, hello and welcome to orientation day,  
“Life outside of the closet;”  
we’ve been waiting just for you!  
Your mom gave us a call.  
Now there are only the seven ROYGBIV closets  
you must walk through before you’re one of us.  
So who can tell me,  
which one will be the first color  
in our rainbow of doors?  
Yes, in the back?  
That’s correct.

Red. Hair hygiene.  
This is an intervention,  
one of your eyebrows is colonizing the other.  
Jesus Christe!  
Your back is thicker than a rain forest  
and yet  
no one is chopping it down.

Orange door. Open it,  
walk through it, get over it.  
Everybody looks awful  
in that color, bringing us to

Yellow. Fashion.  
It looks like a blind, butch-lesbian, nun dressed you.  
And not in the Lady Gaga way.  
Who here’s excited for a makeover, ladies?  
I’m talking sequins and skinny jeans.  
We can saran wrap the denim right onto your thighs,  
to ensure while you walking down the street,  
no one screams at you, “Yo!  
Hetero!”

Strap your seatbelts for the Green door,  
because we are gonna force you  
to watch all our gay propoganda  
until you only dream  
the dialogue of Will & Grace  
with nightmares of Legally Blonde:

the musical.

But ladies you'll recover,  
because behind me is the Blue door,  
where you'll meet your state-issued PGBF.  
Ach. Pretty girl best friend.  
We all need one.  
She's there to show  
all the hot guys how attractive your personality is  
but more importantly leave  
a little hope for grandma.

Once the two of you are pronounced  
fruit and fruit fly, you may kiss each other  
and walk down the stairs to the Indigo girls - Indigo door.  
which is now sponsored by the Sunglass Hut.  
They offer the newest technology in gaydar  
gaybans and gayviators!

And oh my goodness,  
I almost forgot about the Purple door.  
Your gay card.  
Pull it out at anytime someone says something  
mildly offensive, or you're bored and just wanna mess with the straighties.  
"Hey! Hey! HEYYYYYY!!!"  
You'll also need it to get into our meetings  
where we plot to implement the homosexual agenda  
like marrying each other  
or raising children in a loving household.

So that concludes our presentation today.  
We had other orientation leaders to teach you  
about being a gay athlete or queer of color  
but their budgets got cut.  
I know how scary it can be to accept who you are  
but the closet is dark and musty,  
and girlfriend  
that color looks worse on you than orange.  
So embrace yourself,  
don't open the doors quietly,  
kick them down with pride!  
March forth, my gay soldiers  
and welcome to the parade!

(For a video of this slam poem performed: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9NsS62XI8c>)