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Channel Q Public Service Rebroadcast Facility - Daily Digest for Tuesday, July 2, 1996

1. Articles - 7/1/96
2. Articles - 7/1/96 (2)
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4. Articles - 7/1/96 (3)
5. Brit Age of Consent and "Gay Olympian"
6. Articles - 7/1/96 (4)
7. ACLU: Military Ban on Gays Sent Back to Lower Court
8. AB 1982 Scheduled For Hearing July 9th

Date: 1 Jul 1996 05:40:29 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
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CONGRESSINOAL QUARTERLY

HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT REAUTHORIZED AS PART OF CHURCH ARSON ACT

By Charles R. Wolpoff, CQ Staff Writer

The House Thursday cleared legislation (HR3525) that aims to give the federal government more tools to combat the rash of arsons that have damaged or destroyed more than 30 Southern churches with predominantly black congregations in recent months.

By voice vote, the House agreed to a version of the bill, by Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass, that the Senate approved Wednesday night, 98-0. It is more expansive than the measure the House passed without dissent last week. President Clinton said he "strongly supports" the bill and will sign it as soon as it reaches the White House.

Like the original House measure, the Senate version would expand the circumstances under which the federal government could become involved in prosecuting for damage to religious property. The bill would eliminate the current jurisdictional threshold of \$10,000 in property damage and would loosen the circumstances under which federal jurisdiction would be triggered. In addition, the bill would allow federal involvement when religious property is damaged for racial or ethnic reasons and would allow those injured in church burnings to receive compensation under the 1984 Victims of Crime Act.

The bill would also double prison penalties from 10 years to 20 years. And it would allow organizations to apply for Housing and Urban Development loans to rebuild destroyed churches. The bill authorizes \$5 million in loan guarantees to lending institutions for up to \$10 million in loan principal.

The measure also authorizes unspecified sums for the Treasury department for additional agents for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to assist local police in investigating suspicious fires. In addition, the Senate bill would reauthorize the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which requires the Justice Department to track and report on crimes committed because of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Monday, July 1, 1996

ADVOCATE'S "TALKING" POINTS

By Howard Kurtz, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Advocate, the national gay magazine, has been touting an exclusive interview with President Clinton, who is pictured with the writer in the Oval Office in last week's issue.

Editor Jeff Yarbrough told readers that this is Clinton's "first and only talk with any gay or lesbian publication since he was elected president. . . . It is not every day that we get to talk to a president."

Yarbrough is using the word "talk" rather loosely. Turns out it wasn't a real interview at all, but written responses to written questions submitted by the Advocate. "I have a vision of America in which every individual is valued and respected," Clinton begins. "As president, I have sought to promote inclusion and heighten public awareness."

"We don't ever mention how any of our interviews are done," Yarbrough said by telephone from Los Angeles. "To the layperson who reads the magazine, it's just another thing that gets in the way."

"It's not the preferable way to do an interview. We of course pushed for an in-person interview. I think they wanted extreme control over the situation."

J. Jennings Moss, the magazine's Washington correspondent, said he "would have preferred" that the Advocate had disclosed that his interview was done by fax. "Knowing that it's written gives you a different insight into the

interview," said Moss, a former Washington Times reporter. "It gives the reader more of a sense of what the White House was accomplishing with it. You can see how they tried not to make news and to finesse their answers."

White House spokeswoman April Mellody said Clinton was unable to provide an in-person interview for scheduling reasons and that his staff helped write the answers.

Yarbrough called it "very strange" for Clinton to grant Moss a photo op after refusing the live interview. He said he believes the administration was worried about criticism from the religious right.

Still, the notion of a cover story proved irresistible. "The important thing to us was getting the president to talk to a gay readership," Yarbrough said. "We just didn't feel in a position to turn it down."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

June 30, 1996

PRESBYTERIANS PICK MODERATOR WHO CAN ACCEPT GAY ORDINATION

ALBUQUERQUE - A pastor who does not object to ordination of homosexuals was chosen Saturday as moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The vote for the Rev. John Buchanan of Chicago may give some indication of how commissioners at the 208th General Assembly will decide the question of gay and lesbian ordination when it comes before them Friday.

As moderator, Buchanan will serve as spokesperson and goodwill ambassador for the 3 million-member church next year.

A native of Altoona, Pa., Buchanan, 58, served congregations in Indiana and Ohio before going to the 4,100-member 4th Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

He has positioned himself as a moderate in the church's hotly debated question of gay and lesbian ordination.

"We need to either find a way to resolve the issue of gay and lesbian ordination or at least find a way to disagree and stay together," Buchanan said Saturday in a speech at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Buchanan was chosen over two other candidates - Norman Pott of San Rafael, Calif., a supporter of gay ordination, and John Poling of Las Cruces, who strongly opposes gay ordination and considers homosexuality a sin.

Saturday was the first day of the weeklong General Assembly. The annual meeting is being attended by about 5,000 people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sunday, June 30, 1996

THOUSANDS GATHER FOR GAY PRIDE

By KARYN HUNT, Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- National politics and civil rights shared the limelight with transvestites on stilts and nuns on roller blades at San Francisco's 26th annual gay pride parade Sunday.

With the presidential election looming and several gay issues before Congress, the tone of the annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade was more political than ever.

In 1995, lawmakers heard 64 pro-gay and 41 anti-gay bills, according to Robert Bray, field organizer for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. By contrast, in the first three months of 1996, 72 anti-gay bills and 41 friendly ones were introduced, he said.

Reflecting that thrust, the theme this year was "Equality and Justice For

All" and one of the grand marshals was Housing and Urban development senior adviser Robert Achtenberg, the highest-ranking openly Lesbian official in federal government. She, her life partner, Judge Mary Morgan, and their 10-year-old son, Benjie, led the procession down the city's Market Street.

"Today is a celebration," Achtenberg said. "It's also a time to recommit ourselves to the decades of struggle and work that still is to do."

Other grand marshals included Jeff Getty, who last year became the only person to undergo an experimental baboon bone marrow transplant designed to combat AIDS, and Pat Norman, vice president of the San Francisco Police Commission.

Born of anger, pride and politics in the 1970s, the parade became an AIDS memorial in the 1980s and a celebration of family in the early 1990s.

But with so many gay measures before Congress this year, including one that would outlaw federal recognition of same-sex marriages, politics once again dominated.

On Saturday, a mass marriage ceremony was held at Justin Herman Plaza near the Ferry Building in a show of defiance against President Clinton's refusal to veto a Republican-backed measure to deny federal recognition for same-sex marriages.

The parade was the culmination of Gay Pride Week, a series of events which include the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and performances by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Bay Area Lesbian Chorale.

With its prom and drag queens, dykes on bikes and other, more mainstream organizations, the annual event was expected to draw as many as 500,000 spectators from all over the world.

THE DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Sunday, June 30, 1996

LETTERS

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE?

The Defense of Marriage Act before Congress was co-sponsored by the divorced Bob Dole and the divorced House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The Bill, if it passes, has been promised to be signed by the renowned skirt-chaser President Bill Clinton.

These men tell us that they support the bill because committed, monogamous same-sex unions are an affront to the sacred institution of heterosexual marriage. Am I the only one a bit confused here?

--Charles Godwin, Davenport, Iowa

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

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Friday, June 28, 1996

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNWHOLESOME

The editorial (6/22) criticizes my denomination for putting our beliefs into practice in the area of family values and evangelism (to the Jews).

While you offer faint praise for the nearly \$300,000 we raised to rebuild burned-out African American churches, you find it odd that we do not wish to use our money to support beliefs to which we do not subscribe.

Disney should not find it curious that we would boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment once that venue becomes

unwholesome.

When the corporate policy at Disney shifts to accomodating homosexual artists and writers, markets their parks to the homosexual crowd, hires a convicted molester to direct a film, and produces increasingly violent and anti-family entertainment through its subsidiaries, I'm not going to wait for Disney to issue a parental warning that it is moving in a prohomosexual direction.

That doesn't require dialogue. That requires spending my money wisely.

--Tammi Ledbetter, Kansas City

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REAL PROBLEMS

A recent letter criticized the Rev. Duke Tufty for setting forth the concept that homosexuals are capable of loving each other in the same way as heterosexuals, and that this is a gift from God. The writer said that Unity is not a Bible-based religion but that they should "not add, delete or ignore Scripture because to do so is to insult God".

This same sentiment is being expressed in the proposed Southern Baptist boycott of Disney.

I am so tired of socalled "enlightened" individuals claiming to understand Scripture and therefore having the right to "speak for God". Historically, political or clerical leaders downplay dogma which is not consistent with their agendas and stress only the scriptures which promote their agendas. This certainly describes the religious right. After all, what did Jesus have to say about homosexuality? I can't find any scriptures where he condemned homosexuals.

God made us all, and some of us were given the inclination towards members of our own sex, a part of the genetic makeup as surely as whether we have brown hair or blue eyes. To deny this is to "insult God".

Why don't you people worry about some real problems like murder, AIDS, guns, drug abuse and quit worrying about what other people do in their bedrooms?

--Randal J. Loy, Kansas City

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sunday, June 30, 1996

LIFE & STYLE LETTERS

A COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER SO GAYS MAY MARRY

Re "The Debate Over Gay Marriages: No Unity" (June 13):

I am in full agreement that it is imperative for the gay leadership and gay community to analyze the "right to marry" issue and to form a savvy and well-planned strategy to gain this right. I also acknowledge that this will be a long hard battle, as have been all the civil rights battles in our country's history.

However, while there may be disagreement among gay leaders, community and non-gay allies on the best long-term strategy, this does not mean that we disagree that equal rights for all people, including gay people, should not be granted.

The right for people of the same gender to enter into a legal and sacred bond would then give lesbians and gay men the same choice to be married that heterosexual people enjoy. Some heterosexuals do not choose to marry, but they do have the choice.

Those who wish to deny same-gender marriage sound as irrationally hysterical as those who were so zealous about keeping women and black people out of the mainstream and in second-class status. In this country we do not

have a second class according to our Constitution. We just act as if we do until our laws change and we can no longer legally discriminate against people. Gay people are the last of our second-class citizens and this is un-American by definition. It is that simple.

--MADELYNN RIGOPOULOS, Huntington Beach

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Joseph Hanania's article on the civil rights struggle for equal marriage rights may give readers a mistaken impression that the lesbian and gay community is hopelessly divided on this issue.

In fact, quite the opposite is true. This topic has united our community as no other struggle has before. An unprecedented 30 groups--Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Stonewall Democratic Club, Log Cabin Republicans and the ACLU to name just a few--have been working together for over a year under the banner of the Los Angeles Freedom to Marry Coalition.

A coalition similar to ours exists on a national level, and others are being formed locally throughout the country. Of course some debate exists among our community groups about strategy and timing in our struggle. That is a normal, healthy process, a free exchange of ideas that will move us closer to our common goal of equal rights for all gay and lesbian Americans.

--RICHARD KRAFT, Steering Committee Member, Los Angeles Freedom to Marry Coalition, Hollywood

DEAR ABBY

Syndicated column

Sunday, June 30, 1996

Dear Abby: I wrote you some time ago, asking for your help because a girl I had been dating was pressuring me to introduce her to my father as my girlfriend. Actually, it was a little more complicated than that. I am bisexual, and she wasn't the only person I had been seeing. I had been wanting to tell my father about my bisexuality, but I was afraid I would lose him if I came out to him. Two days before your letter arrived, my girlfriend broke up with me because I wouldn't make the introduction.

Thank you for your very sound advice. I took it and called PFLAG. I explained what was happening in my life and my fear about what could happen if my father found out I was "bi". Well, a counselor talked to me at length about what happened when his son came out to him. He told me that because of the closeness my father and I share, I had nothing to fear. He advised me to come out to my father as soon as possible. I took the advice and had a little talk with Dad, and you know what? The counselor was right; my father had known I was bisexual since I was 13.

If I had just talked with Dad years ago instead of running away, it would have saved me a lot of pain and heartache.

Please print my letter along with PFLAG's phone number and address. My experience could be very helpful to some other young person out there. You may use my name. -- Robin

> Dear Robin: I'm pleased to print your letter. I'm gratified not only that PFLAG was helpful to you, but also that I'm able to remind readers about this worthwhile organization.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) was founded in 1981. Since then, its affiliates have grown to include chapters in more than 390 communities and all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 11 foreign countries. Its mission: To promote the health and well-being

of gays, lesbians and bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy - to end discrimination and secure equal rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG chapters provide the welcoming support of families and friends at local meetings, quarterly newsletters, invitations to local, regional and national events and conferences, opportunities to act against homophobia, and up-to-date information.

PFLAG is a tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that is not affiliated with any political or religious institution. For information about a chapter in your area, write to PFLAG, 1101 14th St. N.W., Suite 1030, Washington, D.C. 20005; or call (202) 638-4200.

PFLAG has my unqualified endorsement.

FEEDBACK:

* XLegionair@AOL.COM - [Regarding MTV's "Singled Out" dating show:] Just like heterosexuals, we range the gamut from book-reading intellectuals to silly disco bunnies. All visibility is a good thing. Those lesbians and gays who appeared on "Singled Out" did so because they wanted to. Their pride was showing. The real issue here is why a show that was not one bit offensive was pulled from prime-time just because it had "gay" content. Not surprisingly it was due to advertising money greed.

Like McDonalds is going to lose serious business from advertising a "gay" episode of "Singled Out", get real. Heterosexuals will see the disclaimer at the beginning of the show... and change the channel. They aren't going to see the commercials.

* From wstewart@hi.net (ward stewart) - There is some news from Hawaii this week -- we have just staged the largest Gay Lesbian Prde day parade and rally in the last six years -- several intensely disruptive folks were worked around and the result was an astonishing enthusiasm and turnout.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 07:07:40 -0700

From: BCS41@aol.com

Subject: Articles - 7/1/96 (2)

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2. COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE TELEGRAPH: Gay and lesbian couples exchange wedding vows in Denver
3. THE NEW YORK TIMES: Gray skies but high spirits at NYC pride march

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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Sunday, June 30, 1996

OUT AT AN EARLY AGE

* High schools are the new frontier

By CAROL NESS OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Three weeks was all it took before the taunts escalated into a kick in the head for Glenn Worden, the only openly gay student at Oakland's Skyline High School.

"Coming home on the bus, this guy thought I had offended him or done something, and he started calling me 'fag whitey,' " said Worden, who graduated June 13 and is ecstatic that his ordeal is over.

"He took some of my stuff," Worden said. "I tried to get off the bus a few stops early, but he kicked me in the back of the head and I fell onto the ground, face first."

The driver called police and made Worden get back on the bus. The authorities took it seriously, even did lineups - but when Worden told them they hadn't found the assailant, they accused him of lying to avoid retaliation.

"I had a friend who was a counselor call the school and ask if it was being classified as a gay bashing," Worden said. An administrator's response: "Of course not. We don't have any gay students at our school."

Attitudes like that are slowly giving way to reality as more gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers come out of the closet in high schools and middle schools in the Bay Area and around the nation.

A generation that has grown up seeing gay men and lesbians around them is coming to self-acceptance at younger ages. In the '90s, they are changing their world - and hold the hope of broader change in the future.

Daily, many pay the price of being different in a setting where conformity is everything.

"Fag" and worse are hurled at them in hallways and schoolyards.

"They would punch me or hit me as they were going past me. Someone would dig a nail into my skin," said eighth-grader Miles Bainbridge, describing harassment at two San Francisco middle schools. He wound up with "bruises, cuts and black eyes - but no broken bones."

Their grades sink, they hate school, they sometimes think about killing themselves.

But for others - Jennifer Lee at George Washington High in San Francisco, Damian Sessions and Caroline Hostetler at Las Lomas High in Walnut Creek - being out is no big deal.

"I haven't been hassled at all directly," said Lee, 18, a lesbian who just graduated.

"I think I've definitely made some of my friends more aware of gay and lesbian issues," Lee said. "Visibility is a big thing to me. It's the first step toward educating people about difference. And we're all different in some way."

While politicians, parents and school boards tangle about bringing positive images of homosexuality into classrooms to make schools safer for gay youth, queer teens like these are out on the front lines - and, like it or not, their schools and fellow students are starting to deal with them.

Since San Francisco launched the most far-reaching system of support in the country for gay students in 1990 - in response to a national study estimating that one-third of all teen suicides are by gays - gay and lesbian groups have sprung up at seven public high schools in The City.

Lowell was the first; young people agree it tends to be easier to come out in more academic or middle-class schools and private ones. George Washington's group is so out it ran a photo in the yearbook this year.

"At McAteer, Balboa and Lincoln, it's really hard," said Oren Slozberg, who talks with a lot of students as a staffer at LYRIC, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center in the Castro.

Other cities, like Berkeley, have active gay and lesbian groups on high school campuses.

But in many schools, gays and lesbians remain isolated, invisible, frightened, with little more than a gay-friendly counselor or teacher, if that. The isolation and self-loathing of the closet can force kids to drop out, use drugs or commit suicide.

Teenagers who come out are starting to change that.

Change in the suburbs

In Contra Costa County, for example, Hostetler and Sessions are openly bisexual at Las Lomas High - the same Walnut Creek school Bobby Griffith graduated from in 1981, two years before jumping from an overpass to his death. His mother's religious beliefs had taught him to despise his gayness - and nothing at school had taught him anything different.

Hostetler, a self-confident 16-year-old who will be a senior in the fall, has no problem with her bisexuality because "no one had ever told me that it was wrong. I have a gay uncle, and we grew up calling his boyfriend Uncle Steve. It was never an issue."

She hears classmates say "faggot" all the time as an insult and call things "gay" to mean "stupid."

"Sometimes I tune it out but sometimes I can't," she said. But she's also very clear that it's not about her, it's about ignorance.

In a column for The Page, her school paper, she wrote about "how I was really sick of - not harassment - but that my sexuality was a topic of conversation. It was like, get over it!"

Sessions, 18, who just graduated from Las Lomas, answers jokingly when people ask his sexual preference: "Human."

He says he's "too big" to get hassled much about his bisexuality - and laughs off what he does hear.

But he said other gay students he knows stay quiet to avoid persecution: "They're not big enough."

Mary Griffith's new life

As gay students come out, they help others like them feel less alone, and also help straight students see that they are there - students like Joshua Kors. Last year, he wrote The Page's first article to acknowledge the presence of gay students at Las Lomas and what they endure.

"A lot of people thought I was gay, which I'm not," Kors said. "People were saying, 'You shouldn't have made such a big deal about these stupid faggots.'"

"It caused quite a ruckus with administration and with kids - not just kids who didn't like homosexuals but kids who said, 'Oh my God, there are homosexuals at my school?'"

It's not just Las Lomas. Walnut Creek's Northgate High has a gay and lesbian group. Pleasant Hill's College Park High had one - until its mover and shaker graduated. Walnut Creek-based Diablo magazine did a cover story on openly gay students in Contra Costa County - including one whose car brakes were cut after coming out. She survived and has graduated.

"In 1989, there was nothing for gay kids in Contra Costa," said Mary Griffith, who turned her guilt over her son's suicide into a crusade to help gay kids. Looking 10 years younger than in 1989, she has helped push change in Contra Costa schools and has found forgiveness, if not peace of mind.

Her story, and Bobby's - first a newspaper article, then a book - might be told in a TV movie and was the inspiration for four choral pieces sung by a gay chorus in New Jersey this month. Griffith has appeared on "Oprah" and dozens of other talk shows and has spoken at scores of schools, including

Bishop O'Dowd, a Catholic high school in Oakland, where a gay and lesbian group has formed.

"I'm just really impressed," she said. "It's so great for the kids. It's nice to know they can have that support - in a Catholic school of all places."

It depends on the school

Support doesn't always translate into the good life for gay and lesbian students.

<p>San Francisco schools - which begin encouraging tolerance of homosexuality in kindergarten, train their teachers and provide counseling on gay issues - still can be a tough place to be openly gay.

New George Washington High graduates Carrie Rodd and Nicole Fuson are girlfriends and went together to their senior prom this month, Rodd in a tux, Fuson in a new dress from Nordstrom.

"Are you a guy or a girl?" is what Rodd hears all the time because she wears a buzzcut and baggy overalls.

Sometimes it gets worse.

The two were talking in a school hallway when all of a sudden a big youth "was right in our face," Fuson said. The same youth had tried to jump Rodd the week before in the hallway, saying to her, "Give me your belt, nigger."

Fuson said sometimes she hears slurs from people she knows.

"I feel like we're good people, we don't do drugs, we have morals, we treat people with respect and they take this one thing and all of a sudden we're evil," she said.

They know at least another dozen gay students at George Washington "who can't come out."

"Their parents don't accept it and use derogatory terms. At home they get it and at school they get it, too. People are always saying, 'That's so gay, faggot this.' so of course they don't feel comfortable coming out," said Rodd.

But their openness, and the group's, are "bringing more people out all the time." And young people with questions know whom they can ask.

Rodd and Fuson aren't afraid to correct teachers who play into gay stereotypes. Abusive students are reported and counseled.

Washington High teacher Rick Duber, advisor to the school's gay group, remembers calling in a big bully who was scaring the daylights out of a gay boy, calling him names.

"We talked. He's Jewish," said Duber. "I tried to make him understand from a perspective he could relate to," asking him how he'd like to be bullied because of his religion.

Most teachers are trying, he said, but sometimes they create problems unintentionally.

"If teachers hear 'nigger' or 'kike' or 'bitch,' they react right away," Duber said. "But when they hear 'dyke' or 'faggot' - they don't understand how it makes a gay or lesbian kid feel."

So, this year for the first time, two of Washington High's openly gay students addressed a meeting of the entire faculty, telling them how it feels. The teachers exploded in applause afterward, Duber said.

Fuson, Rodd and other out gays visit high schools to answer kids' questions.

Kevin Gogin, head of gay and lesbian youth support services for the San Francisco schools, often goes along.

Invariably, students and teachers alike respond by saying, "I didn't

realize these were real people. And this is San Francisco!" Gogin said.

Just this year, a San Francisco sixth-grader asked Gogin, in all innocence, "What is it that you people eat?"

He said, "It just pointed out that we have a lot of work to do."

For 14-year-old Miles Bainbridge, even San Francisco's sophisticated program wasn't enough to keep him in school.

He left Marina Middle School this spring, in the middle of eighth grade, and opted for home schooling after his grades dropped off but the constant harassment didn't. He reported about a third of the abuse he suffered.

"Teachers would just give the kids a talk, tell them it's not all right to do that, don't do it again. It would just make the kids more angry and more likely to do it again," he said.

Bainbridge, who at one point had dyed his hair blue, is still angry about his principal's lectures on the value of conformity.

Marina Principal John Michaelson said he was sympathetic to Bainbridge's problems and bent over backward to try to give him a full and safe education - - making sure he had classes with understanding teachers and that the school knew abuse was an offense that could warrant suspension.

"I didn't say it was his fault," Michaelson said. "I did stress at this age peer conformity is a really high value. Anyone who has blue hair - you're going to get attention one way or another - on the street, on Muni, in school."

Gogin worked with Bainbridge, his mother and Michaelson to solve the problems. Did Marina do everything it could have?

"This is a tough one. They did a lot," Gogin said. "But he was physically hurt and emotionally hurt by the process."

Michaelson said no matter what administrators do, "we have 900 kids in this building, and they reflect all the good and bad in society."

In Oakland, Glenn Worden is glad to have survived Skyline High, which has none of the programs San Francisco schools have. He's the kind of youth such programs are designed for - people who have struggled with their gayness, tried suicide.

He said he knows at least three gay students at Skyline who are not out - plus several teachers and a counselor. But when he tried to get a gay and lesbian group going, one counselor said it wasn't needed and another was afraid people would think he was gay if he helped.

Worden, a talented musician, loved Skyline at first, but he came to conclude that "people there didn't care about me - and I stopped caring, too."

His grades dropped; a few weeks before graduation he said: "I just hate it. I don't go to school activities. As soon as the bell rings, I leave school. I'm not going to miss school at all."

He's found a welcome outside the school system, at the Lambda Youth Group in Hayward.

Out at Las Lomas in Walnut Creek, no future class of students will be able to ignore the gay students among them

One of Bobby Griffith's fellow graduates from the class of '81 has collected contributions for a tree and plaque in his memory

Dan Schoenholz, 33 and straight, said the memorial will let people remember Bobby. And he said the plaque will make a point for gay students in school today and in the future: "Despite some of the cruel things people say and do in high school - it doesn't last forever."

On the plaque will be Bobby Griffith's quote from his senior yearbook - words the new generation of gay students is following:

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Monday, July 1, 1996

GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES EXCHANGE WEDDING VOWS IN DENVER

Source: Associated Press

DENVER -- More than 50 gay and lesbian couples exchanged wedding vows in Denver during a mass ceremony at St. Cajetan's Church.

About 250 guests attended Saturday's event "I Want a June Wedding," sponsored by Equality Colorado. The ceremony allowed the couples to publicly announced their committed relationships.

"We feel like we're married," said Wendy Klos, who held the hand of her "bride" Stacie Schafer after the ceremony. "It was a very moving celebration for me. We've definitely made a commitment to each other."

During the ceremony, couples walked down separate aisles of the church, on the Auraria campus, came together, joined hands and stood beside others.

After private vows were shared, each pair was called, one after another, to stand before presiding "justice of the peace" Clela Rorex.

Rorex issued six same-sex marriage licenses in the 1970s when she served as Boulder county clerk and recorder.

Same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in Colorado.

"With hope for change in the laws of the state of Colorado, I now pronounce you a married couple. You may kiss," Rorex told each couple.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

229 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY, 10036

FAX: 212-556-3622, E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com

Monday, July 1, 1996

AT GAY PRIDE MARCH, GRAY SKIES BUT HIGH SPIRITS

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

NEW YORK -- "The rain is not a metaphor," declared Thomas B. Stoddard, a civil rights lawyer and a grand marshal of Sunday's Gay and Lesbian Pride March, as he waited for the event to kick off. "The future of the movement is full of sun."

That was more than could be said for the march itself, however, which stepped out at noon under rainbow-colored balloon arches and a gray drizzle, proceeding down Fifth Avenue to Greenwich Village.

While the spirit of the crowd could easily be revived by the sight of the carnival-clad dancers on the Colombian Lesbian and Gay Association float or the rhythmic percussion sounds from the drums and tambourines of the House of Brazil, there was also no question that the march was smaller and more subdued than many in recent memory.

By the rough count of the organizers, Heritage of Pride Inc., attendance was down almost 30 percent from last year, with the number of participants dropping to 175,000 from 220,000 and the number of spectators shrinking to 200,000 from 300,000.

Marchers tried their best not to be daunted. One of the grand marshals, Ann Northrop, a writer and member of Act Up/New York, delighted the crowd by appearing on horseback. As she rode down the avenue, astride a dappled appaloosa, onlookers cried out "You go, Joan of Arc."

The first landmark that the marchers passed was St. Patrick's Cathedral, reminding many inside and outside of the hostility between gay organizers and

the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the cathedral Sunday, Cardinal John O'Connor criticized participants who "engaged in lewd and grossly offensive behavior while passing the cathedral." William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said later there was no "Catholic bashing" this year -- marchers dressed as nuns and priests in previous parades.

Avoiding the perennial St. Patrick's controversy, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani joined the march at 46th Street, south of the cathedral.

At 37th Street, a young woman watching the march spied the mayor. "I knew he was gay," she joked with sassy delight.

When Deputy Mayor Fran Reiter, who was in the mayoral contingent, relayed the remark to Giuliani, he threw his head back and laughed.

There were some sharp expressions of anger from the crowd. "Your budget cuts are killing us," shouted Jon Winkleman, a 29-year-old from Greenwich Village. "How dare you come here? You oppose our marriages, but you want our votes."

Marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples was one of the demands made by marchers. Giuliani has said that while he supports gay-rights measures, he believes "marriage should remain traditional."

At Madison Square Park, after leaving the march, the mayor, who has received several mixed receptions at other parades, estimated that more than half the spectators applauded him. He also noted with approval that members of the Gay Officers' Action League were allowed for the first time to wear police uniforms in the parade.

A smaller but even livelier march, sponsored by the Lesbian Avengers, had passed by Madison Square Park only 20 hours earlier. The organizers and the police put the attendance for that event at roughly 6,000.

Marriage has not been a pre-eminent issue for the Avengers, said Kim Barget, adding that the group was more focused recently on school-board races. However, as she prepared to join the Saturday march down Fifth Avenue, Ms. Barget said lesbians would like to have the choice of being married.

"My sister said she would love to dance at my wedding," said Ms. Barget, who walked with her partner, Dr. Ruth Walker. "I'd like to get the china. And the respect."

In Washington Square Park, Maura Bairley, of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, invited Saturday's crowd to join in a "moment of outrage" -- screaming, shrieking and whistling -- on behalf of Julianne Williams and Lollie Winans, a lesbian couple who were killed in May on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. Gay groups have called for the killing to be investigated as a bias crime.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 13:02:51 -0700

From: BCS41@aol.com

Subject: SPECIAL ALERT: The disgusting Baptist Press

SPECIAL ALERT - THE BAPTIST PRESS:

A truly disgusting cheap shot - A Disney employee innocently answers a query about where an individual could send comments to the company and The Southern Baptists spin it into sinister "gay agenda" story to keep churning the issue

in the news

THE BAPTIST PRESS

Friday, June 28, 1996

INTERNET APPEAL FOR DISNEY SENT TO HOMOSEXUAL GROUPS

By Art Toalston, Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --An Internet solicitation of support from homosexual activists for the Walt Disney Company has made its way from a Disney vice president's office across the country.

The electronic-mail (e-mail) message, which originated in the office of Disney Vice President for Studio Operations Reid Cline on June 13, states: "If anyone wants to write to Disney to support them in light of the Southern Baptist Convention's condemnation yesterday, you may write to: Michael Eisner, c/o S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91521-1010, (818) 560-2431."

Eisner is Disney's chairman and CEO. The e-mail is signed by a secretary in Cline's office at Disney, Brad Bergman, with the Internet address reading: "brad_bergman@studio.disney.com."

"We don't have any comment" was the response of a Disney spokeswoman after the corporate communications office there received a faxed copy of the e-mail appeal and a response by Bill Merrell, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention relations.

Said Merrell: "It is yet another sad reflection of the state of Disney -- that a Disney vice president's office must turn to the homosexual Internet crowd to solicit support for the company's drift away from family values and its buckling to the homosexual-activist agenda."

"It is noteworthy that Disney cannot find support for its eroding morality among the vast majority of Southern Baptists, other evangelicals and others who adhere to the family values that once made Disney great," Merrell said. "Actions like these continue to damage the Disney name in the minds and hearts of countless Americans."

The e-mail solicitation of homosexual support for Disney was brought to the attention of Baptist Press by a Wilmington, Del., Catholic layman, Scott Stirling, who had been alerted to the message on the Internet by a friend unsympathetic to the homosexual movement.

It had been circulated by a self-described "lesbian, gay, bisexual" student group on the Internet at Duke University, Durham, N.C. There is no way to determine exactly how many homosexual Internet sites and e-mail lists currently exist, according to Internet watchers, but, Stirling said, "This message from Brad Berman is likely circulating in all these homosexual e-mail chat groups across the country and even internationally."

Stirling wrote a letter to Eisner challenging the e-mail appeal from Cline's office, saying, "That you would allow your employees to use company e-mail to solicit support for a broad political agenda illustrates that Disney is willing to use its resources for social change rather than upholding traditional family values and virtues.

"I am a young, Catholic married man with one child," Stirling's letter continued. "God willing, I will have many more. Because your company is attempting to effect radical social change, I will never spend my money on any Disney product or activity."

The Southern Baptist Convention resolution adopted June 12 encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration" to whether to attend Disney theme parks and purchase Disney products -- and to boycott Disney if it continues "this antiChristian and antifamily trend."

The resolution cited five examples of Disney "corporate decisions, which

have included but are not limited to:" 1) granting insurance benefits to partners of homosexual employees; 2) hosting homosexual "theme nights" at its parks; 3) a subsidiary's hiring of a convicted child molester to direct the movie, "Powder;" 4) a subsidiary's publication of a book aimed at homosexual teenagers; and 5) a subsidiary's production of the movie "Priest," which "disparages Christian values and depicts Christian leaders as morally defective."

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment."

Criticism of Disney practices also was voiced last fall by messengers to the Florida Baptist Convention.

* NOTE: The phone number of the Baptist Press, which is a public relations division and not an unbiased news service such as Associated Press, is 615-244-2355. Baptist Press articles are sent to approximately 40 Baptist newspapers around the country for publication and posted on the Internet. The author of this article may be contacted at this phone number.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 13:42:10 -0700

From: BCS41@aol.com

Subject: Articles - 7/1/96 (3)

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1. INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING: Excellent column by syndicated columnist Marvin Liebman on the Disney/Baptist situation

2. THE NEW YORK TIMES: Gay and lesbian police officers march in NYC pride parade - Ironically, the parade commemorates the 1969 Stonewall uprising, which erupted after the police raided a Greenwich Village gay bar, the Stonewall Inn

3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

- a. 57% of U. S. opposes gay marriage
- b. Openly gay lieutenant Richard Selland, who for three years successfully fought the Navy's attempts to remove him, is leaving the service to attend law school

4. FEEDBACK:

- a. Advocate Clinton "interview" doesn't fit definition of the word interview
- b. Account of NYC pride parade

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

Column by Marvin Liebman

(Marvin1923@AOL.COM)

July, 1996

THE SOUL SAVERS

Forgive me if I sound frazzled. The proselytizers just won't leave me alone. Ever since the Southern Baptist Convention last month in New Orleans, my doorbell and phone haven't stopped ringing. The reason? I'm one of the prime targets for conversion, at least as Southern Baptist leaders see it.

As a gay man, I'm used to bids by zealous Baptists to induce me to give up

my homosexual lifestyle, whatever that is. Now, as a Jew, I seem to be doubly blessed by their entreaties on my behalf. Last month, on the heels of their resolution to boycott Disney for granting equal rights and health benefits to their gay and lesbian employees, the Convention passed another resolution. This one, aimed at "proclamation of the Gospel to the Jews," has Baptist missionaries beating a path to the doors of folks like me. However flattering, all of this outreach is exhausting. I guess the Baptists mean it when they say there's no rest for the wicked.

Never in my seventy-three years has my soul been the object of such attention. I haven't ever shown my soul in public before, but the Baptists who've been calling seem well-acquainted with its supposedly dismal condition. Neither have I ever really worried about being saved. Yet suddenly this, too, has come to concern me. Perhaps it's because these callers, all courteous to a fault, offer such lurid descriptions of the wrack and damnation they claim I'll suffer if I don't embrace their particular manner of salvation.

Anxious to find the root of their peculiar insight, I looked through what records I had on this group. In 1991, I discovered, that Convention documents called homosexuality "outside the will of God." Still, the Convention stated that year, if homosexuals will "turn to Him in repentance," then "the redeeming love of Christ is available" to us. And, they determined, "it is the responsibility and privilege of the church to minister to homosexuals." This must explain the periodic calls I'd had in the past five years prior to the current onslaught. Despite the coating of judgment, it all seemed neighborly enough. They cared about my soul, didn't they?

In the years after the Convention's 1991 pronouncement on homosexuality, the Convention's expressions of wisdom grew less ambiguous. In 1992, for instance, they sought to oust two North Carolina churches that had shown support for gay people, one by performing a union ceremony, one by licensing a gay man as a minister. Denial of membership to churches that tolerate gays became official Convention policy a year later.

In 1993, the Convention condemned President Clinton and Vice-President Gore for their support of non-discrimination protections for gays. In March 1994, in a move that bore out conservatives' takeover of the denomination, trustees of the leading Baptist seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, fired seminary head Russell Dilday, a prominent moderate. And last year, in a change of heart that must have required a lot of soul-searching, the group acknowledged that slavery was wrong.

Clearly, the Southern Baptist Convention had a direct line to God. How else could one explain such stances? I, and others like me, needed to get in on the action. Maybe we should mount a missionary campaign of our own to the Southern Baptists to tell them our stories and absorb their wisdom! I decided to run the idea by one of my callers. As a gay man and a Jew, I wanted to stop by the homes of Baptist families. Could he provide addresses and phone numbers? No dice, he said.

Undeterred, I offered again. What if I were to visit Baptist kids in their Sunday school classes to tell them about growing up Jewish and gay? His initial silence, I thought, meant he must be awe-struck by the overture.

"That," he answered aridly, "would be recruitment. By the way, are you a militant homosexual?"

Perhaps, I realized, the Southern Baptist Convention's outreach isn't a two-way street at all. The rebuff stirred my memory. Haven't gay friends of mine complained of their brushes with religion-coated conversion therapies? And for the Jewish people, haven't such conversion attempts been a common

nightmare, a centuries-long trail of tears?

Suddenly, I had no doubt about the dangers from which I needed saving. Could God really endorse such intolerant missions as these? I wouldn't claim to know for sure, but looking back over the scriptures, I had a suspicion. There was at least one Jew with whom the Southern Baptist Convention's treatment of gays and Jews wouldn't have sat very well. In fact, the Jesus Christ I knew wouldn't have stood for it, either.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

229 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY, 10036

FAX: 212-556-3622, E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com

Sunday, June 30, 1996

AT PARADE, PROUD MIX OF THE BLUE AND THE GAY

By CHARLIE LeDUFF

NEW YORK -- Gay and lesbian police officers brushed the lint from their dress uniforms Saturday, polished their buttons and shined their shoes. On Sunday, for the first time, members of the Gay Officers' Action League will be marching in full dress uniform, accompanied by the New York Police Department marching band and representing New York's Finest in the 27th annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March.

"This is a big deal for the membership of GOAL," said Officer Carlos Crespo, a five-year veteran of the force and GOAL's assistant secretary, about Police Commissioner Howard Safir's decision to allow the band to participate and GOAL members to wear their uniforms on parade.

About 50 members are expected to march for the group, which has more than 1,000 members from throughout the city's criminal-justice system.

"This is a signal to the gay community that the department has changed its attitude toward us," said Crespo, assistant secretary of GOAL. "They see that things are turning around."

Historically, relations between gay and lesbian New Yorkers and the police department have been icy. Well into the 1960s, the police would routinely arrest homosexuals under state sodomy statutes, and it was illegal for a bar to serve a known homosexual in the city.

Ironically, the parade commemorates the 1969 Stonewall uprising, which erupted after the police raided a Greenwich Village gay bar, the Stonewall Inn. That moment is considered by many to be the acorn that brought forth the national gay-rights movement. Almost three decades later, the police department is officially participating in the parade.

"This commissioner feels very strongly that GOAL should be treated like any other police-department organization," said the new commissioner's spokeswoman, Marilyn Mode.

Safir is scheduled to join Sunday's march, as is Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who attends each year. The former commissioner, William Bratton, did not march during his two-year tenure.

Acceptance within the department has been slow in coming, said Crespo. In April, the Gay Officers Action League filed a federal discrimination suit, contending that the organization is treated differently from other fraternal police groups.

The suit, which is still pending, charges in part that the department has discriminated against the group by denying it use of the police band in the Gay Pride Parade. The suit also points out that paperwork requesting the band last year got misplaced.

Crespo, 31, a decorated officer, will not be marching in the parade this year, since he is still recovering from a stab wound to the chest and a

gunshot injury to the knee he sustained in the line of duty last Labor Day, but he will be there cheering in appreciation for his fellow gay and lesbian officers.

Raised on the Lower East Side, Crespo said he was still in the closet at the Police Academy. "There was nothing to be gained by saying anything," he said. His sexuality became known to his fellow officers of the 24th Precinct when he marched in his first parade four years ago.

"I was marching with GOAL in a blue T-shirt with our emblem on the chest," he remembered. "Some cops working detail at the parade saw me. They shook my hand and started cheering for me. Since then, it's never been a problem for me."

Crespo said he now lives as an openly gay police officer, no longer afraid of reprisals. He teaches a sensitivity course at the Police Academy about gay and lesbian issues.

Being a gay officer is "just a matter of performing your duties," he said. "Other officers don't have to accept my sexuality, but they have to respect me."

Whether the gay and lesbian community as a whole will accept the official police presence in the parade is another issue entirely, said Michael Bath, media director of Heritage of Pride, producers of the parade.

"There are probably some mixed feelings out there. On one hand, this is good for GOAL, a real sign of legitimacy for gays and lesbians within the department," Bath said. "On the other hand, there are tensions between the police and the gay community. And people don't like authority figures telling them what to do at their own celebration."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday, July 1, 1996

57% OF U.S. OPPOSES GAY MARRIAGE

By HOWARD GOLDBERG, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK - While most Americans say gays should have equal rights in the job market, they oppose giving homosexuals a legal right to marry by 57 percent to 30 percent, according to an Associated Press poll.

Conservative and liberal lawmakers have squared off on this issue because Hawaii's highest court has signaled it might legalize same-sex marriage within the next two years. The poll indicates the issue causes disagreement within many families, too.

Two-thirds of men oppose gay marriage, but only 49 percent of women do, and opposition also falls under 50 percent among all adults under age 45. Those under age 35 split almost evenly on the issue, with 44 percent in favor of the right to marry and 47 percent opposed.

The poll taken June 14-18 involved 1,019 adults interviewed by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants. Results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Gay rights groups want to link homosexual marriage to workplace issues because Americans increasingly support gay rights in terms of job opportunities 85 percent to 10 percent in the poll, compared with 76 percent to 16 percent in an AP poll in 1992.

"We know that is our strongest issue. Gay marriage is our weakest issue," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

Even among people who favor political candidates endorsed by the Christian conservative movement, 77 percent think gays should have equal

rights to jobs.

But some Christian conservatives like the Rev. Lou Sheldon see gay marriage as a big threat to society. He said gay activists ``had a calculated plan to destroy marriage, as we knew it, through the Hawaii case."

Bills barring recognition of same-sex marriage have been enacted in 11 states and introduced in 23 others and in both houses of Congress.

``The legislation that we're talking about, the Defense of Marriage Act, is a reactive piece of legislation," said Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga. ``It is a reaction to the aggressive agenda of the homosexual extremists."

In electoral politics, the poll suggests that gay rights is a less divisive issue than abortion. If a candidate supports a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, that would make a difference to most people. Twenty-five percent would be more likely to vote for that candidate, 43 percent less likely.

But if a candidate supports a law to protect homosexuals from discrimination, that makes a difference to only half those polled: 22 percent would be more likely to vote for that candidate, 28 percent less likely.

On a related issue, only 15 percent of Americans think lesbians and gay men should be completely banned from the military, as they were in recent decades.

Still, there is an almost even split between 40 percent who think gays should have the right to serve openly in the military and 37 percent who think they should be allowed to serve only as long as they keep their homosexuality private.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide the outcome of several lawsuits challenging the 1993 ``don't ask, don't tell" compromise: Commanders may not ask service members their sexual orientation, while gays are not allowed to engage in homosexual acts or reveal their homosexuality, even to a counselor or chaplain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday, July 1, 1996

GAY NAVY OFFICER QUILTS

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. - An openly gay lieutenant who for three years successfully fought the Navy's attempts to remove him is leaving the service to attend law school.

But Lt. Richard Selland, who plans to attend the University of Baltimore, has pledged to continue his court fight against the military's ``don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays.

Selland, 27, may do so under the terms of an agreement his lawyers hammered out with the U.S. Justice Department: He would agree to leave with an honorable discharge and some benefits, but only if he could pursue his cause.

``We cannot allow the Department of Defense to force silence and celibacy on service members," Selland said Saturday. ``If we do, what argument do we have against

those who want to do the same to teachers, chaplains, police officers and others whose jobs are sensitive?"

Selland's troubles began in January 1993 when he was a supply officer on the nuclear attack submarine Hammerhead.

Buoyed by President Clinton's campaign promise to lift the longstanding ban on homosexuals in the military, Selland decided to tell his commander he was gay.

Within hours, he was ordered off the boat.

He sued, and although not allowed back on the submarine, was permitted to serve as director of procurement at the Atlantic Fleet Industrial Supply Center while his case was pending in federal court.

Last October, U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Young ruled that Selland's claims to freedom of speech and due process did not override the military's need to keep morale high and maintain discipline.

The judge issued a stay allowing Selland to remain in the Navy until another case challenging the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was resolved. The policy allows homosexuals to serve as long as they keep their orientation secret and do not engage in sex. That case is still being fought.

Meanwhile, the Navy removed Selland from his job as director of procurement.

Selland has since decided it's time to move on.

"I still spend a lot of hours reflecting back on that one evening, that quiet walk down the pier and that long ride back to

"I asked myself then, 'What have I done?' Minutes before, I was a submariner with a promising career ... in the most powerful maritime force on earth, and the next I am being booted out for simply acknowledging who I was."

FEEDBACK:

* From WRITERPOOL@AOL.COM - Advocate Editor Yarbrough Insults Readers:

Jeff Yarbrough heaps arrogant insult on top of injury to readers of The Advocate with his statement: "We don't ever mention how many of our interviews are done. To the layperson, who reads the magazine, it's just another thing that gets in the way." Wow! Mr. Yarbrough certainly doesn't have a hell of a lot of regard for the intelligence of his readers. Or, is he simply dissembling in order to try to cloud the fact that calling The Advocate's piece on President Clinton an "interview" was just a lie, plain and simple. Yarbrough's statement also casts considerable suspicion over practically anything one might read in his magazine from now on.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines interview as follows: "1) A formal meeting in person... 2) A conversation, such as one conducted by a reporter, in which facts or statements are elicited from another, b) an account or reproduction of such a conversation." Just how "a conversation," or "a formal meeting" can be conducted via fax remains to be seen.

Furthermore, the revelation that White House staff worked on The Advocate's faxed questions renders the whole notion that this was any kind of an "interview" totally absurd. Perhaps The Advocate has just become a bit too slick for its (and its readers) own good.

--Gary Pool, Bloomington, Indiana

* From SARATOGANY@AOL.COM - I viewed the NYC Pride Parade from near it's start across the street from St. Patrick's Cathedral. Police had setup a large barricade area for anti gay protesters with a substantial contingent of police. However, there were only four protesters within the barrier confines. A local gay elder told me, "the protesters have continuously shunk year after year to these four".

Directly in front of the church, leaning against police line barriers (not the set aside protest area) were two very large portraits, one of the crucifixion of Christ and another depicting an abortion. After about 30 minutes into the parade, police removed these.

I eventually moved to another location and viewed previously viewed participants. Here, I noticed many have removed auxiliary coverings to

exhibit their more scant costumes and many others joining in from a point beyond the church. I felt this was a nice jester of respect to the church.

Eventually I made my way to Greenwich Village and viewed with delight, the entire parade among thousands of festive and cheering onlookers.

Although many units recieved loud cheers and applaude, the PFLAG contingent of many chapters recieved the loudest, longest and contineously along the the route.

A few major organization had non partisan VOTE themes and passed out voter registration forms. There was (that I noticed) one group who carried a large anti Clinton poster and another who carried an anti Mayor Gulliano poster. The Mayor entered the parade a few blocks beyond St. Patricks Cathedral.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 14:39:29 -0700
From: Channel Q News Desk <newsdesk@channelq.com>
Subject: Brit Age of Consent and "Gay Olympian"

The week of 07/01/96 on
THIS WAY OUT
the international gay & lesbian radio magazine

* In NewsWrap: The words "gay", "lesbian" and "bisexual" become a permanent part of U.S. legislation through renewal of The Hate Crimes Statistics Act .. U.S. Unitarian Universalists support same-gender marriage, while U.S. Presbyterians grapple with ordination of open gays and lesbians ... Pride Month is celebrated from Boise to Los Angeles ... plus news from Hungary, Iceland, Turkey, Taiwan, Germany and Thailand, anchored by Brian Nunes and Cindy Friedman.

* In a personal commentary, author and lesbigay youth advocate Patricia Nell Warren discusses "The Right To Be Spiritual".

* Organizers in Great Britain are continuing their work to change of age of consent for gay male sex. The European Commission decided in late May that the European Court of Human Rights could hear a case arguing that the U.K. law, setting a higher age of consent for gays than for heterosexuals, is a discriminatory violation of the European Convention On Human Rights. 17-year-old Chris Morris, who's become the new complainant, and Angela Mason, of the national lesbigay rights group Stonewall discuss the case with reporter Petroc Trelawny in London.

* "Gay Olympian: The Life & Death of Dr. Tom Waddell" profiles the founder of

the Gay Games. It's Waddell's autobiography, written with ABC-TV sportscaster Dick Schaap during the 7 months prior to Waddell's death from AIDS. In the first of a multi-part interview, This Way Out's Josy Catoggio begins a conversation with Schaap about Waddell's "Renaissance" life.

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THIS WAY OUT airs on over 85 public/community radio stations throughout the U.S. and Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K., Denmark, Sweden, and on Costa Rica-based global shortwave station Radio For Peace International (RFPI). For a complete Station Carriage List and/or more information, write to THIS WAY OUT at P.O. Box 38327, Los Angeles, CA 90038-0327, or e-mail your request to TWOradio@aol.com .

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<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/media/radio/thiswayout>

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=====

Some "THIS WAY OUT" operating expenses are funded by grants from THE C.P. ESTES GUADALUPE FOUNDATION and THE GILL FOUNDATION, and by individual donations from listeners worldwide. Special thanks to UNCOMMON CLOUT Visa cardholders who have designated THIS WAY OUT as one of several nonprofits to receive a percentage of their chargecard purchases. THIS WAY OUT is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit under the corporate name of OVERNIGHT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 15:55:56 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/1/96 (4)

CONTENT:

1. REUTERS: Appeals court throws out a judge's ruling that invalidated the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays, and orders the judge to decide whether the ban against homosexual acts was unconstitutional

2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Former Navy officer files Supreme Court appeal
3. LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL: Should Presbyterians ordain homosexuals?
4. CHICAGO TRIBUNE: Gays march with pride
5. SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: Gay pride parades through S. F.

REUTERS

July 1, 1996

COURT ORDERS RULING ON U.S. MILITARY POLICY ON GAYS

By Gail Appleson, Law Correspondent

NEW YORK - An appeals court Monday threw out a judge's ruling that invalidated the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays, and ordered the judge to decide whether the ban against homosexual acts was unconstitutional.

The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals found that a Brooklyn federal judge erred by basing his decision on the policy's provision restricting speech, without considering whether its key prohibition of homosexual activity was illegal.

"The subsections rise or fall together," a three-member panel of the court wrote.

Although the Second Circuit did not rule on the legality of the policy, earlier this year the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals found the rules to be constitutional.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy allows homosexuals to serve in the military, but continues the long-time ban on homosexual acts and requires gay and lesbian service members to keep their sexual orientation private.

Declaring one's homosexuality is considered evidence of an intent to commit homosexual acts and is therefore grounds for a discharge, according to the policy.

In March 1995, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson of Brooklyn overturned the policy, saying it was unconstitutional and catered to the fears and prejudices of heterosexual troops.

He dismissed the government's argument that morale and discipline would suffer if openly gay men and women were allowed to serve in the military.

The judge focused on the "don't tell" provision of the policy, writing that the Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment "will not countenance the proscription of the expression of an idea because others find that idea repugnant."

However, Nickerson dismissed a challenge to the key part of the policy that provides for the dismissal of service members if they have engaged in homosexual acts unless it can be proven they do not have a "propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts."

The plaintiffs had argued this section violated their constitutional right to equal protection under the laws because it discriminated against gays by barring them from having sex.

Nickerson said this argument was insufficient because the court could not assume that the plaintiffs would be able to find sexual partners.

The appeals court said the judge erred and that the identification of partners was unnecessary to prove injury.

Instead, the judge must first consider whether the prohibition against homosexual activity is unconstitutional, it said.

"If Congress is permitted to require that service members be discharged if they engage in homosexual acts, then both subsections are constitutional," it said.

However, if it is found that the Constitution prohibits a bar against homosexual acts, then both provisions will fall, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 1, 1996

WASHINGTON - A former Navy officer forced to leave the service after telling others he is gay filed a Supreme Court appeal Monday, the first challenge of the Clinton administration's ``don't ask, don't tell" policy to reach the nation's highest court.

Lawyers for former Lt. Paul Thomasson contend, among other things, that the government's policy violates homosexuals' free-speech rights and ``irrationally discriminates against homosexual service members."

A federal appeals court voted 9-4 last April to uphold the policy.

The Supreme Court ended its 1995-96 term hours before Thomasson's appeal was filed and the justices are not expected to say until October whether they will review the appeals court ruling.

Clinton's policy was a compromise that resulted from congressional repudiation of his pledge to lift the longstanding ban on gays in the military. It was intended to let gays serve as long as they kept their sexuality private.

Thomasson, who lives in the District of Columbia, had worked for the admiral administering the ``don't ask, don't tell" policy. He was forced to leave the Navy last year after submitting a letter to his commander stating, ``I am gay."

Thomasson's appeal urged his case be used to decide ``whether the government may restrict the freedom of an accomplished and dedicated military officer to utter a fundamental statement about who he is, solely on the basis of anticipated discomfort of others, and thereby strip him of the ability to dispel the stereotypes and combat the prejudices from which he and others similarly situated routinely suffer."

In rejecting Thomasson's challenge in April, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said elected leaders, not the courts, should set military policy.

Similar challenges to the government policy are in several other federal appeals courts.

Commenting on Thomasson's appeal, C. Dixon Osburn of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a gay-rights advocacy group, said, ``We are optimistic about a victory."

He noted the court's May decision that struck down a Colorado constitutional amendment that would have made anti-gay discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations immune from legal challenge.

Osburn called the ``don't ask, don't tell" policy ``a clearer example of discrimination than the Colorado case."

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL

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Louisville, Kentucky

July 1, 1996

SHOULD PRESBYTERIANS ORDAIN HOMOSEXUALS?

* Louisville-based denomination wrestles with divisive issue
by Michael Jennings, Staff Writer

Presbyterians for and against the ordination of homosexuals will try to draw a line in the sand in Albuquerque, N.M., this week. But if the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) holds true to form, that won't

make the issue go away.

The question has perplexed the 2.7-million-member denomination, which has its national headquarters in Louisville, since 1978.

On Saturday, a pastor who does not object to ordination of homosexuals, the Rev. John Buchanan of Chicago, was elected moderator and will serve as the denomination's spokesman and goodwill ambassador in the coming year. But his selection is not a clear indication of how elected church commissioners at the 208th General Assembly will decide the question.

Buchanan was the moderate among three candidates; one of his two opponents more strongly favored gay and lesbian ordination, and the other strongly opposed it.

The 568 commissioners will weigh 45 proposals on the issue of gay and lesbian ordination. Many of these "overtures" would constitutionally ban it. Nearly as many would allow presbyteries--regional governing bodies composed of ministers and elders--to continue deciding whom to ordain.

A lone proposal asks for an extension of a just-ended three-year study period. Robert Patenaude of Los Angeles, co-moderator of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, thinks that idea represents the true Presbyterian way.

"I'm always skeptical about showdowns," said Patenaude, an elder at West Hollywood Presbyterian Church. "The main thing about this issue is that it's remained an issue, . . . and so I strongly suspect that whatever happens, it won't be settled."

The three-year study period has made resolution more likely, said the Rev. Laurene Lafontaine, the other moderator of Patenaude's group. But "until the General Assembly gets it right and ends the discrimination against gay and lesbian and bisexual people, it won't be settled, regardless of what they decide," she said.

Since 1978, General Assembly policy has been that "self-affirming, practicing homosexuals" cannot be ordained as ministers, elders or deacons.

About 75 congregations have nonetheless declared themselves willing to ordain gays and lesbians, and Presbyterian courts have upheld them on the ground that the church's constitution--the Book of Order--gives congregations and presbyteries final say on fitness for ordination.

Most proposals that would revoke that discretionary power do not address homosexuality directly. Rather, they limit ordination to those who are single and celibate or married and faithful to their spouses.

The Rev. Joseph Rightmyer, executive director of Presbyterians for Renewal, a Louisville-based group representing about 900 churches nationwide, said the barrier to ordination should be an openly homosexual lifestyle, not sexual orientation.

Lafontaine, an openly lesbian minister in Denver, said her own experience resembled the U.S. military's "don't-task, don't tell" policy for dealing with homosexuals in uniform. When she was ordained in 1987, she said, she wasn't asked about her sexual practices, and she didn't tell.

After she announced her lesbianism in 1993, she said, invitations to preach in other churches dwindled and she got hate calls and death threats.

But she said the Presbytery of Denver and pastors at the church where she is parish associate have stood by her.

Lafontaine said the "radical right" considers the ministry the "last stronghold" in its battle to block expansion of homosexuals' rights. John M. Mulder, president of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, said the mainstream Protestant denominations that are grappling with the ordination question are acting in a tradition dating from the Protestant

Reformation.

Biblical authority is "right at the heart of this debate," and both sides use biblical language to bolster their cause, he said.

Bob Mills, associate editor of The Presbyterian Layman, a publication of the conservative Presbyterian Lay Committee, put the matter another way: "Does Scripture say what it means and mean what it says?" he said. "Or can it be infinitely reinterpreted to meet the social climate?"

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Monday, July 1, 1996

LESBIANS, GAYS MARCH FOR PRIDE - PARADE OFFERS CONTRAST WITH OTHER CITY EVENTS

By Steve Kloehn, Tribune Staff Writer

Chicago's something-for-everybody weekend appealed to more flamboyant tastes Sunday afternoon, as a record crowd that police estimated at 225,000 people turned out for the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade.

After Taste of Chicago at Grant Park, an evangelistic conference at Soldier Field and more mundane events elsewhere in the city, the procession through Lakeview was a marked change of pace.

There were cowboy line-dancers, paramilitary gun-twirlers and a drag queen sashaying about under a 3-foot-tall beehive wig that could put Dolly Parton to shame.

There were church groups, beer distributors and a gay-oriented antique car club. Gay medical workers marched in surgical scrubs, not far behind a group of gay Asians and Pacific Islanders living in Chicago.

"It's political, it's social, it's a little bit of everything," said Richard Pfeiffer, coordinator of the parade.

The political message was highlighted by the appearance of lesbian advocate Candace Gingrich, who rode through the parade on the back of a convertible, behind a squadron of leather-clad women on motorcycles.

Later in the afternoon, at a rally in Lincoln Park, Gingrich took aim at her older half-brother, U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

"With our voices and our friends and families, we can make sure that what happened in 1994 doesn't happen again," Candace Gingrich said, in reference to the election that gave the Republicans control of Congress. "I still encourage people to come out (of the closet), but this year I want us to come out voting," she told a crowd of several thousand people.

Once a dangerous event for politicians, the parade has become almost pro forma for many elected officials. This year's parade attracted several dozen aldermen, committeemen, legislators and candidates for office.

But for the most part, political parties took a back seat to the laid-back party that stretched up Halsted Street and back down Broadway.

Squirt-gun skirmishes broke out in the crowd as the heat shimmered off the pavement. On Broadway, one enterprising 11-year-old boy did a brisk business selling 25-cent cups of lemonade. The \$1-a-beer entrepreneurs working out of coolers all along the route did better still.

Police reported no trouble during the event. Only one group of protesters--20 members of a Kansas church--came to the parade, silently holding signs behind a saw-horse barricade and a dozen police officers.

And though there were plenty of ribald cheers and risque outfits, some of the participants had more workaday concerns.

Jennifer Cherrey said she drove in from Cincinnati for the day to hand out startup disks for the America Online computer service on behalf of the computerized Gay and Lesbian Community Forum.

If gay news and chat in cyberspace sounds exotic, think again. The forum, according to Cherrey, is one of the most frequently visited sites on AOL.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Monday, July 1, 1996

PAGE ONE

GAY PRIDE PARADES THROUGH S. F.

* 5-hour extravaganza sizzles on Market Street in record heat

By Steve Rubenstein, Thaa Walker, Chronicle Staff Writers

Gay pride marched down Market Street yesterday, and marched, and marched.

It also twirled, boogied, sashayed, revved and tap-danced. There was so much gay pride in what organizers called the biggest gay pride parade on record that it took nearly five hours for all of it to march past the reviewing stand in record 93-degree weather.

Spectators, as flushed with heat as with pride, began heading home well before the last rainbow flag fluttered by.

"I've had it," said one man, dashing for air-conditioned refuge inside a shopping center at Fifth and Market after putting in a solid four hours at curbside.

A police spokesman estimated the crowd at 310,000. Asked how officers had arrived at such a precise number, he revised the total and said it was "more like 317,000." Parade spokesman Levi Morgan said the crowd was "about 500,000 or more."

Marching in the 26th annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade were gay doctors, teachers, dogcatchers, park rangers, electricians and square dancers. Each group had its own banner. There were 251 contingents, including the Barbie Support Group, whose members dressed like Barbie but spoke in considerably deeper voices than Barbie ostensibly has.

"We're putting the fun back into dysfunctional," said one.

The gay rainbow flag was everywhere -- tied to streetlights, sewn to motorcycle seats, fastened to radio antennas on antique cars. There were rainbow balloons, sweatbands, top hats, placards, buttons, sweatshirts and whip handles.

Gay students from the University of California at Berkeley marched alongside gay students from Stanford University. Gay computer programmers from Intel marched with gay computer programmers from Apple.

"This is colorful and full of variety, and that's what the world is all about," said Linda Chadburn, who came from Las Vegas to see the parade with her partner, Ruth Dallas.

The air was full of flying candy, coins and condoms. The candy and condoms were thrown from parade vehicles. The coins were thrown by spectators into oversized tarps carried by members of gay charities.

Supervisor Leslie Katz tossed out the best candy -- Kit Kat chocolate bars with small z's affixed after the "Kat." Assemblywoman Carole Migden threw Hershey's kisses, another crowd favorite. A radio station threw Nestle Crunch bars. Mayor Willie Brown threw cheap hard candies.

Condoms were tossed out from at least eight contingents, including health groups, a radio station and the Kimono condom company of Japan ("Slip into a condom," it said.)

"Not more condoms," said one man, whose pocket already held half a dozen.

It was hardly a day for leather pants -- the National Weather Service

said the 93-degree reading tied a San Francisco record set in 1927 -- but a great number of people felt obligated to wear leather pants just the same.

Many of them were in the Women's Motorcycle Contingent -- better known as Dykes on Bikes -- who traditionally lead the parade. This year, more than 200 motorcycles roared off from United Nations Plaza at precisely 11 a.m. From the rear seats of the bikes, bare-breasted women raised one fist to wave at the crowd but used the other arm to hold on tight to the women doing the driving. At least one dog rode shotgun.

For the first time, the motorcycle contingent shared the street with the roller-skating Babes on Blades.

The San Francisco Fire Department rescue truck played boogies on its emergency horn. The Barbary Coast Cloggers danced to bluegrass. The Lesbian and Gay Chorus lip-synched to recorded tapes of itself played over giant loudspeakers.

Vendors who planned for the weather did very well. Bottles of water were fetching up to \$3, and frozen fruit bars were \$3.25. But hardly anyone was buying stifling rainbow top hats.

"The water is selling better than anything," said vendor Ray Cabrera. "I should have brought more water and fewer plastic horns."

Parade medics treated half a dozen people for heat exhaustion, but no serious injuries were reported, organizers said.

Getting practically the loudest cheer of all was a plumbing company that sprayed a cool mist over the crowd from long hoses as it passed.

"We're the Plug Busters, and we're comin' to cool you down!" said a Plug Buster, as the crowd went wild. Among the spectators were tourists from six continents and a dumbfounded contingent of Bible Belt southerners, in town for an insurance convention.

"I've been to two world fairs and a goat hanging, and I don't think I've ever seen anything like this," said Wayne White of Hillsboro, Ala., as he eyed a leather-clad woman walking hand-in-hand with another woman. "Do things like this go on here all of the time?"

Vicki Elliot of Meridian, Miss., shot three rolls of film because, she said, "Nobody back home is going to believe this."

Along the sidewalk stood spectators 10 deep in spots. Many perched on news racks, electric boxes, trash cans and BART stairway railings for better views. There was no shortage of pierced nipples, chains, padlocks, spiked collars and other routine stuff. "We come every year," said "Curry" of San Jose, who stationed herself atop a telephone booth to watch. "I get chills seeing so many gay people together. It makes me feel so proud."

Between the endless drag queens, politicians and social workers were grand marshal Roberta Achtenberg and her family and parade marshal Jeff Getty, who last year received a baboon bone marrow transplant to combat AIDS.

They were followed by Gator, a San Francisco police dog in training, and a group of gay rangers from the National Park Service. Yosemite Dyke passed out color maps of the park.

"My ranger takes good care of my natural resources," said one ranger's sign.

Motorists trying to cross Market Street during the parade found themselves sweltering inside idling, hot cars. At Kearny and Market streets, traffic backed up all the way to Harrison Street. Police opened the barricades and let cars go through every 20 minutes or so.

The theme of this year's parade -- "Equality and Justice for All" -- was reflected by the Freedom to Marry Task Force, whose members danced behind a giant wedding gazebo on a flatbed truck, complete with cherubs and

gardenias. A sign on back said, "Just About Married."

Bernard Ripp of Menlo Park said he canceled a trip to Prague to attend the parade with his partner, David St. John.

"I'm a gay man, and I wanted to see what my brothers and sisters are up to," said Ripp.

"And I came to keep him out of trouble," said St. John.

Date: 1 Jul 1996 20:38:34 -0700

From: Channel Q News Desk <newsdesk@channelq.com>

Subject: ACLU: Military Ban on Gays Sent Back to Lower Court

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News from the American Civil Liberties Union &
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund...
=====

Ruling on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Ban on Gay Troops
Kicked Back to Federal District Court;
U.S. Appeals Court Focuses on Equal Treatment Issues
Raised by Lambda and ACLU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 1, 1996

NEW YORK A federal appeals court today sent back a challenge to the Pentagon's two-year-old "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law and ruled that a lower court must decide whether the constitution allows the government to treat lesbians and gay men in the military differently than non-gay servicemembers.

A three-judge panel for the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that a ban on sailors and soldiers who identify themselves as gay would be constitutional only if the government has the right to subject lesbians and gay men to different rules than those imposed on non-gay servicemembers concerning speech, relationships, and intimate conduct.

In the case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the court ruled on the government's appeal of the decision last year by U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson. The appeals court vacated Nickerson's ruling and remanded the case back to his Eastern District Court in Brooklyn, New York.

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn said, "We now have the opportunity to demonstrate the unconstitutionality of a law that prohibits behavior for lesbians and gay men that is permitted and even commonplace for non-gay people -- things as simple as holding hands. The Second Circuit agreed with us that, if the military's harsher rules for gay people's behavior cannot be justified, then the entire ban must fall."

"The appeals court did not uphold the law," said Matthew Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "Instead it reframed the question. Today's ruling puts the spotlight where it belongs: on the unequal treatment of lesbians and gay men. This is what we've been challenging from the beginning. If we're successful again at the lower court, the entire ban will be declared unconstitutional."

The case challenged the ban on behalf of six service members, none of whom were facing discharge under the policy. Nickerson rejected the policy as "Orwellian" and "inherently deceptive," and struck it down on First and Fifth Amendment grounds.

-- 30 --

Contact: Denny Lee (ACLU), 212/944-9800 ext. 424
Peg Byron (Lambda), 212/944-9475

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Date: 1 Jul 1996 20:44:15 -0700
From: Channel Q News Desk <newsdesk@channelq.com>
Subject: AB 1982 Scheduled For Hearing July 9th

=====
EQUALITY 175 Stockton Ave, San Jose, CA 95126 Email:
EqualitySJ@aol.com
=====

AB 1982 NOW SCHEDULED FOR HEARING JULY 9th.

Assembly Bill 1982, which would make it illegal for California to recognize same-sex marriages legally contracted in other states, has been

scheduled for a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday July 9th. This is do or die for the bill: it has already been scheduled for a hearing twice and cancelled. If that happens again, the bill will officially die. So the bill's Author, Pete Knight, may think he now has the votes he needs in the committee. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET THOSE LETTERS AND FAXES TO KEY SENATORS ON THE COMMITTEE!

FAX NUMBERS available for members Senate Judiciary Committee ...

Senator Ray Haynes	(916)447-9008	Republican who wrote Amendment 2
Senator Bill Lockyer	(916)323-2234	Leading Democrat in the State
Senator Nick Petris	(916)327-1997	NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU !!!
Senator Byron Sher	(916)323-4529	A friend on this issue...
Senator Hilda Solis	(916)445-0485	A friend on this issue...

Senator E-MAIL addresses that we know they actually use...

Senator.Haynes@sen.ca.gov	see above... NOT a friend
Senator.Leslie@sen.ca.gov	very homophobic legislator from Sacramento area
Senator.Lockyer@sen.ca.gov	A friend on this issue
Senator.OConnell@sen.ca.gov	NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU !!
Senator.Wright@sen.ca.gov	A Republican NO vote, but should hear

from us

U.S. MAIL ADDRESSES:

Mail for any California State Senator can be addressed as follows:

Senator (Senator's Name)
State Capitol
Room (nnnn)
Sacramento CA 95814

The Room Numbers for all nine senators on the Judiciary Committee are as follows:

Charles M. Calderon	4039
Raymond N. Haynes	4082
Tim Leslie	4081
Bill Lockyer	205
Jack O'Connell	2187
Nicholas C. Petris	5080
Byron Sher	4032
Hilda L. Solis	4090
Cathie Wright	4052

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 2-JUL-1996 04:53:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

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yandura_p@a1.eop.gov; Tue, 02 Jul 1996 04:50:29 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from mailhub.aimnet.com (mailhub.aimnet.com)

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Received: from ns2.cyberspaces.com ([204.247.8.32]) by aimnet.com (8.7.1/8.7.1)

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===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: BCS41@aol.com@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-JUL-1996 10:44:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles - 7/2/96 (3)

TO: Yandura_P (Yandura_P@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ: 2-JUL-1996 14:27:29.14

TEXT:

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1. RALEIGH (NC) NEWS AND OBSERVER: Although under attack, gays make gains
2. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL:
 - a. Scholars debate whether past and future cases will be affected by Supreme Court's Romer decision
 - b. Legislators scramble to bar recognition of gay marriages

THE RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER

Box 191,Raleigh,NC,27602

FAX: 919-829-8924, E-MAIL: forum@rnpe.nando.com

Tuesday, July 2, 1996

GAYS FACING A CHANGED ATMOSPHERE

* Although under attack, homosexuals make gains

By RUTH SHEEHAN, Staff Writer

They love the sinners, but hate the sin: homosexuality.

That's why an estimated 12,000 conservative Christians gathered Sunday in Winston-Salem for a Family Values March, bearing signs proclaiming "Sodomy is Sin!" and "Winston-Salem or Winston-Sodom?" The rally was intended as a "counterattack" to the N.C. Pride weekend for gays and lesbians in Winston three weeks ago, and the Rev. Ron Baity of Berean Baptist Church was not surprised at the turnout.

"We needed to stand up for marriage and the family," said Baity, one of the organizers. "We needed to send the message: Homosexuality is unacceptable."

It's been a tough spring for the gay community.

With national polls showing voters strongly opposing gay marriage, the General Assembly has banned same-sex unions. Congress is revving up its Defense of Marriage Act, and President Clinton has promised to sign it. Baptists are boycotting Disney for providing benefits to "domestic partners." And the N.C. Board of Education wants to instruct students that homosexuality is illegal and immoral.

"We're under attack from all sides," said Kenda Kirby, head of the North Carolina Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Equality.

But are they? Although the anti-gay rhetoric has been fierce lately, there has been undeniable, if evolutionary, progress toward gay acceptance and political stature, from a lesbian wedding on one of the nation's most popular TV shows, "Friends," to a record number of gay and lesbian elected officials.

The fact is, neither the touted gains of 1992 -- when Clinton was elected with a promise to reverse the ban on gays in the military -- nor the attacks of 1996 are as significant as they appear. Election-year political rhetoric

has exaggerated both.

In 1992, a week after Clinton's election, gay and lesbian elected officials from around the nation came to Chapel Hill for their annual convention with soaring spirits. During the campaign, Clinton had told them, "I have a vision and you're part of it."

During his presidency, however, gays and lesbians have experienced setbacks.

Clinton's gay-rights agenda ran off the rails almost immediately. His plan to quickly reverse the military ban by executive order bogged down in ugly political maneuvering. What emerged was a "don't ask, don't tell" policy that angered both sides.

And the very day Clinton was elected, Colorado voters approved a measure prohibiting any form of special protection for homosexuals, such as anti-discrimination laws. Cincinnati passed a similar ordinance shortly afterward. (The U.S. Supreme Court later found the Colorado law unconstitutional.)

Violent attacks against gays and lesbians, as recorded by a coalition of gay-interest groups around the country, have reached an all-time high nationally and in North Carolina.

Polls show that more than 75 percent of Americans believe homosexuality is wrong.

M.K. Cullen, executive director of the N.C. Pride PAC, a gay and lesbian political action committee, can see the statistics borne out in the reactions of even the most sympathetic legislators in the General Assembly.

As she lobbied against the same-sex marriage bills, which passed by overwhelming margins, she said, "More than one legislator said to me they think it's ludicrous and ridiculous, but at the same time they say, 'I'm going to have to vote for it.' "

They were wise to do so, said Bill Brooks, president of the North Carolina Family Council, a conservative think tank.

"I think that homosexuality in general is a concern to most of the public," Brooks said. "We have heard in the debate over same-sex marriages that homosexuality is like being left-handed, or like the color of your skin, but that has no scientific basis.

"It's a decision they have made, no different than them making a decision about other behavior. North Carolina has the right to make laws that reward good behavior, and homosexuality is not a behavior that should be rewarded."

Many gains

The same-sex marriage legislation notwithstanding, gays and lesbians acknowledge that they have also seen many advances over the past four years.

Since his election, Clinton has named more than 100 gays and lesbians to his administration, including Roberta Achtenberg, the undersecretary for Housing and Urban Development (whom Sen. Jesse Helms referred to as a "militant, activist, mean lesbian" during the confirmation process).

Clinton also issued an executive order prohibiting homosexuals from being denied security clearances, created the presidential advisory council on HIV/AIDS and supports the employment nondiscrimination act pending before Congress. This spring, he became the first president ever to appear on the cover of the Advocate, a leading gay magazine, because he was the first to grant the magazine an interview.

To date, nine states have passed legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro offer benefits to domestic partners of their employees.

N.C. Pride PAC, which gives money to candidates who are sympathetic to gay

issues, is among the top 20 political action committees in dollars raised. And the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund reports that of 511,000 elected officials, 105, including Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson, are openly gay. That's the highest number ever, up from 75 in 1992, when the officials' national convention was in Chapel Hill.

Joe Herzenberg, a former Chapel Hill City Council member who was the first openly gay elected official in the state, said he and others at the convention overestimated the impact of Clinton's election.

"I thought this was a giant step forward," he said. Now, he said, he realizes that changes in society's attitudes toward homosexuality come in small steps -- steps that have continued amid the backlash of the past few years. He said debate on these types of issues -- positive or negative -- is a step forward.

"In my life," said Herzenberg, 54, "I never would have expected to see a gay issue debated on the floor of the General Assembly."

A crucial election

Mab Segrest, who founded the group North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence, said she believes it is crucial for gays and lesbians to vote this year to maintain momentum.

"1996 is a pivotal year," Segrest said. "We need to get the country moving in a different direction."

To encourage that movement, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a gay-rights organization with 175,000 members, plans to spend \$100,000 this year on ads and public service announcements giving gays this nonpartisan message: "You've got the power. Register. Vote."

But Kenneth Sherrill, a professor of political science at Hunter College in New York, cautioned that gay activists sometimes perpetuate a myth that the gay electorate is a huge force just waiting to be mobilized. In fact, Sherrill said, homosexuals make up barely 3 percent of society -- not the 10 percent that some gay organizations boast -- and the number of openly gay people holding elective office nationwide is a fraction of 1 percent.

"By almost any objective measure, gays and lesbians are powerless," said Sherrill, who has testified in court cases involving both the Colorado law and the Cincinnati ordinance. "There is not a group of people more intensely disliked in America. But in the face of enormous odds, they have made real advances."

Advances outside politics

Some of the most important strides have occurred outside the world of politics.

David Jones, who lobbied successfully for an AIDS anti-discrimination bill in the General Assembly six years ago, said he received one of the best measures of gay acceptance in the mail recently: a flier for National Car Rental touting special discounts for same-sex partners.

Jones also pointed to the fact that Disney did not back down in the face of the Baptist boycott, and that Hewlett-Packard Co. in recent weeks joined the growing number of companies offering benefits to domestic partners. Those changes are more lasting than any political rhetoric, he said.

"It's hard to remember sometimes when the grenades are flying overhead," Jones said. "But these changes in the marketplace are the sorts of thing that there's no retreat from."

Nelson, the mayor of Carrboro, likens the progress of the gay political movement to that of the civil rights movement in the '60s.

"We have to suffer through the backlash to move forward," he said. "I'm convinced that in 20 years, we will look back on this same-sex marriage issue

just like we look back on separate water fountains for blacks and whites. But I also know that 30 years after the civil rights movement, blacks are still fighting racism. It's a long journey."

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

July, 1996

NEWS

GAY RIGHTS WATERSHED?

* Scholars debate whether past and future cases will be affected by Supreme Court's Romer decision

By Richard C. Ruben

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down Colorado's constitutional amendment barring legal protections for gays and lesbians is stirring controversy among legal scholars and litigators.

The holding in *Romer v. Evans*, No. 94-1039, that the amendment violates the equal protection clause, is the Court's most significant protection of gay rights ever. Writing for a 6-3 majority, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said the Colorado enactment imposes a "special disability" on gays and seems to be motivated by "animus."

OPINION'S IMPACT UNCLEAR

Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, hails the decision in a press release as "a powerful weapon in Lambda's legal arsenal on behalf of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV and AIDS."

But Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the Virginia Beach, VA.-based American Center for Law and Justice, says Dohrn should not overstate Romer's holding.

"While it may represent a shift of momentum, this opinion is not the *Roe v. Wade* or *Brown v. Board [of Education]* of the gay rights movement," he insists. "Those opinions gave the affected classes substantive rights, and this one does not. It does not say, for instance, that the right to engage in homosexual conduct is a liberty interest protected by the 14th Amendment."

Indeed, scholars are debating whether the Court has weakened or even overruled its decision upholding the validity of Georgia's anti-sodomy law, *Bowers v. Hardwick*, 478 U.S. 186 (1986). Kennedy does not mention *Bowers* in his opinion, which was joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, Sandra Day O'Connor, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in a dissent joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas, argued that the majority opinion contradicts *Bowers*. If it is constitutionally permissible to make homosexual conduct a crime, he wrote, it surely is permissible to enact laws "merely disfavoring homosexual conduct."

Part of the debate centers on whether Kennedy adopted an argument advanced in an amicus brief by Harvard University Law School Professor Laurence Tribe and several other legal scholars: that the Colorado law is so odious that it violates the Constitution as a *per se* matter. Such a holding is not inconsistent with *Bowers*, Tribe argues.

Kennedy did not use the words "per se violation" in his opinion. But Tribe contends that the Court relied on the theory when it found the Colorado amendment "confounds the normal process of judicial review" in the ordinary equal protection case.

But if the crux of the Romer holding is that laws "born of animosity" toward homosexuals are unconstitutional, Tribe says, then the ruling "is in very considerable tension with *Bowers*."

OTHERS SEE IT DIFFERENTLY

Michael McClonnell, a legal scholar at the University of Chicago Law

School, believes the Court did not adopt Tribe's per se theory. He argues it merely found that the Colorado amendment failed to satisfy a rational basis test.

Such a finding contradicts Bowers, says Doug Kmiec, a law professor at the Notre Dame Law School. "If Bowers remained good law, then [Colorado] would have a rational basis for the constitutional amendment that was at issue in Romer," he says.

Kmiec concludes that "the majority has overruled Bowers sub silentio" while McConnell has another possible explanation for the inconsistency: Kennedy's opinion is "completely incoherent as reasoned."

Stanford Law School Professor Kathleen Sullivan, however, says Bowers can still be seen as good law because it deals with due process, while Romer deals with equal protection. She acknowledges that the force of Bowers may be somewhat blunted, however, by Romer's indication of the mood of the Court.

That mood, says Denver solo practitioner Jean E. Dubofsky, "indicates the Court might be more receptive to overruling Bowers if the issue comes before it." Dubofsky argued the case against the amendment in Romer.

Tribe agrees. Bowers is "not long for this world," he predicts. He also says Romer may be used as a springboard for arguments that other laws are per se violations of the equal protection clause.

But Chicago's McConnell does not see such an impact: "The most straightforward reading of Romer is that it was applying a rational basis test and in time will come to be limited to its facts."

*

A MATTER OF FULL FAITH

* Legislators scramble to bar recognition of gay marriages

By Henry J. Reske

Driven by the fear that Hawaii courts may soon legitimize same-sex marriages, legislators in more than 30 states and in Congress have introduced legislation to ensure the states will not have to recognize such unions.

Dubbed the "Defense of Marriage Act," the federal legislation has gotten the support of President Clinton. It specifies that states are not required to give effect to same-sex unions and bars federal benefits associated with marriage to such couples. At the state level, at least 10 bills prohibiting recognition of gay marriages already have been adopted.

The remarkable rush to ban same-sex marriages is setting the stage for what could be a major legal and cultural crisis involving such things as the definition of family and conflicting state laws.

BENEFITS BATTLEGROUND

What worries legislators is that gay couples who travel to Hawaii to marry will seek benefits associated with marriage in their states, such as community property rights. Whether such marriages will be recognized will most likely be settled by courts and will involve the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution and the conflict-of-laws doctrine.

Under current case law, courts consider public policy in deciding whether to apply the laws of a sister state and in interpreting the clause. Thus, judges may refuse to recognize the Hawaiian marriages based on public policy of the forum state.

That would suit Jay Sekulow just fine. He is chief counsel for the conservative American Center for Law and Justice, which has tried to intervene in the Hawaii case on behalf of eight legislators there who are opposed to same-sex marriages.

"There are lines in the sand that we have to draw as a people," says Sekulow, who believes that legitimizing such unions would diminish the

special status of marriage in our culture.

"It's not just a slippery slope but a downhill nosedive into the abyss, and I don't know if we would ever get out of it," he says.

However, Dan Foley, lead counsel in the case, says racial desegregation wrought a far bigger change in society, forcing people to live, work and go to school together. Same-sex marriage, he maintains, would merely recognize what already exists.

"This would not force anyone to do anything or be with anyone," he says.

"Once we have the experience it's going to be a big yawn."

The opposite views of Sekulow and Foley perhaps best illustrate not only the debate over same-sex marriages but the current status of homosexual rights.

Despite gains, there are still major cultural, societal and legal bars to full acceptance of homosexuality. Major religious groups oppose it, the military still bars openly gay members, and courts have refused to extend various rights to gays and lesbians.

On the other hand, gays and lesbians have made great strides. One significant victory was the U.S. Supreme Court's May 20 decision, *Romer v. Evans*, No. 94-1039, striking down a provision of Colorado's Constitution prohibiting laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination.

In addition, some major corporations and municipalities have enacted domestic partnership rules to extend health and other benefits to same-sex couples.

San Francisco, for example, has allowed couples to register as "domestic partners" since 1991. Recently the city hosted a "domestic partnership ceremony" for nearly 200 gay couples.

COURT AS CATALYST

The catalyst for the gay-marriage debate is the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling in *Baehr v. Lewin*, 852 P.2d 44. The court in its May 1993 decision held that barring same-sex couples from marrying may violate the equal protection clause of the Hawaii Constitution, which is more expansive than its federal counterpart.

The court said the statute is unconstitutional unless its sex-based classification is shown on remand to be justified by compelling state interests.

That hearing is scheduled to begin Aug. 1. Foley predicts that a motion of a stay pending appeal will be filed if his client prevails at trial. He does not expect the case to be over until the end of 1997.

Since the case rests on state law, there can be no appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Foley says the first federal case probably will concern whether states have to recognize same-sex marriages from Hawaii under Article IV's full faith and credit clause of the Constitution. It generally requires states to honor each other's "public acts, records and judicial proceedings."

The clause has become a "weak constitutional doctrine" under Supreme Court jurisprudence, wrote Deborah Henson in a law review article about its limitations (32 U. Louisville J. Fam. L. 551).

A state is not required to honor another's law if it would violate a substantial public policy, she writes, an exception that often has swallowed up the general rule favoring validation of marriage.

Indeed, courts in older cases have cited the exception, Henson writes, in refusing to recognize marriages in which spouses were close relatives, were considered still married to others or were of different racial backgrounds.

Stanford N. Katz, a family law professor at the Boston College Law School

and a former chair of the ABA Family Law Section, cautions that there must be "a very strong policy reason to deny recognition under full faith and credit." Similarly, public policy is a consideration in a choice-of-laws context.

"It is rare that a forum does not recognize another's judgment or decree," he adds. "Mostly, where full faith and credit does not recognize a judgment or decree is in a situation where a court rendering the initial decree or judgment lacked power to do it."

States passing laws opposing same-sex marriages are laying the groundwork for making such a public policy argument, Katz says.

The federal legislation, on the other hand, is based on Congress' power to say what effect one state's acts, records and judicial proceedings have in another, says its Senate sponsor, Sen. Don Nickles, R Okla.

The bill also defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman in an attempt to deny to same-sex couples federal benefits available to their heterosexual counterparts, such as federal employee benefits, according to a statement released by Nickles.

Evan Wolfson, director of the Marriage Project of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., a gay rights organization, claims the state measures are unconstitutional. He cites as precedent two Supreme Court cases holding that divorces in one state must be honored in others, *Williams v. North Carolina*, 325 U.S. 226 (1945), and *Cook v. Cook*, 342 U.S. 126 (1951).

"How can it be that divorce is honored throughout the country and marriage is not?" he asks.

If states refuse to recognize same-sex marriages, he says, it will create a legal and practical mess not just for couples but also for their children, employers, creditors and others interacting with them.

Indeed, it is the benefits that many gay couples are seeking, says Jeffrey G. Gibson, chair of the Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men Committee of the ABA Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section. "It's not so much that people of the same gender want to walk down the aisle of a Southern Baptist church," he says, "but that they want the same rights that government can provide to a [heterosexual] couple."

Wolfson points to Hawaii as an example of how the issue should be debated and studied. A panel appointed by the governor held hearings and concluded that gays should not be denied the right to marry. Critics have charged the panel was stacked with liberals.

Gibson, who says the ABA has not taken a position on the issue, predicts that the constitutionality of anti-gay marriage laws will be litigated in the states for 10 to 15 years. He compared the battle to that of *Loving v. Virginia*, 18 L.Ed. 2d 1967, which struck down laws banning interracial marriages as violating the equal protection clause.

The suit was brought by an interracial couple who married in the District of Columbia in 1958 and moved to Virginia, where they were convicted of violating laws banning such marriages. At the time some 16 states still enforced such laws.

Those opposed to same-sex unions eschew such comparisons.

Sekulow says there is a clear distinction between *Loving*, which dealt with racially discriminatory laws, and a law that would grant protection based on sexual practices. He says allowing gay marriages would "leave no boundaries," and open the possibility of multiple partner marriages.

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TO: Socarides_R (Socarides_R@A1@CD) (WHO)

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2. THE DETROIT NEWS: Deb Price column - Discharged officer takes heart in recent court decisions as he challenges gay ban
3. PATRICIA NELL WARREN COLUMN: Let's clap our hands for Disney

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

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(NOTE: The Omaha World Herald welcomes letters to the editor from anyone in the country. Address letters to "Public Pulse." Word limit is 200.)

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

STATE DOESN'T DETER FRIENDSHIPS

By Mona Charen, Creators Syndicate (Syndicated columnist)

WASHINGTON--The Hawaii Supreme Court could, if it rules in favor of same-sex marriages, plunge the United States into a constitutional pickle.

The full faith and credit clause of the Constitution reads as follows:

"Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State." At first glance that would seem to seal the case. If gay marriages become valid in Hawaii, then gay couples from around the nation could fly there, be married and return home as husband and husband, or wife and wife, and the other 49 states would be obliged to recognize those marriages as valid.

But the Constitution goes on to say, "And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof."

A good many constitutional scholars think the second sentence opens the door to national legislation that could limit the legitimacy of same-sex marriages to Hawaii, The Defense of Marriage Act, which would do just that, is currently wending its way through Congress.

The arguments on behalf of same-sex marriage have been cast -- as so many debates in America are -- as a matter of "rights" and "discrimination." The Equal Marriage Rights Home Page on the World Wide Web, for example, proposes the following resolution: "Because marriage is a basic human right and individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the

rights, responsibilities and commitment of civil marriage."

Where to begin? Marriage is not a basic human right. Though it conduces to the happiness of men and women, it is not primarily designed for them. It is designed for children. To say that the state ought not to "interfere" with same-sex couples who choose to marry is meaningless. Marriage is something the state confers because it wants to reward certain kinds of behavior. Marriage between men and women, tested over centuries, has been judged to promote a healthy society. Within families created by traditional marriage, children are raised to be good citizens of the larger society.

The state does not currently "interfere" in homosexual relationships (nor should it). But to demand the "right" to marry is to ask more than that the state refrain from interference; it is to ask the state to confer a benefit.

But what good will the state be achieving for itself if it confers the benefit of marriage on homosexuals? Homosexual unions do not advance the interests of the larger society. They do not result in the birth of children.

What about adoption? If the state permits homosexuals to marry, it can hardly discriminate against them when it comes to adoption. Would it be desirable to have significant numbers of children raised by homosexual couples?

The pop answer is that love solves everything. As long as a child gets love, what does it matter whether it comes from two mommies or two daddies?

It matters a lot. We are learning from the epidemic of divorce and illegitimacy just how important it is to grow up with one parent of each sex.

Girls without fathers are more likely than those who grow up with both parents to get pregnant, bear illegitimate children, have trouble in school, break the law, experiment with drugs and commit suicide than those who grow up with both parents.

In a million ways, some subtle, some obvious, men and women contribute different things as parents. Mothers tend to be more protective and nurturing; fathers more playful and challenging. Mothers say, "Be careful on that jungle gym." Fathers say, "How high can you go?" Fathers give daughters a sense of attractiveness and self-confidence. Mothers show their sons how to treat a lady. Mothers teach girls how to become women. Fathers show boys what it means to be a man.

Relationships between those of the same sex cannot be marriages. A marriage is the foundation of a family. They are instead friendships. Let's leave it at that.

THE DETROIT NEWS

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Friday, July 5, 1996

DEB PRICE COLUMN

DISCHARGED OFFICER TAKES HEART IN RECENT COURT DECISIONS AS HE CHALLENGES GAY BAN

Always a take-charge guy, Paul Thomasson took his own case to the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday morning. Striding two steamy blocks from his newly acquired Capitol Hill restaurant to the court, he personally filed papers challenging the constitutionality of the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military. The Pentagon torpedoed Thomasson's stellar Navy career last year after he stated a simple truth: "I am gay."

For 15 years, gay military challenges have reached the Supreme Court only to be turned away unheard. Yet there's growing reason to feel hopeful that the justices will agree to hear this outstanding ex-lieutenant's case when they reconvene in early October and will use it to overturn the gay ban.

Much encouragement, of course, comes from the court's May 20 decision to knock down Colorado's Amendment 2 because the constitutional guarantee of equal protection extends to those of us who are gay. Also heartening is the even more recent ruling that the state-supported Virginia Military Institute (VMI) cannot continue excluding qualified women. In reaching that June 26 decision, the court followed a rigorous line of reasoning that would surely expose the unconstitutionality of the military ban - if ever applied to it.

Writing for the majority in the 7-1 VMI decision, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg cast aside Virginia's trumped up excuse for keeping women out of VMI, unearthed the worn-out prejudices underlying its exclusionary policy, refused to bow to unsubstantiated fears about the consequences of fair treatment, insisted on ruling based on real evidence and declared that governments must offer opportunities to "qualified individuals" without regard to stereotypes.

Since highly qualified gay patriots keep getting drummed out of the military because of judicial reluctance to scrutinize Pentagon excuses, Dixon Osburn of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) is cheered by Ginsburg's careful examination of excuses in a quasi-military bias case. "If you look over the past 50 years, (military officials) have been asserting one rationale after another about why gays should be treated differently - everything from they are mentally ill to they are a security risk to they are unfit and now the notion that (uncloseted gays would ruin unit) cohesion. And all those rationales have no factual support.

"All we've asked is for (the justices) to pick up that veil and look behind it. What they'll discover is that there's nothing there," he explains.

In finding nothing valid behind VMI's exclusive embrace of young men, Ginsburg reviewed myths and lies long used to deny women equal opportunities. When VMI was founded in 1839, for example, "higher education was considered dangerous for women"; our reproductive systems would suffer. Later, women couldn't be lawyers; the profession would suffer. Or cops; "male solidarity" would suffer.

Ginsburg, a good bet to become chief justice if the Democrats can keep the White House, sees that inclusion can be positive rather than ruinous. (VMI is a better institution because cadets stopped saluting the Confederate flag after black students were admitted in 1968.)

"A prime part of the history of our Constitution ...," Ginsburg wrote, "is the story of the extension of constitutional rights and protections to people once ignored or excluded."

While gay men and lesbians in uniform wait for their rights to be recognized, supposedly forbidden witch hunts continue. Diaries are read; families are grilled; chaplains are pumped for information, reports SLDN, which counted 722 gay discharges in fiscal '95. (To contact SLDN, call 202-328-3244.)<

Thomasson, whose career path once pointed to an admiralty, hopes to establish the right of gay people to serve our country honestly and openly. Paying his filing fee in person, he wrote a \$300 check to the U.S. Supreme Court. Then in the check's bottom left corner, on the line used to record what a transaction is for, he stated another simple truth: "Equal justice."

* NOTE: Deb Price's e-mail address is debprice@erols.com

PATRICIA NELL WARREN COLUMN

July 4, 1996

CLAP YOUR HANDS FOR DISNEY

By Patricia Nell Warren

Once upon a time, I was a little kid booing the wicked Queen in a small-town theater, with all my friends from the town's staunchest Catholic and Protestant families. I haven't forgotten those movie evenings, and I'll bet that a lot of other Americans my age haven't forgotten, either. We cheered for Snow White. We yelled for Mickey. We cried buckets for Bambi.

Best of all, we clapped our hands and swore we believed in fairies, so Tinkerbell wouldn't die.

Today, the entertainment company that made seven generations of kids shriek with delight is in big trouble. Extremist religious groups are attacking Disney. These church folks say that once upon a time Disney made movies for the American family. But today, they say, Disney has betrayed "family values."

The trouble is, the extremists aren't telling us the whole story. Their real aim is to oppose any works of the imagination that they believe have "pagan," "satanic," "occult" content. Americans who track the growth of book-burning know that these groups are working hard to ban fairy tales, novels, etc. that they deem "satanic". The American Booksellers Assn.'s annual publication "Banned Books" documents the profile of themes that the extremists want removed from American culture. Gosh, these people even hate stories in which animals talk like humans. Where does that leave Mickey?

Donald Duck? Bambi et al?

If Walt Disney were to create Mickey Mouse now, in 1996, the Southern Baptists and their cohorts would glower like the wicked Queen. Probably they'd say that Mickey is "blasphemous -- unnatural." "After all," they'd thunder, "God gave the power of speech only to humans. It's not natural for animals to talk." If Disney released "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" today, the Southern Baptists would accuse him of going "morally astray" into "pagan fairy tales and satanism." Indeed, any beloved Disney classic with fairies in it would be mincemeat today. Flitting sprites with magical powers would definitely be interpreted by overheated believers as a "hidden agenda to seduce American children into the homosexual lifestyle." Clap your hands for Tinkerbell today? Not if you're an extremist believer.

In other words, when these animal-and-fairy-infested films were originally released there was no national uproar. Fifty years ago, such movies were part and parcel of the "family values" of most conservative Americans. Like the ones I knew in the small town where I grew up. Like my own family. Even in those strait-laced times, Disney stood for the victory of imagination. Bigots have always tried to chain imagination, because -- like democracy -- it works best only when freed.

So the Southern Baptists and their fellow travelers have got it all wrong about those days of yore. Disney's films haven't changed all that radically. True, the company didn't stick its neck out for domestic partners in those days -- but it always managed (however discreetly) to touch its magic wand to themes and stories not found in the Bible. No...what HAS changed radically is extreme-right-wing religion in America -- its rise to power, its naked ambition to control us all.

At stake is not just the future of a corporation. At stake is the survival of imagination as a driving force of American culture. At stake is the right to imagine. Yes, there is a right to imagine, and no culture can stay healthy without it. If Disney goes down, it will be a dark day for

anybody else who messes with sparkle dust. Let's hope that enough people
clap their hands for Disney.

*

Patricia Nell Warren is author of "The Front Runner" and other bestselling
books about gay life. Her publisher is Wildcat Press. For information on
her books, her web page can be found at

<http://www.gaywired.com/wildcat/wildcat.htm>

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TO: Socarides_R (Socarides_R@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ: 8-JUL-1996 16:48:52.70

TEXT:

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- a. California state Senate committee debates same-sex marriage this week
- b. Presbyterian general assembly approves policy allowing the ordination of gays - as long as they remain celibate and disavow their past sexuality.
- c. Hollywood scouts flock to gay and lesbian film festivals

2. THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE:

- a. Same-sex palimony suit against pianist Van Cliburn is dismissed by judge
- b. The new Batman - a man Batman, not a "Boy-Man"

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4. FEEDBACK: "Two Girls In Love" on Cinemax Wednesday

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 5, 1996

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

By JENNIFER KERR, Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO -- What, exactly, is a marriage? A civil contract granting economic benefits? A religion-tinged institution designed to produce children? A lifetime commitment between two people who love each other? An excuse for a really big party?

A state Senate committee debates that issue this week as it considers an Assembly-passed bill aimed at blocking gay marriages.

The Legislature was supposed to begin its month-long recess this week. However, both houses agreed to meet this week and cut their vacation to three weeks. That's in the long-shot hope lawmakers can finish their 1996 session, due to end on Aug. 31, a week early so Democrats can go to their national convention in Chicago the last week in August.

The extension this week also allows committees to take another week to consider the hundreds of bills sent them by the opposite house this year. The Senate, in particular, faced a huge list of bills pushed through the Assembly in January and May by its energetic new Republican majority.

Last Friday was the deadline for those bills to be passed by a policy committee and both houses had agreed to extend that deadline to this Friday.

However, Assembly Republicans got nervous when that extension had not been granted last week and began removing Senate Democrats' bills from committee agendas. That prompted the Senate to shut down its committees and cease hearing Assembly GOP bills.

The standoff lasted an hour, until Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-San Leandro, walked down the hall to assure Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle, R-Garden Grove, that the extension would indeed be granted.

One of those GOP bills is the one passed by the Assembly last January to prevent California from recognizing gay marriages performed in other states.

The bill by Assemblyman Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, is before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

The volatile issue gets a warmup on Monday, when both sides hold news conferences one after another in the Capitol press conference room. The opponents, led by the Legislature's only two openly gay members, Assemblywomen Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, and Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, are first. Then Knight and Attorney General Dan Lungren will state their case.

The issue arose when the Supreme Court of Hawaii ruled in 1993 that the state's refusal to grant gay couples marriage licenses violated the Hawaiian Constitution's discrimination clause. The high court returned the case to a lower court, saying the state would have to prove a "compelling government interest" to ban same-sex marriages. The lower court trial won't begin until September and a final ruling may be years away.

But the possibility of legal gay marriages in Hawaii terrified conservatives in other states, which by law and the U.S. Constitution routinely recognize marriages performed in other states.

Bills denying legal recognition to same-sex marriages have been approved in 11 states, are pending in seven and have been defeated or withdrawn in 16 states. Congress is considering a bill that would authorize states to reject gay marriages performed in other states and would deny federal benefits to partners in same-sex marriages.

Knight contends that the economic and legal benefits given married couples -- like health benefits, inheritance rights and joint tax returns -- are society's way of helping men and women create the best conditions to raise children.

"Gay marriage is a losing issue for Democrats to defend since public sentiment clearly draws the line at gay marriage as going too far," Knight says.

A Field Poll released on June 28 found that only 35 percent of Californians surveyed said the state should grant to same-sex marriages the same legal status as heterosexual unions and 57 percent said the state should not.

Opponents say children aren't the only reason heterosexual couples marry. Besides, says the National Center for Lesbian Rights, tens of thousands of children are being raised in gay and lesbian households in the state, and legalizing marriage would promote individual responsibility, family stability and security for those children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 5, 1996

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY STRICTLY LIMITS GAY ORDINATION

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Saying the church must speak clearly on scripture and human sexuality, the governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) approved a policy Friday allowing the ordination of gays - as long as they

remain celibate and disavow their past sexuality.

The policy also would prohibit unmarried heterosexuals who are ordained from having sex.

"This calls for all persons who would be officers in the church to live lives that are in conformity with scripture," said the Rev. Roberta Hestenes of Philadelphia, moderator of the church's Ordination and Human Sexuality Committee, which recommended the policy.

The vote of the church's General Assembly was 313-236. Several of the 568 voting delegates were not present.

The decision must now be considered nationwide by leaders of the Presbyterian Church (USA), a 3 million-member church formed by a 1983 merger of the northern and southern branches of Presbyterianism.

In the past, church policy has been ambiguous - individual churches and presbyteries have ordained practicing homosexuals, but the church has also considered homosexual sex to be a sin.

Opponents said the decision was a step backward.

"We are asking people again: 'Don't ask. Don't tell. Let's live our lives in secrecy.' I don't believe that is the Gospel," said the Rev. Myra Kazanjian of Pittsburgh.

Kazanjian was among 300 people who marched through the hall at the Albuquerque Convention Center to protest the vote.

The decision followed similar policies from every other Protestant church in the United States except the United Church of Christ, which allows the ordination of non-celibate gays.

The Presbyterian Church has been debating the issue since 1978.

On Wednesday, the Ordination and Human Sexuality Committee concluded that the standards for ordination should be "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman - or chastity in singleness."

The new policy also says that people "refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the Confessions call sin shall not be ordained."

"This church must speak now with a clear voice about the understanding of scripture and human sexuality," explained Hestenes.

After the vote Friday, hundreds of gay and lesbian church members and leaders gathered to sing, "We Are Staying in the Church of God." But some said the decision would drive people away from the church.

"Oh, yes, a lot of people will leave," said Sandy Martin, an elder from Pittsburgh. "I don't think they realize what kind of pain they bring to gays and lesbians. One of the things that could happen is the church could split (into two separate churches) on the issue."

Also on Friday, the General Assembly elected the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, of Harlingen, Texas, to a four-year term as the church's chief ecclesiastical officer. He said he would support whatever position the church takes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 5, 1996

HOLLYWOOD SCOUTS FLOCK TO GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVALS

By MARTHA IRVINE, Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO -- There was a day not so long ago when Hollywood scouts wouldn't be caught filling seats at a lesbian and gay film festival.

Now it's schmooze city as such festivals gain stature as marketing tools and sources of new films and directing talent -- not unlike Robert Redford's Sundance Festival has done in the past few years.

“The bottom line is that it's a business, and it's all about money,” says Amy Schoenborn, development director at Frameline, which organizes the long-running San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, one of the largest festivals of its kind.

Never mind that some studios, including Disney's Miramax unit, have gotten flak from religious groups for distributing gay films. Industry experts estimate that gay or lesbian films now can gross \$2 million to \$6 million -- and \$10 million if they cross over to non-gay audiences.

Add a big-name star like Robin Williams, who starred as a gay man in MGM's “Birdcage,” and the numbers quickly multiply.

Miramax executives concede that they may shy away from controversial movies such as their gay-cleric film “Priest,” which became just one reason Southern Baptist ministers called for a Disney boycott last month.

“The irritation (for ‘Priest’) wasn't worth the financial upside,” said a former Miramax executive, who didn't want to be identified. “But I don't think that indicates a trend on the whole.”

And it certainly hasn't stopped other studios, which one executive from New Line Cinema calls “very hungry machines” when it comes to acquiring films.

“Any time a niche is under-represented on the screen, there's a certain amount of money to be made,” said Chris Pula, New Line's president of marketing. “The gay audience is certainly one that is under-represented.”

After some success with the lesbian teen film “The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love,” New Line's Fine Line Features unit plans to release “Love! Valour! Compassion!” based on a gay-themed play.

Meanwhile, Gramercy Pictures -- which distributed the Australian drag queen film “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” -- is forging ahead in the gay genre with the movie “Bound,” a mob thriller with lesbian lead characters.

Considered a likely crossover hit with non-gay audiences, “Bound” featured at last month's San Francisco festival and also will play at Outfest, in Los Angeles, which begins July 11.

“Film festivals are now seen as a wonderful launching pad that gets that vital word out,” said Morgan Rumpf, executive director of Outfest, which began as a film festival at the University of California-Los Angeles 14 years ago.

San Francisco's festival began 20 years ago with 200 people jammed into a community center that was supposed to hold 80. The films, mostly shorts, were rough and often shot in 8mm film.

This year's San Francisco festival, which ended Sunday, attracted 65,000 visitors, including executives from Paramount, Warner Brothers and Fine Line Features, among other studios.

The growth of gay film festivals is a sign of good things to come, says Schoenborn.

“With more money, more access and visibility, (lesbian and gay filmmakers) could be Academy Award winning directors in five to 10 years,” she says.

But it's still not easy.

“For the one or two successes, there've been a helluva lot of failures,” said Gary Fitzpatrick, who produced the British film “The Art of Cruising Men” with his boyfriend-director Peter Litten. “But there's also been a lot of leg work done in the last 20 years.”

The pair spent \$750,000 on their last film, “Heaven's a Drag,” which has brought in \$100,000 so far.

``Festivals are great. But they don't earn any money," Litten said.

And some studios still shy away from lesbian and gay film festivals. Sony Classics, for example, has held the British movie ``Beautiful Thing," a gay teen dating film, away from festivals in hopes that it will be a crossover hit, the pair contends.

Director Cheryl Dunye, who lives outside Los Angeles, thinks it might be better to work ``outside of the Hollywood mode" in marketing her film, ``Watermelon Woman," the story of a black lesbian. The film played at the San Francisco festival and also will be featured in Los Angeles.

``You're going to battle with discrimination when you deal with Hollywood. It's not that easy," Dunye said. ``(And) they're not really taking the kind of cinematic risks that I think independent cinema was about."

She also wants to make sure her movie is seen and doesn't trust that distribution from a bigger studio will achieve that.

Fine Line Features, for example, spent big bucks to advertise the teen-age lesbian flick, ``The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love."

``They tried to reach the local cineplex in the suburbs. And it wasn't that type of film," Dunye said. ``We're all conscious of the possibility of this crossover thing. But I'm not sure we all know what it means."

However, Pula, whose New Line Cinema is Fine Line's parent company, says he thinks ``Two Girls" has made more inroads for gay and lesbian films -- even more than box office blockbusters like ``Birdcage."

``Frankly," Pula said, ``I think it's a larger victory because you're not relying on a bankable star."

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Friday, July 5, 1996

NEWSMAKERS

PALIMONY SUIT AGAINST VAN CLIBURN DENIED

FT. WORTH, Texas --- A judge has dismissed a multimillion-dollar palimony suit filed against Van Cliburn by a man who claims the pianist exposed him to the AIDS virus during a 17-year sexual relationship.

District Judge Fred Davis said he agreed with Cliburn's lawyers that no part of the arrangement between Cliburn and Thomas E. Zaremba, a 48-year-old mortician, was in writing and that therefore nothing was binding. When the suit was filed in April, Zaremba's attorney said that his client does not have the AIDS virus and that there was no reason to believe that Cliburn has HIV. But he accused the pianist of having sex with other people who were HIV-positive during his relationship with Zaremba. Cliburn, 61, said he has not been tested for HIV and does not have AIDS.

*

EAVESDROPPING

"George will be much more of a man-Batman. Val was more of a Boy-man."

---"Batman Forever" Director Joel Schumacher on George Clooney versus Val Kilmer as the Caped Crusader.

THE DESERET NEWS

Box 1257, Salt Lake City, UT 84110

FAX 801-237-2121, E-MAIL: letters@desnews.com

July 5, 1996

STANCE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS LIKELY TO HANDICAP ANDERSON

By Bob Bernick Jr., Deseret News political editor

Ross Anderson has a problem.

He finds himself in the unenviable position of opposing the LDS Church's stand on so-called "same-sex" marriages. It's a political problem that probably can't be fixed. It may be ignored by many voters of the 2nd Congressional District, but a number of Democrats in the state worry it won't be.

While Anderson thinks "same-sex" marriages should be legal, his 2nd District Republican opponent, Merrill Cook, does not. But Anderson's problem isn't with Cook -- Democrats and Republicans, especially in political campaigns, rarely agree.

Anderson's problem is that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has taken a specific position against same-sex marriages and is actively fighting in Hawaii to keep such marriages illegal. A February 1994 statement from the church's First Presidency says in part: "We encourage members (of the church) to appeal to legislators, judges and other government officials to . . . reject all efforts to give legal authorization or other official approval or support to marriages between persons of the same gender."

Rarely does a public stand by the LDS Church on a religious/moral issue turn into a political issue as well.

And rarely has a candidate for major office in Utah found himself in direct opposition to a statement issued by the church's First Presidency.

Anderson's political challenge is real: Polling over years shows that between 55 percent and 65 percent of 2nd District voters are members of the LDS Church.

Anderson, of course, doesn't need all those voters. But he needs some of them, especially considering that 40 percent of the district's residents consider themselves Republicans, 22 percent say they're Democrats and 36 percent say they're independents.

Former 2nd District Democratic Reps. Wayne Owens and Karen Shepherd were pro choice, and the LDS Church opposes abortion. Together, they won four elections in the district. But the church's stand on abortion is shared by many religions. And while abortion is usually a side issue in political races inside and outside Utah, the U.S. Supreme Court now has complete control of abortion law. Political candidates can argue over it, but they can't change abortion law -- the high court decides that.

Same-sex marriages may be headed for the Supreme Court. But for now it's in the political arena and a hot topic. Candidates, if elected, may very well be able to determine same-sex marriage law. A bill restricting same-sex marriages now sits in Congress.

Perhaps the best analogy to Anderson's problem is one involving the Equal Rights Amendment, the LDS Church's opposition to it and Utah Democratic candidates who ran favoring the ERA in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Ted Wilson remembers the ERA well.

In 1982, then-Salt Lake Mayor Wilson challenged first-term incumbent GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch. Wilson, a faithful member of the LDS Church, had long been in favor of the ERA.

But not only did the church oppose the amendment, in some states LDS faithful became active opponents to the amendment's ratification. While a number of groups and citizens opposed ratification of the amendment, many political observers say it was core LDS opposition -- and the natural organizational powers within church wards and stakes throughout the nation -- that turned the tide against the ERA. By June 30, 1982 -- the ratification deadline -- only 35 state legislatures had voted for the amendment. Thirty-eight were needed and the amendment failed. Immediately, pro-ERA supporters started another movement -- which failed in the Ronald Reagan-era

1980s -- to get Congress to repass the amendment.

Wilson ran in 1982 just as the time for the amendment's ratification ran out. He didn't change his position, he stood by his previous support of the ERA.

The ERA "was used as a litmus test" in his race, said Wilson. While there were certainly more important issues -- just as there are more important issues this year in the 2nd District contest than same-sex marriages -- Wilson said the fact that he was for the ERA and Hatch was against it was easily understood by voters. And the difference stood for something, as well, says Wilson, for Republicans would use the ERA to call him a liberal, against family values and all the baggage that comes with those labels.

"It was very uncomfortable for me" every time Republicans and Hatch brought up the amendment, says Wilson. They did so frequently in a series of debates around the state.

"I'd talk about how the Utah Constitution guaranteed rights regardless of gender, and how the U.S. Constitution should do the same thing. I'd try to work into the answer that I was a member of the LDS Church, but just disagreed (with church leaders) on this subject. That was the song I sung, but I don't know how well it worked," Wilson said.

Wilson lost that race handily. And while his stand on the Equal Rights Amendment wasn't a determining factor, it certainly hurt him, Wilson believes.

Utah Democratic Party chairman Mike Zuhl says the same-sex marriage issue won't have a big impact in Anderson's race, certainly not the impact that the ERA issue had in some Democratic races in Utah 15 years ago.

"The Equal Rights Amendment was a national issue, it was germane to those races. Everyone was talking about it back then. Same-sex marriage just isn't on the same scale today," Zuhl says. Same-sex marriages "just aren't issues in our country or the 2nd District. It won't be a major factor in this race -- we'll be talking about the federal deficit, public land policies, things that matter."

That may be wishful thinking, says Brigham Young University political science professor David Magleby, who himself is LDS and a Democrat.

"Merrill Cook won't even have to talk about same-sex marriages" and the LDS Church's opposition to them, says Magleby. "If (Cook's) polling shows that voters don't understand Anderson's position, he will rely on Republican Party officials to press the point."

The fact that Anderson and Cook are opposite on same-sex marriages may bring pro-gay rights groups into the 2nd District. The groups could run a pro-Anderson independent campaign -- something that Anderson couldn't stop and wouldn't want, says Magleby. Then pro-life or traditional value groups would run a counter campaign and Anderson's same-sex marriage support could sidetrack debate on other issues, warns Magleby.

But, says Magleby, it isn't just Anderson's stand on same-sex marriages that can harm him.

"He is also pro-choice and (was board president) of the Utah ACLU. All three positions place him far to the left of a large majority of the voters in his district. These three issues are high salience issues, meaning they matter a lot to most voters. Most Utah voters are moderately pro-life, disapprove of the ACLU suits over school prayer and other issues and oppose homosexual marriages," says Magleby.

FEEDBACK:

* From Fenceberry@AOL.COM - Just wanted to alert your readers that the lesbian film "The Incredible True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" will be on Cinemax next Wednesday (7/10) at 10:00 p.m. Central time.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 6-JUL-1996 09:58:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01I6QYJBH7DS0014LE@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Sat, 06 Jul 1996 09:58:42 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from emout10.mail.aol.com (emout10.mx.aol.com)

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-7 #6879) id <01I6QYJGWIMQ00007Z@STORM.EOP.GOV>; Sat, 06 Jul 1996 09:58:49 -0700 (MST)

Received: by emout10.mail.aol.com (8.6.12/8.6.12) id JAA20649; Sat, 06 Jul 1996 09:57:02 -0400

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: BCS41@aol.com@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-JUL-1996 08:32:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles - 7/8/96

TO: Yandura_P (Yandura_P@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ: 8-JUL-1996 13:38:30.62

TO: Socarides_R (Socarides_R@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ: 8-JUL-1996 17:03:29.46

TEXT:

CONTENTS:

1. KANSAS CITY (MO) STAR: Gay man from Kansas to be featured on new season of MTV's "The Real World"
2. USA TODAY: The harsh truth about fading "beauty" in gay culture
3. THE NEW YORK TIMES:
 - a. GLAAD criticizes drug free ads as homophobic
 - b. Senator D'Amato gets award from gay Republicans
4. THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE Letter: Baptist Boycott - "Why can't we all just get along?"
5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Same-sex marriage bill before Calif. Senate committee
6. FEEDBACK:
 - a. Website where you can register to vote (and urge others to do so)
 - b. Action Alert - Gay sailor's murderer gets clemency hearing - write!

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

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July 8, 1996

A SPLICE OF LIFE (excerpt)

Dan may not want to think about this too much, but soon his face, exuberant laugh, strongest convictions --and his sexual orientation -- will be known all over the planet. At least the part of the planet that watches MTV.

In a matter of days Dan, till now a college student from Overland Park, will become...Dan, one of seven stars of the 5th season of MTV's "Real World" (filmed in Miami this time). He's known only as Dan because the show doesn't reveal participants' last names...

...When he was picked for the show Dan was a 21-yr-old senior at Rutgers U in New Jersey majoring in environmental policy. He was a columnist for Rutgers's student paper.

Dan and his family moved to Overland Park when he was in middle school. The Blue Valley North grad spent a year at Johnson County Community College before moving to Rutgers.

(Jon Murray, exec producer) ticks off a list of what Dan had going for him: great sense of humor, great looks, charismatic, someone who would be a

"lightning rod" for making things happen.

In the premiere show, Dan:

- is described by roommates as a cross between the Joker and Satan

- intercepts a call from roommate Joe's girlfriend: "He would be the stud sitting across from me, I've been flirting with him all night, baby (yes Dan is gay)"

- applies for a job at a "gay restaurant" but is told no jobs are available

- after been told earlier that there were. Meanwhile, Joe and Mike, waiting on Dan, peruse a gay magazine: "Can you believe it? They're all gay and they're all normal looking," Joe tells Mike, pointing to a picture.

Applies for a job at high society Ocean Drive magazine --and gets it...

...Any big moments for Dan, the guy from Overland Park KS? "Dan ends up in a relationship with someone else, and that someone is still in the closet,"

Murray says. A camera is present when the young man tells Dan he still hasn't come out to his parents.

"Well, they're going to know!" Dan says, looking at the camera.

Any footage of Kansas City in this series?

"Rodeo Drive, as we call it, will be in there because we went shopping at Town Center Plaza," Dan's mother Judi says. "the cameramen loved Kansas. They couldn't believe it! They were looking for cows. They ended up driving way out in the country to find some."

...Norman, a gay man from the first season of Real World, said that being a gay man carries some responsibility. Dan agrees.

"I can honestly say that I tailored my actions just because I didn't trust what they'd put on and what they wouldn't."

An example: Dan suggested that he and Mike dress up in drag as a birthday surprise for Joe. Mike readily agreed, but Dan ultimately decided against it.

"That would have been really stupid for me to do. Everyone would look at it and go, 'Of course he's in drag, he's gay.' "

A preview tape hints that not all of Dan's roommates were comfortable with him being gay. But they didn't confront him about it, Dan says.

During the course of the show, Dan was offered a modelling job. That led to a gig this summer in Milan Italy. Dan does plan to return to Overland Park this summer to "chill out" with family. He's not going to re-enroll at Rutgers for his final semester until next spring.

* NOTE: Unofficial home page for Real world:

<http://www.grrl.com/real.html>

USA TODAY

1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22229

FAX: 703-247-3108, E-MAIL: Editor@usatoday.com

Monday, July 8, 1996

FINAL WORD

THE HARSH TRUTH ABOUT FADING "BEAUTY" IN GAY CULTURE

WASHINGTON - Andrew Holleran is an affable, warm and funny man who has written a rather depressing, bittersweet and not-so-funny book.

"We're not exactly out on tour with a musical comedy," he admits.

But "The Beauty of Men" (Morrow, \$24) is so beautifully written and so poignant, the reader has little to do but sit back and admire it as a piece of writing that puts Holleran at the top of his craft. Despite the topic.

Over lunch the other day, Holleran, 51, readily admits he's the book's 47-year-old narrator, Mr. Lark, a profoundly lonely gay man who escaped AIDS-ravaged New York City to tend to his quadriplegic mother in a nursing

home in rural Florida.

Some have confessed to him that they had to put the book down, it was so depressing. Does he find it so?

"I do and I don't," he says, although even he describes his book as "painful, claustrophobic and relentless."

Not that Holleran's dark wit isn't present throughout:

"He refuses to sleep with anyone his age who has more hair than he does. He's furious that his hair is thinning. In fact, when he saw Sutcliffe lying in the coffin, all he could think was, he still has that gorgeous hair! . . . So I'm shallow, he thinks. If only I'd known it sooner, I would have been a lot nicer to people."

"In New York they laughed out loud at certain lines," he says of recent readings. "In Philadelphia it was a more quiet crowd. Very thoughtful. Will I be attacked in San Francisco? We'll see."

What the book has done is touch a nerve. "People are getting it," he says. "They've thought about these things. They're telling me it reflects what they're feeling."

What they're thinking, as aging gay men who have survived the AIDS epidemic, is that they're becoming "invisible" in an America, and a gay culture, obsessed with youth and beauty.

Holleran, a major player in gay literature, is allowed the luxury of just writing - like Mr. Lark he has no other job - because of good investments he made years ago in New York and the money he made on his highly acclaimed first novel, the now classic "Dancer From the Dance", a book author and critic Edmund White compared with "The Great Gatsby".

Writing is good therapy for him and much cheaper than a therapist.

"The impulse was to get rid of the cesspool in my head," he says of his newest novel, his first in 14 years. "There are pages and chapters I did in 20 minutes, yet the book took six years."

In truth, he says it was "terribly easy. If you have the language, you just go. I could have gone on lip-syncing forever. The language was just there."

"There she lay, turned toward the hallway, half watching "Wheel of Fortune," half watching the doorway for his return. As he put his face close to the glass and looked in at her, he felt such a wave of love and tenderness all he could think was, You may be paralyzed from the neck down, you may have itchy skin and only one good eye, you make wake up every day still paralyzed, still in this nursing home, you may not be able to feed, bathe, or dress yourself, or brush your teeth or wipe your butt or walk or dance or drive a car or take a shower or do one thing you may want to do, including scratching your nose, but you can't die, because everyone else has and you're all I've got."

"The Beauty of Men," while it deals with gay life and its obsession with the loss of youth, translates easily to the straight world too, Holleran believes.

"It's universal. Look at Marlene Dietrich. She just went inside and wasn't going to show herself anymore."

The only reader Holleran thinks might not understand the book is the young, gay male.

"I'm not sure he'd get it," he says. "He hasn't lived enough. He hasn't lost enough."

"How little, he thinks, do these young men realize the full extent to which they supply images the older, decrepit gentlemen will carry with them the rest of the day. Like the blonde looking at himself now in the mirrors

behind the StairMasters as he walks by. It is shocking to see. Only youth can stand beneath those bright ceiling lights, its smooth white skin irradiated; the old would be covered with warts, body hair, wens, sagging folds, spots. Youth's envelope is new. It says, Open Me."

The question Holleran hears most often today from his gay readers is, "Is this what we have to look forward to?"

Maybe. Maybe not. But he's also quick to point out Lark "is not a poster boy for mental health. We can only hope he'll get it and move on. It doesn't have to be this way."

He says the same is true for himself. "I'm trying to get it and move on too," he says. "That's all I can say. I'm heartened by getting this out of my system . . . It'll be interesting to see what happens to me now."

--By Craig Wilson, USA TODAY

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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FAX: 212-556-3622, E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com

Monday, July 8, 1996

ADVERTISING

HOMOSEXUALS CRITICIZE TWO DRUG-FREE ADS

Two commercials for the Partnership for a Drug-Free America have been labeled "patently homophobic" by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which has asked for their withdrawal. The partnership, however, disputes the complaint and says it has no plans to recall the spots.

The commercials, which the partnership began offering last month to television networks and stations, are part of a new public-service campaign against heroin use. They feature a young addict describing how, after losing his job, he had to "have sex with men for money to support my habit."

In one of the spots, the young man mentions his girlfriend before recounting his life as a prostitute.

Alan Klein, news media director at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance in New York, said the commercials suggest that homosexuality "is merely an extreme reaction made by young people in life-threatening situations" and that "if there is one thing worse than being an addict, it's being a homosexual."

The alliance will get in touch with broadcast executives responsible for scheduling public-service announcements and ask them not to run the spots, he said.

Richard Bonnette, president and chief executive at the partnership in New York, replied in a letter to Klein that the partnership did not intend that any commercial "pass judgment on homosexuality, nor would we support one that did."

Rather than the spots stating or implying anything about homosexuality, he said, the spots clearly depict an addict whose "life is ruined by heroin use that leads to prostitution."

*

CHRONICLE

SENATOR GETS AWARD FROM GAY REPUBLICANS

NEW YORK -- Bob Dole may not exactly be a hero to members of the Log Cabin Republicans -- the presidential candidate returned a \$1,000 contribution from the gay political organization last year -- but the chairman of his campaign, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, certainly is.

The senator will be honored Monday night by the New York City chapter of

the group, which will give him its Lincoln Achievement Award at a cocktail party at the Women's National Republican Club.

"We give the award either to a Republican or a noteworthy citizen for furthering what we believe are the values of Abraham Lincoln," said Mike Flynn, founder of the chapter, which has about 150 members.

"Senator D'Amato opposed discrimination against gays in the military, he supported lifting the ban, and he co-sponsored the Ryan White Care Act, the bill that dispenses government funds for the care and treatment of people with AIDS," he said. "He also has a policy of nondiscrimination in his office that specially mentions sexual orientation."

Clearly, Flynn does not hold a grudge about Dole's campaign gift refund. He is a Dole delegate to the Republican National Convention.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Monday, July 8, 1996

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE (Letter to the editor)

BAPTIST BOYCOTT

"Why can't we all just get along?" These words, spoken by Rodney King after experiencing a violent beating by police in California that was followed by riots, looting and arson, still ring in my ears today.

"Why can't we just all get along?" is what I feel when I hear the Southern Baptist Convention announce a "boycott" of the Disney company and its theme parks, products and entertainment subsidiaries. The reason for the boycott, the Baptists say, is that the Disney company has "abandoned" traditional family values and "betrayed" their "old friends," the Southern Baptists, by granting health-care benefits to domestic partners of gays and lesbians.

Just what are the "family values" that these people advocate today in the name of the Bible? And so again, I ask, like Rodney King: Why can't we all just get along?

--Richard C. Johnson, Chicago

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 7, 1996

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL BEFORE CALIF. SENATE COMMITTEE

By JENNIFER KERR, Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO -- What, exactly, is a marriage? A civil contract granting economic benefits? A religion-tinged institution designed to produce children? A lifetime commitment between two people who love each other? An excuse for a really big party?

A state Senate committee debates that issue this week as it considers an Assembly-passed bill aimed at blocking gay marriages.

The Legislature was supposed to begin its month-long recess this week. However, both houses agreed to meet this week and cut their vacation to three weeks. That's in the long-shot hope lawmakers can finish their 1996 session, due to end on Aug. 31, a week early so Democrats can go to their national convention in Chicago the last week in August.

The extension this week also allows committees to take another week to consider the hundreds of bills sent them by the opposite house this year. The Senate, in particular, faced a huge list of bills pushed through the Assembly in January and May by its energetic new Republican majority.

Last Friday was the deadline for those bills to be passed by a policy committee and both houses had agreed to extend that deadline to this Friday. However, Assembly Republicans got nervous when that extension had not been granted last week and began removing Senate Democrats' bills from committee

agendas. That prompted the Senate to shut down its committees and cease hearing Assembly GOP bills.

The standoff lasted an hour, until Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-San Leandro, walked down the hall to assure Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle, R-Garden Grove, that the extension would indeed be granted.

One of those GOP bills is the one passed by the Assembly last January to prevent California from recognizing gay marriages performed in other states.

The bill by Assemblyman Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, is before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

The volatile issue gets a warmup on Monday, when both sides hold news conferences one after another in the Capitol press conference room. The opponents, led by the Legislature's only two openly gay members, Assemblywomen Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, and Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, are first. Then Knight and Attorney General Dan Lungren will state their case.

A Field Poll released on June 28 found that only 35 percent of Californians surveyed said the state should grant to same-sex marriages the same legal status as heterosexual unions and 57 percent said the state should not.

Opponents say children aren't the only reason heterosexual couples marry. Besides, says the National Center for Lesbian Rights, tens of thousands of children are being raised in gay and lesbian households in the state, and legalizing marriage would promote individual responsibility, family stability and security for those children.

FEEDBACK:

* From SARATOGANY@AOL.COM - MCI has a website where you can register to vote, all states included.

You complete the simple form, a card with the info is mailed (USPS) backed to you for your verification and signature. Then you mail it, no postage required. That is all there is to it.

GOTO:

<http://netvote96.mci.com>

AOL users can put the above (complete) address in as a KEYWORD.

Pass it on... our power is in the vote...the next President will appoint 1 to 3 judges to the US Supreme Court.

* From ksherril@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu (Kenneth Sherrill) - ACTION ALERT: Gay Sailor's Murderer Gets Clemency Hearing

[ACTION ALERT composed from article in Chicago's Windy City Times, 7/4/96, and Michael Petrelis' post in America Online. Please copy and forward this alert!]

**** Expires: July 16, 1996 ****

SUMMARY:

* On October 27, 1992, gay Navy Petty Officer Allen Schindler was murdered in Sasebo on the Japanese island of Kuyshu, simply because he was gay.

* The injuries sustained on Schindler during his beating were so severe that a medical examiner compared the injuries to those that would occur in an airplane crash (internal organs were just "mush"). His face was completely disfigured and his mother could only identify his body through a tattoo on his arm.

* The convicted murderer, Terry Helvey, who beat and stomped Schindler to death, was court-martialed, received a dishonorable discharge, and was

sentenced to life in prison.

* Accomplice Charles Vins, received only a three month sentence for his role.
(He cut a deal with prosecutors).

* And now, convicted murderer Helvey will receive a clemency hearing to
determine if his sentence should be *reduced* !!

* According to Michael Petrelis' posting in AOL, the clemency hearing is
scheduled for July 16. Petrelis' phone number is 415-621-6267.

ACTION NEEDED:

* Please write a letter and make a phone call, **STRONGLY URGING** that Helvey's
sentence **REMAIN AT LIFE IN PRISON**.

Write to:

Naval Clemency & Parole Boards

Dept. of Army

US Disciplinary Barracks

Attn: Boards Branch, DIA

300 McPherson Avenue

Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027-5223

And please call (with the same message):

Jocelyn Wolf

Victim Liaison

913-684-5223

(FAX numbers are not available.)

OTHER INFORMATION:

* Schindler's mother, Dorothy Hajdys-Holman, is also circulating petitions in
an effort to gather one million signatures from people who believe Helvey
should serve his full sentence. She hopes to have the signatures by the
summer of 2002, which is when Helvey's parole hearing (which is different
than clemency) is currently scheduled. To obtain a copy of the petition,
please write to:

Dorothy Hajdys-Holman

P.O. Box 104

Steger, IL 60475

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 8-JUL-1996 08:33:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01I6TO3WL9I8002FEK@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Mon,
08 Jul 1996 08:32:20 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from emout13.mail.aol.com (emout13.mx.aol.com)

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-7 #6879) id <01I6TO3XRBSC00007Z@STORM.EOP.GOV>;
Mon, 08 Jul 1996 08:32:20 -0700 (MST)

Received: by emout13.mail.aol.com (8.6.12/8.6.12) id IAA13088; Mon,
08 Jul 1996 08:29:23 -0400

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: owner-hrc-news@netra-1.hrcusa.org@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-JUL-1996 22:57:00.00

SUBJECT: Senate Passes Hate-Free 1997 Defense Authorization Bill

TO: hrc-news (hrc-news@netra-1.hrcusa.org@INET@EOPMRX)

READ:NOT READ

IND_TO: Paul Yandura (YANDURA_P) (WHO)

READ:11-JUL-1996 09:47:06.19

TEXT:

NEWS from the
Human Rights Campaign

1101 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
email: communications@hrcusa.org
WWW: <http://www.hrcusa.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

UNLIKE HOUSE, SENATE PASSES HATE-FREE
1997 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Senate Bill Not Loaded with Anti-Gay Language

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THE HRC ONLINE ACTION CENTER
<http://www.hrcusa.org>

WASHINGTON -- The Senate version of the 1997 defense authorization bill, passed today by a vote of 68-31, is free of hateful, anti-gay amendments, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"The Senate bill is a stark contrast to the House version, which extremist members of Congress loaded with ugly, anti-gay measures," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's legislative deputy. "We are confident that when the two bills go to conference, that these House measures will be stripped out, as they should be."

In May, when the House considered the defense bill, extremists led by Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif., used the legislation to push their obsessive, anti-gay social agenda, rather than deal with the nation's vital defense interests.

At Dornan's behest, they attached the following irrelevant and

inappropriate measures to the 1997 defense authorization bill:

a mandate to discharge, within two months of diagnosis, all members of the armed services with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. A similar measure, enacted in January, was repealed by Congress on April 25;

a gratuitous reopening of the ban on gays in the military and a reversion to the old anti-gay policy, including reinstating the policy of asking recruits their sexual orientation and sanctioning witch hunts of suspected gay men and lesbians.

The Senate version of the defense bill makes no mention of the policy on gays in the military. It also includes an amendment, introduced by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would instruct the services to treat all service members with chronic illnesses uniformly.

"The Dornan provision singles out service members with HIV and treats them differently from those with other chronic medical conditions," said Stachelberg.

Currently, service members with HIV are allowed to serve their country as long as they can perform their duties, but they are not deployed overseas. The same policy applies to service members who have other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease or cancer.

"Congress spoke on this issue already when it repealed Dornan's HIV discharge measure in April," Stachelberg said. "Spite and bigotry are the only conceivable reasons why Bob Dornan would have reintroduced this measure after seeing it resoundingly defeated."

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

- 30 -

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ATT CREATION TIME/DATE:10-JUL-1996 22:57:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <0116XAVFN60W0011MA@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for yandura_p@a1.eop.gov; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 22:56:49 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from svcs1.digex.net (svcs1.digex.net)

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-7 #6879) id <0116XAVC511400007U@STORM.EOP.GOV> for yandura_p@a1.eop.gov; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 22:56:44 -0700 (MST)

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10 Jul 1996 22:56:36 -0400 (EDT)
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10 Jul 1996 22:54:06 -0400
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id WAA16807; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 22:50:18 -0400
Received: from mail.hrcusa.org (mail.hrcusa.org [205.197.4.67])
by svcs1.digex.net (8.7.5/8.7.3) with SMTP id WAA07147 for
<hrc-news@lists.hrcusa.org>; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 22:51:58 -0400 (EDT)
Received: from ccMail by mail.hrcusa.org (SMTPLINK V2.10.08)
id AA837039185; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 15:51:51 -0500 (EST)
Precedence: bulk
X-Listprocessor-version: 7.2 -- ListProcessor by CREN
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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: BCS41@aol.com@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-JUL-1996 09:04:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles - 7/10/96

TO: Yandura_P (Yandura_P@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ:10-JUL-1996 10:15:45.77

TO: Socarides_R (Socarides_R@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ:10-JUL-1996 12:52:41.82

TEXT:

CONTENTS:

1. THE NEW YORK TIMES: Frank Rich column - Gay "Friend of Bill" Clinton writes book - while Mr. Mixner doesn't doubt Mr. Clinton's civil rights convictions, he dramatizes just how easily they're surrendered for political profit
2. DES MOINES REGISTER: School board votes 6-0 in favor of sexual orientation term, to consternation of religious right-wingers
3. THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: MTV's new season of "The Real World" which premieres tonight isn't the real world at all, due to the camera's presence
4. PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS: Homosexual travel a growing industry

THE NEW YORK TIMES

229 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY, 10036

FAX: 212-556-3622, E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

FRANK RICH COLUMN

AN F.O.B.'s LAMENT

Tired of Clinton-bashing books featuring false allegations of liaisons at the Marriott and overhyped accounts of tête-à-têtes with Eleanor Roosevelt? "Stranger Among Friends," the new memoir by David Mixner rolling into stores this week, would seem the perfect antidote. Mr. Mixner, a prominent 60's activist who grew up to be a Democratic Party insider, has been a friend of Bill Clinton's since anti-war protest brought them together in 1969. He raised over \$1 million for the '92 Clinton-Gore campaign. Speaking by phone from Los Angeles on the eve of his book tour, he says he will "absolutely" vote for Mr. Clinton this year and urges others "to do the same." What more sympathetic author could the President get?

Mr. Mixner's impassioned book, however, leaves a far more disturbing impression of the Clinton Presidency than the summer's more disposable beach reads -- and precisely because it is written from an often affectionate point of view by a liberal Democrat. There are no cheap shots or sour grapes in "Stranger Among Friends" and no trumped-up "bombshells." What there is instead is a persuasive account of a White House prone to selling out principle for short-term political gain, cherishing polls and what Mr. Mixner calls its "political hit people" above all else. "The President fired Joycelyn Elders for talking about safe sex," he observed this week, "and yet he hasn't fired anyone for filegate."

While Mr. Mixner is hardly the first, or the millionth, to fault Mr. Clinton for cold-hearted political expediency and negotiable convictions, his poignantly told story has added weight because of his personal investment, as a gay man, in the Clinton Presidency. Born three days apart from Mr. Clinton in similarly unprepossessing small-town circumstances, Mr. Mixner also dreamed from childhood of a life in public service. Yet he learned early that his "terrible secret" of homosexuality precluded him from following his friend's path into government.

By the late 70's, Mr. Mixner had come out and joined the movement to tear down the barriers that had so circumscribed his own ambitions. But even within the Democratic Party, he found himself treated as a stranger by supposed friends. Among other indignities, he recounts how the '88 Dukakis campaign spurned an offer of a hefty donation from openly gay contributors, in a manner that would have done the '96 Dole campaign proud.

Bill Clinton's understanding of gay issues and his comfort level with gay people promised much more. "We deeply believed this would be a turning point in our history," Mr. Mixner writes of Election Night '92. But disillusionment arrived swiftly, in a series of White House betrayals he observed firsthand as a behind-the-scenes intermediary in the fracas over gays in the military. As presented in graphic detail by Mr. Mixner, the arrogance and incompetence of Clinton Administration officials (and he names them) was exceeded only by their callousness.

Though the phrase "gays in the military" has now passed into the language as shorthand for the chaos and alleged leftist extremism of the Clinton Administration's maiden year, this retelling of the awful tale reminds us that it was fundamental American justice, not a President's poll numbers, that was most importantly at stake: the right of patriotic gay people like Margarethe Cammermeyer and Keith Meinhold to risk their lives for their country without having to hide in a closet. While Mr. Mixner doesn't doubt Mr. Clinton's civil rights convictions, he dramatizes just how easily they're surrendered for political profit.

Needless to say, Mr. Mixner finds the same callowness in subsequent Administration behavior, most recently in the President's attempts "to out-Gingrich Gingrich" by promising to sign the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. "It's this year's Sister Souljah -- a way to show he isn't beholden to gay people," Mr. Mixner says, adding sadly that this time "the White House's political calculations are correct," since gay voters "have noplacelse to go."

But if Mr. Mixner's view of the President resonated only with gay Americans, it would not seem so devastating an indictment. His bittersweet political odyssey doesn't need to invoke seances, Paula Jones or even Whitewater to articulate the most profound doubts of many who will vote to re-elect Bill Clinton this year.

* NOTE: Frank Rich's e-mail address is FRich@nytimes.com

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD HEARS OPINIONS, DEFINES 'SEXUAL ORIENTATION'

By Kathy A. Bolten

After nearly an hour of public comment, the Des Moines school board voted unanimously Tuesday in favor of a resolution that defines the term "sexual orientation."

The board has grappled with the controversial issue for weeks and has

heard hours of public comment - both from those who want the term "sexual orientation" eliminated from the district's anti-discrimination hiring policy and from those who want the policy left alone.

Tuesday night was no different.

Nine of the 13 speakers asked the board to either delete the term from the policy or spent their five minutes of speaking time condemning homosexuals.

Others applauded the board for defining "sexual orientation" and explaining in the resolution that the policy doesn't protect people who have committed illegal acts.

Doris Swanson was one who objected to the resolution.

"Sexual orientation is not needed in the hiring policy," said Swanson of 3301 Terrace Drive. "The homosexual has legal rights identical to those of any other citizen, but he wants the right that the heterosexual does not have. ... Harassment of anyone for any reason is not appropriate.

"However, there is a moral difference between giving special protection to people of good character and giving special protection to men who commit sodomy with other men," Swanson added.

Sam Massey, a Des Moines minister representing the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, called the resolution "a good one."

"It reflects the rule of law which is so precious to all of us as Americans," said Massey. "In my opinion it doesn't endorse anything or anybody. But rather it holds up anti-discrimination as a virtue in this democracy."

Massey also told the school board: "it is my hope that once you have adopted this resolution that you can move ahead and concentrate on educating our young people and preparing them for citizenry."

LITTLE COMMENT

Board members had little comment on the resolution and voted 6-0 to adopt it. Board member Suzette Jensen was absent for the vote.

Member Laura Sands said the resolution reflected a common ground between two differing viewpoints.

The resolution defines sexual orientation as "homosexuality, bisexuality, lesbianism, and heterosexuality." The definition comes from the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Romer v. Evans*.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

FACTS OF LIFE - MTV'S STILL-PROVOCATIVE 'REAL WORLD' NEEDS TO ACKNOWLEDGE CAMERA'S INFLUENCE (excerpt)

By Steve Johnson, Tribune Television Critic

...It just seems silly and obstinate that "The Real World" refuses to acknowledge it is a cultural phenomenon and that some of its participants enter this Warholian bargain fully expecting to become stars. Or that the show refuses to acknowledge that a participant's moonlight walk hand-in-hand with a new beau is changed by a camera being there recording it for national consumption.

Forcing a business startup will surely force a lot of the series' requisite conflict, but it seems as artificial a notion as much of the Miami Beach architecture.

Indeed, during Wednesday's first meeting to come up with a group business plan, Flora, the annoying Russian-born exhibitionist bartender from Boston, stomps out because Dan, the not-yet-annoying gay Kansan, calls her idea for a beautiful-people coffee house shallow and unworthy.

This, of course, is the same Dan who gleefully gets a job at a fluffy

fashion magazine called Ocean Drive.

(In one stark example of the show playing dumb, Dan at his interview is late, underdressed and unimpressive. He gets the job anyway. Could it possibly be that the Ocean Drive folk recognized free publicity when it walked in the door trailing a camera crew?)

We don't really expect the Dans on these shows to understand the conflict between words and deeds. That is part of growing up...

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA, 19101

FAX: 215-854-5691, E-MAIL: dailynews.opinion@phillynews.com

Friday, July 5, 1996

HOMOSEXUAL TRAVEL A GROWING INDUSTRY

Associated Press

As the cruise ship glides toward the next Greek island, Mark Dietz, lounging by the pool, leans over and kisses his boyfriend. They hold hands. They talk intimately.

No one stares. In fact, no one even seems to notice. Dietz, a 43-year-old health-care management consultant from Minneapolis, is on a gay-only cruise.

"You have this great feeling of freedom that you can be exactly who you want to be," said Dietz, who has been on eight gay cruises. "You can hold hands and kiss in public."

Cruises like this one by RSVP Travel Productions Inc. are part of the growing gay and lesbian travel industry, which includes everything from gay bed-and-breakfasts to gay and lesbian tours through Europe.

"Gay and lesbian travel is the up-and-coming niche market in the travel business," said travel agent Paul Bernard, president of Adventure Travel in Scarborough, Maine. "You're talking about people who have higher than average incomes and fewer expenses because they're not raising kids - most of them. They have a lot of disposable income."

Bernard became a member of the International Gay Travel Association four years ago. Now, being the only IGTA-member travel agent in Maine, 40 percent of his customers are gay or lesbian.

The IGTA, based in Key West, Fla., estimates its member travel agents book about \$1 billion in business a year. And its guest house and hotel members bring in more than \$75 million. The travel association, which started in 1983 with 25 members, now has more than 1,200 members from travel agencies to major airlines to hotels.

"The tourism industry is starting to wake up to the fact that we're everywhere and we have money to spend," said Thom Tabor, 34, of San Francisco, who is planning his first trip to England this month with his lover. But Tabor, originally from South Portland, Maine, confessed he's a little apprehensive about his upcoming vacation. How will the British react to two men in the same room? In the same bed? Can they hold hands?

"In San Francisco, you get spoiled by the fact that you don't have to hide anything," he said.

"If we're going to a big city we have no hesitation," Tabor said. "But when you get out into more rural areas, it becomes a question mark."

That is where the gay-friendly travel agency comes in. Bernard set them up in gay-welcoming areas and reserved rooms at gay bed-and-breakfasts. Bernard calls this the comfort factor - the biggest reason why gays and lesbians book their travel through him. Gay couples don't get hassled with looks and hotel workers snickering, "OHHHH, you want ONE king-sized bed. Are you sure you don't want two beds?" Bernard said. "You know people get sick of that."

*

TOURS WOO GAY, LESBIAN MARKET

by Eron Barrett, Daily News Staff Writer

When Mayor Ed Rendell signed the city's gay-couples benefits bill last month, he helped put Philadelphia on the map as a progressive city where gays and lesbians can feel welcomed.

Now the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau is attempting to do the same.

In conjunction with Gray Line tours, the visitors bureau is promoting tour packages specifically designed for gay and lesbian couples.

They consist of two tours: The Philadelphia Phrolic and Philadelphia Phantasy.

The Phrolic includes a one-night stay in a Center City hotel, a bus tour of the city, cappuccino at Millennium and a complimentary Gay Guide of Center City.

The Phantasy trip includes an additional day's stay. Dinner at the Inn Philadelphia and admission to the Philadelphia Museum of Art also are included in both packages.

The packages range in price from \$112 to \$219 per person and include the option of an automobile from National Car Rental.

Gay and lesbian couples are becoming increasingly visible throughout society, marketing experts say, and so are their demands for the same services that are so readily available to heterosexuals.

The visitors bureau tourism-sales manager, Christopher Guidone, devised the packages shortly after Philadelphia snagged the 14th annual International Gay Travel Association Convention scheduled for next May. The group has 1,100 members, 650 of whom are travel agents.

"It made sense to look at ways to market [the packages] to travel agencies," he said, noting that the group's travel agents will receive a 13 percent commission for every tour package they sell. Other agents will get a 10 percent commission.

The convention will kick off a big weekend in May 1997 for gay and lesbian events. Pride Fest, one of the largest annual events for gays and lesbians, is scheduled for May 9 through 11.

"The city has a lot to offer," Guidone said. "It gives them another reason to be here."

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE:10-JUL-1996 09:04:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <0116WHRXH6WW000TB7@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 09:04:02 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from emout08.mail.aol.com (emout08.mx.aol.com)

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-7 #6879) id <0116WHRZJ4YM00007U@STORM.EOP.GOV>; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 09:04:04 -0700 (MST)

Received: by emout08.mail.aol.com (8.6.12/8.6.12) id JAA18748; Wed, 10 Jul 1996 09:02:39 -0400

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: qnews@channelq.com@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-JUL-1996 04:26:00.00

SUBJECT: Public Service Rebroadcast - Daily Digest

TO: Channel_Q_Daily_Digest (Channel_Q_Daily_Digest@aimnet.com@INET@EOPMRX)
READ:NOT READ

IND_TO: Paul Yandura (YANDURA_P) (WHO)
READ:11-JUL-1996 09:45:20.22

TEXT:

Channel Q Public Service Rebroadcast Facility - Daily Digest for Thursday,
July 11, 1996

1. Articles - 7/10/96
2. Articles - 7/10/96 (2)
3. Articles - 7/10/96 (3)
4. Articles - 7/10/96 (4)

Date: 10 Jul 1996 06:11:00 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/10/96

CONTENTS:

1. THE NEW YORK TIMES: Frank Rich column - Gay "Friend of Bill" Clinton writes book - "While Mr. Mixner doesn't doubt Mr. Clinton's civil rights convictions, he dramatizes just how easily they're surrendered for political profit
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229 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY, 10036
FAX: 212-556-3622, E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com
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Wednesday, July 10, 1996

FACTS OF LIFE - MTV'S STILL-PROVOCATIVE 'REAL WORLD' NEEDS TO ACKNOWLEDGE CAMERA'S INFLUENCE (excerpt)

By Steve Johnson, Tribune Television Critic

...It just seems silly and obstinate that "The Real World" refuses to acknowledge it is a cultural phenomenon and that some of its participants enter this Warholian bargain fully expecting to become stars. Or that the show refuses to acknowledge that a participant's moonlight walk hand-in-hand with a new beau is changed by a camera being there recording it for national consumption.

Forcing a business startup will surely force a lot of the series' requisite conflict, but it seems as artificial a notion as much of the Miami Beach architecture.

Indeed, during Wednesday's first meeting to come up with a group business plan, Flora, the annoying Russian-born exhibitionist bartender from Boston, stomps out because Dan, the not-yet-annoying gay Kansan, calls her idea for a beautiful-people coffee house shallow and unworthy.

This, of course, is the same Dan who gleefully gets a job at a fluffy fashion magazine called Ocean Drive.

(In one stark example of the show playing dumb, Dan at his interview is late, underdressed and unimpressive. He gets the job anyway. Could it possibly be that the Ocean Drive folk recognized free publicity when it walked in the door trailing a camera crew?)

We don't really expect the Dances on these shows to understand the conflict between words and deeds. That is part of growing up...

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

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Friday, July 5, 1996

HOMOSEXUAL TRAVEL A GROWING INDUSTRY

Associated Press

As the cruise ship glides toward the next Greek island, Mark Dietz, lounging by the pool, leans over and kisses his boyfriend. They hold hands. They talk intimately.

No one stares. In fact, no one even seems to notice. Dietz, a 43-year-old health-care management consultant from Minneapolis, is on a gay-only cruise.

"You have this great feeling of freedom that you can be exactly who you want to be," said Dietz, who has been on eight gay cruises. "You can hold hands and kiss in public."

Cruises like this one by RSVP Travel Productions Inc. are part of the growing gay and lesbian travel industry, which includes everything from gay bed-and-breakfasts to gay and lesbian tours through Europe.

"Gay and lesbian travel is the up-and-coming niche market in the travel business," said travel agent Paul Bernard, president of Adventure Travel in Scarborough, Maine. "You're talking about people who have higher than average incomes and fewer expenses because they're not raising kids - most of them. They have a lot of disposable income."

Bernard became a member of the International Gay Travel Association four years ago. Now, being the only IGTA-member travel agent in Maine, 40 percent of his customers are gay or lesbian.

The IGTA, based in Key West, Fla., estimates its member travel agents book about \$1 billion in business a year. And its guest house and hotel members bring in more than \$75 million. The travel association, which started in 1983 with 25 members, now has more than 1,200 members from travel agencies to major airlines to hotels.

"The tourism industry is starting to wake up to the fact that we're everywhere and we have money to spend," said Thom Tabor, 34, of San

Francisco, who is planning his first trip to England this month with his lover. But Tabor, originally from South Portland, Maine, confessed he's a little apprehensive about his upcoming vacation. How will the British react to two men in the same room? In the same bed? Can they hold hands?

``In San Francisco, you get spoiled by the fact that you don't have to hide anything," he said.

``If we're going to a big city we have no hesitation," Tabor said. ``But when you get out into more rural areas, it becomes a question mark."

That is where the gay-friendly travel agency comes in. Bernard set them up in gay-welcoming areas and reserved rooms at gay bed-and-breakfasts. Bernard calls this the comfort factor - the biggest reason why gays and lesbians book their travel through him. Gay couples don't get hassled with looks and hotel workers snickering, ``OHHHH, you want ONE king-sized bed. Are you sure you don't want two beds?" Bernard said. ``You know people get sick of that."

*

TOURS WOO GAY, LESBIAN MARKET

by Eron Barrett, Daily News Staff Writer

When Mayor Ed Rendell signed the city's gay-couples benefits bill last month, he helped put Philadelphia on the map as a progressive city where gays and lesbians can feel welcomed.

Now the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau is attempting to do the same.

In conjunction with Gray Line tours, the visitors bureau is promoting tour packages specifically designed for gay and lesbian couples.

They consist of two tours: The Philadelphia Phrolic and Philadelphia Phantasy.

The Phrolic includes a one-night stay in a Center City hotel, a bus tour of the city, cappuccino at Millennium and a complimentary Gay Guide of Center City.

The Phantasy trip includes an additional day's stay. Dinner at the Inn Philadelphia and admission to the Philadelphia Museum of Art also are included in both packages.

The packages range in price from \$112 to \$219 per person and include the option of an automobile from National Car Rental.

Gay and lesbian couples are becoming increasingly visible throughout society, marketing experts say, and so are their demands for the same services that are so readily available to heterosexuals.

The visitors bureau tourism-sales manager, Christopher Guidone, devised the packages shortly after Philadelphia snagged the 14th annual International Gay Travel Association Convention scheduled for next May. The group has 1,100 members, 650 of whom are travel agents.

``It made sense to look at ways to market [the packages] to travel agencies," he said, noting that the group's travel agents will receive a 13 percent commission for every tour package they sell. Other agents will get a 10 percent commission.

The convention will kick off a big weekend in May 1997 for gay and lesbian events. Pride Fest, one of the largest annual events for gays and lesbians, is scheduled for May 9 through 11.

``The city has a lot to offer," Guidone said. ``It gives them another reason to be here."

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BAY WINDOWS

Boston, Mass.

E-MAIL: baywindo@world.std.com

June 27-July 2, 1996

GUEST OPINION:

SAME-SEX UNIONS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

by Valerie Abrahamsen, Th.D.

(The author is a New Testament scholar and early church historian with a Doctor of Theology degree from Harvard Divinity School.)

As the debate about "gay marriage" heats up, it behooves us to look at recent scholarly work on the subject. Were there precedents for same-sex unions in Western (Judeo-Christian) tradition, our very own?

In a word, yes.

The late John Boswell, a Yale historian, published "Same-sex Unions in Premodern Europe" in 1994, shortly before he died. The following points are discussed at length with copious footnoting: 1) the ancient world out of which Christianity emerged was basically bisexual; especially men and probably women enjoyed emotional, even committed, relationships with members of both sexes; 2) pagan culture celebrated same-sex unions with rites and rituals, same-sex couples were buried together, and the homosexual "lifestyle" was not condemned; and 3) the early church appropriated these pagan rituals and composed its own liturgies and prayers for the blessing of same-sex couples. (Several such liturgies are translated in Boswell's book and attest to high standards of love, commitment and morality.)

Heterosexual marriage in antiquity was basically a business contract uniting two families for financial and property reasons. Prior to marriage, Greek and Roman men of the upper classes enjoyed sexual relations with adolescent boys and young men; such liaisons were legal for most of the era and served to some extent as mentoring relationships preparing the young man for adulthood.

Other scholars such as myself have uncovered archaeological evidence for same-sex unions. At Philippi in northern Greece there are four and possibly six examples of two men and two women buried together, dating from the fourth to sixth centuries of the Common Era (CE) and, significantly, associated with the church. One female couple,

Pancharia and Posidonia, bear the titles canoness and deacon, respectively.

One other female pair--Euodiana and Dorothea--was interred in one of

Philippi's six basilicas, as were two of the male pairs--Faustinos with Donatos and Gourasios with Konstantios; all of these men were priests (Greek presbyter.) Another basilica held the graves of Alexandra, buried with a Glukeria or a Glukerios, and Kyriakos with Nikandra or Nikandros or Nikanoros.

Edessa, a city in northwestern Greece, had Martyrios, priest, buried with Demetrios, rector; Dionysios, carder, and Demetrios, soldier; Eudoxios, priest, with John, deacon; Droseria and Eudoxia along with Anthemios, physician, and his wife Sophia; and Athanasios with Chryseros, both male.

There are reasons to question whether these were really same-sex couples in life. First, maybe these grave monuments belonged to two people who died at roughly the same time and were buried together for convenience. Possibly, but husbands and wives were buried together and obviously didn't die at the same time in most instances. Also, in antiquity most women's grave monuments designated them as someone's wife, even if a woman was not buried with her husband, and a single woman would generally be interred or memorialized with her biological family, not with a non-related female.

Can we know if these ancient couples were really emotionally committed to each other in life, like husbands and wives? Many heterosexual couples, ancient and modern, have cohabited without being sexually active yet are still considered married. In the context of sexuality on the ancient world, according to Boswell, it is even more likely that same-sex relationships had an emotional and erotic component than opposite-gender pairings did.

Well, could these have been committed couples with the church not knowing they had an erotic relationship (or turning a blind eye) and thus most probably **not** blessing or in any way sanctioning their unions? In antiquity where, Boswell argues, same-sex coupling was morally neutral, it is highly likely that everyone, including church leaders, knew that a given pair was in fact a same-sex couple in a committed relationship.

What, then, does all this mean in the current national debate?

A major argument used by people of faith against homosexuality, especially the church's blessing of same sex couples, is twofold: 1) heterosexual marriage and celibacy are the only legitimate God-sanctioned lifestyles in the Bible and among the early Christians, and 2) homosexuality is evil and a perversion of God's creation. So-called Christians justify the discrimination, abuse, assault, and death of lesbians and gay men by appealing to Biblical arguments and early Christian practices as they perceive them.

However, we can now point to beautiful early Christian liturgies for same-sex unions and to same-sex couples, even in high positions, who were buried together under church auspices. If our nation's fears and disgust of homosexuals and same-sex relationships are based on Judeo-Christian scripture and tradition, that tradition actually speaks a different truth, as shown by state-of-the-art research and documentation. Our ancestors in the church did celebrate the gifts and lives of people who loved members of their own sex. Can't we?

LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER

Lexington, Kentucky

Monday, July 8, 1996

COMMENTARY BY NEIL CHETHIK

GAY MARRIAGE STRENGTHENS INSTITUTION FOR ALL

In a nation wracked by child abuse, domestic violence, rampant divorce and other family tragedies, it's hard to believe that politicians would spend

their energy condemning people for loving each other. But that's exactly the effect of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which would prevent the U.S. government from recognizing same-sex marriages, even if those marriages became legal in individual states.

The act's congressional sponsors describe it as "protection" for the American family. However, as a married man, I am unable to discern the threat. On the contrary, I've come to believe, legalizing gay unions would actually strengthen the institution of marriage.

I did not always hold this conviction.

As a teen-ager, I was bombarded with the same messages about homosexuals as most Americans. And I absorbed those messages: Gays were strange, perverted, lacking in morals. Besides, in my obsession with my own burgeoning heterosexuality, it seemed unfathomable that any male would not be sexually interested in females.

In the ensuing years, my opinions began to shift as I learned about the origins of sexual orientation. But I didn't change much until about age 25. That's when I met Bob and Scott.

Bob was a co-worker of Kelly, my then-girlfriend whom I would later marry. One day, Bob asked Kelly whether we'd like to join them for dinner. Kelly accepted readily, but my discomfort was palpable. Suffice it to say that on the car ride there, I asked Kelly what I should do if either of these men tried to hug me.

My uneasiness lasted throughout that evening. And even today, more than a decade later, it still creeps up on me at times. But as I got to know Bob and Scott, and then other gay people since then, I reached this conclusion about homosexual relationships:

They are not much different than heterosexual ones.

At their essence is the same kind of spark that exists between straight couples. They go through the same kinds of excitements and disappointments. And, like their straight counterparts, gay relationships are more about respect, trust and commitment than they are about sex.

The most significant difference between gay and straight relationships, I discovered, was the atmosphere in which they exist. The love between straight people is celebrated and affirmed; gay love is attacked and condemned.

Legalizing homosexual marriage would diminish these attacks. It would take the wind from the sails of the true sexual bigots, encouraging an evolution in attitude similar to the one we've experienced with interracial and interreligious unions. Gay people, at least to some extent, would be freed from their embattled status.

But the benefits of gay marriage, I believe, would extend beyond the gay community.

The rest of us would benefit because legitimizing gay marriage would bolster the institution of marriage. How? By reminding all of us that at its core, marriage is not so much about gender, or sex, or politics, but about caring, maturing, committed love.

Homosexual relationships are not much different than heterosexual ones.

* Neil Chethik is a syndicated columnist who lives in Lexington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 9, 1996

GAY MARRIAGE BAN GETS FIRST CALIF. SENATE TEST

By STEVE LAWRENCE, Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO -- The white-hot debate over gay marriages moved to a state Senate committee Tuesday.

The Senate Judiciary Committee scheduled a hearing on a bill by Assemblyman Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, that would bar California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Current California law defines marriage as a civil contract between a man and a woman, but the state also recognizes valid marriages performed in other states.

Knight's bill was prompted by the possibility that Hawaii would legalize same-sex marriages. States that have enacted legislation to ban gay marriages since 1995 include Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Utah.

Legislation is also pending in Congress that would allow states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere.

In California, Knight's bill passed the Republican-controlled state Assembly in January but it has been bottled up in the Democrat-dominated Judiciary Committee since then.

Opponents were expected to offer amendments that would make the bill unacceptable to its supporters. That was the same tactic that Republicans used last month to kill a Democratic bill that would raise the minimum wage.

Debate over the bill was already hot before the hearing. Bill supporters, led by conservative church groups, charged that gay marriages would result in "cultural meltdown."

"Legalizing homosexual marriage would place our youth at risk, in addition to having a disastrous effect on individual citizens, businesses, churches and practically every segment of our society," claimed Louis Sheldon, chairman of a group called the Traditional Values Coalition.

But opponents said the bill would deny gays basic rights.

"For every minority in this United States, the most powerful tool that we have used historically to keep them in second-class citizenship is denying them the ability to marry," said Assemblywoman Shelia Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, one of two openly gay members of the Legislature.

"Why is that? Because marriage is a recognition of humanity. If you recognize a person's love and their commitment to family on an equal basis with your own, you can no longer deny their humanity," she said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Denver, Colorado

Monday, July 8, 1996

LEGALIZING 'NON-TRADITIONAL' RELATIONSHIPS

by Dirk Biermann

Question: My partner and I have been in a committed lesbian relationship for almost three years. We are thinking about buying a house, and plan to adopt children. Should we put our plans in a legal document?

Answer: These days, what constitutes "family" is undergoing a lot of change. Non-traditional families make up an increasing number of households, and it's important for all involved to understand their rights and obligations.

In a traditional family, where a married couple has biological or adopted children, state laws usually determine issues relating to ownership of property, inheritance, support obligations and responsibility for debts, etc.

For instance, if the husband or wife dies, state laws decide how property is divided among the surviving spouse and children. If a couple divorces, a court will decide property division, custody, child support and visitation issues. If a family member becomes disabled, the next-of-kin can make medical decisions.

Wills and contracts aren't needed to enforce rights and obligations. (Although couples can, if they want, plan and modify what state law dictates.)

Relationships in "non traditional" families, however, may not be legally recognized by the state.

If she doesn't have a will, your partner's parents or siblings would probably inherit her property. In an adoption, only one partner can be the legal mother. If you split up, your partner might not have any right to custody or visitation, or any child-support obligation. You wouldn't be able to ask a judge in divorce court to divide your joint property. If one of you became disabled, the other might not be able to participate in life or death decisions.

What's defined by state law for traditional families can, to a great extent, be defined in wills or agreements for non-traditional families.

A co-habitation agreement can set forth who owns what property and make financial obligations clear. A will ensures your partner would inherit your property. A medical power of attorney can give your partner the right to participate in health-care decisions in case you become disabled and can't make these decisions.

If you adopt, make sure the parent / child relationship between the child and the non-legal mother is preserved in the event of death or a break-up. Consider making your partner legal guardian for the child, providing her with medical and financial powers of attorney and designating her agent for purposes of exercising parental decisions. Also, consider an agreement that defines visitation and support obligations in the event of a break-up. Since such agreements haven't been tested in the courts, you might want to include a binding arbitration provision.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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July 9, 1996

LOVE DOCTOR IS ON CALL

* Capurro plays radio adviser to probe relationships

By PETER STACK, Chronicle Staff Writer

To writer and actor Scott Capurro, gay male audiences are tough. Even with a big following in town, he expects to be a little edgy when he opens his new solo comedy show, "The Doctor is ON," tomorrow at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint.

"I'm not a very reaffirming comedian to begin with," he said last week.

"I don't do stuff like 'We're gay and isn't it just fabulous?'"

In fact, he said, "sometimes I feel I lose it more with a gay audience because they're always trying to tell you that you're not so unique because they've heard it all before."

"It makes me a little more bold."

The 33-year-old gay performer from San Francisco is best known for his radio psychologist persona on the Alex Bennett Show on rock station KITS (Live 105). But he has also gained critical praise for two other shows, "Scott's Love and Affection Tour" and "Risk-Gay," both solo theatrical pieces he toured in the United States and the United Kingdom.

"The new show is more theatrical, a little less stand-up comedy," said Capurro. He'll don radio studio headgear and use other broadcast props to indulge his "morbid sense of detail" about relationships.

"I invite the audience into the show with questionnaires before I

start," said Capurro. "I play this psychologist who takes calls from all sorts of people, and that includes the audience. Of course, a lot of it is about sex, but it isn't necessarily graphic or dirty sex. It's darker than that -- it's about sexuality."

"The Doctor is ON" is also about a frustrating affair Capurro had with a male stripper and hooker who later dumped him. The stripper catered to male clients in a Tenderloin club but lives as a straight man outside of his work.

"Men are so complicated. They just can't deal with sex very well," said Capurro. "This guy was from Texas, and he thinks he likes women."

Although his audiences are now 70 percent gay men, Capurro first made his reputation as a gay comedian while performing in straight clubs. He has done stand-up across the country and had a big following at the old Improv clubs.

"In a way, I feel more comfortable with a gay male audience," he said, "because I can speak in shorthand and talk about more things. But sometimes, too, I feel like I'm just performing at a high school reunion where they know all the stuff. They might say, 'Well, he's cute, but we've heard that line before.'"

"With a straight audience, you get the sense you can be the shock agent. But it's so funny how nervous people get when you really start talking about sex. The straight males react. They fear you and they glower at you, and it's kind of a turn-on as a performer."

Capurro grew up in Daly City but moved with his family to San Anselmo as a teenager.

"I was completely closeted and angry," he said of his days at Sir Francis Drake High School. He was a top student, but with "total braces and headgear," he was a loner who was picked on by other kids.

"I was the kid that boys in the bathroom threw toilet paper at, or when they dissected squid in biology class, I was the one who wound up with a squid in my pocket."

But things changed when Capurro took a drama class and was invited to perform a brief opening monologue at a school variety show.

"Suddenly I got popular. I had friends, I was allowed to hang out with the basketball players and I got invited to parties. They said, 'You're not weird or creepy; you're funny.'"

Slowly Capurro began to deal with being gay, and by the time he went away to the University of California at Irvine, he "moved beyond the kind of fear you live through in a conservative Irish-Italian family" and came out. He fell in love with a man in his sophomore year, and they lived together for seven years.

At Irvine he caught the attention of an agent, and tried out for the film "The Breakfast Club." He said he was passed over for the role (eventually given to Anthony Michael Hall) because of his cocky attitude. "I regret it way much," he said. He finished college in a drama program at the University of Birmingham in England.

In San Francisco, Capurro was praised for his role as Emory in a Theatre Rhinoceros production of "The Boys in the Band." Among his credits are a commercial with Joe Montana and two small film parts: "Mrs. Doubtfire," as Harvey Fierstein's boyfriend, and "Heart and Souls," as an orchestra conductor. He is currently working on a book about male date rape, a problem he says is common but is largely hushed up in the gay community.

A tip about catching Capurro at Josie's: he has a strong local following and the place holds only 107 people, so get tickets early.

SCOTT CAPURRO

Scott Capurro performs his one-man show ``The Doctor is ON" tomorrow through July 28 at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St., San Francisco. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets: \$12. Call (415) 861-7933.

FEEDBACK:

* From GrndZeroCO@AOL.COM - I know nothing of Phillip Johnson except a few snippets through the years. Jeff Harris' criticism was vitriolic and obviously he holds a great deal of animosity toward him.

I would like to hear a different view. I have long believed that there are two sides to almost every story. Does anyone have a different view of this gay architect or is Harris view a correct one?

* From XLegionair@AOL.COM - Jeff Harris writes: >>No other architect, anywhere, has news services signaling the completion of a design to newspapers across the US.<<

In fact, many architects (particulary famous ones) promote themselves and their work via press releases. Why would Harris make this claim? What is his agenda? Also why is wrong for gay christians to erect a temple to their "god" when heterosexuals do it? And how does it promote the idea of "special rights" for homosexuals?

He also writes >>Character counts, even for architects. Philip Johnson supported Father Coughlin, a vitriolic anti-Semitic, rabble-rousing, American Catholic priest whose radio show pre-cursed Rush Limbaugh's in the 30s and 40s. Johnson joined Coughlin's Silver Shirts. Then Johnson moved to Germany to help the Nazis whom he greatly admired, following them to Poland in support of Hitler's troops after Germany invaded it. In a recent Vanity Fair article Johnson discussed his Nazi past and said he regretted it. How has Johnson expressed that regret? He has pursued business from Jewish clients.<<

As my Jewish life partner joked: "There's a crime, for ya!" Hold him accountable for a past (over 50 years ago) he has recanted and apologized for and then criticize him for making a living. Jewish clients were not forced to do business with him, those that did wanted to do business with him. Hardly a crime if you ask me.

-Daniel Jenkins

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 9, 1996

GAY MARRIAGE BAN STALLS IN CALIF. SENATE COMMITTEE

By STEVE LAWRENCE, Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO -- A heavily lobbied bill that would ban state recognition of gay marriages performed outside California stalled Tuesday in a Senate committee after opponents added potentially fatal amendments.

The Assembly measure got only a 3-1 vote in the Judiciary Committee after Democrats tacked on language that would give gay couples who signed domestic partnership agreements some of the same rights as husbands and wives.

The bill needed at least five aye votes to clear the nine-member panel.

Judiciary Committee chairman Charles Calderon, D-Montebello, delayed announcing the vote to give the bill's supporters additional time to round up support as the panel worked into the evening.

But the legislation's author, Assemblyman Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, said the bill would run the risk of a veto if the amendment wasn't removed.

"I suspect the governor won't sign it with that amendment," he said, charging that the language was added to protect Democrats who were strongly lobbied by the bill's opponents and supporters.

"It was totally a political move," he said.

California law defines marriage as a civil contract between a man and a woman, but the state also recognizes valid marriages performed elsewhere.

Knight's bill was prompted by the possibility that Hawaii would legalize same-sex marriages. Bill supporters said 15 other states have already enacted legislation similar to Knight's proposal.

Legislation is also pending in Congress that would allow states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere.

The amendments would allow two unmarried, unrelated adults to become "domestic partners" by establishing a common residence, agreeing to be jointly responsible for their expenses and filing a declaration with the state.

Domestic partners would have hospital visitation and conservatorship rights and the right to be named as their partner's beneficiary. The amendments also would give domestic partners health insurance benefits similar to those enjoyed by an employee's spouse.

The amendments are similar to a bill that was vetoed by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1994.

Sen. Nicholas Petris, the Oakland Democrat who proposed the amendments, suggested they would "substantially meet the desires of people who are opposed to the bill."

"With these amendments we can move forward with a reasonable program that shows some kindness and understanding," he said.

But Sen. Ray Haynes, R-Temecula, suggested the amendments came close to legalizing gay marriages.

"A piece of garbage by any other name smells the same way," he said.

Bill supporters contended that recognizing gay marriages would undermine heterosexual marriages, boost business costs and force schools to teach that homosexual marriages were proper.

"Legalizing homosexual marriage would place our youth at risk, in addition to having a disastrous effect on individual citizens, businesses, churches and practically every segment of our society," said Louis Sheldon, chairman of a group called the Traditional Values Coalition.

But bill opponents disputed all those claims.

"The issue is not if one approves of same-sex marriages," said

Assemblywoman Carol Migden, D-San Francisco, one of two openly gay members of the Legislature.

“Lesbian and gay unions have existed since the beginning of time. The issue is one of equality and fundamental human rights.”

Kathleen Sullivan, a Stanford University law professor, said the bill probably would face significant constitutional hurdles if it became law.

SKAGIT VALLEY HERALD

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Tuesday, July 9, 1996

BEEKSMA ASSAILS PHOTOS OF GAYS

* Lawmaker says SVC losing support because of controversial display

By Peter Kelley, Staff Writer

MOUNT VERNON o State Rep. Barney Beeksma told the Skagit Valley College trustees last night that an exhibit of gay and lesbian photographs displayed at the college this spring has cost the college support in the area, and may affect its support in the next legislative season.

Beeksma, R-Oak Harbor, was the first of many speakers in a lengthy meeting before a standing-room-only audience in the small trustees board room in SVC's Campus Center Annex.

John Meyer, chairman of the trustees, said the board would listen to both sides but would not debate the controversial issue.

The comments centered on the exhibit of 46 photographs of gay and lesbian individuals in everyday life that was displayed at the Norwood Cole Library at the college in May. The SVC display was funded and sponsored by the SVC Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Academic Union, a school-sponsored student group.

Saying he was speaking in the dual roles of citizen and Christian, Beeksma renewed his criticism of the college for agreeing to host the display. But he said it was not his place to condemn the homosexual lifestyle.

"Christians are called to a life of loving others," he told the trustees.

"This is not a case of hatred or it is a completely different issue."

Beeksma said the Bible sets forth clearly that homosexuality is a sin. He said it is not his business to interfere with the lifestyles of others. "But when the promotion of that kind of lifestyle invades a public institution such as this, that is when it becomes my business."

He said as a legislator, he had to assume that anything allowed to hang on the walls of SVC has the State of Washington's stamp of approval. He said all groups are entitled to use the SVC facilities, but for education, not promotion of any lifestyle, which he believes the photographs were.

"I have had numerous calls from students and faculty afraid to speak up (against the photo display) for fear of retribution," Beeksma said. "I can assure you it has cost the college support in the district and if it continues, it will cost the college support in the Legislature."

Beeksma also said that reaction to the display could hurt the SVC Foundation's ability to raise funds for the college. Later speakers disagreed.

Following Beeksma were more than a dozen other speakers, including area educators from a Christian school, public schools and SVC, and several gay and lesbian individuals.

Rep. Cheryl Hymes, R - Mount Vernon, said she felt the issue was not primarily the photography display, but about the principle of protecting the rights of the minority as well as the majority. These days, she said, Christians such as herself are in the minority.

"Believe me, it is not fun to be made fun of for being a Christian, or a conservative," Hymes said. "Being a Christian in this society gets you labeled as a nut case."

Hymes said she also has received calls from SVC students and staff who were afraid to speak out against the photo exhibit for fear of the school or faculty reaction.

"If that is not intolerance of the very thing we should be fighting, then I don't know what is."

Hymes said being tolerant of the homosexual lifestyle does not equate to accepting or condoning it. Of the college agreeing to host the photos, she asked, "What message are we conveying? That some convictions are respected and others are not? Is that academic quality? It is not."

Other speakers included some who argued that homosexuality leads to early death and that acceptance of homosexuality is the harbinger of doom for a society. One stated that Hitler's Third Reich was fueled by homosexuality.

Many in the audience applauded briefly after Bellingham resident Scott Wallin spoke. "I find it difficult to follow such unadulterated hogwash. I guess I'm just darn fed up," he said.

Wallin said when the display came to Bellingham, "the tide changed from against to for," and people began to accept it.

Sue Karahalios of Oak Harbor, a former state representative, said of Beeksmas' remarks, "I'm concerned there was a legal, legislative threat made here today. As a former legislator, I know that we are not to do that in public arenas."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

STATE AND LOCAL

PUBLIC SHOWS AMBIVALENCE ABOUT SAME SEX MARRIAGES

* Values: As issue catches fire, many suggest tolerance for the concept while not truly endorsing the unions.

By SHAWN HUBLER, Times Staff Writer

Manny Pinsky, a retired meat cutter, has been married 50 years. He met his wife at the Rose Bowl on a blind date. Ask him about wedlock and he will become an eloquent man:

"My marriage has probably fulfilled everything a person would want in his life," says Pinsky, 73, with a smile. "I can walk into a room with 500 people in it, and in 10 seconds I can spot Louise. I can tell you what perfume she wears--it's Opium--and if I didn't know she'd kill me. I could tell you her dress size, too."

Ask him about same-sex marriage, however, and the Woodland Hills grandfather isn't so sure.

"I think I know what the gays and lesbians want--what I have. A normal life," he said haltingly. "I feel for them. But I just can't reach the feeling that it [gay marriage] is normal. I'm just not ready for it, I guess."

It's a funny feeling, ambivalence, when you apply it to a concept as exalted and commonplace as the ol' ball and chain. But the roiling debate over same-sex marriage--a subject that until recently seemed to interest only a few gay rights and family values advocates--has increasingly begun to test the values of Americans of all stripes as the issue wends its way in an election year toward law.

So far, no state has legalized same-sex matrimony, but opponents of such unions expect that the courts in Hawaii will do so. If that happens,

other states may be constitutionally required to recognize the Hawaiian marriages.

That possibility, in turn, has set off a flurry of preemptive laws and a national debate. In California on Tuesday, it took the form of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on a bill prohibiting the state from recognizing gay and lesbian unions.

In and out of the statehouse, the cross-fire echoed the extremes of the national debate: This was either a cynical Republican political tactic or a desperate attempt to protect marriage as we know it.

But beyond the harsh words were the voices of the voters, people like Manny Pinsky, with mixed feelings and softer hearts.

Take, for instance, the moms arriving Tuesday morning to drop off their children at the Calvary Chapel complex in Costa Mesa.

Some shared the view of Deborah Conde, 35, of Huntington Beach, an evangelical Christian who called same-sex marriage "an abomination to the Lord."

But then there was Paula Weiher, a Lutheran from Fountain Valley, who didn't particularly approve of gay marriages, but saw no need for a ban.

"If I were real homophobic, maybe I would feel differently," she shrugged as her 10-year-old daughter headed to the church's basketball camp. "But I am not that way."

In Century City--deep in the heart of Los Angeles' liberal Westside--Lilli Friedland, a clinical psychologist, could muster no substantive argument against gay marriage, yet confessed a general uneasiness about the pace of social change.

Families are not what they once were, she mused, and neither are schools or religious organizations. Fewer and fewer of her patients are in close relationships, bound to others in loving and loyal ways.

Blended families, couples living together rather than marrying, inter-ethnic matches--all of these, she fears, have loosened the ties that bind. And now comes the question of same-sex marriage.

"What are the long-term consequences of all this?" she wondered. "Are the commitments just as real? What about the transmission of values? Will it be handled in the same way? Part of it is just not knowing what it will all mean to society. And the tumult seems to be accelerating. There is no time to pause and reflect and correct. It just seems overwhelming at times."

Even where feelings on the issue have tended to be most homogenous, there was uncertainty.

At Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade--in the district of Democratic Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, who has equated bans on same-sex marriage to past discrimination against slaves--a 66-year-old grandmother from Pacific Palisades found herself more open to the notion of gay nuptials than did her 13-year-old granddaughter.

"If two people are in a permanent relationship, then certainly that should be recognized," Joan Rudman said, steering her grandchild toward a matinee of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

But Rudman noted that her granddaughter had cringed when she saw two gay men together earlier in the day.

"I just think it's really weird," said Alex Lynch, 13. "I don't know. That's just what I think."

Meanwhile, in the Antelope Valley--home of Assemblyman William J. "Pete" Knight, sponsor of California's proposed gay-marriage ban--there are people like Jaime Silva, who takes heartfelt exception to his assemblyman's views.

For two years, Silva says, he and his partner have lived discreetly, as "roommates to the world." The inability to interact with the mainstream, as a typical couple, would be painful enough. But Silva also has AIDS.

He has no health insurance, and unlike a legal spouse cannot claim benefits as a dependent of his partner.

"You feel like an animal because you don't enjoy the same rights as other human beings," he said.

Silva said he does not foresee any immediate change in political will. "But this [issue] won't go away until our love and our relationships are recognized," he said.

Most people would be hard-pressed to come up with an issue that has been more thoroughly discussed than homosexual rights. But same-sex marriages are, for many, a new and unexpectedly loaded twist on the debate.

David Blankenhorn, author of "Fatherless America" and head of the Institute for American Values in New York, called the issue a no-win topic, one that thoughtful people are reluctant to discuss in the media or before congressional committees because "you get a choice in this debate between being for equal rights or being a bigot," with little intelligent discourse in between.

Blankenhorn aligns himself, not without ambivalence, with the 70% of Americans who tell pollsters that they support most forms of gay rights but oppose same-sex marriage. (A June survey by the Field Poll found Californians leaning 57% to 35% against it.)

The position is not as paradoxical as it might appear, Blankenhorn said. Many Americans have moved in recent years from condemnation to toleration of homosexuality, and that live-and-let-live attitude is "a huge step forward."

But toleration, he noted, is not the same thing as endorsement, and most Americans are not willing to put same-sex marriage in the category of endorsed behavior. Blankenhorn defined "endorsed" as "something that should be aspired to, something that's more than OK, it's inherently desirable--what philosophers call a social good."

While Blankenhorn does not believe same-sex marriage should be granted "endorsed" status, he observed ruefully that the tried and true version has fallen on hard times.

"Heterosexuals have done so much damage to the institution of marriage in this generation that they're hardly in a position to point to homosexuals and say you're the problem," he said.

Indeed, people such as Rabbi Harold Schulweis believe gay marriages would be "a boon for social stability," particularly if one of the functions of marriage is "to celebrate stable relationships and to prohibit promiscuous sexual relations." It is unclear how many of the rabbi's congregation at Encino's Valley Beth Shalom temple would agree with him.

After all, Manny Pinsky is a long-standing member of his flock.

*

SOUTHEAST

BILL TO CENSURE COUNCILMAN OVER REMARKS ON GAYS SHELVED

By John Cox

Calling an end to a divisive Long Beach controversy Tuesday, the City Council sidestepped a motion to censure Councilman Jerry Shultz for anti-gay remarks he made last month.

The council voted overwhelmingly to receive and file Councilman Alan Lowenthal's censure motion, which he argued was necessary to heal public faith after Shultz condemned homosexuality as immoral during a heated

discussion on domestic partnerships.

Seven of Lowenthal's nine colleagues voted against the formal reprimand, saying they hoped that dropping the issue would unite the community after recent demonstrations by Shultz's conservative supporters and Long Beach's gay and lesbian community.

"This issue has divided this city," Councilwoman Doris Topsy-Elvord said. "It is time for us to move on."

Shultz refused to comment after the vote.

On June 11, to the cheers of family values activists, Shultz listed various homosexual acts and likened gays to pedophiles before an audience of more than 300.

For two hours Tuesday night, the council and community members debated the value of a censure, some arguing that it would trample Shultz's 1st Amendment rights and others insisting he deserved a reprimand for statements they likened to Nazi propaganda.

"If he can't say what he needs to say . . . who's going to be next?" asked Paul Jessen, pastor of the North Long Beach Four-Square Church.

Some of the council members who voted to table the censure action emphasized that they were not supporting Shultz's actions or statements.

Date: 10 Jul 1996 15:59:51 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/10/96 (4)

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1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Gay GOP-ers to hold their own convention
2. (SALT LAKE CITY) DESERET NEWS:
 - a. Candidate, worried that his stand in favor of same-sex marriage will harm race, vows to vote according to wishes of constituents on the issue
 - b. Legislator wants to amend law that restricts school clubs
3. EDMONTON (CANADA) JOURNAL: World premiere for lesbigay choir
4. FEEDBACK: Architect clearly expresses strong regrets

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

WASHINGTON - Not every Republican in San Diego next month will be there for the party's national convention. The Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay and lesbian conservatives, will arrive early for a convention of their own.

The sixth annual convention of the Log Cabin Republicans will be held Aug. 9-11 in a San Diego hotel, ending just in time for the GOP national convention opening the next day.

Republican Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin and his partner, Rob Morris, will deliver the joint keynote address. Gunderson and Morris will discuss their upcoming book, "House and Home," about family values "by those who

happen to be gay," the group said in a press release.

The Log Cabin Republicans claim more than 10,000 members nationwide. The group, which takes its name from Abraham Lincoln's log cabin birthplace, says it seeks to educate the Republican Party on issues of concern to homosexuals.

THE DESERET NEWS

Box 1257, Salt Lake City, UT 84110

FAX 801-237-2121, E-MAIL: letters@desnews.com

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

ANDERSON CLARIFIES STAND ON SAME SEX UNIONS

By Bob Bernick Jr., Deseret News political editor

Worried that his 2nd Congressional District race could be sidetracked by an "irrelevant" issue, Monday night Democrat Ross Anderson said he would poll his constituents and vote on any same-sex marriage bills as his constituents wish, regardless of his personal support for same-sex marriages.

However, Anderson added that he wouldn't vote for any bill, no matter what the topic, that he believes unconstitutional. And parts of a current bill before Congress that would restrict same-sex marriages is unconstitutional, he believes.

Anderson's clarification of his stand on same-sex marriages comes after media reports on the issue and a press conference Monday morning by about 20 northern Utah Democratic officeholders and candidates. The Democrats said that while they support Anderson's candidacy and agree with him on some issues, they vehemently disagree with him on same-sex marriages and his opposition to the death penalty.

"Some in the media and some (Democratic) candidates are obsessing on this (same-sex marriage) issue," said Anderson Tuesday morning.

But Anderson clearly had (and may still have) a real political problem. The LDS Church's First Presidency two years ago issued a statement opposing same-sex marriages. The church is actively opposing efforts in Hawaii to legalize same-sex marriages. There currently is no state or nation that sanctions same-sex marriages.

Upward of 60 percent of 2nd District residents are members of the LDS Church, polling shows, and Anderson will likely need some of those votes if he's to defeat Republican challenger Merrill Cook. Cook opposes same-sex marriages.

"This (same-sex marriages) is a very different issue for a lot of people. Our most revered institution is involved," said Anderson. "I hope that, as a community and a nation, we will all seek greater understanding and compassion -- and judge each other less harshly. I also hope that our politicians will finally refrain from the politics of division and fear."

In a Deseret News story that ran over the weekend concerning Anderson's political problem with the same-sex issue, Brigham Young University political science professor David Magleby, himself a Mormon and a Democrat, said same-sex marriages is a salient issue, an important issue, with many voters, and Anderson would be mistaken to discount its impact.

Anderson won a primary battle last month, in part, due to support by the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats. And GLUD supported Anderson over rival Democrat Kelly Atkinson, in part, because of Anderson's strong support of same-sex marriages and other gay and lesbian issues. Atkinson is against same-sex marriages.

GLUD founder David Nelson said Tuesday that his group is "disappointed

and angry" at Anderson over the "change" in his same-sex marriage stand but will still support him. Anderson "is trying to become a centrist" by the change, said Nelson, but he's broken a promise to support same-sex marriages in all cases, and it could cost him "up to 8 percent of his core support (gays and lesbians in the 2nd District), and I don't know if he can afford to write off" so many Democratic voters.

Anderson said he met with GLUD leaders before issuing his statement and is disappointed over their reaction. "They agreed. I can't believe some of them were hiding in waiting to take pot shots at me now. I have not waffled at all; I will never back away from my deeply held personal commitment to equal rights for all. But on this sensitive issue, as a representative of all the people in the 2nd District, I'd vote my constituents' wishes, the only responsible thing to do."

Charlene Orchard of the Utah Human Rights Coalition said she and her members still respect Anderson. "Ross has been incredibly consistent in his support of everyone's rights under the Constitution. It's what we admire about him. While our group doesn't endorse candidates, I know many gays and lesbians are pleased with his support of our issues," she said.

Anderson said Tuesday that the simple truth is that his personal beliefs on same-sex marriages, or the death penalty or any number of other "minor" issues just won't be a factor in the U.S. Congress.

"Issues like (same-sex marriage) shouldn't be decided in Congress anyway, they should be decided by the states and in the courts," said Anderson, a local attorney who is seeking office for the first time.

*

July 5, 1996

LEGISLATOR WANTS TO AMEND LAW THAT RESTRICTS STUDENT CLUBS

By Marjorie Cortez, Deseret News staff writer

A new state law that bans gay and lesbian student clubs from Utah schools should be amended to address concerns of school counselors and educators, who fear the legislation will limit their ability to help students.

So says Rep. Grant Protzman, D-North Ogden, who is proposing amendments to the legislation passed during the Legislature's special session in April.

Protzman said the law needs to be amended to "specifically make it clear that students with gender identification problems can be assisted in a variety of ways including support groups, peer counseling and group therapy, all supervised by professionals," he said.

The law was intended as a means to regulate school clubs. The issue surfaced last winter when a group of East High School students petitioned their principal to form a gay-straight alliance at their school. Students said the club would be part support group and part information exchange.

The new law prohibits school employees and volunteers from supporting or encouraging criminal conduct. The prohibition applies to the conduct of employees and volunteers in their personal lives, if their actions result or could result in interference or disruption of normal school activities.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Craig Taylor, R-Kaysville, said the new law gives educators sufficient latitude to deal with troubled students.

Taylor said he wanted to eliminate gay and lesbian student clubs because he feared the students would not get adequate professional support. "I want them to get professional help but make it clear it's not gay affirmative," Taylor said.

"I want more than anything that these kids have professional help. Kids need to know they're not born that way, that there is a way out."

Protzman said the issue is so controversial that many educators and

school counselors are afraid to openly discuss their concerns about the application of the law for fear their actions would be construed as endorsing homosexuality.

"I'm not advocating a lifestyle. I'm saying we have kids at risk and we need to give professionals the ability to help them," Protzman said.

Protzman's proposed amendments have not yet been drafted, he said.

Taylor hinted that the proposed amendments may be political posturing on Protzman's part since he is running for the Utah Senate against Republican Sen. Robert Montgomery. Montgomery, a retired surgeon who now holds the District 19 seat, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

THE EDMONTON JOURNAL

Edmonton, Canada

Thursday, June 20, 1996

WORLD PREMIERE A NEW PLATEAU FOR LESBIGAY CHOIR

By D. T. Baker, Special to The Journal

Edmonton - When Edmonton Vocal Minority started up in November 1992, the choir was so small it had only one soprano. Now, conductor David Garber boasts, its 70 members make it the fifth largest lesbigay chorus in the world.

That sense of growth is spreading to the choir's music as well. At its upcoming concert, titled "Freedom is Near," the ensemble will present a world premiere of a piece it commissioned.

"When we first started to sing, the obvious question we all had was 'What do we sing? Where is the music that speaks of our lives and experiences?'" Garber says of commissioning a work. "Lesbigay choruses are a relatively new phenomenon. There's lots we can sing, nothing specifically for us, though.

"There have been lots of gay composers, but most of them hid that fact during their lives," Garber continues. "So, we contacted other lesbian and gay choruses -- there's about 140 member groups in the Gay & Lesbian Association of Chourses -- and found that a lot of them were also searching. We decided commissioning a work was a necessary thing to do."

Garber says the group sent word out via the Internet. "We asked for submissions for ideas for a piece about 30 minutes long, and got responses from Canada, the U.S. and Australia. The one Richard St. Clair submitted was the most compelling."

St. Clair is an American composer whose works include orchestral, chamber, solo piano and band pieces, as well as works for voice.

"We asked that the text speak to the lesbian and gay experience," Garber told The Journal, "and we're extremely happy with the result. He's a very talented composer. Writing for voice takes a special talent. This piece is very singable. He really sets up the entrances well."

St. Clair's work is called In Praise of Our Loves. The 30-minute "cantata" is in nine movements and is scored for oboe, trumpet, timpani and small string ensemble, as well as chorus. The texts used are taken from a wide range of poets, including Sappho ("Of course," Garber chuckles), Walt Whitman, Daryl Hine, Marge Piercy, Shakespeare, St. Clair himself and Edmonton poet Cathy Ann Bear.

"The work is a celebration of loves -- not love, singular," notes Garber. "This is a very special work for us. Knowing that we're giving birth to something does have a lot of significance for us."

St. Clair's work will occupy the first half of the "Freedom is Near" concert. "The title of the concert comes from a song we're singing in the second half that means a lot to us," Garber explains. "The man who wrote it,

Gil Cote, gave it to us."

While the notion of freedom being "near" is relative, Garber feels, he's quick to point out that the Edmonton Vocal Minority have never felt repressed. "We certainly feel that in Edmonton, we've received nothing but wonderful support and encouragement. ... We haven't felt negative reactions from anybody -- not that prejudice doesn't exist."

The second half of the choir's concert will consist of what Garber deems "lighter material," including a set of spirituals about Harriet Tubman, Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water -- even a Garth Brooks tune, We Shall Be Free.

FEEDBACK:

* From MikRI@AOL.COM - In a recent (within the last seven days) television interview, I saw Philip Johnson as he was asked if he had any regrets in his life and career. His response was immediate and clear: Yes, he thoroughly regretted his youthful involvement with Hitler and his ideals. Pressed further, and asked if these regrets still came to mind once in a while. He responded, "Every day. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of that terrible time in my life with regret."

He clearly is not the same person who made those choices that he made as a youth, and equally as clearly has a much improved view of humanity.

Perhaps this is the civilizing effect of a long term relationship?

When asked about the importance of his "body of work," he shrugged and admitted that he wasn't concerned with that aspect of his career, and he is well aware of the truths of what his critics say about him. In fact, he agrees with the criticism of his lack of "seriousness" and simply enjoys what he does - that's enough to irritate anyone who does take architecture seriously.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-7 #6879) id <0116XMDY732Y00007U@STORM.EOP.GOV> for yandura_p@a1.eop.gov; Thu, 11 Jul 1996 04:26:21 -0700 (MST)

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SUBJECT: Articles - 7/11/96

TO: Yandura_P (Yandura_P@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ:11-JUL-1996 09:44:46.46

TO: Socarides_R (Socarides_R@A1@CD) (WHO)

READ:11-JUL-1996 09:18:55.90

TEXT:

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2. THE BOSTON GLOBE:

- a. Gay rights movement finds agenda in peril
- b. Gay life and love, Russia-style

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

400 N. Broad St.,Philadelphia,PA,19101

FAX: 215-854-5691, E-MAIL: dailynews.opinion@phillynews.com

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

DEBBIE WOODELL COLUMN

GAY MAN LIVES IN SOLITUDE AS HIS NEIGHBORS RULE BY FEAR

Don Sheppard can't get the egg stains off his front windows. As much as his arms - weakened by a muscular disease - can scrub, he has tried. The stains remain.

He won't eat eggs anymore, because the stink was so bad after his rowhouse was egged, it sickened him.

"It's bad for your health, anyway," he rationalized.

Don Sheppard seems like the kind of neighbor most people would want.

He is shy and unassuming. His manner is gentle.

He has no TV to keep the neighbors awake nights. He rarely goes out; he keeps to himself. He stays busy listening to the radio or talking on the phone.

He has read the Bible - and knows it says, "Love thy neighbor."

Yet he hasn't gotten much except harassment from his neighbors on Granite Street in Wissinoming.

All because he's gay.

He doesn't particularly like that word. He said whoever decided to use it probably associated the term with people who are happy. You wonder, from the way he says that, if he ever is.

He also doesn't like faggot or fag, which pepper the taunts he hears.

We've met Sheppard before. In November 1994, the Daily News reported on his plight, living in fear of the harassment and trying to survive on disability in a barely furnished home, his belongings packed in bags and boxes in the living room.

Little has changed.

Since he moved in nearly three years ago, people have bashed his door, yelled things, left notes, made fun of him, thrown a smoke bomb into his mail slot, even tied his door shut.

His story didn't generate as much media attention as other hate crimes. And after the slight attention quickly died down, the harassment gradually intensified.

It comes mostly from teen-agers, a few adults. They snicker when you walk up to his door.

Now, the vandals' primary target is Sheppard's car, a 1987 Chevrolet. Its windows have been smashed in or shot out, tires slashed, body dented, ``by bats and feet," he surmised.

Soon after Sheppard moved in, someone who broke into his car left a troll doll with a big H - for homosexual - written on its chest.

He kept it, he said, because he thought it was kind of cute.

The other day, someone thought it was cute to place a small-caliber bullet in the troll's head.

Then somebody thought it was cute to kill a pigeon and stick it inside his storm door.

A friend made some plexiglass windows for Sheppard's car that he's saving for whenever he can get it inspected.

He doesn't know when that will be, in part because he doesn't know when the neighborhood thugs will leave it alone long enough for him to get it in good working order. And because he doesn't have the money to fix it again and again and again.

He'd like to get a handicapped-parking sign in front of his house, so he doesn't have to carry his groceries a long distance and doesn't have to fear getting beaten up while walking down the block.

He's gotten some phone numbers for assistance, but hasn't gotten any firm answers, or any help. He thinks he may be a ``hot potato."

Even more than the parking space, he wants peace. ``I just want to be left alone," he said.

As he showed a guest to the door, he pointed to a photo of President John F. Kennedy on the wall at the base of the stairs. He said it reminds him of a time as a child, in the '60s, when he cried at seeing a black girl on TV who was denied the chance to attend school in Alabama.

``I'm like that; I'm sentimental," he said.

He also sometimes cries at night to ease the pain of his disease. Congenital myetonia can render his arms and legs useless, almost as if he's paralyzed.

The kids in the neighborhood think it's AIDS. It's not.

The crying does not end the pain of being singled out by those who demean the word neighbors. By those who have nothing better to do than to drive a lonely, frightened man deeper into loneliness and fear.

THE BOSTON GLOBE

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Monday, July 8, 1996

GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT FINDS AGENDA IN PERIL

By Bob Hohler, Globe Staff and Jayson T. Blair, Globe Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The gay rights movement, at odds with Bob Dole and disheartened with Bill Clinton, approaches a pivotal juncture this week as the House prepares to act on a Defense of Marriage Act that would ban marriages between people of the same sex.

Debate over the bill, sponsored by Dole and supported by Clinton, will unfold as the gay rights movement enters the presidential election season with much of its agenda under siege and its long-term momentum at risk.

With both major parties expected to spurn requests at next month's conventions to step up support for homosexual rights, the movement's leaders fear the campaign could stall if a large number of disaffected gay and lesbian voters stay away from the polls in November.

The disaffection could be stirred if the House, as expected, handily passes the Defense of Marriage Act and sends it to the Senate, where the measure also is broadly supported.

Debate over the measure has muted discussion of other issues central to the gay rights movement, from eliminating job discrimination to expanding resources to combat AIDS.

Many gay and lesbian activists criticized Dole and the bill's other Republican sponsors for trying to demonize homosexuals in an election-year appeal to conservatives, particularly the religious right.

But homosexual leaders tempered their disdain for Clinton, warning prospective voters that abandoning the president and other candidates who generally favor homosexual rights could undermine their movement.

"There is no question that President Clinton has alienated many lesbian and gay voters throughout the country," said David M. Smith, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign, a political action group for homosexuals that claims 150,000 members. "But he still has done more than any president in the history of the country to advance civil rights for gay and lesbian people."

Clinton's immediate attempt after taking office to ban discrimination against homosexuals in the military backfired, leading to a "don't ask, don't tell" compromise that angered both foes and supporters. But he has since opened doors long closed in government to gays and lesbians.

Clinton banned discrimination against homosexuals in the federal bureaucracy outside the military. He ended the practice of denying gays and lesbians security clearances and supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The bill, which would ban job discrimination against homosexuals in the public sector, awaits congressional action.

Clinton also appointed more than a dozen people who are openly gay or lesbian to high-level posts, including Bruce A. Lehman, an assistant Commerce secretary, and Roberta Achtenberg, an assistant secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Although congressional opposition to broader homosexual rights has increased since the Republican takeover in 1994, Clinton has said he will continue to press for expanded civil rights for gays and lesbians, particularly for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

"I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and to protecting the civil rights of every citizen in our society," the president responded in writing to a question last month from *The Advocate*, which describes itself as the national gay and lesbian news magazine.

Clinton received an estimated 75 percent of the gay and lesbian vote in 1992, and the Democratic National Committee's gay outreach staff is actively trying to maintain that edge.

To do that, Clinton must overcome a sense of betrayal that many gays and lesbians harbor about the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, his support for the Defense of Marriage Act and his administration's decision to stay out of a Supreme Court battle over a Colorado law that the justices recently found discriminated against homosexuals.

Conservative forces have galvanized around the Defense of Marriage Act, prompting Clinton to seek a more centrist stance.

Some gay rights strategists had hoped to defer the debate over homosexual marriages for several years, when they expected public opinion to shift in their favor. But the coalition of Clinton and the conservatives has turned the pending legislation into what Smith, of the Human Rights Campaign, described as "a freight train out of control."

Ralph Reed, leader of the Christian Coalition, called on Congress to send the bill to Clinton's desk by Labor Day. And conservative strategists met last Tuesday on Capitol Hill to plan counterattacks against what they declared "radical gay rights" initiatives in Congress.

"There is a myth that what people do in the privacy of their own bedroom does not affect society," Robert Knight, an activist with the conservative Family Research Council, told congressional staff members at the meeting.

Rich Tafel, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay and lesbian group, rejected viewpoints such as Knight's as "ludicrous."

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BOOKS

Sunday, July 7, 1996

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By Ellen Clegg, Globe Staff

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Tuller, who found the conference "wild and wonderful and weird," watched as activists demonstrated against Russia's sodomy law in front of Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, chosen because it was near the Kremlin and also one of the city's prime cruising spots. Moved by the protesters' courage (gay sex was a criminal offense), he was determined to return.

"Cracks in the Iron Closet" is Tuller's version of that history, an exploration of desire, identity and culture as the Soviet Union cracked apart. It is an attempt -- usually successful -- to look at the private face of gay and lesbian life in Moscow in a way rarely seen in the West.

Tuller's own experience with gay identity politics in San Francisco is an important reference point. He struggled with the contours of his difference from an early age. In his 30s, he migrated to San Francisco and became a reporter for the Chronicle. He lived "just a swish away from Castro Street, the spiritual center of the homosexual universe." He got his hair trimmed at a gay barbership, sipped espresso at a gay cafe, had his shirts pressed at the gay cleaners and dated "clones" in workboots and moustaches.

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It is in the dacha, finally, that life unfolds for Tuller, who dubbed himself a "sex spy." In a compact house an hour's train ride from Moscow, he meets his Russian family: a lesbian couple, a gay man who loves women and the charismatic, protean Ksyusha, a lesbian who embraces a kind of roving pansexuality. Tuller's dacha scenes are among the strongest in the book. Inhabitants shed their shoes at the door and put on soft slippers -- a metaphor for the duality between public and private life that seems straight out of Chekhov. Flirtations are launched between bouts of drinking, weepy stretches of self-revelation and political arguments. Platters of olives, potatoes and beets serve a passing parade of friends.

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===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE:11-JUL-1996 09:13:00.00

ATT BODYPART TYPE:D

TEXT:

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Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)

by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <0116XWEBIY68000CGC@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Thu, 11 Jul 1996 09:12:57 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from emout15.mail.aol.com (emout15.mx.aol.com)

by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-7 #6879) id <0116XWECJDWQ00007U@STORM.EOP.GOV>; Thu, 11 Jul 1996 09:12:58 -0700 (MST)

Received: by emout15.mail.aol.com (8.6.12/8.6.12) id JAA13341; Thu, 11 Jul 1996 09:11:44 -0400

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (EXTERNAL MAIL)

CREATOR: qnews@channelq.com@INET@EOPMRX

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-JUL-1996 04:20:00.00

SUBJECT: Public Service Rebroadcast - Daily Digest

TO: Channel_Q_Daily_Digest (Channel_Q_Daily_Digest@aimnet.com@INET@EOPMRX)
READ:NOT READ

IND_TO: Paul Yandura (YANDURA_P) (WHO)
READ:12-JUL-1996 18:55:55.75

TEXT:

Channel Q Public Service Rebroadcast Facility - Daily Digest for Friday, July 12, 1996

1. Articles - 7/11/96
2. Articles - 7/11/96 (2)
3. Senate Holds Anti-Gay Marriage Hearings
4. PFLAG Testimony at DOMA Hearings
5. Articles - 7/11/96 (3)

Date: 11 Jul 1996 06:19:02 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/11/96

CONTENTS:

1. THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS: Lesbian columnist Debbie Woodell writes about gay man who is severely harassed by neighbors
2. THE BOSTON GLOBE:
 - a. Gay rights movement finds agenda in peril
 - b. Gay life and love, Russia-style

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
400 N. Broad St.,Philadelphia,PA,19101
FAX: 215-854-5691, E-MAIL: dailynews.opinion@phillynews.com
Tuesday, July 9, 1996

DEBBIE WOODELL COLUMN

GAY MAN LIVES IN SOLITUDE AS HIS NEIGHBORS RULE BY FEAR

Don Sheppard can't get the egg stains off his front windows. As much as his arms - weakened by a muscular disease - can scrub, he has tried. The stains remain.

He won't eat eggs anymore, because the stink was so bad after his rowhouse was egged, it sickened him.

"It's bad for your health, anyway," he rationalized.

Don Sheppard seems like the kind of neighbor most people would want.

He is shy and unassuming. His manner is gentle.

He has no TV to keep the neighbors awake nights. He rarely goes out; he

keeps to himself. He stays busy listening to the radio or talking on the phone.

He has read the Bible - and knows it says, ``Love thy neighbor."

Yet he hasn't gotten much except harassment from his neighbors on Granite Street in Wisconsin.

All because he's gay.

He doesn't particularly like that word. He said whoever decided to use it probably associated the term with people who are happy. You wonder, from the way he says that, if he ever is.

He also doesn't like faggot or fag, which pepper the taunts he hears.

We've met Sheppard before. In November 1994, the Daily News reported on his plight, living in fear of the harassment and trying to survive on disability in a barely furnished home, his belongings packed in bags and boxes in the living room.

Little has changed.

Since he moved in nearly three years ago, people have bashed his door, yelled things, left notes, made fun of him, thrown a smoke bomb into his mail slot, even tied his door shut.

His story didn't generate as much media attention as other hate crimes. And after the slight attention quickly died down, the harassment gradually intensified.

It comes mostly from teen-agers, a few adults. They snicker when you walk up to his door.

Now, the vandals' primary target is Sheppard's car, a 1987 Chevrolet. Its windows have been smashed in or shot out, tires slashed, body dented, ``by bats and feet," he surmised.

Soon after Sheppard moved in, someone who broke into his car left a troll doll with a big H - for homosexual - written on its chest.

He kept it, he said, because he thought it was kind of cute.

The other day, someone thought it was cute to place a small-caliber bullet in the troll's head.

Then somebody thought it was cute to kill a pigeon and stick it inside his storm door.

A friend made some plexiglass windows for Sheppard's car that he's saving for whenever he can get it inspected.

He doesn't know when that will be, in part because he doesn't know when the neighborhood thugs will leave it alone long enough for him to get it in good working order. And because he doesn't have the money to fix it again and again and again.

He'd like to get a handicapped-parking sign in front of his house, so he doesn't have to carry his groceries a long distance and doesn't have to fear getting beaten up while walking down the block.

He's gotten some phone numbers for assistance, but hasn't gotten any firm answers, or any help. He thinks he may be a ``hot potato."

Even more than the parking space, he wants peace. ``I just want to be left alone," he said.

As he showed a guest to the door, he pointed to a photo of President John F. Kennedy on the wall at the base of the stairs. He said it reminds him of a time as a child, in the '60s, when he cried at seeing a black girl on TV who was denied the chance to attend school in Alabama.

``I'm like that; I'm sentimental," he said.

He also sometimes cries at night to ease the pain of his disease. Congenital myotonia can render his arms and legs useless, almost as if he's paralyzed.

The kids in the neighborhood think it's AIDS. It's not.

The crying does not end the pain of being singled out by those who demean the word neighbors. By those who have nothing better to do than to drive a lonely, frightened man deeper into loneliness and fear.

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Box 2378, Boston, MA, 02107

FAX: 617-929-2098, E-MAIL: letter@globe.com

Monday, July 8, 1996

GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT FINDS AGENDA IN PERIL

By Bob Hohler, Globe Staff and Jayson T. Blair, Globe Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The gay rights movement, at odds with Bob Dole and disheartened with Bill Clinton, approaches a pivotal juncture this week as the House prepares to act on a Defense of Marriage Act that would ban marriages between people of the same sex.

Debate over the bill, sponsored by Dole and supported by Clinton, will unfold as the gay rights movement enters the presidential election season with much of its agenda under siege and its long-term momentum at risk.

With both major parties expected to spurn requests at next month's conventions to step up support for homosexual rights, the movement's leaders fear the campaign could stall if a large number of disaffected gay and lesbian voters stay away from the polls in November.

The disaffection could be stirred if the House, as expected, handily passes the Defense of Marriage Act and sends it to the Senate, where the measure also is broadly supported.

Debate over the measure has muted discussion of other issues central to the gay rights movement, from eliminating job discrimination to expanding resources to combat AIDS.

Many gay and lesbian activists criticized Dole and the bill's other Republican sponsors for trying to demonize homosexuals in an election-year appeal to conservatives, particularly the religious right.

But homosexual leaders tempered their disdain for Clinton, warning prospective voters that abandoning the president and other candidates who generally favor homosexual rights could undermine their movement.

"There is no question that President Clinton has alienated many lesbian and gay voters throughout the country," said David M. Smith, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign, a political action group for homosexuals that claims 150,000 members. "But he still has done more than any president in the history of the country to advance civil rights for gay and lesbian people."

Clinton's immediate attempt after taking office to ban discrimination against homosexuals in the military backfired, leading to a "don't ask, don't tell" compromise that angered both foes and supporters. But he has since opened doors long closed in government to gays and lesbians.

Clinton banned discrimination against homosexuals in the federal bureaucracy outside the military. He ended the practice of denying gays and lesbians security clearances and supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The bill, which would ban job discrimination against homosexuals in the public sector, awaits congressional action.

Clinton also appointed more than a dozen people who are openly gay or lesbian to high-level posts, including Bruce A. Lehman, an assistant Commerce secretary, and Roberta Achtenberg, an assistant secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Although congressional opposition to broader homosexual rights has

increased since the Republican takeover in 1994, Clinton has said he will continue to press for expanded civil rights for gays and lesbians, particularly for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

"I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and to protecting the civil rights of every citizen in our society," the president responded in writing to a question last month from The Advocate, which describes itself as the national gay and lesbian news magazine.

Clinton received an estimated 75 percent of the gay and lesbian vote in 1992, and the Democratic National Committee's gay outreach staff is actively trying to maintain that edge.

To do that, Clinton must overcome a sense of betrayal that many gays and lesbians harbor about the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, his support for the Defense of Marriage Act and his administration's decision to stay out of a Supreme Court battle over a Colorado law that the justices recently found discriminated against homosexuals.

Conservative forces have galvanized around the Defense of Marriage Act, prompting Clinton to seek a more centrist stance.

Some gay rights strategists had hoped to defer the debate over homosexual marriages for several years, when they expected public opinion to shift in their favor. But the coalition of Clinton and the conservatives has turned the pending legislation into what Smith, of the Human Rights Campaign, described as "a freight train out of control."

Ralph Reed, leader of the Christian Coalition, called on Congress to send the bill to Clinton's desk by Labor Day. And conservative strategists met last Tuesday on Capitol Hill to plan counterattacks against what they declared "radical gay rights" initiatives in Congress.

"There is a myth that what people do in the privacy of their own bedroom does not affect society," Robert Knight, an activist with the conservative Family Research Council, told congressional staff members at the meeting.

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BOOKS

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Date: 11 Jul 1996 06:28:36 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/11/96 (2)

CONTENTS:

1. USA TODAY:
 - a. Shop says it will stop selling anti-gay t-shirts if others do
 - b. Utah Rep. wants to amend club ban to help students
2. THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: Setback in California for foes of gay unions
3. LEXINGTON (KY) HERALD LEADER: Anti-gay letter you can respond to
4. THE WICHITA (KS) EAGLE: Owner of formerly-gay bar insists her sign's message is that straights are welcome, not that gays aren't welcome
5. THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: Baptists' boycott of Disney is just too Goofy
6. (COLUMBIA SC) STATE: Gay Olympic welcome center open

USA TODAY

Thursday, July 11, 1996

ACROSS THE USA: NEWS FROM EVERY STATE

New Hampshire - Hampton: The Shirt Factory, beset by protests over T-shirts with anti-gay slogans, says it will stop selling the shirts if protesters get other beach shops to go along.

Utah - Salt Lake City: Rep. Grant Protzman said he will propose amendments to a law banning gay and lesbian student clubs from Utah schools in a bid to address faculty concerns that the law will limit their ability to help

students.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

San Francisco, California

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

SETBACK FOR FOES OF GAY UNIONS

* Senate panel dilutes bill against same-sex marriages

By Robert B. Gunnison, Chronicle Sacramento Bureau

Sacramento - The Senate Judiciary Committee dramatically weakened legislation yesterday that would have prevented California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states.

After Democrats rewrote the bill -- which had been backed by Governor Pete Wilson and Attorney General Dan Lungren -- to make it unpalatable to its supporters, the measure stalled in the committee.

The bill was designed to prevent the anticipated legalization of same-sex marriages by the courts in Hawaii from being recognized in California.

Under long legal precedent, states generally recognize civil contracts like marriage that are legal in the state where they originated, even if they are not legal in the other state.

After prolonged, impassioned and sometimes wandering debate about the pros and cons of the bill, majority Democrats moved swiftly to end what had been a political dilemma for members in conservative districts in an election year.

Senator Nicholas Petris, D-Oakland, proposed creating a statewide system of domestic partner registration in the bill, and his addition was approved, 5 to 3, with all Democrats voting in support.

"This substantially meets the desires of the people who are opposed to this bill," Petris said.

Even though Petris left a small part of the original bill intact, the domestic partner aspect was so repugnant to the Republicans that they refused to vote for the bill.

"A piece of garbage by any other name still stinks," said Senator Ray Haynes, R-Riverside, with no apologies to the Bard. "People are not stupid. They'll know what's going on here."

The words added by Petris were similar to domestic partner legislation vetoed in 1994 by Wilson, who said the measure would undercut traditional marriages.

The bill's author, Assemblyman William "Pete" Knight, R-Palmdale, said he did not know if he would continue to carry the bill, even if it were approved by the committee.

"With these amendments, you've gutted the bill," Knight told the committee.

LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER

100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, KY, 40508

FAX: 606-255-7236, E-MAIL: HLedit@lex.infi.net

(NOTE: The Herald Leader welcomes letters to the editor from anyone in the country. Word limit is 250.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In Paul Prather's June 22 column about the Southern Baptists' Disney boycott, he wonders why "conservative Christians always single out gays for their special wrath." Prather argues that adultery is more prevalent and one of the "Top 10" sins, so why don't the Baptists pick on them? Because Disney is not offering health insurance to married people's extracurricular lovers. By Disney offering homosexual couples health insurance, it is recognizing

homosexuality as an acceptable, normal lifestyle. For the most part, adultery is still discouraged by society. Homosexuality, on the other hand, is presented as acceptable and normal instead of immoral and deviant. If Christians believe that homosexuality is sinful (and Prather admitted that the Bible teaches against it), then it makes sense that they fight against its acceptance. Furthermore, Prather argues that the Baptists ought to be more merciful, recalling the incident in which Jesus forgave the adulteress and uttered everyone's favorite Bible verse, "Judge not lest ye be judged." But he forgot to finish the quote: "Go and sin no more." Jesus forgave the adulteress, but would not tolerate her lifestyle.

Lastly, in the article, Prather referred to pride as "the one sin that the Good Book specifically says makes God the angriest." This sounds great, but in my Bible, there is no such verse. Here, Prather implies that it is prideful to have a moral code of absolutes. Many do not like the ideas of absolute truth and definite right and wrong, but if one is to acknowledge the Bible as the word of God, one must accept these tenets. God is love, but he hates sin. And he defines sin, not us. He will forgive the sinner, but not tolerate the sin. I do not mind if Prather disagrees with the convention's decision to boycott Disney, but I strongly object to his attempt to use scripture to defend his positions.

--Nancy Bailey, Lexington

THE WICHITA EAGLE

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FAX: 316-268-6627, E-MAIL: eaglenws@aol.com

(Anonymous comments for publication: "OPINION LINE" - 316-436-1200, then enter 3517 -- You will have 45 seconds to record your remarks, which will run anonymously on the editorial page.)

Saturday, July 6, 1996

LOCA & STATE

SIGN OF THE TIMES LEADS TO CONTROVERSY FOR BAR

* Bar owner insists her message is that straights are welcome, not that gays aren't welcome

By Bud Norman, The Wichita Eagle

Gwen Copp insists she doesn't have anything against homosexuals, and would be happy to serve a beer to anyone who can pay. She also wants everyone to know that her business doesn't serve homosexuals exclusively, however, which led to the sign that led to the complaints.

"What the deal is, this used to be a gay bar," says Copp, owner of Halftime, A Sports Bar and Grill, at Broadway and MacArthur. "It was called Bosom Buddies and was a gay bar for seven years, and when I took the bar over no one would come in because they thought it was still a gay bar."

The same problem had plagued two other businesses that followed in the Bosom Buddies location - one a country-Western bar, the other catering to a clientele that included skinheads - and Copp's solution was to rent a portable sign for the parking lot and announce "We are not gay. We are a sports bar." She says the message was carefully phrased to avoid offending anyone - "I'm not saying I won't serve gays, because I will, and I'm not saying I hate gays, because I don't, I'm just saying it's not a gay bar" - but some passers-by have been offended nonetheless.

"I got some calls from some person who wouldn't give me a name but says he was from the National Organization Against Bigotry and that I was infringing on gay rights," Copp says. "I get at least 10 calls a day from people claiming they're with an organization."

The National Organization Against Bigotry is not listed in any directories of organizations, nor was the name familiar to several local gay rights activists, and Copp suspects the group was invented by someone who didn't want to use his own name. At any rate, she says, the complaints don't seem to reflect the sentiments of most gay Wichitans.

"Most gay people don't care; it's not them who have the problem," Copp says. "It's the straight goody- two-shoes, I call them, who want to watch out for their rights."

Kristi Parker, a co-editor of the local gay and lesbian newspaper The Liberty Press, isn't offended. Although she doesn't presume to speak for all gay people, she says that "Personally, I figure she's got to do what she's got to do to keep her business in business. That seems a pretty harmless way."

The previous bar's sign read "Straight as an arrow," and both Parker and Copp agree that sentiment was clearly anti-gay. Copp finds it ironic that the two bars that occupied the building since Bosom Buddies and before Halftime "were pretty rough places," whereas Copp is trying to maintain a friendlier atmosphere based on food sales and wide-screen broadcasts of sporting events, but that the rugged reputations of her immediate predecessors don't seem to hinder her business.

"All they ever ask me about them is where the owner of the other bar went," Copp says. "Nobody asks if this is still a country bar."

So Copp hopes that the word will eventually get around that anybody is welcome.

"I wanted a way to tell the gay and straight communities that I'm not a bigot," Copp says. "Gay money deposits and spends just like anybody else's."

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, July 11, 1996

JUST TOO GOOFY - BAPTISTS TARGET DISNEY--TALK ABOUT MICKEY MOUSE

By Michael Kilian

The nation's Southern Baptists, meeting in convention in New Orleans--a town so drenched in sin that actress Kelly McGillis was once prompted to remark, "If I was born there, I'd be dead now"-- have decided by overwhelming and indignant vote that the Disney Company of all people should be shunned and chastised for spreading Evil across the land.

As best as I, a mere Presbyterian, can understand the Baptist convention colloquy, this Evil has mostly to do with Disney's policy of granting health benefits to life partners (or roomies or whatever they're called) of homosexual employees, allowing homosexuals to buy tickets to Disney theme parks on exactly the same day so they can frolic together around giant plastic Goofys and Mickeys and proclaim the occasion a "gay day," and because, according to one Baptist couple from Tennessee, Disney uses films like "The Lion King" to promote sinful "nature worship."

I am not per se in favor of homosexual marriages, but it seems to me that:

1) If homosexual health benefits, "gay days" at theme parks and, horrors, "nature worship" were the only evil being spread across the land, the FBI would be thrilled (though perhaps not as thrilled as it might be were J. Edgar Hoover still with us).

2) Why are the Southern Baptists messing with Disney when they have so much local sin to contend with in the form of all those road house and girly joints I find in such remarkably and suspiciously large numbers in and around Baptist communities in South Texas?

I actually grew up on Disney movies, and, except for having the hell scared out of me at age 4 by "Snow White" when it first came out, I never found Walt & Co. anything but a good influence. Later indulgences in dementia and wayward ways came from reading Thorne Smith novels and watching Mae West/W.C. Fields movies, not from ogling the scantily clad female hippopotamuses in "Fantasia."

Just now we have Disney making a frolicksome cartoon character out of Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Victor Hugo wrought this character as someone so hideous as to frighten small children. The whole plot turns on his grotesqueness, rendering his love for Esmeralda especially pitiful. But Disney has gone and made Quasimodo CUTE! T'is a wonder they don't call him "Quasi."

I'd recommend Disney stuff (except perhaps those frightful dwarfs) to any small child--at least before he or she learned to read. I think it's not only wonderful but utterly appropriate that such surreal locales as Southern California and Florida are home to Disneyland and DisneyWorld.

What I find more disturbing than Disney's luring the kiddies into sinful "nature worship" is Disney's deliberate and relentless intrusion, not upon small town moral goodness, but upon reality.

In Northern Virginia, where I live, we literally had to run Disney out of town when it persisted in trying to build an American history theme park fantasyland de in the nation.

Disney has just now announced plans to open a retail store of fun Disney products in Harlem. There's a lot Harlem needs, but I don't think it includes Dumbo. I can recall going up to Harlem in the '50s for the wonderful music and the cultural remnants of the fabled Harlem Renaissance. Can you imagine Duke Ellington writing a song that goes, "Hey, let's take the 'A' train; get us a Goofy doll up in Harlem"?

As the Southern Baptists apparently are unaware, Disney is one of the prime movers behind New York's campaign to roust the hookers, bums, skulls and assorted other sleazebags and all their sin emporia from Times Square (a.k.a. in cop parlance as "The Deuce") and replace it with Wholesome Family Entertainment for those who come to the Fun Apple to "see a show."

Disney is planning a huge complex of family hotels, restaurants and theaters that will stage "Broadway shows" that mom, and pop and the kiddies from out there in Mall of America Land will love and be able to see without a single encounter with thigh-highs or the letter "X." Disney has already established a beachhead there; witness the "Broadway smash" known as "Beauty and the Beast."

I took in the road show presentation of "Beast" at Washington's Kennedy Center and have to agree that, yessiree, it sure is lots of fun. It's mighty fine family fare. It has sky rockety special effects and winsome, charming characters and lollipop music and even cartoon humor (tripping characters and, ha ha, hitting them over the head).

But it's not a "Broadway show"--not the way "The King and I" and "Master Class" and "Moon Over Buffalo" are Broadway shows. Pleasurable as it might be, "Beast" is a cartoon on stage. It's a Disney theme park in the middle of Manhattan. If Disney has its way, "The Deuce" will not simply be cleaned up and made safe and reasonably presentable. It'll be Orlando.

This, on the sacred ground where Legs Diamond played cards and pitched woo with society girls and where gorgeous chorus girls used to flash their glamorous gams and Damon Runyon used to swill bathtub gin and think up short stories about gamblers and horse players.

What next, a Disney "Guys and Dolls" theme park?

THE STATE

Columbia, South Carolina

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

SPORTS

Gay welcome. Ten miles from a suburban county that lost an Olympic competition rather than rescind its resolution denouncing homosexuality, the Olympic City is welcoming gay and lesbian visitors with open arms.

With dozens of gay bars, nightclubs and restaurants, a large gay bookstore and dozens of shops sprinkled amid well-heeled old homes and high-rise apartments, Midtown Atlanta is home to the largest gay population in the Deep South.

"Atlanta is a popular destination for gays and lesbians," said Billy Kolber-Stuart, editor of the New York-based Out & About travel newsletter, which has about 8,500 gay and lesbian subscribers.

"It's certainly the most popular in the South because it's the most welcoming city for gays and lesbians in the South."

And it's the first Olympic city to host a hospitality suite devoted to homosexuals and gay issues.

The Gay and Lesbian Visitor's Center, a project conceived by Mayor Bill Campbell's advisers on gay and lesbian issues, is a place for gay visitors to get information, view exhibits on gay issues, meet people at the coffee bar or watch the games on television.

Date: 11 Jul 1996 10:05:55 -0700

From: Channel Q News Desk <newsdesk@channelq.com>

Subject: Senate Holds Anti-Gay Marriage Hearings

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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

<http://www.aclu.org>

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News from the ACLU...
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ACLU Criticizes Allies for Jumping Ship on Gay Marriage;
Submits Testimony Calling Bill Unconstitutional, Bad Public Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 11, 1996

WASHINGTON As a Senate committee examined a bill that would deny recognition of marriages between lesbian and gay couples, the American Civil Liberties Union criticized many of its traditional allies, including stalwart civil rights activists, for jumping ship on this issue of fundamental fairness.

In testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the ACLU called the proposed legislation the so-called Defense of Marriage Act "unprecedented, discriminatory, and unconstitutional" and said

it would have the effect of treating legally married gay couples as strangers under Federal laws and programs.

"We challenge our allies who are supporting this divisive measure to set aside political expediency and recognize that the right to freely decide whom to marry is as fundamental a human right as exists," said Laura W. Murphy, Director of the ACLU's National Washington Office. She added that the vote on the same-sex marriage legislation will be included in the ACLU's biennial civil liberties ratings for members of Congress.

"This goes beyond legislators saying they are not ready to accept same-sex marriages," Murphy said. "This is an unnecessary and mean-spirited attempt by some in Congress to select out lesbians and gay men for discriminatory treatment."

Murphy termed unacceptable the silence from many traditional civil libertarians, and, in contrast, pointed to a recent interview with Rep. John Lewis, Democrat of Georgia. In comments published late last month, Lewis said that African-Americans should not, and cannot, legitimately draw a distinction between their struggle for equal treatment before the law and that of gay men and lesbians.

"Certain rights are basic human rights," Lewis said. "You cannot tell individuals they cannot fall in love. Dr. King used to say when people talking about interracial marriage: Racists don't fall in love and get married. Individuals fall in love and get married."

The ACLU agreed. "As long as our nation attaches a wealth of economic and legal benefits to civil marriages, denying those same benefits to lesbians and gay men is nothing short of outright discrimination," said Matthew Coles, Director of the ACLU's National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

"At this moment, gay men or lesbians can lose their homes to the government when a partner becomes ill, are barred from intensive care units when their partners are desperately ill, or lose everything when a partner dies because society refuses to recognize their relationships," Coles said.

In its testimony, which was signed by Murphy and Coles, the ACLU said that a second provision of the bill would attempt to carve a "gay exception" to the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause by allowing states to ignore marriages performed in any other state. That clause guarantees that the rights conferred to citizens in one state will be honored by the other states.

The Full Faith and Credit Clause absolutely requires states to honor the judgements of other state courts -- including divorce, inheritance and commercial judgments -- which often take into account marital status. To that extent, the bill is an "unmistakable violation of the Constitution," Coles said.

The issue of same-sex marriage has been raised in response to a

Hawaii Supreme Court ruling in May 1993 that the denial of marriage licenses to three lesbian and gay couples appears to violate the state's Equal Rights Amendment. The Justices sent the case back to the trial to decide if the state can prove a "compelling state interest" in denying the marriage licenses.

The trial is now scheduled for September 10. Although legal observers say the state will have difficulty meeting its burden, a final decision from the Hawaii Supreme Court is not expected until at least 1997.

In a letter to H. Alexander Robinson, an ACLU legislative representative, Rep. Harry Johnston, a Democrat from Florida, said that "the truth is that this legislation is a thinly disguised attempt to generate a hot-button political issue."

"I have been married for 42 years," Johnston added, "and believe that marriage is both a basic human right and a private, personal decision."

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Date: 11 Jul 1996 15:16:27 -0700
From: Channel Q News Desk <newsdesk@channelq.com>
Subject: PFLAG Testimony at DOMA Hearings

PRESS ADVISORY
JULY 11, 1996

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MOTHER OF GAY SON GIVES STIRRING TESTIMONY AT SENATE MARRIAGE HEARINGS

Mitzi Henderson, National President of PFLAG, testified at the Senate Judiciary Committee "Defense of Marriage Act" hearings today. Illustrating her testimony with an example from her own life, Henderson spoke strongly against this bill that would, for the first time, create a federal definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman only.

Two years ago, Henderson's gay son, Jamie, was rushed to the hospital with a serious illness. While Jamie's condition worsened, his partner was unable to authorize medical treatment because their eight year relationship had no legal status. Emergency medical situations like these, combined with job discrimination and anti-gay violence, are serious concerns to the parents, families and friends of lesbians and gay men.

"With this legislation you will add another challenge to my job as a parent," Henderson said. "I am forced to worry about my gay son in a way that I do not worry about my other children... I fear for Jamie -- not because of who he is, but because I know the price of intolerance."

Henderson further testified that same sex marriage does not pose a "threat" to marriage. "My husband and I do not need your help to continue to cherish one another, and to respect our vows of more than forty years," she said. "What my family needs is a more tolerant America... I wish I could have taken you with me for the last eighteen years [since my son came out to me] as I've grown and learned. I wish you could see how my family is stronger for our journey. We can give more to our church, to each other, and to our country than we ever thought possible because we dared to grow."

Nancy McDonald, Vice President of PFLAG, testified before a House committee on May 15, making PFLAG the only organization to send representatives to testify before both the House and Senate committee hearings on DOMA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Serving a membership of more than 60,000 households, PFLAG affiliates are located in more than 410 communities across the United States and 11 other countries.

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Date: 11 Jul 1996 15:48:20 -0700
From: BCS41@aol.com
Subject: Articles - 7/11/96 (3)

CONTENTS:

1. REUTERS: U. S. House opens debate on same sex marriage
2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Lawmakers hurl insults on eve of gay marriage vote

REUTERS

July 11, 1996

U. S. HOUSE OPENS DEBATE ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

WASHINGTON - The House began debate Thursday on election-year legislation to restrict same-sex marriages, with sponsors warning such unions threatened society and opponents calling the measure an act of bigotry.

The ``Defense of Marriage Act" would define marriage as the union between a man and a woman, for the first time injecting the federal government into the question of what makes a marriage.

It would withhold federal recognition of same-sex marriages, denying Social Security, veterans' and other benefits to such unions. It also says states need not recognize such marriages made in other states, a power opponents of the bill say the states have already.

No state now permits same-sex marriages and 11 have banned them, but pending court action in Hawaii could allow such marriages in that state.

President Clinton has said he would sign the ``Defense of Marriage" bill, while the Christian Coalition wants to make the legislation a major issue in the November elections.

Floor debate was dramatic, inflammatory and unusually personal, as openly gay lawmakers spoke of their own relationships to underscore their opposition to the bill.

``What are you protecting, what marriage is under attack ... how does the fact that I love another man and live in a committed relationship with him threaten your marriage?" said Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank, an openly gay lawmaker.

Fellow Massachusetts Democrat Gerry Studds, also gay, called his longtime relationship ``as caring, as committed ... as that of many members of the House."

Bill supporters decried what they called a breakdown of morals in America and said recognition of same-sex unions would open the door to other drastic changes in marriage that could spell the ruin of society.

``It is a frontal assault on the institution of marriage and if successful will demolish the institution," said Rep. Steve Largent, an Oklahoma Republican.

Largent charged that if same-sex marriages were allowed, society might next condone bigamy and marriages between children and adults.

Georgia Republican Bob Barr said the growing influence of homosexuals posed a threat to America.

``We have a basic institution ... under direct assault from homosexual extremists across this country," Barr said. ``This is an issue that transcends partisan lines, it goes to the heart of a fundamental institution."

The House will resume debate on the legislation later Thursday and could vote on it by the end of the day. The Senate held a hearing on a similar measure Thursday but it has not yet come to the Senate floor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 11, 1996

LAWMAKERS HURL INSULTS ON EVE OF PLANNED HOUSE VOTE ON GAY MARRIAGE BILL

By CASSANDRA BURRELL, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- Members of Congress traded insults Thursday, accusing each other of bigotry and being soft on family values a day before the House planned to vote on a bill that would reject gay marriage in federal law.

President Clinton joined the fray by repeating assurances that he opposes discrimination against any group of Americans. But he nevertheless will sign the bill, the White House said, because he ``has long opposed same-sex marriage."

House debate was scheduled to resume Friday on the bill, which would define marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman.

Its sponsor, Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., said the bill wouldn't block any state from legalizing gay marriages, but other states would have the authority to reject their validity.

Married gay couples would remain ineligible for Social Security payments, Medicare and any other federal benefit reserved for heterosexual couples.

Some opponents believe states already have the power to reject gay marriages performed out of state. And Democrats have said the bill was timed to whip up anti-gay passions only months before this year's presidential election.

"Red herrings are flying fast and furious," Barr said from the House floor Thursday. Marriage is "under direct assault by homosexual extremists all across this country."

"This bill ... is an absolute outrage," said Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo. "If you think there isn't enough hate and polarization in America, you're going to love this bill."

Conservatives in the House and the Senate say the legislation is needed to blunt the effects of a gay rights case that could lead Hawaii to become the first state to grant gays the right to marry.

If that happens, the Constitution may require other states to recognize gay marriages performed in Hawaii. The case is scheduled to go to trial in September.

"There are some values that deserve protection," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "It isn't a political issue. ... It's a very important family values issue."

Critics of an identical bill introduced in the Senate by Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., called it thinly disguised bigotry during a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I regret that the committee is spending time on this offensive, unnecessary and divisive legislation," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said. "The bill before us is called the Defense of Marriage Act, but a more accurate title would be the Defense of Intolerance Act -- or even more accurately, the Defense of Endangered Republican Candidates Act."

But Gary Bauer, president of the conservative Family Research Council, denied being bigoted. "It is not hatred to support normalcy," he said.

Kennedy also believes the bill is unconstitutional, saying some scholars have concluded that Congress does not have the authority to nullify the effect of one state's laws in other states.

Kennedy, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Sen. James M. Jeffords, R-Vermont, plan to introduce an amendment that would add a measure prohibiting job discrimination against gays to the bill.

"Some good came still come out of this bad bill," Kennedy said.

But Nickles said he would oppose that idea, saying he didn't want to force an employer like the Boy Scouts of America to hire homosexuals or required a landlord to rent apartments to gays.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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