

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Fenceberry (Fenceberry@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-NOV-1997 10:21:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.10.97.2

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

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1. DAILY OKLAHOMAN Letter says nation going to Hell because of Gore and Ellen
2. PHILADELPHIA GAY NEWS Delaware gets its first center for gay youth!
3. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES Susan Westenhoefer comes to Arkansas
4. HARTFORD COURANT Column: Banning Military Recruiters Too Simple
5. MUNSTER TIMES Letter: Tolerance, not outrage, the proper response

Oklahoman, November 8, 1997

P. O. Box 25125,Oklahoma City,OK,73125

(Fax 405-475-3971)

(online mailer at <http://www.oklahoman.com/editorials>)

Letter: Nation Turns Into 'Fresh Hell'

"What fresh hell is this?"

This was the question Dorothy Parker asked years ago. If you pay much

attention to what's going on in our country today, and if you care, you're obliged to ask the same question now. In our apathy and ignorance, we've allowed our nation to fall into the wrong hands. Those hands have, in front of eyewitnesses, boldly corrupted our political system, perverted our courts, destroyed the rule of law and defiled our culture.

This once great country has fallen so low a man like Al Gore dares seek to lead it.

Where would he lead us? Listen to a couple of recent pronouncements. Gore claims overpopulation contributes to global warming (though the theory of global warming itself is debatable). His solution: birth control and abortion. In other words, kill the children and save the planet. "What fresh hell is this?"

Then, in speaking to his favorite Hollywood crowd, he praised the ABC sitcom "Ellen" as the kind of entertainment we need. Ellen is a lesbian who enjoys exhibiting herself before the TV camera. Gore thinks we should have more of this. "What fresh hell is this?"

But the drive to destroy the American family is bipartisan. A few weeks ago, the House of Representatives, under Republican leadership, passed a bill that gave every federal health clinic in the country permission to distribute

condoms and birth control pills to children as young as 13 without parental consent or even notification! Ironically, schools must still have consent of parents to take students on field trips or give them aspirin. There is one bright side to this latest outrage: Reps. Coburn, Istook, Largent, Watkins and Watts voted against that abominable bill. Still, by a vote of 220 to 201,

Congress decided that it and not you will control your children.

"What fresh hell is this?"

-- Logan L. Riggs, Poteau

Philadelphia Gay News, November 7, 1997

EMAIL: masco@aol.com

First youth center opens in Delaware

Sexual-minority youth in Delaware have a safe place to seek assistance, ask questions and socialize at the recently opened AIDS Delaware opens its drop-in youth center at the Community Service Building in Wilmington.

There have been no support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, according to Wendy Scott, associate director for public affairs and community relations at AIDS Delaware.

Scott said there are a few small, informal groups for gay and lesbian teens in different areas of the state, but said the need for a large, easily

accessible center for all sexual minority youth was needed.

Youth who have accessed the Delaware Gay/Bi Hotline, and youth members of

the AIDS Delaware volunteer corp voiced complaints that there was "just nowhere to go," according to Scott.

The center will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays for teen-agers 19 and under who want to receive information or health service referrals, talk to someone or just hang out. AIDS Delaware's location, one block from Rodney Square and the terminal for most bus routes in New Castle County, will make it easy to reach for the majority of Delaware residents, Scott said.

The center has a tie in with another program Scott is heading, called Outreach 2000. But while Outreach 2000 will focus on HIV education and prevention for youth, Scott said she is not setting a specific focus for the center. She wants the programs offerings to be directed by what the youth need.

"As a core group of kids develops, I'll be able to discuss what kinds of structured programming they would like." Scott said. "... initially we want to provide them with a safe space."

Scott suggested some programs might include support groups, speakers and coming-out issues. She also thought some youth would benefit from access to movies, books and magazines that otherwise may be unavailable.

Scott said she expects a small turnout in the beginning, and realizes it will take some time for word to get around. But she is confident in her ability to get programs like the youth center started. Scott and AIDS Delaware executive director Allen Reese co-founded Rainbow Place of South Jersey, that state's first sexual-minority community center, located in Woodbury.

Scott is networking with national organizations like the National Youth

Advocacy Coalition in Washington, D.C., to find out what works and what doesn't when establishing a youth program.

Scott said the center's hours will be extended as needed, as attendance and programming expand. She said some fund-raising has been done for the center, but primarily it will receive funds through AIDS Delaware.

INFORMATION

The center is located within AIDS Delaware, Community Service Building, Suite 315, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington.

Teen-agers who live in Delaware and want to know more about the center can

call the Delaware Gay/Bi Hotline at (800) 292-0429.

;Teens living outside Delaware should call (302) 652-6776.

Northwest Arkansas Times, November 10, 1997

212 N. East St., Fayetteville, AR, 72701

(Fax 501-442-5477)(E-MAIL: email@nwarktimes.com)

Out for laughs: Gay comic Friday at UA, Clarion Inn

By MAYLON T. RICE Times Staff Writer

Out of the closet and onto the comedy stage, that's the road Suzanne Westenhoefer, America's premier gay comic is traveling these days at a high rate of speed and sound.

She blows into Fayetteville Friday for a 2 p.m. comedy act, open forum and discussion on gay and lesbian issues. The campus show, free to University of Arkansas students, will be in Giffels Auditorium.

Friday evening, Soap & Vick events of Fayetteville will sponsor Westenhoefer in the Terrace Room of the Clarion Inn. Tickets are \$15 for general seating, doors open at 7 p.m.

Westenhoefer has appeared in her own Home Box Office comedy special -as well as HBO's Comic Relief programs.

She has also been featured on Politically Incorrect, Day One, and on a bevy of daytime talk shows, including Rikki Lake, Geraldo, Sally Jessy Raphael, Joan Rivers, Rolanda and Marilu.

She is no stranger to President Clinton, having appeared at the Presidential Inaugural Triangle Balls in 1993 and 1997.

She was the emcee of the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay and Bisexual Rights and also emceed the 1995 Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center Dinner.

Westenhoefer began her comedy career in 1990, entering a contest at Kelly's Piano Bar in New York. That early start catapulted her into the show

business and talk show limelight as an activist for gay issues.

She is sponsored on the UA campus by the Gender Studies Program in an event produced by Soap & Vick Events.

Hartford Courant, November 6, 1997

285 Broad St.,Hartford,CT,06115

(Fax 203-241-3865)(E-MAIL: letters@courant.com)

Banning Military Recruiters Too Simple

By VIVIAN B. MARTIN

Charles Moskos is a smart man who helped create a dumb plan. As the

expert

whose advice led to the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Northwestern University sociologist may have contributed more confusion than relief on the issue of allowing gays and lesbians in the military.

When the American Sociological Association honored Moskos in Toronto last

August for enhancing the public's understanding of sociology, some of the association's gay and lesbian members staged a protest during his acceptance

speech. The line of protesters, carrying small handwritten signs, filed in and out of the meeting hall before I knew what to think about the flap.

The issue is now clearer for me following the Connecticut legislature's lifting of the ban that had prohibited the military from recruiting on public college campuses. State legislators had lifted the ban in the face of the threatened loss of \$70 million in federal funds, though some legislators didn't budge and compared their colleagues to Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus Christ.

I support civil rights for gays and lesbians, but the ban on military recruiting was teetering toward financial recklessness. It also blocked access to military careers for state college students, a population that I would rather have the military recruiting than the people with criminal records and hate-group affiliations it has been dredging up.

The ban on military recruiting never reached critical mass on campuses across the nation. About a dozen universities and law schools voluntarily issued such bans. Several states and some 150 municipalities have laws

similar to Connecticut's law banning discrimination against homosexuals.

These have been used to ban military recruiting on campuses.

Banning military recruiting, however, does nothing to attack the deep-seated attitudinal obstacles that make it difficult to integrate openly gay and lesbian personnel into the heavily male and heterosexual military.

A quick disclosure: Like others with family members in military careers, I am put off by arguments that apply civilian standards to the military, where discipline, morale and cohesion can mean the difference between life and death. President Clinton, in his effort to appease gay supporters early in his administration, rushed in with a policy that didn't help either gays and lesbians who are still closeted or the military.

Of course, Clinton had help from people such as Moskos, a specialist in military sociology who advised President Bush and has been advising Nelson Mandela on racial integration in the South African military.

Moskos' new book, which explores the ways that the U.S. Army's success integrating African Americans up and down the ranks can instruct the rest of society, comes with an endorsement by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell. Moskos and Powell share the view that the integration of gays and lesbians cannot be equated with the integration of blacks in the military.

Sexual orientation is a profound aspect of identity whose role may be more

difficult to assess than that of skin color. The hidden mysteries of sexuality -- one's own and others' -- are what makes whispers and tabloid reports of sexual predilections from adultery to sodomy so fascinating. Although Ellen's coming out on national television has been held up as an example of society's greater tolerance, popular television sitcoms "Friends," "Frasier" and "Seinfeld" have used the prospect of heterosexuals being mistaken for homosexuals to tell a different story.

That sort of plot amuses because the real-life prospect would be uncomfortable for most people.

Not that there's anything wrong with homosexuality, the characters from "Seinfeld" were quick to add in an episode that poked fun at political correctness.

The truth is that in both the civilian and military world, sexual orientation pushes a lot of people's buttons. The challenge of integrating openly gay and lesbian people into the military will require something more systematic than a national Coming Out Day.

When Moskos accepted his award in Toronto, an honor I've come to think he deserves despite "Don't ask, don't tell," he said that sexual orientation, along with gender, race, ethnicity and religion, is still a necessary area for study. And, he noted, all these societal matters are hard to deal with. Banning military recruiting on college campuses was too easy.

(Vivian B. Martin is a free-lance writer whose column appears every other Thursday. To leave her a comment, please call on a touch-tone phone Courant

Source at 246-1000 or (800) 246-8070; Source No. 3644)

Munster Times, November 4, 1997

601 45th Avenue, Munster, IN, 46321

(Fax 219-933-3249)

(online emailer http://www.calunet.com/letters_form.html)

(no out of state letters)

Letter: Tolerance, not outrage, is the proper response

Were you aware that a police action in a well-known gay cruising area netted several men, over 60 percent of them married at the time? Marriage and kids are no guarantee of heterosexuality. In fact, many of the most conservative pillars of society are attempting to repress homosexual inclinations. This is by virtue of Laud Humphreys, who studied such things in detail 30 years ago. With society's attitudes toward homosexuality, most gays are married.

I hope letter writer Angus Robinson (The Times, Oct. 2) never engaged in kissing his partner below the neck, for that is truly sodomy, and he wouldn't want to be guilty that, would he? Speaking of twisted logic, what did he mean when he said if being gay were natural, women would have no need of men? Is he afraid of being useless or just not thinking clearly?

I, too, wish my child didn't have to grow up in a world full of

distasteful practices. However, every time I turn around I see hatred,
bigotry, intolerance and fear of anything different. Why must so many
people

be filled with hate or fear when they see others?

Then there is the matter of letter writer Phyllis Black of Dyer (The
Times, Sept. 18). I am somehow ignorant and intolerant because I have long
championed the rights of minorities. I guess that to a Bible-thumper of her
obvious caliber, I am. Too bad.

As for AIDS being punishment for being gay, I guess one could look at
birth defects as punishment for having children. Prostate and testicular
cancers are probably God's punishment for being male. Breast, ovarian and
cervical cancers are apparently God's punishment for being female.

-- Charles Runick, Hammond ===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

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id <01IPU9SVB6TS00PQA6@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Mon, 10 Nov 1997 09:55:59 -0500 (EST)

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10 Nov 1997 09:55:54 -0500 (EST)

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id JAA28574; Mon, 10 Nov 1997 09:21:39 -0500 (EST)

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Doug.Case (Doug.Case@sdsu.edu@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-NOV-1997 12:25:00.00

SUBJECT: Surprise attack on Hormel nomination stalls approval

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

November 11, 1997

<http://www.sfgate.com>

Surprise Attack on Hormel Nomination

Senators stall approval of gay candidate

Louis Freedberg, Chronicle Washington Bureau

Washington

The nomination of San Francisco philanthropist and gay rights supporter James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg has run into an unexpected snag because of the opposition of at least two conservative senators.

Senators James Inhofe, R-Okla., and Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., have placed ``holds" on Hormel's nomination, which was expected to sail through the Senate this week but now almost certainly will be held over until next year.

Inhofe and Hutchinson are two of the fiercest opponents of gay rights

causes in the Congress.

“The senator is concerned that this nominee has a long background of promoting the gay rights agenda and might use this post to promote this agenda,” said Gary Hoitsma, a spokesman for Inhofe.

If confirmed, Hormel would be the first openly gay ambassador in U.S. history. He was expected to be confirmed easily by the Senate this week, and

the setback caught his supporters off guard.

A “hold” is an informal request to keep a nomination from being approved, and instead to “hold it” on the calendar. By putting a hold on Hormel's nomination, Hutchinson and Inhofe can prevent the Senate from approving Hormel's nomination by unanimous consent and instead can force a roll call on the matter.

“We don't know yet what exactly their concerns are, but we will try to address them and move this nomination forward,” said Susan Kennedy, a spokeswoman for Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. “Anytime a hold is placed on a nomination, it means there are issues to be resolved.”

Kennedy said one strategy would be for Hormel to meet the senators to allay their concerns, which would allow Majority Leader Trent Lott to place the nomination before the full Senate.

Hormel needs 51 votes to win nomination, and if all 46 Democratic senators vote for him, he will need only five Republicans to vote for him, a number he should easily garner -- a fact that isn't lost on Inhofe.

“We're under no illusion that we're going to be able to stop this

nomination," Hoitsma said. ``We just don't want the Senate's agreement to this nomination to be seen as agreement to a pro-gay rights agenda, such as same-sex marriages and quotas and preferences in hiring."

The prospect that Hormel's appointment might be viewed as a milestone in the evolution of gay rights has especially galled some conservatives.

Hutchinson, who was not available for comment, is a former Baptist minister and founder of a Christian school in Oklahoma who has received a 100 percent rating from the American Conservative Union. Inhofe won election to the Senate last year by running on a platform he summarized as ``Gods, gays and guns." A centerpiece of his campaign was attacking his Democratic opponent for supporting President Clinton's easing of the longtime ban on gays in the military.

Both senators supported a bill that denied federal recognition of same-sex marriages, as well as legislation currently in Congress that would ban employment discrimination against gays.

Hormel's nomination appeared to be encountering no difficulties. He easily gained the support of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is chaired by Senator Jesse Helms, R-N.C., another outspoken opponent of gay rights.

Gay advocates yesterday were hopeful that Hormel's appointment will go through despite the opposition of some conservatives. ``The `holds' present some concerns, but it is too early to tell if this portends a larger problem," said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign. ``There is

nothing

in his resume or record to show that there might be a problem."

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

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

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11 Nov 1997 09:22:51 -0800 (PST)

X-Sender: dcase@mail.sdsu.edu

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Fenceberry (Fenceberry@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-NOV-1997 12:32:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.11.97.3

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE Surprise Attack on Hormel Nomination

Senators stall approval of gay candidate

2. LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER Letter from a 15-year-old asks why we're

wasting

our time damning gays

3. LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER Priest's farewell service draws emotion,

applause

4. AKRON BEACON JOURNAL Jenny Jones using her book to repair image

She says sensational killing of show guest isn't her fault

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, November 11, 1997

901 Mission St., San Francisco,CA,94103

(Fax 415-896-1107)(E-MAIL: chronletters@sfgate.com)

(http://www.sfgate.com)

WASHINGTON -- Surprise Attack on Hormel Nomination

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LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER, November 8, 1997

100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, KY, 40508

(Fax 606-255-7236)(E-MAIL: HLedit@lex.infi.net)

Letter: Adults' twisted obsessions

I am a fairly literate and intelligent 15-year-old, but there's a subject

that has me mystified. Would one of the nice folks out there in Lexington please explain why, when people are starving to death, we're spending our time damning gays?

Did I miss it when God called a news conference and said, "Hey, I'm too busy, so forget about that quote 'judge lest ye be judged....,' just read the book and judge for me. Thanks, gotta jet!"

Again, this type of thinking eludes me, with all of the fuss about advertising and television. How about a new concept: "Kids are not so stupid." Maybe we're not really thinking "wow, she's having sex so I

should,

too." Perhaps our parents need to get their heads out of their rears and

say

"no" now and again. Afraid John will throw a tantrum? Would you prefer he

grow up vulgar and crass? If you teach your child how to act, and raise

him

to be sure of himself, television won't change that. And, when God comes,

I'll bet she'll have bigger concerns than a tacky ad.

-- Darra Clark, Lexington

LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER, November 9, 1997

PRIEST'S FAREWELL SERVICE DRAWS EMOTION, APPLAUSE

By Angie Muhs

Herald-Leader Staff Writer

RICHMOND - A Catholic priest, who is leaving his parish in the wake of a controversy, yesterday during his farewell Mass urged his congregation to have faith that all will turn out according to God's plan.

The Rev. Kenneth Waibel, who had been pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church and the Newman Center at Eastern Kentucky University, told a crowd of about 500 people last night that he did not want the parishes to suffer from the controversy that led to his resignation .

"The divine director will make it all work out," he said. "We know that to be true. We have to hold on to that truth."

Waibel, 37, stepped down after a Catholic newspaper ran a news story about his remarks at a conference of the National Association of Catholic

Diocesan

Lesbian and Gay Ministries .

Waibel said he had been misquoted and defended his participation in the conference. But the story became a lightning rod for critics who also disagreed with some recent changes at St. Mark.

He said he resigned because he did not think he could effectively lead the parish anymore.

But the crowd at last night's Mass was clearly supportive of Waibel. Some parishioners cried during the service. Gifts were piled on a table, next to a bank with a sign reading "Going-away money for Fr. Ken."

In the church bulletin was a short message wishing Waibel well. "Seeing you leave is difficult and we apologize collectively for any hurt that has been caused you," read the message, signed "Your parish family."

Waibel, who plans to take a 4-month sabbatical, used his homily to make a request of the crowd .

"What I'd like you to give me as a going-away present is a promise that you will not leave this parish," he said. Many of those present responded with applause and a standing ovation.

Waibel, who appeared to be wiping away tears at some points during the service, also addressed some remarks directly to young men in the room, pleading with them to consider entering the priesthood .

"Do not be afraid of the priesthood," Waibel said. "It's the greatest thing I've ever done, and I can't imagine doing anything else with my life

other than being a priest."

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, November 11, 1997

44 E. Exchange Street, Akron, OH, 44328

(Fax 330-996-3520)(E-MAIL: ohio@akron.infi.net)

(<http://www.ohio.com>)

Jenny Jones using her book to repair image

She says sensational killing of show guest isn't her fault

By David Bauder

Associated Press

NEW YORK: Wrapping up another interview on her image rehabilitation

tour,

talk-show host Jenny Jones has one last point to make.

She's heading back to Chicago in three days to tape more episodes of her

syndicated show. As of now, she has no idea what the topics will be,

whether

she'll talk to beauty makeover recipients, sexual abuse victims or someone

else entirely.

"That's not so shocking," she says. "Why is that so shocking?"

Talk with Jones for a half-hour and read her new book, *Jenny Jones: My*

Story, and you understand the point she's trying to make: There's so much

that goes into producing the daily show that it's impossible to keep track

of

everything.

Yet if you're working to erase an image of being an empty vessel

disconnected from the show that bears your name, it's hard to see exactly

how

such an admission helps.

Jones understands she's been branded for life for a sensational crime

tied

to her show. In 1995, Jonathan Schmitz murdered Scott Amedure, three days

after Amedure revealed that he had a secret crush on Schmitz during a

taping

of The Jenny Jones Show.

She became the unwanted symbol for a cultural attack on "trash TV." Then

she saw her personal reputation battered by her dazed and confused

testimony

in Schmitz's murder trial. She blames one day's notice to testify -- and a

sleepless night.

The whole experience has frustrated and bewildered Jones, who is using

her

book and a series of interviews to, in effect, take the witness stand

again.

"There's a lot of stuff there that people don't know," she says. "And if they only read that chapter of the book, some of the people that judged me and judged our show won't feel the same way. They only heard half the story."

Schmitz's defenders argued that he came on the show believing his

secret

admirer was a woman and was humiliated to learn it was Amedure. Jones

insists

that Schmitz was not ambushed, that he was told the admirer could be gay.

Even after the show, Schmitz changed his plane reservation so he could

fly

home with Amedure and a woman who was a mutual friend. The three went out

drinking, Jones says, and Schmitz suggested three-way sex but was turned

down

by the woman.

"There was no sign of humiliation," Jones says. "I don't know what

happened

between them. Nobody knows what happened between them three days later. . .

.. This whole thing could have happened with or without our show. People

are

saying that if it hadn't been for the show, (Amedure would) be alive. Not

necessarily."

Jones and her staff thoroughly examined their procedures after the

murder

and concluded nothing had been done wrong, and nothing would be changed.

"I don't mean to sound uncaring when I say my conscience is clear, but

there is nothing for us to feel any sense of responsibility for," she

says.

"This was a fun topic. Secret crush shows are a staple of daytime. We do

it

all the time . . .

"People are shocked to hear me say that I would do it again, but I would

do it again," she says. "I don't think there's anything wrong with the

topic."

To counter her trial testimony's impression that she has little

backstage

involvement in putting together her show, Jones spends page after page of

her
book detailing what she does, including studying at home the nights before
tapings.

She considers herself something of a control freak. "I'm involved in
day-to-day activities," she says. "I write, discuss production ideas,
discuss
topics with them. I approve the makeover clothes. I run the office. I go in
the kitchen twice a day and make sure it's clean."

Wait a minute. Clean the kitchen?

She's not kidding. She says she conducts surprise kitchen inspections,
and
woe be to the staffer who leaves a messy microwave.

The murder -- she bristles when it's called the "Jenny Jones murder" --
accounts for only one chapter of her book. The rest details a bumpy show
biz
career that includes stints as a rock n roll drummer, a backup singer for
Wayne Newton, a stand-up comedian and a Star Search winner.

It also poignantly describes five operations to clean up botched breast
implants and a relationship with an alcoholic mother whom Jones never could
quite satisfy. In fact, she'd make a great talk-show guest.

Jones says she feels comfortable in the knowledge her audience never
abandoned her.

"Most of the critics don't watch the show," she says. "But the people
who

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CREATION DATE/TIME:11-NOV-1997 11:57:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.11.97.2

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

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2. LOS ANGELES TIMES Politics: The L.A. City Council recently voted to close a synagogue but, using the same rule, allowed a sex club to remain open.
3. LOS ANGELES TIMES Letter: Sex Club's Zoning
4. LOS ANGELES TIMES O.C. Officials Praise Clinton's Attack on Hate Crimes

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 11, 1997

Laugh Lines

;;;;* "President Clinton addressed 1,500 gays and lesbians at a black-tie dinner hosted by the Human Rights Commission," says Bob Mills. "The president

announced his new policy on gays in the military: Don't ask, don't tell

Jesse

Helms."

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 11, 1997

Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053

(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319)

(E-MAIL: letters@latimes.com) (<http://www.latimes.com>)

One Zoning Law, Two Outcomes

Politics: The L.A. City Council recently voted to close a synagogue but, using the same rule, allowed a sex club to remain open. Homeowners question the rationale.

By BETH SHUSTER, Times Staff Writer

; One is a house of worship for Orthodox Jews in a residential area steps

away from well-heeled Hancock Park. The other is a gay sex club in a working-class, mostly Latino neighborhood in east Hollywood.

;;;;Both have been assailed recently by neighbors eager to close them down.

;;;;;But the debates weren't about religious or sexual freedom. They were about zoning and, more important, about which Los Angeles City Council district your synagogue or sex club is in.

;;;;;In the contradictory world of Los Angeles' zoning laws, the City Council

has the power to use the same laws and regulations to shutter a shul and to

keep a gay nightclub in business.

;;;;;It's a power that enables each council member to be a mayor of sorts
in

their districts, able to grant favors to politically powerful homeowners
associations or advocacy groups. And, in a council as splintered as this
one,

zoning matters typically create that rare occasion when lawmakers defer to
each other.

;;;;;But it can get complicated, as it did last week when the council
narrowly agreed to allow the sex club to remain open. The council in July
unanimously voted to close the synagogue.

;;;;;"These are very intricate problems when you think about sexual
freedom,

religious freedom and zoning," said Gail Gordon, a Los Angeles attorney who
represented the Hancock Park homeowners who oppose the synagogue and the
Rampart Rangers/East Hollywood Neighborhood Watch group that opposes the
sex

club. "It's an interesting juxtaposition of two types of freedoms the
Constitution protects versus zoning."

;;;;;But council members didn't pass judgment on those freedoms.

;;;;;They didn't have to.

;;;;;The city's zoning regulations allowed the council to veto the
synagogue

and sanction the sex club by applying the same law. Both establishments
needed an exception to the rules prohibiting businesses or other
institutions

from locating in or too near residential neighborhoods; the synagogue is
in a

residential area and the sex club is within 500 feet of one.

;;;;;The council members, however, said these were purely land use considerations--not deliberations on religious freedom or sexual orientation.

;;;;;"This wasn't about picking a business versus the neighbors at all," said

Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, who supported the sex club but opposed the synagogue. "But for the fact that the owners came to the city for a variance, people did not even know the businesses were there."

;;;;;Those involved have a different view.

;;;;;"How does the council basically knock down the right of 13 or 14 people to pray together at 3rd [Street] and Highland [Avenue] and allow a sex club to exist near a residential neighborhood?" said one City Hall insider who supported the Orthodox congregation. "What am I missing here? Praying is a bad thing and a sex club is a good thing?"

;;;;;In the two recent zoning cases, both groups first approached their council members. Congregation Etz Chaim and its rabbi, Chaim Baruch Rubin, sought Council President John Ferraro's aid in securing proper permits to hold services in the white, two-story home at the busy corner of Highland Avenue and 3rd Street. The shul had previously been in the Hancock Park home of the current rabbi's father--illegally, but studiously overlooked by city officials. When the elder Rabbi Rubin grew too old to hold services, his son

moved the tiny congregation to a rented house a few blocks away, just outside the neighborhood's boundaries.

;;;;;Owners of the Barracks, meanwhile, sought out Goldberg for the proper permits to legally keep open the gay men's sex club. It too had been operating illegally--since January.

;;;;;Resident groups in both areas, meanwhile, geared up to fight. And in typical fashion for these complicated land use matters, consultants and lawyers were retained.

;;;;;The synagogue hired George Mhlsten, a well-known downtown attorney and

City Hall lobbyist. The sex club had an attorney, consultants and the backing

of the city's AIDS policy coordinator, as well as gay and lesbian advocacy groups.

;;;;;Both the Hancock Park and the east Hollywood residents groups hired Gordon, a former deputy city attorney.

;;;;;When it came to a council vote, Ferraro, who has been strongly backed in

previous elections by the Hancock Park Homeowners Assn., pushed hard against

the synagogue. He succeeded in winning the council's unanimous decision to deny the congregation a zoning variance. The east Hollywood group did not receive similar support from its council member; Goldberg, who has had the strong support of her district's well-organized gay population, lobbied hard

for the club, winning a variance that will allow it to remain open, so long

as the owners abide by more than two dozen conditions.

;;;;;The differences in the residents groups were not lost on those involved.

;;;;;"Money plays such an enormous role in the election of our council people," said Geoffrey Saldivar, president of the east Hollywood group that sought to close the Barracks. "There's an indebtedness to those who have helped you get elected."

;;;;;Walking around his neighborhood at twilight recently, Saldivar waved to children playing barefoot in front of run-down apartment buildings. He exchanged pleasantries with women buying fruits and vegetables at an open truck, and he showed off huge piles of trash, accumulated through a community cleanup event.

;;;;;"Our group has been very active" politically, said Saldivar, a substitute teacher. "We have a tremendous amount of sweat equity . . . but we can't provide money."

;;;;;The politics of zoning is not lost on the Hancock Park Homeowners Assn., either. Jim Wolf, president of the group of just under 600 dues-paying members, says Ferraro should represent those who elected him.

;;;;;"That's just part of the election process," said Wolf, who lives four wide, tree-lined blocks from the synagogue in Hancock Park. "This was neighbors and homeowners asking the city to enforce the rules and regulations

of the city."

* * *

;;;;The rabbi, however, has a different view.

;;;;;"You can absolutely see [that] where it is politically in their best interest, that's what they will do," the rabbi said, preparing recently for evening services.

;;;;;"When faced with the opposition of the so-called homeowners association, he backed down," Rubin said of Ferraro. "He's a politician, and numbers count, whether they be dollars or votes."

;;;;;Ferraro said he thought about the synagogue last week when faced with the sex club zoning matter; he broke with custom and opposed the variance that his colleague Goldberg wanted. He said he thought that he had to be consistent--a residential neighborhood should remain as such.

;;;;;"Sometimes the community is right and sometimes they are not," the council president said. "Obviously we try to listen to our constituents.

In the synagogue case, there were those in favor but a vast majority opposed."

;;;;;Council members acknowledge their deference to their colleague representing the area involved.

;;;;;"You do give weight to the council member who's been through it," said Councilman Joel Wachs, who voted with Goldberg to keep the Barracks open and voted with Ferraro to close Etz Chaim. "The reason you do is because if the arguments are good on both sides . . . the council member usually knows more

about it and has spent enough time to really understand the issues."

;;;;;But should the council be the highest level for zoning appeals--other than court? (The Etz Chaim synagogue has filed a federal lawsuit against the city alleging discrimination and violations of the state and U.S. constitutions.)

;;;;;Council members are protective of their zoning authority, a power granted to them through the 72-year-old City Charter. But with two charter reform commissions reviewing the document, the council's zoning ability could be removed or reduced.

;;;;;Council members shudder at the prospect.

;;;;;"Absolutely we should do this," said Councilman Hal Bernson, who chairs the council's powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee and who voted to close both the shul and the gay sex club. "We represent the people--they elect us to make these kinds of decisions."

;;;;;The difficulty for the council, says attorney Josh Kaplan, who represents Barracks' owner Roger Jamil, is the members' need to balance competing interests in their districts.

;;;;;To Rabbi Rubin, however, the council's deliberations are decidedly out of balance. "What are we doing here? We're gathering and assembling to pray,"

he said. "It impacts the community so beautifully. We have families walking here--three, four generations. They say we are detrimental to the quality of life. We are causing property values to go down?"

;;;;;"It's hypocritical."

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 11, 1997

Letter: Sex Club's Zoning

Re the L.A. City Council permitting a Hollywood gay sex club to remain open in a residential area near an elementary school, Nov. 6:

;;;;;Last summer, The Times reported that the City Council denied a permit

to

an Orthodox Jewish synagogue in the Hancock Park section of Los Angeles. In

essence, children going to school in Hollywood walking past an

establishment

where men engage in sodomy and oral copulation--this is acceptable.

Children

going to school in Hancock Park walking past a place where a quorum

(greater

than 10) of men engage in the prayer and worship of G-d--this is not

acceptable.

;;;;;To be sure, Hollywood neighborhood groups do not have the political or

financial clout of the Hancock Park Homeowner's Assn. Nevertheless, the

members of the City Council are the elected representatives of the city of

Los Angeles. Their decisions reflect the predominant values and priorities

of

the people of this city. So if anyone has a problem with this

decision--look

in the mirror, first.

-- HOWARD WINTER, Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 11, 1997

O.C. Officials Praise Clinton's Attack on Hate Crimes

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN, MIMI KO CRUZ, Special to The Times

; WASHINGTON--President Clinton on Monday urged Congress to crack down on

hate crimes by adopting legislation making it a federal offense to attack people because of their sexual orientation, gender or disability.

;;;"Our laws already punish some crimes committed against people on the basis of race or religion or national origin," Clinton said at a White

House

conference on hate crimes.

;;;"But we should do more. We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm. We must prohibit crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability,"

Clinton said.

;;;"The president's message, which included stumping for proposed legislation that would expand hate crime laws, was cheered at Santa Ana College, where local activists gathered to watch a live broadcast of the speech.

;;;"This is an excellent opportunity for the United States to get in touch

with the fact that diversity issues are crucial to a strong country," said

Joyce Greenspan, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of Orange County. "If we don't begin to acknowledge and deal with these issues, there will be more hate crimes."

;;;"The conference, called to raise public awareness of hate crimes and to

devise strategies to combat them, is part of the president's yearlong effort

to encourage open discussions about the country's racial problems and to help

communities deal with them better.

;;;;Clinton endorsed proposed legislation, sponsored by Sens. Arlen Specter

(R-Pa.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), to expand the federal hate crime laws to include violence against homosexuals, gender-motivated attacks and attacks on the disabled.

;;;;Thirty percent of hate crimes require hospitalization, which is needed in 7% of other crimes.

;;;;The legislation carries a maximum 10-year sentence for those who cause injuries--even as minor as a black eye--and a life sentence if the victim dies.

;;;;Ann Marie Williams of the Orange County Branch of National Assn. for the

Advancement of Colored People said her organization has been receiving reports of an increasing number of hate incidents in local schools. Two months ago, she said, a Buena Park middle school student was beaten and called names because she is African American.

;;;;Williams said one school district recently expelled a student for such behavior, while a district in a neighboring city merely sent the perpetrator

home for a day. She praised Clinton for wanting to establish national standards that would have to be implemented on the state and local levels.

;;;;Uniform guidelines on punishment "should come from the federal

government," Williams said.

;;;;Thirty-eight states have laws against hate crimes but only 18 apply their statutes to attacks against people because of their sexual orientation.

The penalties vary widely from state to state, according to officials in Congress and the administration.

;;;;The president and congressional sponsors said that the proposal to expand the federal hate crime law could bring uniformity to the patchwork of state laws and send a strong message about hate crimes.

;;;;"All Americans deserve protection from hate," Clinton said. The legislation is to be introduced this week.

;;;;Nationwide, the number of reported hate crimes rose last year to 8,759;

there were 7,947 in 1995. There is a broad agreement that hate crimes have been underreported.

;;;;Marti Schrank, a volunteer of the Democratic Party of Orange County and

Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence, was optimistic that a solution is forthcoming.

; ; ; ; "It's going to be successful," Schrank said, "but it's going to ===== ATTACHMENT
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SUBJECT: Some excerpts from the Bennett-Birch debate from ABCNEWS.com

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

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TEXT:
ABC NEWS

Sunday, November 9, 1997

<http://www.abcnews.com/>

Clinton Calls for Gay Rights

Group's Leader Says President Is in Line With Most Americans

"Our ideals were never meant to be frozen in stone or time." -President

Clinton

By David Phinney ABCNEWS.com

W A S H I N G T O N, Nov. 9 - President Clinton's support for equal rights for gay and lesbians shows that he is in synch with most Americans, said Elizabeth Birch, executive director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. And his appearance at the group's fund-raising gala proves it, she said.

"The president in speaking at this dinner is very much in synch with

the American people," said Birch on ABCNEWS' This Week. "Over 80 percent of Americans do not want to see gay Americans discriminated against particularly in the workplace and 68 percent support the bill the president talked about at length last night, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act."

Empower America co-chair Bill Bennett said the president avoided the most important issue. "The enormous issue, of course, confronting gay America is not discrimination, but devastation," Bennett said. "It would have been good for the president to come before that audience last night and say, 'look, the promiscuous lifestyle of homosexual men is devastating the homosexual community.'"

Becoming the first U.S. president to address a gay rights organization, Clinton called upon Americans to support equal rights for gays and lesbians.

"We all know that sexual orientation has nothing to do with balancing a book, fixing a broken bone or changing a spark plug. What counts is energy, honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way." Clinton told an enthusiastic crowd of 1,500 at the black-tie fund-raising gala held Saturday in his honor and that of ABC actress Ellen DeGeneres, who recently made headlines by revealing that she is a lesbian on the sitcom, Ellen.

Clinton's comments met with thunderous applause when he urged passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that seeks to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The measure nearly passed the Senate last year with a vote of 49 to 51.

Such legislation follows a tradition of civil rights struggle that

has coursed through all of the country's history, Clinton said. The Civil War, the women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement of the 1960s were all important chapters in extending basic rights and liberties to all Americans.

Gay Rights Are Next Now, he said, it is time to end discrimination against gays and lesbians.

"Our ideals were never meant to be frozen in stone or time," he said.

"We have always worked toward higher and higher definitions of equality."

Clinton has spoken in favor of civil rights of gays and lesbians since he first took office in 1993, but this sold-out dinner marked the first time that any sitting president stepped forward to take part in an event hosted by and for gays.

That gesture alone is worthy of appreciation, said Birch. But she also praised the president for his efforts in helping advance the concerns of gays and lesbians.

"You have played a brave and powerful and indispensable role in the march toward justice," she said. "We thank you not only for being here tonight, but for being the first president in history to stand up for our civil rights."

Birch singled out the president's consistent push to increase federal funding in the war against AIDS as well as his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. She also applauded Clinton for appointing a record number of openly-gay people to high levels in his administration.

White House Plays it Low The White House attempted to play down the \$250-a-plate gala and claimed that the fund-raiser represents an ongoing

effort to reach out to all Americans.

After all, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, the event differs little from Clinton's recent appearance at an Italian-American dinner.

"The president is hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face," McCurry said Thursday. "I think he is not hoping to make history."

But making history may be unavoidable.

While gay groups herald the appearance as a sign of their growing political clout and support, social conservatives outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., picketed the event.

Others condemned the president and accused him of pandering to a special-interest group that threatens the well-being of impressionable young Americans.

The "endorsement of Hollywood-style homosexual activism is likely to send a deadly signal to many young people, who are sexually vulnerable," said Robert Knight of the conservative Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. "To use the bully pulpit to glamorize behavior that offends the values of millions of Americans ... is a disservice."

Clinton Retorts Clinton anticipated his critics.

"Some people will not be comfortable with you and with me being here tonight ... but I hope we work to embrace people to overcome their fears," he said.

Invoking the words of American poet Walt Whitman, Clinton said that "Our greatest strength is in embracing all."

That, said Clinton, "is a good obligation."

Numerous members of Congress also attended the elegant dinner, as did

several White House officials, including chief-of-staff Erskin Bowles, AIDS czar Sandra Thurman and communications director Ann Lewis.

Several people stood up during Clinton's speech to protest the spread of AIDS and encourage the president's support of needle-exchange programs.

Ellen Attends With Companion DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation during a highly-promoted and controversial episode of her ABC television sitcom Ellen, was honored at the event for what was called her "historic coming out." DeGeneres attended with her companion, Anne Heche.

In her speech, DeGeneres said it felt strange to be standing on the podium after having dodged the question of her sexuality for years in interviews before she came out.

"My sexuality is as much a part of me as my skin color," she said.

Ellen's mother, Betty DeGeneres, was named as the 1997-1998 "coming out" spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign.

Clinton Not All That Was Hoped Despite Clinton's avowed support of gay rights, many gay activists acknowledge that his words have not always translated into substantive action.

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve in the U.S. military, but after a contentious battle with conservatives in Congress and at the Pentagon, the president settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

During the 1996 election year fervor, the president also signed into law legislation that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

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To: (LGBT Political Activists)

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1. ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS Clinton makes it harder for future leaders to

brush off gay rights

2. CHARLOTTE OBSERVER Two letters: Thanks for offering benefits to gays,

and, Christian for Clinton/Gore

3. ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS Clinton's anti-closet (Kate, that is!)

"Recovering" Catholic and lesbian comedian Kate Clinton came out before

Ellen made it cool.

4. FEEDBACK A list of papers that carry Cal Thomas' column

ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS, November 13, 1997

345 Cedar Street, St. Paul,MN,55101

(Fax 612-228-5500)(E-MAIL: letters@pioneerpress.com)

Clinton makes it harder for future leaders to brush off gay rights

TOM TEEPEN

Syndicated Columnist

With his keynote address to the gay and lesbian Human Rights Campaign

last

weekend, President Clinton did more than just give the group's

anti-discrimination cause a small and passing boost. He also put future presidents in a bit of a box on the issue, potential long-run help.

Clinton broke new political ground. Where it was historic that he spoke to a homosexual rights group -- the first president to do so -- it will be notable in the future if a president refuses similar invitations.

Balking presidents will be cornered into explaining why they are begging off, at least making political gay-bashing additionally awkward for pols who like to play to the anti-homosexual bleachers but don't like to be widely seen doing so.

The immediate and formal purpose of Clinton's speech was to push for enactment of federal legislation that would outlaw job discrimination against gays and lesbians.

That is a long way from putting sexual orientation on an equal footing with the more familiar categories of civil rights coverage -- race, religion, national origin and gender. But enactment would be useful both in its own right and as a political ice-breaker for a broad national conversation on the issues.

What is more, the limited issue of job discrimination resonates with the American sense of fair play -- overcoming, at least for some, whatever attitudes they may otherwise carry against gays and lesbians.

A study three years ago by the University of Maryland logged markedly lower

incomes for gays and lesbians compared with others with the same jobs, training and education. And a Human Rights Campaign poll found 77 percent of the public opposes anti-homosexual bias in employment, but 70 percent had no idea it is lawful.

So Clinton was on fairly safe turf for his gesture, both on the specific issue and in the venue. The Human Rights Campaign is a long-established and earnest civil rights organization. It eschews the street theater of ACT-UP. And of course Clinton is past any frets about re-election.

If the president's appearance can't as a result be called exactly brave, it was still bold. Clinton has tried to do right by gay and lesbians rights, but the record is mixed.

His attempt to end discrimination in the military fizzled into the equivocating "don't ask, don't tell" policy that has done little more than redecorate the same old closet. Cornered on the topic during his re-election campaign, the president disavowed homosexual marriage as a legal option.

He has also, however, appointed unprecedented numbers of open gays and lesbians to his administration and, important modeling, he is at obvious ease with gays and lesbians. Sometimes the bully pulpit is for pantomime.

Securing gay and lesbian Americans against discrimination because of their

sexual nature is the last remaining item on the nation's basic civil rights to-do list. Clinton won't be able to close out the task. An often venomous opposition has developed. But Clinton has moved the issue off the forbidden subject list and has brought it closer to thoughtful consideration.

Teepen is a columnist for Cox Newspapers. Distributed by the New York Times News Service.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, November 13, 1997

P. O. Box 2138, Charlotte, NC, 28233

(Fax 704-358-5022) (<http://www.charlotte.com>)

(E-MAIL: opinion@charlotte.com)

Letter: Thanks, Observer, for fairness to gay employees

In response to "Observer to extend benefits next year" (Nov. 8):

Great gobs of gratitude for your decision to join the growing ranks of companies providing equal benefits for your gay employees' partners!

You know, if we could just see a national wave of such corporate responsibility, we would be spared the need for seeking any governmental protection!

-- GARNETT E. PHIBBS, Charlotte

Letter: Why this Christian backs Clinton, Gore

In response to "How can a Christian support Clinton and Gore?" (Nov. 3 Forum):

I am a Christian who supports Clinton and Gore. While I don't support partial-birth abortions, I, like all true Christians, applaud our vice

president for praising "Ellen" on the basis of love, acceptance and tolerance

of gay people. After all, Jesus gathered into his flock those whom society had marginalized. He taught that love, not fear, is the way to heaven.

Hasn't Father John P. Bradley read the letter that the American Catholic Bishops recently sent out preaching acceptance of gay children? Doesn't he realize that Bishop Curlin of Charlotte also preaches tolerance? I ask Father

Bradley and everyone else who espouses hate in the name of Christianity to re-examine their values.

-- JOSEPH ROCCANOVA, Charlotte

St. Paul Pioneer Press, November 13, 1997

(E-MAIL: letters@pioneerpress.com)

Clinton's anti-closet

"Recovering" Catholic and lesbian comedian Kate Clinton came out before Ellen made it cool.

BOB PROTZMAN COMEDY CRITIC

For lesbian Kate Clinton, there was no "closet."

Unlike the ballyhooed "coming out" of Ellen DeGeneres on ABC-TV's "Ellen" show, Clinton's sexual preference was no secret from the beginning of her career.

"I was never in the closet," Clinton explains. "I came out immediately, from the very first time I went onstage as a stand-up. I'm so avant-garde.

Actually, it was stupid, but who knew then?"

Clinton made her comedy debut in 1981 -- or as she puts it, "the same year

as Ronald Reagan" -- and despite (and perhaps because of) her sexual preference in a predominantly heterosexual world, has forged a very successful career.

A political satirist and feminist humorist ("fumerist," she sometimes calls herself), Clinton has been spending a lot of time these days talking about that highly discussed and highly rated April 30 episode of "Ellen."

She's been asked her opinion of DeGeneres' coming out in appearances on a variety of TV and radio talk shows and in interviews with daily newspapers and other publications.

"I swear, my clothes could be on fire, and I'd still get, 'What about Ellen?' I've become an expert in Ellen-tology," Clinton quips.

But she doesn't mind at all, because, as she says, many homosexuals regard the "Ellen" show as their Super Bowl. Like millions of others -- gay and straight -- Clinton watched the sitcom with a group of friends.

"Yeah, we had a regular party, with finger foods and all that. You'll recall that Chrysler boycotted the show (removed its ads). Well, someone at our gathering took an auto air bag and shaped it in the form of (the Rev.) Jerry Falwell. We hung it on the ceiling like a pinata, and whoever broke it open got the toaster oven."

But seriously, says Clinton, there was a range of emotions among the folks

at her Provincetown, Mass., home.

"Some couldn't believe it was happening. Almost everyone laughed hard and often, and some even got all teared up. Not me," she kids. "I was too worried that I'd run out of snacks."

Clinton (no relation to you-know-who, although she does have a brother named Bill) is convinced the DeGeneres coming out will have positive short- and long-term impacts on DeGeneres and on American society in general.

"I've talked to Ellen, and I think it was the right time for her. Some wanted her to come out sooner, but she did it when she was strong enough. I'm very happy for her that she has (partner and actress) Anne Heche to help her through it."

On a larger scale, Clinton feels, DeGeneres' revelation has generated a national conversation/debate about coming out and about other aspects of homosexuality.

"I think it says something that there now is a prominent politician who has been described as 'pro-choice, pro-environment and pro-Ellen.' " Her reference is to Vice President (and perhaps future presidential candidate) Al Gore, who spoke positively about the "Ellen" program.

But back to Clinton. She was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and grew up in the upstate New York city of Syracuse, where she tested her humor quotient early

by trying to crack up her mom at the dinner table. Of her mother, who died in

1984, Clinton observes, "Her very dry, wicked -- but also wholesome -- sense

of humor was an important influence on me."

Clinton tried teaching high-school English for awhile. "Being a teacher is

the same as being a comic," she claims. "You get to work the room, you learn

to deal with hecklers, and you try to get laughs."

But a writing and improvisational workshop with comic-to-be Bob "Bobcat" Goldthwait convinced Clinton that her political views deserved a public hearing.

But it took a dare to get her onstage. She began modestly, trying out her material in church basements and bars, using politics, Catholicism (she's a self-described "recovering" Catholic) and her lesbianism to create an act.

Her career has thrived. She's earned high praise for performances in all the top comedy clubs, as well as numerous theaters. She's been a staff writer on TV's "Rosie O'Donnell Show," and tours the country with one-woman shows such as last year's "All Het Up" and this year's "I'm Just Saying," which she'll perform Friday night at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St.

Catherine in St. Paul.

The versatile Clinton also is a monthly columnist for the the Progressive and the Advocate magazines, and is near completion of a book

tentatively titled "CommuniKATE," to be published by Ballantine in '98.

Although she endured some heckling -- and worse yet, some bomb scares -- Clinton says she's happy that she revealed her sexual preference from the start.

"I think my success can be attributed to good old-fashioned hard work, but also to the fact that as a performer I've never had to hold anything back. I have friends whose artistic growth has been stunted because they won't or can't talk about their sexuality."

FEEDBACK From: ModMajor96@aol.com

This is the list of e-mail addresses of some papers carrying the misguided and often malicious columns of Cal Thomas -- Slightly updated and amended -- The next time he publishes something nasty in YOUR paper respond and then add replies by electro magic!! Let our voices be heard, CLEARLY!

Abilene TX Reporter letter@abinews.com

Alexandria (LA) Town Talk - towntalk@timetrend.com

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, AZ auslande@azstarnet.com

Arkansas Democrat Gazette - news@ardemgaz.com

Asbury Park NJ Press editors@app.com

Atlanta Constitution constitution@ajc.com

Austin American Statesman letters@statesman.com

Baltimore Sun letters@baltsun.com

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise ,OK examiner@e-enterprise.com

Bellingham Herald, WA newsroom@bellingh.gannett.com

Billings (MT) Gazette

Boca Raton News FL bocanews@herald.infi.net

Bradenton (FL) Herald - bhwrite@bhip.infi.net

Brainerd (MN) Daily Dispatch - dailyd@brainerd.net

Burlington (IA) Hawk Eye - Kearney@dailynews.net

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - gazette@fyiowa.infi.net

Centre Daily Times (State College PA) pcarty@knighttridder.geis.com

Chicago Tribune - tribletter@aol.com

Chicago Sun-Times - letters@suntimes.com

Danbury (CT) News-Times editor@newstimes.com

Danville (VA) Register and Bee - rbnews@gamewood.net

Danville (KY) Advocate Messenger - advocate@amnews.com

Daytona (FL) News Journal - letters@news-jrnl.com

Delaware (PA) County Times - newsroom@i21.com

Des Moines Register - letters@dmreg.com

Florida Today (Melbourne FL) 71333.1616@compuserve.com

Fredericksburg,VA Free Lance-Star lettersl@flstarweb.com

Gainesville (FL) Sun sundart@aol.com

Honolulu Star Bulletin - letters@starbulletin.com

Houston Chronicle viewpoints@chron.com

Huntsville Times (& Huntsville News) (AL) Jehinger@traveller.com

Indianapolis Star stareditor@starnews.com

Kansas City Star - letters@kcstar.com

Keene (NH) Sentinel Letters@keenesentinel.com

Lacrosse Tribune, Wisconsin LaxJour@aol.com

Lake Charles (LA) American Press news@americanpress.com

Lexington (KY) Herald Leader Hledit@lex.infi.net

Los Angeles Times - letters@latimes.com

Louisville Courier Journal - cjletter@louisvil.gannett.com

Macon (GA) Telegraph editpage@mto.infi.net

Marietta (GA) Daily Journal MDJNews@aol.com

Miami Herald HeraldEd@aol.com

Minneapolis Star Tribune - opinion@startribune.com

Mobile Press-Register - mobile.eds@dibbs.com

Naples (FL) Daily News, letters@naplesnews.com

New Haven CT Register letters@nhregister.com

New London, CT Day --daylib@aol.com

Ocala (FL) Star Banner - osb@mercury.net

Omaha World Herald - pulse@novia.net

Peoria (IL) Journal Star - forum@pjstar.com

Quad City Times (Davenport IA) QCTimes@aol.com

Rapid City Journal (SD) journal@rapidnet.com

Sioux City (IA) Journal - scjrnl@pionet.net

Springdale (AR) News - webmeister@ipa.net

St Louis Post Dispatch letters@pd.stlnet.com

The News Journal (Wilmington,DE) newsroom@newsjournal.com

The San Jose Mercury News - opinion@sjmercury.com.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer -Editpage@seattle-pi.com,

The Arizona Republic --e-mail: opinions@aol.com

The Knoxville (TN) News-Sentinel - kns@knoxnews.com,

New OrleansTimes-Picayune TPLetters

Wichita (KS) Eagle w===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:
RFC-822-headers:
Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879)
id <01IPYGVKX40G00RBXT@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Thu, 13 Nov 1997 10:01:22 -0500 (EST)
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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IPYGV9RQR400WIUM@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Thu,
13 Nov 1997 10:01:14 -0500 (EST)
Received: from mrin46.mail.aol.com ([198.81.19.156])
by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.1-7 #6879)
with ESMTP id <01IPYGV1TS520016VZ@STORM.EOP.GOV>; Thu,
13 Nov 1997 10:00:57 -0500 (EST)
Received: (from root@localhost) by mrin46.mail.aol.com (8.8.5/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

id JAA25171; Thu, 13 Nov 1997 09:24:28 -0500 (EST)
===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Doug.Case (Doug.Case@sdsu.edu@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-NOV-1997 03:13:00.00

SUBJECT: Tom Teepen commentary on Clinton's HRC speech

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

New York Times News Service

November 13, 1997

Clinton makes it harder for future leaders to brush off gay rights

TOM TEEPEN

Syndicated Columnist

With his keynote address to the gay and lesbian Human Rights Campaign
last

weekend, President Clinton did more than just give the group's
anti-discrimination cause a small and passing boost. He also put future
presidents in a bit of a box on the issue, potential long-run help.

Clinton broke new political ground. Where it was historic that he spoke
to

a homosexual rights group -- the first president to do so -- it will be
notable in the future if a president refuses similar invitations.

Balking presidents will be cornered into explaining why they are begging

off, at least making political gay-bashing additionally awkward for pols who like to play to the anti-homosexual bleachers but don't like to be widely seen doing so.

The immediate and formal purpose of Clinton's speech was to push for enactment of federal legislation that would outlaw job discrimination against gays and lesbians.

That is a long way from putting sexual orientation on an equal footing with the more familiar categories of civil rights coverage -- race, religion, national origin and gender. But enactment would be useful both in its own right and as a political ice-breaker for a broad national conversation on the issues.

What is more, the limited issue of job discrimination resonates with the American sense of fair play -- overcoming, at least for some, whatever attitudes they may otherwise carry against gays and lesbians.

A study three years ago by the University of Maryland logged markedly lower incomes for gays and lesbians compared with others with the same jobs, training and education. And a Human Rights Campaign poll found 77 percent of the public opposes anti-homosexual bias in employment, but 70 percent had no idea it is lawful.

So Clinton was on fairly safe turf for his gesture, both on the

specific

issue and in the venue. The Human Rights Campaign is a long-established and earnest civil rights organization. It eschews the street theater of ACT-UP.

And of course Clinton is past any frets about re-election.

If the president's appearance can't as a result be called exactly brave,

it was still bold. Clinton has tried to do right by gay and lesbians rights,

but the record is mixed.

His attempt to end discrimination in the military fizzled into the equivocating "don't ask, don't tell" policy that has done little more than redecorate the same old closet. Cornered on the topic during his re-election

campaign, the president disavowed homosexual marriage as a legal option.

He has also, however, appointed unprecedented numbers of open gays and lesbians to his administration and, important modeling, he is at obvious ease

with gays and lesbians. Sometimes the bully pulpit is for pantomime.

Securing gay and lesbian Americans against discrimination because of their

sexual nature is the last remaining item on the nation's basic civil rights to-do list. Clinton won't be able to close out the task. An often venomous opposition has developed. But Clinton has moved the issue off the forbidden subject list and has brought it closer to thoughtful consideration.

Teepen is a columnist for Cox Newspapers.

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===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:
RFC-822-headers:
Received: from conversion.pmdf.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)
id <01IPZGVFH9F400ZB8L@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Fri, 14 Nov 1997 03:12:01 -0500 (EST)
Received: from storm.eop.gov (storm.eop.gov)
by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IPZGVDPRJ400Z0HB@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Fri,
14 Nov 1997 03:11:59 -0500 (EST)
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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)
with ESMTP id <01IPZGUKPW000018S8@STORM.EOP.GOV>; Fri,
14 Nov 1997 03:11:21 -0500 (EST)
Received: from [130.191.242.121] ([130.191.242.121])
by mail.sdsu.edu (8.8.7/8.8.7) with ESMTP id AAA26399; Fri,
14 Nov 1997 00:10:53 -0800 (PST)
X-Sender: dcase@mail.sdsu.edu
===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Fenceberry (Fenceberry@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-NOV-1997 09:59:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.15.97.3

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

1. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Out lesbian discus thrower hopes to participate

in

Gay Games 2002

2. LOS ANGELES TIMES Riordan's Veto Blocks Sex Club

3. NEW YORK TIMES Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS

The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, 15th November, 1997.

<http://www.smh.com.au>

DISCUS THROWER IS EAGER TO BE IN BECAUSE SHE'S "OUT"

By Paul Kent.

Lisa-Marie Vizaniari caught the news on television yesterday. She wasn't

surprised. Earlier this year, when an official from Athletics Australia

told

her Australia was bidding for the 2002 gay Games, our top discus-thrower

knew

we would be in with a big show. Now all the woman who was a finalist in the recent World Athletics

Championships is waiting for is to see if her busy athletics schedule will allow her to compete.

Vizaniari believes she is the first, and so far only, lesbian Olympian in the world to come out of the closet. Of course, that doesn't mean she will be the only lesbian to compete at an Olympics. Athletes around the world are known to be gay or lesbian but have yet to declare it publicly.

That is one reason Vizaniari came out publicly.

"I've always been out, I've never hidden it from my family or friends or training partners, but to the public I've hidden it," Vizaniari, said. "So

I did it because I think we need to have more role models to look up to in the gay community. "These games will be good to have because it means people can see gays doing things other than being flamboyant and partying, like you do at the Mardi Gras. "We're successful people, talented people." Many of the athletes for the Games, some 11,000, will come largely from within the gay community.

It is not right to say there are very few high-profile gay athletes, only that there are very few high-profile gay athletes who are "out". Former American diving gold medallist Greg Greg Louganis is gay. Former American

decathlete Tom Waddell, who is credited with playing a leading role in starting the Gay Games, has also declared his homosexuality. It is Vizaniari's hope that, in the next five years, more gay athletes will come forward to take part in these Games.

In all, there will be 30 sports played at the games. They are: aerobics, badminton, basketball, billiards, ten-pin bowling, cycling, diving, figure skating, golf, hockey, ice hockey, marathon, martial arts and judo, netball, physique, power lifting, sailing, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, table tennis, touch football, track and field, triathlon, volleyball, water polo, wrestling and ballroom dancing.

And while the event will be called the Gay Games, competition will not be limited to gay people. Gays, bisexuals and heterosexuals are all welcome.

Ballroom dancing, of course, will be with same sex partners.

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 15, 1997

Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053

(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319)

(E-MAIL: letters@latimes.com) (<http://www.latimes.com>)

Riordan's Veto Blocks Sex Club

Politics: In unusual move, mayor refuses to back council approval of zoning variance, angering area's councilwoman.

By BETH SHUSTER, JIM NEWTON, Times Staff Writers

Mayor Richard Riordan refused Friday to approve the City Council's decision to grant a zoning variance that would allow a controversial East Hollywood sex club to continue operating near a school and private

residences.

; ; ; ; ;In an unusual action, the mayor sent the council a stinging message that he would "listen to the wishes" of the community and prevent the sex club from violating city zoning laws by remaining within 500 feet of a residential area.

; ; ; ; ;Riordan, whose office received many calls and letters urging him to disapprove the club's continued operation at its current site, said he was acting on behalf of the neighbors who opposed its location near their homes, a school and a library.

; ; ; ; ;The mayor said his action was "about communities having a voice in government" and he stressed that the decision was not influenced by the fact that the club is a center for gay sex.

; ; ; ; ;Riordan noted that other organizations--including homes for the mentally ill and, more recently, an Orthodox Jewish synagogue--have been denied zoning variances identical to the one being sought by the Barracks, a so-called sexual encounter club.

; ; ; ; ;"I don't see why this group should be different," Riordan said, adding that the city needs "one set of rules for nightclubs and synagogues."

; ; ; ; ;Although Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg lobbied her colleagues hard to keep open the club, which is in her district, she said she won't ask her colleagues to override the mayor's action. The council narrowly agreed nine

days ago to allow the Barracks to remain open if its owners met more than two dozen conditions.

; ; ; ; "It's done, it's closed," she said after angrily blasting the mayor for announcing his decision at a meeting of San Fernando Valley business leaders.

"I have to tell you I take great umbrage at the way he did this."

; ; ; ; Goldberg said the mayor twice promised to consult with her before making a decision on the zoning variance. And she said it was "political posturing" for the mayor to announce his decision to the business leaders, who applauded when they heard it.

; ; ; ; Riordan, who earlier in his speech had forcefully proclaimed his opposition to Valley secession, linked the sex club request to that issue.

; ; ; ; "How can you expect people not to vote for secession when you don't listen to them?" Riordan asked the audience, adding that he was "duty-bound to protect neighborhoods."

; ; ; ; Goldberg characterized it differently.

; ; ; ; "It was, 'If you don't love me for my anti-secession speech, you can love me for this,' " she said.

; ; ; ; Riordan said he called Goldberg before the speech, describing the conversation as "very interesting." He said he recalled only promising to call the councilwoman before announcing his decision, not before making it.

; ; ; ; ;Others described the pair's conversation as a very heated, 20-minute exchange.

; ; ; ; ;Goldberg said the mayor's approach "is not one I will quickly forget.

I
told him I had much higher regard for him before this."

; ; ; ; ;Although Goldberg discounts a community group's concerns with the nightclub, the Rampart Rangers/East Hollywood Neighborhood Watch group fought hard against the club, citing a host of problems with its Santa Monica Boulevard location.

; ; ; ; ;"I'm very relieved," said Geoffrey Saldivar, president of the group. "I'm very pleased that the mayor was able to look beyond the politics and see the law in this matter. This is a square peg that they've been trying to get into a round hole."

; ; ; ; ;Josh Kaplan, an attorney for the club, was unavailable for comment Friday.

; ; ; ; ;Robin Kramer, the mayor's chief of staff, said the issue was based purely on neighborhood concerns.

; ; ; ; ;"These kinds of issues shape the way people feel about their community, their city and their safety," Kramer said. "They are much more than symbolic. They are quality of life issues."

; ; ; ; ;The club had been operating illegally since January, but the Los Angeles

Police Department has not cited its owners. Neighbors say they have complained long and hard about parking problems, used condoms thrown on the streets and cruising.

; ; ; ; ; Riordan said, however, he would expect police to enforce the law--without singling out the club for punitive enforcement--and that he would hold Police Chief Bernard Parks accountable for doing so.

; ; ; ; ; The mayor's action was rare. Usually, when he opposes the council's apparent consensus on an issue, he typically expresses his opposition to council members in writing, sparing him the embarrassment of a possible override and a nasty public battle with the lawmakers.

; ; ; ; ; But this issue struck a chord with the mayor, his aides said.

; ; ; ; ; "The dynamics here were different," Kramer said, adding that one council member, whom she did not identify, urged the mayor to disapprove it.

"There was certainly not unanimity on the council."

; ; ; ; ; Indeed, the council debated the issue for a couple of hours before taking several votes, two of which failed to achieve the necessary majority.

The zoning exceptions were only approved when 24 conditions were placed on the owners, including a requirement that condoms be handed out to all patrons at the door.

; ; ; ; ; On Friday, many council members ducked the whole issue, declining to comment or not returning telephone calls.

; ; ; ; ; Council President John Ferraro, who voted against the variance, said he

believed the council did not have the 10 votes necessary to override the mayor's action, which he called surprising.

; ; ; ; Councilwoman Laura Chick, who voted for the exception, said she would have voted against an override, but added that she believes the mayor received pressure from the community as well as from the media--in editorials and columns.

; ; ; ; "I think he paid attention to the votes in council and knew this was a safe veto," Chick said.

NEW YORK TIMES, November 15, 1997

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

(Fax 212-556-3622)(E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com)

(<http://www.nytimes.com>)

Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS

By ALAN J. MAYER

BROOKLINE, Mass. -- Two and a half years ago I tested positive for H.I.V. Since then I have discovered a support system that steadfastly refuses to encourage responsible behavior and a society whose silence insures the continued spread of this disease.

The recent case of Nushawn Williams, who is believed to have infected numerous people in New York state, could have been used to clearly illustrate this point. Instead, by focusing on Mr. Williams's criminal record and moral

; ; ; ; ;Others described the pair's conversation as a very heated, 20-minute exchange.

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NEW YORK TIMES, November 15, 1997

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The recent case of Nushawn Williams, who is believed to have infected numerous people in New York state, could have been used to clearly illustrate this point. Instead, by focusing on Mr. Williams's criminal record and moral

character, the news media strengthened the dangerous myth that most people are somehow safe from harm. We were allowed to view this horror from a distance, comforted in the belief that we would never meet a Nushawn Williams

or that if we did, we would recognize him immediately.

Most H.I.V.-positive people I have encountered, regardless of their social

standing, do not voluntarily disclose their status to potential partners.

Indeed, even people in long-term, committed relationships lie about their status. These are the realities of H.I.V. transmission today.

The people I am talking about are nothing like Nushawn Williams. They did not grow up in ghettos or belong to street gangs. They come from stable homes in safe neighborhoods. They went to your high school and college and graduate school.

They remain silent not because they are evil, but because it is difficult to tell the truth, and because their friends and community support them in their silence. Their doctors, their psychiatrists, even the AIDS organizations they call for help offer comfort and sympathy but don't encourage them to tell the truth.

Certainly, it is difficult to disclose one's status to a partner, but it is necessary, and it does get easier. It is a skill that can and must be learned. But the H.I.V. community has adopted its own "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

We are 15 years into the AIDS epidemic, and I have been asked my status by prospective partners only twice. Since testing positive, I have made a point of disclosing my status to any potential partner; each one told me that I was the first person to do so. Each believed that if he practiced safe sex, there would be no need to know. I practiced safe sex. There is no such thing as safe sex.

Leading advocacy groups perpetuate the culture of irresponsibility. The Gay Men's Health Crisis will not recommend or encourage full disclosure. When I called the group's hot line earlier this year, I was advised to "experiment" -- informing some partners of my H.I.V. status while remaining silent with others. In this way I could decide which was more comfortable for me.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will only "suggest that you might want to consider informing your partner," a hot line counselor told me last week. Counselors at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation said it was their job to dispense information, not moral or ethical recommendations, and, again, that I must do what makes me feel comfortable.

We are not talking about comfortable here. We are talking about life and death.

The emphasis on the individual's rights without an equally strong emphasis on the individual's responsibility is wrong and is a direct cause of the spread of this disease.

By hiding behind the cover of "safe sex," AIDS groups have shifted responsibility off the shoulders of those infected with the virus -- this despite the fact that, in their own words, there is no such thing as safe sex, only levels of risk that one must choose. In making that choice, a partner's H.I.V. status is the critical piece of information.

Groups like Gay Men's Health Crisis claim they cannot dictate behavior. Granted. But that is all the more reason that AIDS organizations have a responsibility to encourage, to teach and to train people who are H.I.V. positive to do what is right.

For years the AIDS community has rallied around the battle cry "Silence =

Death." What it has failed to realize===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IQ18GG3MCW010NHY@PMDf.EOP.GOV>; Sat,

15 Nov 1997 09:32:28 -0500 (EST)

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15 Nov 1997 09:31:54 -0500 (EST)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:16-NOV-1997 02:40:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.16.97

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS Gay man sues Montel Williams for harassment
2. (Troy, NY) RECORD Airing out school closets: Anit-gay prejudice
rampant
in schools
3. NEW YORK TIMES In a lost legal battle, Joseph Steffan sees potential
gain
4. SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER Hormel "payoff" hinted at

ASSOCIATED PRESS, November 15, 1997

Montel Williams Sued for Harassment

NEW YORK (AP) - Talk show host Montel Williams is being sued for sexual harassment by his former executive assistant, a homosexual who claims Williams subjected him to "sexually offensive conduct."

The suit, filed Friday by Ernesto Medina, claimed that Williams ridiculed the employee over his sexual orientation, gave him embarrassing "sex toys" and grabbed his buttocks. Medina worked for Williams for seven months in 1994-95.

A Williams spokesman, Sean Cassidy, said the syndicated talk-show host
"vehemently denied" the charges.

Medina's lawyer, W. Randolph Kraft, filed a federal lawsuit in New Jersey last year on behalf of female employees who charged that they were groped by Williams and subjected to his lascivious comments.

Two women later withdrew from that suit, and a judge dismissed the claims of two others.

"Mr. Kraft has filed lawsuit after lawsuit against Montel Williams," Cassidy said.

The Record Sunday Edition, November 2, 1997

501 Broadway

Troy, NY 12180

(518) 270-1202 fax Email: newsroom@troyrecord.com

AIRING OUT SCHOOL CLOSETS: Anti-gay prejudice rampant in schools

Written by Carolyn Shapiro

Shenendehowa High School student James Downen rarely endured a day without
scorn. "There were times when I went home and I was like, 'I can't do this anymore. I can't go to school anymore and hear people call me queer or a faggot.' I even took a year off from school because it got so bad."

Downen, who is openly gay, dropped out two years ago. But he returned to school because he became interested in theater. "I need my education," he

says.

Now a senior, Downen wants to help other gay and lesbian students avoid the pain he has suffered. He and several friends hope this year to start a gay/straight alliance to support students who feel discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

"We think that it would help maybe make homophobia not such a big problem in the schools," Downen says.

"A lot of students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, they are in this school and they probably feel like they're alone. And I want them to know they're not alone."

But in their efforts to start gay-related organizations, silence slurs, combat physical threats and simply discuss homosexuality in schools, Capital district boards, parents and public in general.

Anti-gay sentiment in schools is an unavoidable fact, say students and advocates of gay youth. It runs rampant in hallways, locker rooms, cafeterias, even some classrooms.

It ranges from generic use of the word "gay" for anything negative to insults aimed directly at individuals to physical confrontations, such as pushing or throwing things at students. And it happens on a daily basis.

"It's just so accepted as a word that means bad," says 17-year-old

Pat

Hayes, a Niskayuna High School student. "Even when it's not, like said at you, just hearing it day after day after day sort of wears you down."

John Spear, a former Shenendehowa student and star athlete, remembers gay stereotypes pervaded the school. Coaches would "tell us we were playing like a bunch of queers" and call athletes "homos," "Fags" or "sissies" if they made mistakes on the field, he says.

"One of the things that was made clear at Shen was, if you're a jock, you can't be gay," he says. "So I grew up with a lot of dissonance and confusion."

Students and teachers confirm that some faculty members fail to take seriously, refuse to intervene or even participate in the use of such derogatory terms. While teachers would never allow racial, ethnic or gender slurs in the schools, they frequently tolerate gay slang.

"The biggest thing is the use of 'faggot,' 'dyke' and 'queer,' which most people say is just something kids say," explains Peter, gay guidance counselor in the Capital District who fears losing his job if he gives his full name.

"But for gay and lesbian kids, it's a thing that might lead to them feeling

worthless. I've seen administrators do fairy imitations. I've heard teachers stop kids from fooling around in the hallway by saying, 'What are you? Gay?'"

Harassment has caused some students to slip in their grades, skip or drop out of school, abuse alcohol and drugs, and even kill themselves. Statistics show gay and lesbian youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than straight students and account for 30% of successful teen suicides.

Educators and parents disagree on the best way to handle the problem. Few dispute that no student should have to fear coming to school or that school officials need to promote tolerance of all people.

Activists go even further, purporting the need for a direct, head-on approach to dealing with homosexuality in schools. Two local groups--Safety Zone, a Troy drop-in center for gay youth, and the Coalition for Safer Schools of NYS have sponsored recent screenings of the documentary "It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in School," produced by filmmakers in San Francisco.

The film shows elementary schools in New York City, Wisconsin and Massachusetts that have integrated discussion about same-sex parents, homophobia and the accomplishments of famous gays and lesbians in their classrooms. The film has been screened in Schenectady and Albany Public Libraries.

Another screening of the film will take place at 7 p.m. Monday (11/3) at the

Troy Public Library.

"We've focused on the gay issue in school because it is the most pervasive problem that we have," says John Myers, Executive Director of the Coalition of Safer Schools, based in Malta, which aims to protect students from all types of harassment. "Teachers do not stop gay bashing."

This Wednesday, the Center for Comprehensive School Health and Wellness, funded by the State Education Department, has scheduled a conference on homosexuality and education at Sage Junior College of Albany. About 50 local educators have signed up for the event.

"I do think you need to bring up gay issues," says Kevin Jennings, executive director of the national Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network in New York City, who will speak at the conference.

"Lesbian and gay people are part of this world. And the responsibility of this school is to teach students about the world where they're going to live."

But not everyone agrees that such issues have a place in the classroom.

Several parents who watched "it's Elementary" last week at the Schenectady Public Library criticized what they considered its promotion of homosexuality.

"I think that children should be taught to respect people and not

be taught

about a particular lifestyle," said a local mother who refused to give her name. "When you specify a lifestyle like that, then it automatically puts countenance to that lifestyle, when a lot of parents feel that lifestyle should not be countenanced."

Another woman at the screening applauded the film's stance. She echoed the beliefs of some educators that teens have so much exposure to homosexuality today -- "Ellen" on television the "Birdcage" on movie screens, Melissa Etheridge in music -- that schools need to include it.

I think kids live in a world where they get specifics," she said.

"I think

we have to educate them about those stereotypes. That's how you break that prejudice."

But negative reactions to the subject have paralyzed some districts. North Colonie Central Schools, after hearing members of a district committee remain passionately divided on the topic, refuse to broach it at all.

"It's such a controversial issue, we feel we're better off not,"

says

assistant superintendent Gregory Carey.

"We never had any agreement among the community as to how to address it," he

continues. "The position that the school takes is it's a topic for home."

Few, if any, school districts in New York have policies that name

gay and

lesbian students as protected from harassment. Shenendehowa Central School

District's student code of conduct forbids discrimination based on "Sex,

race, creed, national origin or disability" -- but not sexual orientation

according to district spokes woman Kelly DeFeciani.

School staff have absorbed their districts' caution. Teachers who
want to

speak up about harassment, bring homosexual topics into their classrooms or

even attend conferences like that of the Center for Comprehensive School

Health and Wellness realize they could incur the wrath of administrators.

Gay and lesbian issues are the only ones that I'm aware of that
can't talk

about," says Peter, the guidance counselor. "If I tell a classroom hat I'm
gay, I can be fired."

So students have taken it upon themselves to bring gay issues into
the

schools. Visibility Gay/Straight Alliance at Niskayuna High School has
create two skits that they hope to present at future school faculty
meetings

,

In the classroom scene, a "teacher" who hears gay slurs responds
by saying,

"Kids, quiet down," explains Visibility vice president Claire Flynn. "The
theme of it is how the teacher dealt with it badly,... having basically no
control over the class. And then we're going to talk about how the
teacher

could better handle it."

A group of students from Shaker High School, part of the North
Colonie
district, have attended Visibility meetings with interest in starting their
own alliance. The district won't stand in their way, Carey says, but would
refuse to provide them with a faculty advisor.

Under the Federal Equal Access Act, schools that permit
noncurricular clubs,
such as a chess club or young Republicans, must allow all those groups the
same privileges. But that doesn't stop districts from trying to dissuade
organizations that specify "gay" in their titles.

At Shenendehowa, Downen can only hope school official support his
alliance.

But DeFeciani says administrators will likely suggest those students join
forces with a club called Respect, which fights all types of discrimination
under its umbrella.

Right now , we have a mechanism in place to address that," she
says. "Why
scratch that and start a new one?"

Visibility members argue that a general group about tolerance only
serves to
keep homosexual issues hidden. Until a school acknowledges its gay and
lesbian students, they remain ignored -- and tormented.

It gets swept under the rug," says 17-year-old Jeremy Czerw. "If
you leave
it (out), a remark is said, a kid's day is ruined and nothings on record.
Nothing get done.'

Schools that have managed to avoid the subject so far will have to

face it

soon, activists predict. It won't go away as long as kids push the pint.

"Gay is an issue. Gay people are here. Gay is real love," Down says.

"there are homosexuals in this state, in the Capital District. And I think they need something too."

NEW YORK TIMES, November 16, 1997

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

(Fax 212-556-3622)(E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com)

(<http://www.nytimes.com>)

IN A LOST LEGAL BATTLE, GAY ACTIVIST SEES POTENTIAL GAIN

HARTFORD, Conn. _ In 1988, six weeks before graduation, Joseph C. Steffan

was dismissed from the U.S. Naval Academy after acknowledging that he was gay. He sued, won an initial decision but then lost on appeal.

Last month, Steffan lost on another front when the Connecticut Legislature

voted to overturn one of his more satisfying victories _ a ban on military recruiting on Connecticut's public college campuses.

Threatened with the loss of as much as \$70 million a year in federal grants and student aid because of the ban, the Legislature voted Oct. 29 to allow the military on campuses, despite the state's law barring discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

Given the money involved, Steffan was not surprised by the vote. ``As a

newly minted realist," he said, ``I recognize that idealism has a price."

In 1992, when he was a student at the University of Connecticut Law School, he led the opposition to military recruiting there, which he saw as a personal affront.

He was a member of the Lambda Law Students Association, an equal-rights organization that enlisted the help of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union to win a ruling in the Connecticut Supreme Court barring military recruitment on campus. The decision found that the military's policy of barring openly gay people violated the state's antidiscrimination laws.

Jennifer Hadlock, who graduated from the law school last year and now works as a judge's clerk in Hartford, watched the House debate, which included two openly gay legislators speaking against the bill. The bill did not seek to change the state's antidiscrimination law; it made an exception for the military by amending a higher education statute.

She was disappointed that the bill passed, and faulted the federal government for trying to control the states. ``I'm proud Connecticut stood up to the military for as long as we did," she said.

Many legislators said they felt they had no choice in voting for the bill.

``The state can't risk losing \$70 million, especially for education," state Sen. Thomas P. Gaffey, a chairman of the Education Committee, said last

week. ``We had to act as we did."

Steffan and other current and former members of the Lambda Law Student Association said that, despite their disappointment, they saw the vote as an opportunity to bring discrimination against lesbians and gay men to the forefront.

Lawrence Baxter, the association's current chairman and a third-year law student, said the group would hold a forum at the end of the month on equal rights and would work with students on other campuses to raise awareness of discrimination.

``We're discussing ways to show the federal and state government that we will not roll over and die," Baxter said.

If the military recruits on campus, the students expect to protest, Baxter said. ``I hope they come before I graduate," Baxter said. ``I'd love to greet them personally."

Steffan said that after President Clinton backed down from reversing the military's rules banning gay people from serving and adopted the ``don't ask, don't tell" policy, the issue of gays in the military lost momentum.

But he believes that the laws that cut off federal funds for universities that bar military recruiting on campus raise issues that might, in the end, help to fight discrimination.

``They're using federal funding as a stick to force educational institutions to allow discrimination to occur on their campuses," Steffan said. In Connecticut, which has explicitly backed gay people in its civil

rights laws, this is especially disturbing, he said.

Steffan said the realist in him now sees all these fights as part of an continuing process.

``It's been very much an ebb and flow of positive and disappointing experiences," he said of his decadelong fight for equal rights. ``I

realize

now that this is a very long-term battle. Social values do not change rapidly, and political change comes about even more slowly."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, November 15, 1997

P. O. Box 7260, San Francisco, CA, 94120

(Fax 415-512-1264)(E-MAIL: sfexaminer@aol.com)

(<http://www.examiner.com>)

Hornel "payoff" hinted at

Judy Holland

EXAMINER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON - The nomination of San Francisco gay-rights advocate James Hornel to be ambassador to Luxembourg should not be done as a "payoff" to the

gay community, a leading Senate Republican says.

"I don't think that a payoff to somebody in that community is the right thing to do," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said Friday when asked whether sexual orientation should be considered when selecting an ambassador.

Nor should sexual orientation help or hinder someone from getting such

an

appointment, said Lott, R-Miss.

Hormel, an heir to the founder of the Hormel Meat Co., is an openly gay philanthropist and major donor to the Democratic Party.

His nomination to the Luxembourg post was blocked in the Senate this week

until next year by Republican Sens. Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas and James Inhofe of Oklahoma because of objections to Hormel's gay-rights advocacy.

Joe Lockhart, a White House spokesman, said Lott had a duty as majority leader to "convince his members that sexual orientation is not a disqualifying factor" for a nominee.

"That is not what America is all about," Lockhart said. "The deal the senator should be more worried about is the commitment they've made to rise above discrimination and enforce nondiscrimination."

Lockhart said Thursday that Clinton would continue to fight for Hormel's appointment.

"We have no intention of pulling this nominee," Lockhart said. "It's an absolute outrage that any member of the United States Senate would block a nominee based on his or her sexual preference."

But Lott said Friday he couldn't predict whether Hormel would be confirmed when Congress reconvenes next year.

Hormel would be the first openly gay U.S. ambassador.

Clinton has the power to go over the Senate's head between now and January, when the Senate goes back in session, by making Hormel ambassador using a so-called "recess appointment."

The Constitution empowers the president to "fill all vacancies that may

happen during the recess of the Senate by granting commissions which shall

expire at the end of their next session." If Clinton exercises that power,

Hormel would serve as ambassador until the end of the seco===== ATTACHMENT 1
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16 Nov 1997 03:09:01 -0500 (EST)

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16 Nov 1997 03:08:28 -0500 (EST)

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SUBJECT: Articles 11.16.97.5

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

1. DES MOINES REGISTER Letter writer says Bill Stosine is right,
homosexuality has existed throughout time - look at Sodom!
2. SALT LAKE TRIBUNE Letter: Teaching Respect, Not Fear
3. SALT LAKE TRIBUNE Report On Hate Crimes Is Deceiving - Police are
just
beginning to take them seriously
4. ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS William Mitchell College of Law drops recruiting
ban
5. WASHINGTON POST Bruce Bawer reviews The Gay Metropolis

DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER, November 16, 1997

Box 957,Des Moines,Ia.,50304

(Fax 515-286-2511)(E-MAIL: letters@dmreg.com)

Letter: REMEMBER?

In regard to Bill Stosine,s letter of Nov. 9: He,s right:

Homosexuality

has existed throughout time and in all cultures. One especially comes to mind -- Sodom. And look what happened. I believe America is in big trouble.

-- D.L. Terlow, Box 141, Lynnville

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, November 16, 1997

P. O. Box 867,Salt Lake City,UT,84110

(Fax 801-237-2022)(E-MAIL: letters@sltrib.com)

(<http://www.sltrib.com>)

Letter: Teaching Respect, Not Fear

;;; Regarding Susan Morris' letter (Tribune, Nov. 4), parents of Spanish

Fork

High School students should be more concerned about how they are serving as role models to their children. Last time I checked, hate, fear and discrimination were not things I wanted to teach my children. I do, however,

want them to learn respect, love and understanding. I want them to embrace diversity and accept people for who they are.

;;; Furthermore, having a homosexual teacher will not make your children homosexual. They are either born that way or they aren't. Love your children,

no matter who they are, and trust them. Whereas we have taught our children that eating meat is morally wrong, we don't pull them out of every class where the teacher eats meat. It's OK for people to be different from one

another. Welcome to America.

-- KIMBERLY FARMER ,Midvale

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, November 16, 1997

Police: Report On Hate Crimes Is Deceiving

BY VINCE HORIUCHI

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

;;; When Pam Mazaheri stepped into her Salt Lake City office building the morning of Oct. 8, she felt the humiliation and disgust associated with a hate crime.

;;; Scrawled on a window of the People with AIDS Coalition was the word ``faggot." And on the front door in black and blue marker were the phrases,

``Gays are not people" and ``AIDS is for homos."

;;; The hate crime probably was one of many that week in Utah. But statistics

show a much lower number of hate crimes because officers may not recognize these types of attacks.

;;; ``It was a sense of violation," Mazaheri, the coalition's executive director, said about the graffiti. ``Their hatred is the result of ignorance."

;;; While the number of hate crimes reported nationally rose dramatically from 1995, the number has dropped in Utah, according to the state's Bureau of

Criminal Identification. There were 64 hate crimes reported in Utah last year, 60 less than the previous year.

;;; But hate crimes ``are to the late 90's what domestic violence was in

the

early 80s," said Salt Lake City police Det. Jim Alcock. "It is a crime we're becoming more and more aware of. It's happening at an alarming rate."

;;; The rising number of hate crimes prompted President Clinton to sponsor the White House Conference on Hate Crimes in Washington, D.C., last week.

The

gathering included law-enforcement officials, civil-rights activists, educators, religious leaders and victims.

;;; The president kicked off the conference by endorsing a plan by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to make it illegal to injure someone because he or she is gay, disabled or a member of the opposite sex.

;;; Nationwide, 8,759 hate crimes were reported last year, compared to 7,947

for the previous year, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Hate crimes

nationally have been rising since 1991.

;;; But in Utah, the number of hate crimes is harder to nail down, according

to Jeanetta Williams, president of the Salt Lake branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

;;; "Everybody needs to know the truth," she said. "There are hate crimes in Utah."

;;; Alcock, who investigates hate crimes in Salt Lake City, said at least

two

hate crimes are committed each week. But data from the state bureau shows Salt Lake City had only eight hate crimes last year.

;;; Such crimes ``are being reported as assaults or harassment or disturbing

the peace," said Alcock. ``The officer on the beat [may not] recognize a crime as being specifically a hate or bias crime."

;;; Adrienne Koran, who compiles state crime data, said some police agencies

are more willing to report hate crimes while others ``want to pretend that they don't have them."

;;; Most Utah police agencies use a records system that does not allow officers to differentiate between hate crimes and other attacks. Each year, the state crime bureau sends agencies a one-page form to track hate crimes.

But of the 126 agencies that report annual crime statistics, only 22 reported a hate crime last year.

;;; Alcock said even victims may not understand hate crimes.

;;; ``The victim [only says] he got hit or was assaulted," he said. ``The victim cannot recognize that the reason was because of his race, creed, gender or lifestyle."

;;; Ignorance about hate crimes may extend to prosecutors.

;;; For the past five years, Utah has had a hate-crimes law which toughens penalties, but prosecutors have yet to use it.

;;; The law bumps up a misdemeanor offense such as assault or vandalism to

a

third-degree felony if the offense is committed to ``intimidate or
terrorize
another person."

;;; Some argue the statute is constitutionally vague because it contains no
reference to race, ethnicity, religion or sexual preference -- a compromise
by lawmakers who did not include gays and lesbians in the bill.

;;; Meanwhile, People with AIDS director Mazaheri said police have not
caught
the vandals who wrote derogatory comments on her office door. ``If you
accept
this damage or violence," she said, ``it just opens you up to more.'

ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS, November 16, 1997

345 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN, 55101

(Fax 612-228-5500)(E-MAIL: letters@pioneerpress.com)

William Mitchell drops recruiting ban

ASSOCIATED PRESS

William Mitchell College of Law has rescinded a ban against military
recruiters rather than lose federal financial aid, the last of seven in the
nation threatened with losing the funding.

The St. Paul law school faced the loss of \$420,000 in student grants and
loans for 1997-98. For nearly a decade, the college barred military
recruiters on campus unless they agreed not to discriminate against gay and
lesbian students.

"We are not changing the law school's nondiscrimination policy," Dean
Harry

Haynsworth said in a statement Thursday. But "there is no practical way we can replace that amount of student aid."

Congress adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 1993 that prohibits inquiries into a service member's sexual orientation but allows discharge for homosexual conduct or for a "propensity" to engage in homosexual conduct.

The college's Board of Trustees last week approved Haynsworth's recommendation to rescind the ban after a chain reaction of similar reversals at six other law schools.

Hamline University in St. Paul was one of those schools. Rather than lose \$2 million in student aid, it reversed its policy and recently allowed a U.S. Army recruiter on campus for the first time in five years.

WASHINGTON POST, November 16, 1997

1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20071

(No Fax - letters by mail only)

Where the Action Was

By Bruce Bawer

THE GAY METROPOLIS, 1940-1996

By Charles Kaiser

Houghton Mifflin. 404 pp. \$27

PERHAPS the first thing that needs to be said about Charles Kaiser's *The Gay Metropolis*, a history of gay urbanites -- mainly New Yorkers -- from

1940

to 1996, is that it by no means renders gratuitous the projected follow-up volume to George Chauncey's splendid *Gay New York* (1994), which covered the years from 1890 to 1940. *Gay New York* was a comprehensive work of academic history; it gave the impression that the author (a professor of history at the University of Chicago) had done exhaustive research, sifted carefully through his materials, and presented a reliable account of what life was like

for the typical gay New Yorker during the half-century before World War II.

There is no reason to expect that his second volume will be any less meticulous.

By contrast, Kaiser (a longtime New York journalist) has given us a brisk, splashy, dishy and often seemingly random collection of colorful anecdotes about the young, famous and rich. And, above all, the beautiful. Indeed, it sometimes seems that nearly everybody in this book is "extremely handsome" or

"very beautiful" or "one of the most beautiful men" that somebody or other has ever seen. Typical is one Otis Bigelow, whose chief distinction is that in the 1940s he was widely considered "the best-looking man in Manhattan."

Kaiser's fixation on pulchritude can make this book feel rather shallow.

So, too, can all the stories told here by now-elderly men about their long-ago trysts with sundry celebrities and plutocrats.

Despite this emphasis on the superficial and sensational, Kaiser is a gifted popular historian who manages to suggest something of the flavor of gay life in different decades (each of which is accorded a separate

chapter)

and to convey effectively the gradual changes in gay people's self-images

and

social status. The 1940s, he reminds us, were a time when not only

straights

but gays viewed homosexuality as a sickness, though wartime service helped

countless gay soldiers to realize that they were not alone, and Alfred

Kinsey's sex studies and Gore Vidal's novel *The City and the Pillar* helped

"thousands of gay people change the way they thought about themselves." The

1950s marked the founding of the first prominent gay-rights organization,

the

dissemination of studies by psychologist Evelyn Hooker showing that

homosexuality is not a mental illness, and the publication of *The*

Homosexual

in America by the pseudonymous Donald Webster Cory, which "provided the

most

comprehensive description of gay male life in America ever written" and

"sketched a broad plan to revolutionize American attitudes on the subject."

(Curiously, however, Kaiser's account of the decade devotes less coverage

to

any of these developments than to *"West Side Story"* and its four chief

creators, all gay men.)

In his chapter on the 1960s, Kaiser notes that the social and sexual

"convulsion" of that decade made possible previously unimaginable changes

in

attitudes toward homosexuality, though it wasn't till 1969 that the

so-called

Stonewall riots in Greenwich Village inaugurated the modern gay-rights movement. Kaiser's account of the 1970s credits Phil Donahue with playing "the largest role in ending the invisibility of gay life in America" -- which is probably true -- and also seems to suggest that the decade's most important gay institution was Steve Rubell's trendy nightclub Studio 54 (which receives far more attention here than the religious right's backlash against gay rights). In writing about the 1980s, which was dominated by the AIDS crisis, Kaiser largely retraces the steps of Randy Shilts's *And the Band Played On*, and his chapter on the 1990s, "an era of amazing hope and progress," utterly ignores the upheaval in gay politics that took place during this decade, when far-left "queer" leaders faced challenges from moderates whose views were more in line with those of newly out mainstream gays.

Reflective of Kaiser's somewhat slanted historiography is that he mentions the speech by gay Clinton aide Bob Hattoy at the 1992 Democratic convention and Pat Buchanan's hate-mongering at that year's GOP conclave, but ignores Mary Fisher's gay-positive remarks at the latter gathering. Kaiser treats Ed Koch (who has given him a terrific blurb) as a hero of gay rights, despite his uneven mayoral record on gay and AIDS issues, but never mentions such figures as Andrew Sullivan, who put same-sex marriage on the map. He congratulates *Out* magazine's publishers for encouraging big companies to advertise in gay publications, but omits to explain that this development,

resisted fiercely by anti-capitalist leaders of the gay political establishment, took place through the efforts of gay corporate officers whom those leaders scorned. Kaiser seriously misrepresents intramovement debates, furthermore, by depicting them as conflicts "between those who believe that lesbians and gay men should strive to look and act as much as possible like their heterosexual counterparts . . . and those who argue that any movement whose essential purpose is to celebrate diversity must be as flexible and inclusive as possible"; in fact the real conflict is not between proponents of fitting in and of diversity, but between those who support the full and open integration of gay people into mainstream American life and those who cling to ghetto marginalization, victim rhetoric and utopian ideology. If Kaiser almost totally skirts the inside history of New York's gay political establishment, it may be because he would prefer not to admit that its far-left politics have often hindered rather than aided gay integration.

While some readers will notice that Kaiser has borrowed liberally from other books (among them Allan Berube's *Coming Out Under Fire*, memoirs by Tennessee Williams and Gore Vidal, and biographies of Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim and Judy Garland), many of the strongest stories here derive from his own interviews. He has, moreover, brought all these materials together quite skillfully, shaping them into a dramatic, often affecting account of the emergence of gay people from fear and self-hatred into uncloseted, self-confident participation in society. For all its shortcomings, *The Gay Metropolis* is a welcome addition to the annals of a

subculture whose story might well have been lost to history.

Bruce Bawer is the author of "A Place at the Table: The Gay Individual
in
American Society" and, most recently, "Stealing Jesus: How Fundamentalism

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CREATION DATE/TIME:17-NOV-1997 09:36:00.00

SUBJECT: CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update 11/17/97

TO: Daniel C. Montoya (Daniel C. Montoya@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update

November 17, 1997

The CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention provides the following information as a public service only. Providing synopses of key scientific articles and lay media reports on HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis does not constitute CDC endorsement. This daily update also includes information from CDC and other government agencies, such as background on Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) articles, fact sheets, press releases and announcements.

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HEADLINES

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

"Increased Sensitivity to HIV-1 Antibody Detection"

"In Vivo Evolution of HIV-1 Co-Receptor Usage and Sensitivity to Chemokine-Mediated Suppression"

GENERAL MEDIA

"U.N. to Announce Significant Increases in HIV/AIDS"

"Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS"

"Heroin Finds Home in Texas Suburbs"

"For the Poor Especially, AIDS Is Still Rampaging"

"Prostitutes Hope to 'Legalize' Profession"

"Duma Urges Measures to Stop AIDS Spread in Russia"

"Zambians Review Locally Invented [AIDS Drug]"

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

"Increased Sensitivity to HIV-1 Antibody Detection"

Nature Medicine (11/97) Vol. 3, No. 11, P. 1258; Urnovitz, Howard

B.; Sturge, Jerrilyn C.; Gottfried, Toby D.

Researchers from Calypte Biomedical in California report that accurate diagnosis of HIV-1 infection improves when tests of both blood products and urine are made. A recent study, conducted in support of U.S. licensure of the Calypte HIV-1 urine enzyme immunoassay (EIA), analyzed 11,344 paired urine and serum samples. Of the total, 10,163 had urine and serum either EIA non-reactive or western blot (WB) negative or indeterminate for

HIV-1 antibodies, while 1,156 had serum and urine that was WB-positive. The remaining 25 individuals were WB-positive in one but not the other. Of those, 10 had urine that was WB-confirmed positive and serum that was EIA non-reactive and WB negative or indeterminate; while 15 had serum that was WB-confirmed positive and urine that was EIA non-reactive or WB negative or indeterminate. By pairing samples, diagnosis of HIV-1 infection increases in accuracy, the researchers said.

"In Vivo Evolution of HIV-1 Co-Receptor Usage and Sensitivity to Chemokine-Mediated Suppression"

Nature Medicine (11/97) Vol. 3, No. 11, P. 1259; Scarlatti, Gabriella; Tresoldi, Eleonora; Bjorndal, Asa; et al.

Nine children perinatally infected with HIV-1 were studied to determine what inhibitive effect the C-C chemokines RANTES, MIP-1 alpha, MIP-1 beta, and MCP-1 and the C-X-C chemokine SDF-1 have on HIV-1 infection. At varying stages of HIV-1 infection in the children, the scientists obtained a total of 33 sequential primary viral isolates, which they tested using a healthy donor's activated peripheral blood mononuclear cells. RANTES and MIP-1 beta were found to inhibit all but two of the isolates recovered during early stages of the infection, and MIP-1 alpha was found to be effective with most of those isolates. Combining the three chemokines together produced an additive HIV-suppressive effect, and MCP-1 had no effect on the viral isolates. However, 60 percent of the viral isolates obtained from the children in later stages of infection did not

react to RANTES, MIP-1 alpha, or MIP-2 beta, suggesting their ability to use CXCR4 and sometimes CCR3 while slowly losing CCR5 usage. The majority of the isolates were also insensitive to MCP-1. According to the researchers, the findings indicate that HIV-1 undergoes an adaptive change in vivo, which helps it avoid the effects of the antiviral C-C chemokines.

GENERAL MEDIA

"U.N. to Announce Significant Increases in HIV/AIDS"

Reuters (11/17/97); Fox, David

During the opening of the UNAIDS governing board meeting in Nairobi today, United Nations officials said the agency will release data on Dec. 1--World AIDS Day--indicating that worldwide HIV infections have been underestimated. In fact, UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot told attendees that there are now statistics showing that almost half the adult populations of some cities in Zambia, Malawi, and Botswana are HIV-positive. Current figures estimate that more than 30 million people across the globe are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, but fewer than 5 percent of them are aware they are infected.

"Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS"

New York Times (11/15/97) P. A31; Mayer, Alan J.

In a New York Times op-ed piece, Alan J. Mayer argues that society and the existing AIDS support structure perpetuate irresponsibility among those infected with the virus.

Specifically, he alleges that most HIV-positive people do not voluntarily disclose their infected status to potential partners, while the HIV community has adopted a similar "don't ask, don't tell" policy. This silence, the author claims, perpetuates irresponsibility and reinforces the myth of "safe sex."

According to Mayer, it is the responsibility of those who are HIV-positive to inform their partners of their status, while it is the responsibility of the HIV community to support such actions.

"Heroin Finds Home in Texas Suburbs"

Boston Globe (11/15/97) P. A6

A growing number of youths in Texas suburbs are inhaling heroin, believing the practice to be safer than using a needle. However, in the past year, 11 teenagers in Plano, just north of Dallas--as well as four teenagers in the suburbs of Fort Worth--have died of heroin overdoses. "These kids in the suburbs think they know all of the ins and outs of using drugs and they have a lot of money to spend," noted Jane Maxwell, head of research for the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "They hear stories about people dying in the inner city and think, 'They just didn't know what they were doing. They must have used a needle.'" Maxwell noted that the increasing purity of the drug enables it to be snorted, although most suburban users

ultimately use needles. "And the use of needles," she said, "will inevitably lead to an increase in AIDS in the suburbs."

"For the Poor Especially, AIDS Is Still Rampaging"

New York Times (11/16/97) P. 14; Baxter, Daniel

In a letter to the editor of the New York Times, Dr. Daniel Baxter, director of adult medicine and HIV service at the William F. Ryan Community Health Center, denounces a recent series of articles in the Times that question "AIDS exceptionalism." These articles--which focus on sensational issues related to the disease--largely ignore the pressing needs of minority and disadvantaged people with HIV, Baxter argues. Such a perspective, he adds, adds fire to the backlash against AIDS exceptionalism and endangers the availability of decent housing and drug treatments for people with HIV. Additionally, Baxter writes: "The recent enthusiasm over new anti-HIV therapies--and the spectacular success of AIDS services aimed at predominantly middle-class gay Americans with HIV--risks the illusion that the battle is being won."

"Prostitutes Hope to 'Legalize' Profession"

Houston Chronicle (11/15/97) P. 35A; Banerjee, Rupam

On Friday, thousands of prostitutes gathered in Calcutta, India, to call for an end to the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act and demand workers' rights. Activist Sadhana Mukherjee, a former prostitute, said that understanding prostitution--which meets a social need--was necessary to control the spread of

sexually transmitted diseases. Although estimates on the number of HIV-infected Indians vary, it is widely held that India accounts for the majority of approximately 8 million HIV-positive Asians.

"Duma Urges Measures to Stop AIDS Spread in Russia"

Itar Wire Service (11/15/97)

Russia's State Duma voted unanimously Friday to urge the government to take much-needed steps to curb the spread of HIV. In recent years, the number of registered HIV cases in the country has increased significantly, with the cities of Kaliningrad, Moscow, Novorossiisk, Tver, and Nizhny Novgorod, and the Moscow and Krasnodar regions, leading Russia in the number of cases. The legislators attributed the increase in infections to the growing use of intravenous drugs by Russia's youth population; over 90 percent of the country's registered HIV cases were reportedly contracted through intravenous drug use.

"Zambians Review Locally Invented [AIDS Drug]"

PANA Wire Service (11/15/97); Mulenga, Mildred

Health experts gathered Saturday in Lusaka, Zambia, to discuss the use of herbiron tinasiferon--a locally developed drug--for the treatment of AIDS. In February, the government banned the use and sale of the drug until it had been assessed by international medical institutions. Since that time, the drug has been reviewed by Dr. Patrick Chikusa of the University of Zambia's Pharmacology School of Medicine and a pharmacology

consultant with the World Health Organization, who found that herbiron tinasiferon reverses trends that encourage the efficient movement of HIV from cell to cell. The inventor of drug, Professor Mulenga Lukwesa, said he hoped the new data would help the government give marketing approval to the therapy.

The AIDSNews Mailing List is maintained by the CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. Regular postings include the CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update, conference announcements, clinical trials information, current funding opportunities, and selected MMWR articles. To SUBSCRIBE, send the command "subscribe aidsnews firstname lastname" to the address listproc@aspensys.com. To UNSUBSCRIBE, send the command "unsubscribe aidsnews" to the address listproc@aspensys.com. If you need assistance, please contact aidsinfo@cdcnac.org.

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READ:UNKNOWN

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1. (Hendersonville, NC) TIMES NEWS Letter from articles reader on Jesse

Helms

2. FEEDBACK on the Alaska freedom to marry fight

3. SYNDICATED COLUMN On the side of angels and against hate

4. HARVARD CRIMSON Gay Holocaust Survivor Speaks With Angels Cast

Stefan Kossinsky imprisoned for homosexuality during WWII

5. HARVARD CRIMSON Letters, one of them from the Fabulous Purdoms!!

TIMES NEWS, November 17, 1997

PO BOX 490, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Circulation 33,600

Letter: SEN. HELMS IS A MODERN DAY MC CARTHY

This is in reply to your article of Nov. 8, reporting a week-long
symposium on the McCarthy years at the Hendersonville High School. One of

the speakers was former diplomat Francis Underhill and he was quoted, "for decades afterwards there were malignant effects of the McCarthy period on the whole structure of our foreign service."

Many of us feel that the McCarthy malignancy is still alive in the form of Sen. Jesse Helms. Sen. Helms was on the wrong side of history when he used the communist brush to tar the Civil Rights movement. It was Sen. Helms who derided the 1964 Civil Rights Act as the "single most dangerous piece of legislation ever introduced in the Congress" and later opposed a national holiday for the "pervert" Martin Luther King, Jr.

Senator McCarthy and the threat of communism is long gone, but Sen. Helms has taken on a new enemy. Gays and Lesbians! It was Sen. Helms who, while millions throughout the world faced death from AIDS, sought to block funding from medical research on that dread disease to punish the "revolting conduct" and "unnatural acts" of gays. It was Sen. Helms who threatened President Clinton and said that he would need a "bodyguard" to enter North Carolina after Clinton dared to differ with the senator on gays in the military.

Sen. Helms began his political career as administrative assistant to U.S. Senator Willis Smith, a supporter of Senator Joseph McCarthy. With Helms's roots to McCarthyism, Helmsism is another term for intolerance backed

by power.

-- Charles Merrill, Edneyville

(Charles6@aol.com)

FEEDBACK From: michaelh@servcom.com

The plaintiffs in the Alaska same-sex marriage case, Jay Brause and Gene Dugan, have a long history in the gay community here. They are the owners of the Out North Contemporary Art House in Anchorage - which is often at odds with conservative groups in Anchorage for its gay and other controversial subject matter used in plays and exhibits. The decision in their court case could come as early as Monday Nov. 17. Information on the couple and the Out North theatre is available on the Internet at www.outnorth.org

Little is known about the Superior Court judge in the case, Peter Michalski, or his views on gay rights. He was sued several years ago by a man who claimed Michalski violated his civil rights by denying him a trial by jury. The defendant lost the case because, although it was agreed that Michalski acted outside his jurisdiction in the matter, he was nonetheless protected by judicial immunity. Judicial immunity protects judges from civil suits in cases where they are exercising their official responsibilities, even if they act outside their jurisdiction.

The text of this court case can be found on the Internet at

www.touchngo.com/sp/html/sp-3691.htm

SYNDICATED NEWSPAPER COLUMN, November 17, 1997

Scripps Howard Syndicate

by Marsha Mercer

ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS AND AGAINST HATE

WASHINGTON -- The first White House Conference on Hate Crimes took place

last week in a crowded auditorium at George Washington University.

On the sidewalk, a small band of anti-gay rights protesters sang hymns and

carried signs that read "God Hates (Homosexuals)."

Inside, civil rights activists, educators, politicians, policemen, prosecutors and religious leaders gathered to discuss ways to fight the crimes that stem from malice toward someone who's different.

This administration has spotlighted gun violence, violence against women and gang violence -- but this was the first conference devoted to hate crimes.

The first task was defining the problem. "A hate crime is the embodiment of intolerance," according to White House documents.

These crimes are as old as humanity itself, but there's a sense that they're escalating, especially among the young. Nearly 9,000 were reported last year, but many more are believed unreported.

After arriving an hour late, Clinton looked distracted as a retired Boston

policeman, Vice President Gore and a college student spoke about the problem.

Duke University senior Chuennee Sampson told of being the target of racial taunts at her high school in Brooklyn, N.Y., and of starting a club called Students Against Violence Everywhere.

Then, as the president began to speak, a thin man clasping a large tape recorder at his waist suddenly shouted that Clinton had murdered Vince Foster. Wasn't that a hate crime?

Clinton hardly missed a beat. "We have the First Amendment even here," the president said smoothly. "I think the hate's coming from your way, not mine."

After the applause died down, Clinton went back to his speech with new fervor. He cast hate crimes in a global context, decrying the ethnic and religious violence that has torn other countries apart and warning that America must not let that happen.

Hate crimes "strike at the heart of what it means to be an American. They are the antithesis of the values that define us as a nation. They ... prevent us from respecting one another."

Current law punishes crimes based on race, religion and national origin. Clinton advocates legislation that would also prohibit crimes that target people because of their sexual orientation, gender or disability.

As he outlined other steps to crack down on hate crimes -- more FBI agents, more cooperation among U.S. attorneys, educational guides to be

distributed to every school system -- it became clear that Clinton's goal is

bigger than the crimes themselves. He wants to do more than reduce or even eliminate crimes that are committed solely because someone is different.

This president wants to change the human heart.

"All Americans deserve protection from hate," he declared.

"Children have to be taught to hate," he said. "We need to make sure that somebody is teaching them not to do so."

Later, Attorney General Janet Reno also said that the primary objective of government action must be the elimination of hate.

Clinton's goal is a tall order. It puts the government on the side of the angels and into a new sphere. Fighting hate has traditionally been the domain of religious organizations, which have the added clout of God and eternity on their side.

Clinton has the bully pulpit, but presidential suasion has been notably unproductive of late. It seems naive, if not disingenuous, for the president to suggest that hate can be conquered if he can't even corral the members of his party.

Making a leap to the unattainable puts the doable in doubt. Most people would consider subduing hate a major achievement.

Clinton conceded that there may be problems sorting out hate crimes from other crimes. Rape is a crime of hate, but when is it a hate crime?

Still, Clinton is persuasive when he argues that the country cannot thrive if people live in fear.

"Anybody who thinks that in the world of today and tomorrow that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world," he says.

The key, he says, is convincing the young that there's another way.

"As important as it is to enforce the law, to punish people, to do all this...the most important thing we can do is to reach these kids while they're young enough to learn," the president said.

"Somebody is going to be trying to teach them to hate. We want to teach them a different way."

HARVARD CRIMSON, November 17, 1997

14 Plympton Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

(E-MAIL: letters@thecrimson.harvard.edu)

URL: <http://www.thecrimson.harvard.edu/>

Gay Holocaust Survivor Speaks With Angels Cast

Stefan Kossinsky imprisoned for homosexuality during WWII

By MONICA LAMB

In the summer of 1942, a Polish baker's assistant named Stefan Kossinsky penned a letter to his lover Willi, an officer in the Nazi army. &I,m just

true to you and will remain so for my whole life," he wrote. "Please write to me as quickly as possible so I can be reassured."

Kossinsky doesn't know whether Willi ever read the letter. But the Gestapo did.

Kossinsky spent three years in a concentration camp for expressing his love for another man.

The 72-year-old resident of Warsaw, Poland, bitterly recalled the ill-fated, 10-month affair during a visit to Harvard Friday. Retired from his job as an economist for the Polish government, Kossinsky came to the Loeb Theater to meet with the cast, director and producers of a student rendition of *Angels in America*.

"I knew nothing about homosexuality then. But because I loved him, I suffered," Kossinsky said.

The play's co-producer, Stephen E. Gordon, 98, said Kossinsky was invited to talk with the cast because of the play's subject matter. *Angels in America* recounts the story of two couples dealing with homosexuality and AIDS.

Gordon and co-producer Adam S. Hickey, 99, who is a *Crimson* editor, have said they wanted the show, which closed Saturday night, to do more than just entertain the audience. The American Repertory Theatre and the producers of the play agreed to pledge 50 percent of ticket sales from last Wednesday

and
Thursday,s shows*about \$900*to the not-for-profit Cambridge Cares About
AIDS.

And two groups that deal with HIV-related issues, Peer Contraceptive
Counselors and VISIONS, tabled at various performances.

Gordon said: &We wanted to give the audience an opportunity to interact
more with these issues than just by watching the show.8

Kossinsky himself took in Friday,s performance. In an interview
beforehand, he said he was extraordinarily naive when the affair began in
the
city of Torun in November 1941, during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

&I had never met anyone so kind. For the first time I knew the feelings
of
love, man to man,8 Kossinsky said. &It was very romantic.8

But in September 1942, Kossinsky was arrested after the Gestapo
intercepted his love letter.

Nazi police beat and interrogated him for two weeks. He ended the
torture
by signing a confession, and thought his freedom would follow. Instead,
Kossinsky was sentenced to five years in the concentration camp at
Koronowo,
Poland.

He was all of 17 at the time.

Kossinsky,s story is recorded in Damned Strong Love, by Dutch author
Lutz
Van Dijk. A film on Kossinsky is expected to be released by the end of

1999.

&I want the whole world to know that a boy was beaten for nothing,8

Kossinsky said. &Out of anger, I share my story.8

Part of the story remains a mystery to Kossinsky. He never saw Willi again.

HARVARD CRIMSON, November 17, 1997

Letter: Should Not Classify Catholic View on Ex-Gays

As an officer of the Catholic Students Association and a regular reader of

The Crimson, I was disappointed by the statement in a news article (Oct. 27)

on the &ex-gay8 movement that a Harvard student had &turned his back on his

Catholicism because of the church,s espousal that homosexuality is a sin.8

Certainly no one ought to remain a member of a faith community if they can no

longer find any kinship between the beliefs of that community and their own beliefs; however, the statement that the church espouses the belief that homosexuality is a sin is patently false.

The Committee on Marriage and Family of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops recently stated: &[I]t seems appropriate to understand sexual orientation (heterosexual or homosexual) as a fundamental dimension of

one,s personality and to recognize its relative stability in a

person...Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as given, not as

something freely chosen. By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation

cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose.8

This statement is not a groundbreaking declaration of a new church teaching, but a clarification of a position which has been held for at least 30 years, and possibly for hundreds of years before that, depending on one's interpretation of Scripture and doctrine. In the same letter, we read, &All in all, it is essential to recall one basic truth. God loves every person as a unique individual. Sexual identity helps to define the unique persons we are...Human beings see the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.⁸ This last sentence quotes the first book of the prophet Samuel (16:7), written at least 2,000 years ago.

The Catholic Church recognizes that Scripture, tradition and teaching must be continually understood in ways that promote Christ-like thought and belief in whatever society the Church may find itself. As a result, Catholic opinion on the ex-gay movement is likely to be much less clear-cut than the opinions of the students and student groups quoted in last Tuesday's article, and to be largely at odds with many of them, including those of Exodus and Christian Impact.

It is true that the Church's position on moral sexual behavior, for heterosexuals and homosexuals alike, is probably more conservative than the position held by the majority of Harvard students. We find this position

summarized in the 1991 U.S. Catholic Conference document Human Sexuality:

&Only within marriage does sexual intercourse fully symbolize the Creator,s

dual design, as an act of covenant love, with the potential of co-creating

human life.⁸ There is a world of difference, however, in substance,

derivation and application between this view and the view that one can be

rendered sinful merely by existing in the way in which one is created. It

is

this latter position which The Crimson has falsely ascribed to the Catholic

Church by matter-of-factly alluding to the church,s &espousal that

homosexuality is a sin.⁸

The idea that homosexuals should &seek help or go to hell,⁸ mentioned
by a

former member of the ex-gay movement as part of his inspiration for trying
to

change his sexual identity, is completely foreign to doctrinally informed
Catholic thought on homosexuality. Unfortunately, the most informed
opinions

are not always the loudest.

Much hurt and rejection have been caused by Catholics and Catholic
leaders

who fail to understand the nuances of the Church,s stance. While there may
be

groups on this campus who believe homosexuals can and should be coerced
into

rejecting their sexual identity, the Catholic Church and the

Harvard-Radcliffe Catholic Students Association are not among them.

*Gene Civillico ,98, Vice President of Communications, Catholic Students

Association

Letter: Love, Not Hate, Is Christian Doctrine

In a letter defending the Christians who voiced anti-homosexual sentiment on National Coming Out Day (Nov. 7), Christopher G. Roberts '01 claims that &for Christians, homosexuality is a sin & that therefore National Coming Out Day is a chance for them to &emphasize basic doctrine and make clear...the message of compassion in Christ ,s teachings. & He uses an oft-quoted but obscure reference to Leviticus *taken out of context, no less *to support his claim.

For every Bible passage one might find against homosexuality, I could find one hundred whose message is love. Love is the fundamental Christian commandment, to use Roberts , words, the primary &basic doctrine. & Political persecution of homosexuals hardly adheres to this ideal.

While I may not speak for all Christians *or all Catholics *I believe the &message of compassion in Christ ,s teachings & that Roberts mentions is entirely separate from the political agenda of conservative Christian groups.

How ironic that anyone would use the phrase &compassion in Christ ,s teachings & as a pretext for persecution. To those Christians who quote the Bible to oppose homosexuality, speak for yourselves. If you want to speak of

&toss[ing] aside [God ,s] loving commandment of salvation, & as Roberts does, you may want to examine exactly what that phrase means.

*Brendan G. Conway '00, First-year Committee, Catholic Student Association

Letter: Christians Not United On Issues of Sexuality

Christopher G. Roberts , ,01 letter regarding National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day was a perfectly reasonable (though highly debatable) summary of majority conservative Christian beliefs regarding sexual orientation. However, he claimed that his statement reflected the beliefs of all Christians, when in fact there is a diversity of opinion concerning sexual orientation in Christian churches and among Christian laity and clergy. Since his comment appeared in a publication associated with the same institution as Pusey Minister of Memorial Church Peter J. Gomes, his overstatement seemed especially ridiculous.

*Barbara Purdom and Christopher Purdom, Coordinators, Interfaith Working

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CREATION DATE/TIME:17-NOV-1997 09:36:00.00

SUBJECT: CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update 11/17/97

TO: Todd A. Summers (Todd A. Summers@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update

November 17, 1997

The CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention provides the following information as a public service only. Providing synopses of key scientific articles and lay media reports on HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis does not constitute CDC endorsement. This daily update also includes information from CDC and other government agencies, such as background on Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) articles, fact sheets, press releases and announcements.

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HEADLINES

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

"Increased Sensitivity to HIV-1 Antibody Detection"

"In Vivo Evolution of HIV-1 Co-Receptor Usage and Sensitivity to Chemokine-Mediated Suppression"

GENERAL MEDIA

"U.N. to Announce Significant Increases in HIV/AIDS"

"Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS"

"Heroin Finds Home in Texas Suburbs"

"For the Poor Especially, AIDS Is Still Rampaging"

"Prostitutes Hope to 'Legalize' Profession"

"Duma Urges Measures to Stop AIDS Spread in Russia"

"Zambians Review Locally Invented [AIDS Drug]"

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

"Increased Sensitivity to HIV-1 Antibody Detection"

Nature Medicine (11/97) Vol. 3, No. 11, P. 1258; Urnovitz, Howard

B.; Sturge, Jerrilyn C.; Gottfried, Toby D.

Researchers from Calypte Biomedical in California report that accurate diagnosis of HIV-1 infection improves when tests of both blood products and urine are made. A recent study, conducted in support of U.S. licensure of the Calypte HIV-1 urine enzyme immunoassay (EIA), analyzed 11,344 paired urine and serum samples. Of the total, 10,163 had urine and serum either EIA non-reactive or western blot (WB) negative or indeterminate for

HIV-1 antibodies, while 1,156 had serum and urine that was WB-positive. The remaining 25 individuals were WB-positive in one but not the other. Of those, 10 had urine that was WB-confirmed positive and serum that was EIA non-reactive and WB negative or indeterminate; while 15 had serum that was WB-confirmed positive and urine that was EIA non-reactive or WB negative or indeterminate. By pairing samples, diagnosis of HIV-1 infection increases in accuracy, the researchers said.

"In Vivo Evolution of HIV-1 Co-Receptor Usage and Sensitivity to Chemokine-Mediated Suppression"

Nature Medicine (11/97) Vol. 3, No. 11, P. 1259; Scarlatti,

Gabriella; Tresoldi, Eleonora; Bjorndal, Asa; et al.

Nine children perinatally infected with HIV-1 were studied to determine what inhibitive effect the C-C chemokines RANTES, MIP-1 alpha, MIP-1 beta, and MCP-1 and the C-X-C chemokine SDF-1 have on HIV-1 infection. At varying stages of HIV-1 infection in the children, the scientists obtained a total of 33 sequential primary viral isolates, which they tested using a healthy donor's activated peripheral blood mononuclear cells. RANTES and MIP-1 beta were found to inhibit all but two of the isolates recovered during early stages of the infection, and MIP-1 alpha was found to be effective with most of those isolates. Combining the three chemokines together produced an additive HIV-suppressive effect, and MCP-1 had no effect on the viral isolates. However, 60 percent of the viral isolates obtained from the children in later stages of infection did not

react to RANTES, MIP-1 alpha, or MIP-2 beta, suggesting their ability to use CXCR4 and sometimes CCR3 while slowly losing CCR5 usage. The majority of the isolates were also insensitive to MCP-1. According to the researchers, the findings indicate that HIV-1 undergoes an adaptive change in vivo, which helps it avoid the effects of the antiviral C-C chemokines.

GENERAL MEDIA

"U.N. to Announce Significant Increases in HIV/AIDS"

Reuters (11/17/97); Fox, David

During the opening of the UNAIDS governing board meeting in Nairobi today, United Nations officials said the agency will release data on Dec. 1--World AIDS Day--indicating that worldwide HIV infections have been underestimated. In fact, UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot told attendees that there are now statistics showing that almost half the adult populations of some cities in Zambia, Malawi, and Botswana are HIV-positive. Current figures estimate that more than 30 million people across the globe are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, but fewer than 5 percent of them are aware they are infected.

"Opinion: The Irresponsibility That Spreads AIDS"

New York Times (11/15/97) P. A31; Mayer, Alan J.

In a New York Times op-ed piece, Alan J. Mayer argues that society and the existing AIDS support structure perpetuate irresponsibility among those infected with the virus. Specifically, he alleges that most HIV-positive people do not voluntarily disclose their infected status to potential partners, while the HIV community has adopted a similar "don't ask, don't tell" policy. This silence, the author claims, perpetuates irresponsibility and reinforces the myth of "safe sex." According to Mayer, it is the responsibility of those who are HIV-positive to inform their partners of their status, while it is the responsibility of the HIV community to support such actions.

"Heroin Finds Home in Texas Suburbs"

Boston Globe (11/15/97) P. A6

A growing number of youths in Texas suburbs are inhaling heroin, believing the practice to be safer than using a needle. However, in the past year, 11 teenagers in Plano, just north of Dallas--as well as four teenagers in the suburbs of Fort Worth--have died of heroin overdoses. "These kids in the suburbs think they know all of the ins and outs of using drugs and they have a lot of money to spend," noted Jane Maxwell, head of research for the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "They hear stories about people dying in the inner city and think, 'They just didn't know what they were doing. They must have used a needle.'" Maxwell noted that the increasing purity of the drug enables it to be snorted, although most suburban users

ultimately use needles. "And the use of needles," she said, "will inevitably lead to an increase in AIDS in the suburbs."

"For the Poor Especially, AIDS Is Still Rampaging"

New York Times (11/16/97) P. 14; Baxter, Daniel

In a letter to the editor of the New York Times, Dr. Daniel Baxter, director of adult medicine and HIV service at the William F. Ryan Community Health Center, denounces a recent series of articles in the Times that question "AIDS exceptionalism." These articles--which focus on sensational issues related to the disease--largely ignore the pressing needs of minority and disadvantaged people with HIV, Baxter argues. Such a perspective, he adds, adds fire to the backlash against AIDS exceptionalism and endangers the availability of decent housing and drug treatments for people with HIV. Additionally, Baxter writes: "The recent enthusiasm over new anti-HIV therapies--and the spectacular success of AIDS services aimed at predominantly middle-class gay Americans with HIV--risks the illusion that the battle is being won."

"Prostitutes Hope to 'Legalize' Profession"

Houston Chronicle (11/15/97) P. 35A; Banerjee, Rupam

On Friday, thousands of prostitutes gathered in Calcutta, India, to call for an end to the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act and demand workers' rights. Activist Sadhana Mukherjee, a former prostitute, said that understanding prostitution--which meets a social need--was necessary to control the spread of

sexually transmitted diseases. Although estimates on the number of HIV-infected Indians vary, it is widely held that India accounts for the majority of approximately 8 million HIV-positive Asians.

"Duma Urges Measures to Stop AIDS Spread in Russia"

Itar Wire Service (11/15/97)

Russia's State Duma voted unanimously Friday to urge the government to take much-needed steps to curb the spread of HIV. In recent years, the number of registered HIV cases in the country has increased significantly, with the cities of Kaliningrad, Moscow, Novorossiisk, Tver, and Nizhny Novgorod, and the Moscow and Krasnodar regions, leading Russia in the number of cases. The legislators attributed the increase in infections to the growing use of intravenous drugs by Russia's youth population; over 90 percent of the country's registered HIV cases were reportedly contracted through intravenous drug use.

"Zambians Review Locally Invented [AIDS Drug]"

PANA Wire Service (11/15/97); Mulenga, Mildred

Health experts gathered Saturday in Lusaka, Zambia, to discuss the use of herbiron tinasiferon--a locally developed drug--for the treatment of AIDS. In February, the government banned the use and sale of the drug until it had been assessed by international medical institutions. Since that time, the drug has been reviewed by Dr. Patrick Chikusa of the University of Zambia's Pharmacology School of Medicine and a pharmacology

consultant with the World Health Organization, who found that herbiron tinasiferon reverses trends that encourage the efficient movement of HIV from cell to cell. The inventor of drug, Professor Mulenga Lukwesa, said he hoped the new data would help the government give marketing approval to the therapy.

The AIDSNews Mailing List is maintained by the CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. Regular postings include the CDC NCHSTP Daily News Update, conference announcements, clinical trials information, current funding opportunities, and selected MMWR articles. To SUBSCRIBE, send the command "subscribe aidsnews firstname lastname" to the address listproc@aspensys.com. To UNSUBSCRIBE, send the command "unsubscribe aidsnews" to the address listproc@aspensys.com. If you need assistance, please contact aidsinfo@cdcnac.org.

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SUBJECT: bcc: Texas Monday Clips

TO: Lucia A. Wyman (Lucia A. Wyman@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

[Star-Telegram.com Home]

Updated: Sunday, Nov. 16, 1997 at 22:43 CST

The impeachment posse

By Ron Hutcheson

Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- The economy is booming, unemployment is down and President Clinton's poll numbers are up. So why do people want to impeach him?

Unwilling to wait for the final three years on Clinton's White House lease, 19 House Republicans are pushing for his eviction. Anti- Clinton activists say they have collected more than 100,000 expressions of support for the idea.

Clinton's critics concede that they are a long way from booting him out of office. GOP congressional leaders, who say the impeachment effort is premature, have shown no interest in pursuing the issue. But nothing seems to dampen the intensity of feeling among Clinton's critics.

After five years in office, the president remains a polarizing figure, admired by many, despised by others.

"This is a rogue administration," said Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia, who filed the impeachment resolution Nov. 5. "President Clinton enjoys a relatively high approval rating because he has not yet been held accountable for his misdeeds."

Although congressional reaction to the proposal has been lukewarm at best, Barr and his congressional allies say they have been swamped by calls and letters of support.

"It is overwhelming. Our mail and calls are running about 97 to 3 in favor" of impeachment, said Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano. Two other Texas Republicans -- Rep. Pete Sessions of Dallas and Rep. Ron Paul of Surfside -- are also co- sponsoring the impeachment request.

Of course, history is full of presidents who have been dogged by their enemies until the day they left office. Even George Washington could not slip into retirement without a final blast from his critics.

"If ever a nation was debauched by a man, the American nation has been debauched by Washington," the Philadelphia Aurora editorialized in 1796.

"If ever a nation was deceived by a man, the American nation was deceived by Washington. Let his conduct, then, be an example to future ages; let it

serve to be a warning that no man may be an idol."

But Washington's political enemies did not have the advantage of instant communication, which can turn isolated voices of opposition into a chorus of complaint. The Internet offers at least four Web sites devoted to Clinton's impeachment. There are impeachment bumper stickers and an impeachment theme song, Impeachmo.

Countless other Web sites are devoted to criticizing the president's character and his policies.

Clinton and his advisers dismiss impeachment talk as the ramblings of political extremists. At this point in his presidency, Clinton appears far more concerned about his place in history than the likelihood that he will become the first president removed from office.

(The House voted to impeach Andrew Johnson in 1868, but the Senate refused to order his ouster. In 1974, Richard Nixon avoided impeachment by resigning.)

However history judges Clinton, he seems to have earned at least a footnote as the president that some people love to hate.

"I can't explain the venom. The whole issue is a puzzler, but I don't think there's any doubt but what it's there," said Erwin Hargrove, a political scientist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Hargrove and other observers point to several factors that make Clinton an inviting target for criticism.

Although the former Arkansas governor casts himself as a centrist, his first-term initiatives on gays in the military and health care seemed extreme to many Americans. At the same time, allegations of sexual harassment and marital infidelity raised questions about his core values.

His status as the nation's first baby boomer president may work against him among voters who resent his links to the rebellious 1960s. Others theorize that the animosity toward Clinton reflects the increasingly partisan mood in Congress.

Barr contends that Clinton has forfeited his right to the nation's highest office by "systematically operating outside the bounds" of the law. His impeachment resolution avoids any specific allegations, calling instead for the House Judiciary Committee to investigate "whether grounds exist to impeach William Jefferson Clinton."

The inquiry would be the first step toward drafting specific grounds for Clinton's possible removal.

Barr, a former federal prosecutor, said the effort may gain momentum over the next few months as investigators continue to examine the Clinton White House. Independent counsel Kenneth Starr is expected to wrap up his

Whitewater investigation next year, and Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit is set for trial in May.

"If this is not important to the American people and they think Bill Clinton is a fine man, then the resolution will gather dust," Barr said. "It's essentially something the American people will have to decide, not me."

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[Star-Telegram.com Home]

Updated: Monday, Nov. 17, 1997 at 01:18 CST

Gramm official lambastes nominee

By Ron Hutcheson
Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Phil Gramm's effort to keep Fort Worth lawyer Michael Schattman off the federal bench turned bitter and personal yesterday, with Gramm's spokesman calling Schattman a "careless and incompetent lawyer."

Abandoning an earlier policy of refraining from direct criticism, spokesman Larry Neal also questioned Schattman's ethics and his ability to remain neutral in cases involving the defense industry. Neal delivered the broadside on Gramm's behalf after The New York Times highlighted Schattman's side of the contentious dispute in a front-page article yesterday.

Gramm, invoking Senate traditions that give him life-and-death power over Texas judicial appointments, has blocked Schattman's nomination to be a federal judge in the Northern District of Texas. Schattman says that Gramm's opposition is part of a larger Republican strategy to stymie President Clinton's judicial appointments.

As part of his counterattack, Schattman has widely distributed a videotape that the conservative Judicial Selection Monitoring Project used to raise money for a campaign against Clinton's court nominees. The tape features Gramm criticizing activist judges.

Schattman's refusal to accept defeat quietly has clearly irritated the Texas senator.

"We're faced with the prospect of some kind of ceaseless political campaign by Mr. Schattman from his law office," Neal said. "I gather he has nothing better to do. He's a politician, and he's acting like one. It's time to put all the facts on the table."

Schattman declined to respond to most of Neal's allegations, saying that any complaints against him should be examined at a Senate hearing on his stalled judicial nomination.

But Schattman, a former state district judge, took issue with Neal's assertion that the nominee's anti-war views raise questions about his ability to deal with cases involving North Texas defense contractors.

Schattman, a Catholic, was honorably discharged by the Army in 1972 after qualifying as a conscientious objector. Although he served four years in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps as an undergraduate at Georgetown University in Washington, he was never called to active duty.

Neal said Schattman reiterated his anti-war views in talking with Gramm after his nomination to the federal bench.

"He told us that he was simply opposed to all war and always had been," Neal said. "We question whether a guy who is absolutely opposed to war can give the defense industry a fair shake. The defense industry in North Texas generates a heavy caseload."

Schattman, who handled several defense-related cases in state district

court, said he is not aware of any complaints about his impartiality.

"That is exactly the kind of outlandish assertion that demonstrates why hearings are necessary on nominations," he said. "Anyone who wanted to bring that up as a concern seriously would be reassured by my record as a judge."

Neal said Gramm's other concerns about Schattman include:

A 1987 case involving murder suspect Willie Joe Daniel of Fort Worth.

Schattman declared Daniel dead less than 24 hours before the fugitive was arrested in Memphis, Tenn., in the 1978 slaying of two of his children.

Daniel's relatives requested Schattman's ruling so they could collect on his life insurance policy after nine years of investigation by the FBI and other police agencies failed to locate him.

The appeal record from Schattman's previous stint as a judge. Schattman, who did not seek re-election as a district judge last year in anticipation of his move to the federal bench, has also served as a county court-at-law judge and a mental health judge.

Neal said Schattman has an "extraordinarily high" reversal rate, with nearly 47 percent of his rulings overturned or sent back with instructions from the appellate court. Court offices were closed yesterday, so the figure could not be confirmed or compared with the records of other Texas judges.

But Schattman said his research indicates that he has been reversed 46 times and partially overturned in eight other cases since 1979. He estimated that he has handled more than 12,000 cases in his judicial career.

Schattman's political contributions to Rep. Martin Frost of Dallas.

Neal said Schattman gave Frost \$1,000 on Feb. 28, 1995, four days after Schattman was quoted in a newspaper article expressing an interest in becoming a federal judge. Frost, who has received other contributions from Schattman, later recommended Schattman for the job and has been one of his most outspoken champions in Congress.

"It raises questions of ethics in how far Mr. Schattman was willing to go to get a federal judgeship," Neal said.

But contributions from judicial nominees or potential nominees are not unusual. Federal Election Commission records show that U.S. District Judge John McBryde and his wife gave Gramm \$3,000 the year before McBryde's appointment by former President Bush.

Neal said he was not familiar with McBryde's contributions. Frost could not be reached to comment.

Schattman said he would be happy to counter Gramm's complaints at a Senate hearing on his nomination.

"I'm not going to debate my nomination or my qualifications with Senator

Gramm's spokesperson," he said. "As Senator Margaret Chase Smith once said in reference to [Senator] Joseph McCarthy, 'I don't want to see the Republican Party ride to political victory on the four horsemen of calumny: fear, ignorance, bigotry and smear.' "

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ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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[Houston Chronicle Interactive logo] 6:24 PM 11/11/1997
Houston Chronicle Interactive

Section: Editorial Morales is seeking re-election as
attorney general of Texas.

----- Public officials who keep secrets?
[Virtual Voyager] No place in Texas

----- By DAN MORALES
HCI's Editorial forum When does a government employee or
a public official have a right to
Submit letters to Viewpoints keep secrets from the people who
(with name, address, phone no.) pay his or her salary? My answer
is: "Almost never."

Most citizens understand there are times when government secrecy is required, such as in cases involving national security or investigations to determine criminal wrongdoing. In fact, there are other reasonable "exceptions" to the requirement of open government, such as the protection of personal records of children who attend public schools.

Nonetheless, most Texans also understand that the principle of open government is more than a good idea. It is a bedrock principle of our democracy. Those of us who serve as public officials and government employees should never forget that we work for the public, to benefit the public. We should expect our work to be subject to public scrutiny.

Last spring, the Legislature passed a bill making public information about traffic accidents harder to get. The problem they were trying to fix was a legitimate one. Many people felt that certain professionals were engaged in "ambulance chasing" by scrutinizing public accident reports and then calling people who had suffered severe injuries in these accidents in order to solicit their business. These victims were being harassed.

The effort to protect privacy was well intended, but it created a real obstacle to the public's right to know. In one case, the mayor of a Texas city and his wife were involved in a car crash that involved a fatality. The Texas Department of Public Safety, in its effort to follow the new law, refused to release information regarding that accident.

Several Texas news organizations challenged the law, and for good reason. They understood that it interfered with their right to know, and consequently, the public's right to know.

As Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost."

The Texas Daily Newspaper Association and the Texas Press Association want the Legislature to revisit this issue and find a way to deal with the "ambulance chasers" without infringing on the public's right to know. We support that effort.

In another recent instance, our office was asked by a nonprofit organization whether the phone records of the Texas Supreme Court

were open to the public according to the Texas Public Information Act.

We drew on a number of court cases which made a distinction between the court records of the judiciary, which are excluded, and the administrative records of the judiciary, which are not, in our view, excluded from the act. We ruled that while the judiciary was clearly granted an exemption under the act, the telephone records that were subject to the request were administrative in nature, not judicial.

The state Supreme Court, in what we believe was a good-faith disagreement, rejected our ruling, and reading the law very literally, said that all of their records were exempt and they had no intention of releasing any of them.

It will surprise no one that lawyers disagree. We interpret the law differently than the Supreme Court. But that disagreement can serve as an opportunity for all of us to look beyond differing interpretations of the law. We must never lose sight of the spirit of our open government laws which articulate a moral obligation for Texas government to operate openly in the light of day. We must never lose sight of the plain truth that darkness breeds secrets.

Honest, open government is the essential obligation of every person whose salary is paid by tax dollars. No one is excluded from that obligation, not presidents or governors or attorneys general or judges.

The preamble of the Open Records Act (since renamed the Public Information Act) says it best: "It

is the policy of this state that each person is entitled, unless otherwise expressly provided by law, at all times to complete information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for the people to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

===== END ATTACHMENT 3 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 4 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

[Houston Chronicle Interactive logo] 9:17 PM 11/16/1997
Houston Chronicle Interactive

Poll finds most Texans want troops
on border

Section: News

----- By THADDEUS HERRICK
[Sam Houston Raceway Park] Copyright 1997 Houston Chronicle
San Antonio Bureau

HCI's Page1 forum SAN ANTONIO -- A majority of
Texans consider illegal

Recent related stories: immigration a serious problem and
favor using the nation's armed

- * Saturday: Proposition 187 is forces to stop it.
ruled unconstitutional by judge
- * Friday: Chronicle editorial: The findings, published in the
Congress right in directing INS latest Texas Poll, suggest a
to check local jails hardening of attitudes toward
- * Thursday: Congress relaxes illegal immigration in a state
deportation rules that has long been seen as
- * November 8: Illegal immigrants generally tolerant on the matter,
rush to meet INS deadline especially compared to California.

Eighty-two percent of Texans see
illegal immigration as a serious
problem, the same percentage as
about a decade ago when the issue
was also at the forefront of the
national agenda.

But the frustration with illegal immigration might best be illustrated by the more than one in two Texans who say they would deploy troops to help seal the border with Mexico.

"Whatever it takes to keep illegal aliens out," said Robert Higley, an Austin resident and member of an anti-illegal immigration group known as Texans for Fair Immigration."

The Scripps Howard Texas Poll, which sampled 1,000 adult Texans, was conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 7 and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

It shows the illegal immigration issue taking hold in Texas, with 61 percent of the respondents saying the federal government is not doing enough to stop the problem. Less than a quarter of Texans see any benefit in illegal immigration.

Still, attitudes differ along demographic lines.

Among Anglos, 86 percent say illegal immigration is a serious problem, while 69 percent of Hispanics characterize the issue in such terms. Similarly, North Texans and East Texans see the unlawful influx as more problematic than West Texans.

And while 55 percent of Anglos favor dispatching troops to the border, only 36 percent of Hispanics favor such a move.

"Most Hispanics want to reduce illegal immigration," said Rodolfo de la Garza, an expert on U.S.-Mexico relations at the University of Texas. "But not at the risk of harassment."

Suzan Kern, a spokeswoman for the

El Paso-based Border Rights coalition, thinks the poll results would differ if those surveyed were given some background on illegal immigration before being asked whether they would enlist the military to stop it.

"This is a knee-jerk reaction," she said. "If you presented both sides, if you told people what it really means to have the military on the border, you'd have a different set of results."

Still, experts say Texans are taking a harder line on illegal immigration because leaders, chief among them San Antonio's Lamar Smith, a Republican congressman, have pressed the issue in their push to pass tougher laws.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1996 calls for the number of Border Patrol agents to more than double, along with other provisions, several of which Congress is moving this year to ease.

"Politicians have made illegal immigration an issue," said Jorge Gonzalez, an immigration expert at San Antonio's Trinity University. "Now it's finally having some resonance."

This is somewhat new for Texas, which in the early 1980s under former- Gov. Bill Clements honored the contribution of illegal immigrants. The state's shared history with Mexico has long been seen as the reason for its forgiving attitude, which in recent years has provided a stark contrast to California's anti-illegal immigrant posture.

Though more than half of those surveyed say undocumented workers take jobs nobody wants, conversations with Texans such as Higley indicate much of the

anti-illegal immigration feeling stems from economic insecurity.

"They're inclined to work for less," Higley said, "and employers are inclined to hire them."

A major report released by the National Academy of Sciences last May found that illegal immigrants do take jobs from American workers and depress wages. But the study also said that immigration -- both legal and illegal -- produces substantial economic benefits.

Consequences aside, there is evidence that illegal immigration has increased in Texas today over the past several years. Part of this is thought to stem from the success of a border crackdown in California, which is seen as having shifted the problem east.

In fact, a comparison of five months of illegal immigrant apprehensions during 1995 and 1997 shows sizable increases in both El Paso and McAllen and a decrease in California.

Some feel the state simply cannot handle the financial pressure illegal immigrants are bringing to cities and schools.

Meanwhile, others who live along the border complain that illegal immigrants are trespassing like never before, trampling fences, stealing and vandalizing.

"People are starting to holler," said Sandi Wipff, the wife of Maverick County rancher Sonny Wipff, whose family has raised cattle on the border since the 1882. "They're getting tired of it."

The Border Patrol is adding manpower along the Texas-Mexico border with offensives such as

Operation Rio Grande, which targets the boundary between Brownsville and Laredo.

But forces are thin up-river in places such as Maverick County, where ranchers are arming themselves with assault rifles to patrol their property and in some cases making citizen's arrests.

The ranchers say they would prefer troops, which at one point this year appeared to be a possibility. But a measure calling for the authorization of up to 10,000 troops to be used in controlling illegal drugs and immigration died in Congress.

That vote came after the military suspended its anti-drug operation along the border following the shooting death of a U.S. high school student in the border town of Redford last spring.

===== END ATTACHMENT 4 =====

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SUBJECT: Articles 11.18.97.2

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS Mubarak Dahir: President Clinton's historic
speech still just a speech
2. NEW YORK TIMES In a New South Africa, Homosexuals Find Resistance to
Change
3. NEW YORK TIMES Frank Rich writes about the insulting treatment of
James
Hormel (We're so glad that Frank Rich is back to work at the NY Times!)
4. NEW YORK TIMES Gay Executive's Nomination for Envoy Stalls in Senate

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS, November 18, 1997

PO Box 8263,Philadelphia,PA,19101

(Fax 215-854-4483)(E-MAIL: inquirer.editorial@phillynews.com)

(<http://www.phillynews.com>)

President Clinton's historic speech still just a speech

Mubarak Dahir

On Nov. 8, Bill Clinton became the first president ever to publicly
address a gay and lesbian civil-rights group when he spoke at a fund-raiser
for the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay and lesbian lobby group in

Washington, D.C.

His appearance there has been trumpeted as a landmark by gay and lesbian leaders.

But while listening to a radio broadcast of his speech, I noticed something extremely disturbing, something that poses a real threat to the political progress of gay and lesbian civil rights. It is something that started from the very beginning of Clinton's speech, and continued unmercifully throughout it: He kept getting interrupted during his talk.

The interruptions were so frequent, they almost made it difficult for him to get through the speech. I found those interruptions alarming.

Most of those interruptions were not hecklers in the crowd, or skeptics questioning Clinton's many missteps to date in his complicated relationship with the gay and lesbian community. No, those interruptions were nothing but sheer applause and ovations that bordered on blind idol worship. At one point, thundering applause silenced the president for minutes after he delivered nothing more than the stock political opener, "I'm delighted to be here." And that symbolizes my concern about the unchecked euphoria the gay and lesbian audience that night -- and much of the gay and lesbian community around the country -- indulged in over the mere fact that Clinton spoke to a bunch of gay and lesbian people.

Clinton could have been reading numbers from the phone book, and he still

would have received deafening applause from a gay and lesbian community so seduced by the presence of a president and the desire to be part of mainstream politics that they seem to have forgotten delivering a speech and delivering tangible civil-rights progress are quite different things.

Of course, Clinton, being the superb politician he is, delivered a better-than-average speech that touched on many important themes involving gay and lesbian civil rights. Some of his words even deserved applause.

As do some of his actions to date: It is true that under Clinton, federal money for AIDS has increased; he has appointed some openly gay and lesbian people to office; he was the first president to court the gay and lesbian vote as a candidate back in 1987; and he backs the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, that would outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation and, if passed, would be the first piece of federal civil rights legislation aimed specifically at protecting gay and lesbian Americans.

But Clinton is hardly a purist when it comes to standing up for gay and lesbian civil rights. When he realized how badly he bungled his promise to end discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military, he forever backed away from it; he has routinely ignored the recommendations of his own national advisory council on AIDS; and, in the most disappointing move of all -- one that underscores that his support of gays and lesbians is not based on

a true sense of our equality -- he signed the hateful Defense of Marriage

Act

against same-sex marriages, and has stated he believes marriage is valid

only

for a man and a woman. My point is not to demonize the president. The truth

is he has a mixed record on gay and lesbian issues. When he takes a step in

favor of them, he should be encouraged and commended, and indeed his speech

to the Human Rights Campaign deserves a nod of approval.

But it does not deserve the kind of hysterical, goo-goo-eyed fawning

that

our gay and lesbian leaders have accorded it.

This same kind of dangerously naive optimism followed Clinton's first

election to the White House, and it was not long before the gay and lesbian

community had a bitter awakening. That should have taught us an important

lesson, not only about the limitations of Bill Clinton, but also about how

blind support of even a somewhat sympathetic politician can, in the long

run,

hurt rather than help the advancement of gay and lesbian civil rights. Bill

Clinton epitomizes the arrogant belief, present particularly among

Democrats,

that we as gay and lesbian people have no political alternative. Therefore,

it's easy for them to believe that even if they don't produce much

political

gain for us, we will still support them.

That could only have been reinforced on Nov. 8, when a bunch of supposed

gay and lesbian leaders slapped down \$250 per couple simply to cheer wildly

at Clinton's most mundane pronouncements. Mubarak S. Dahir is a

Philadelphia

free-lance writer. His column appears on this page every other Tuesday.

NEW YORK TIMES, November 18, 1997

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

(Fax 212-556-3622)(E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com)

(<http://www.nytimes.com>)

In a New South Africa, Homosexuals Find Resistance to Change

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Busi Kheswa, chairman of a black homosexual organization in Soweto, was dancing with her girlfriend at a downtown nightclub recently when a stranger started shouting at them.

"He said my parents hadn't performed the proper rituals when I was born, and that's why I was abnormal," she said.

Zanele Mphika, a policeman, was walking with her girlfriend in a black township when a thug drew a gun on them. "He told me he knew who I was, and he was going to rape my girlfriend in front of me to teach us what happens to people like us," she said. Caught without her own weapon, she fought him off barehanded.

Meanwhile, Hugh McLean, chief fund-raiser for the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, says that in the 25 years or so that he has been openly homosexual, he has "never met open hostility from any quarter."

And Police Sgt. Dennis Adriaio, who came out of the closet to found a homosexual police organization in 1994, shortly after he was named the

force's officer of the year, said he has won support from the chief of the force, which once spied on and dismissed anyone thought to be homosexual.

South Africa, which kept morality so buckled down under the former Calvinist Afrikaner government that everything from gambling to kissing someone of another race was illegal, has seen a tidal wave of change in the last decade. Now, that wave is breaking against scattered boulders of resistance on one of the last issues: homosexual rights.

The country's new, post-apartheid constitution, ratified last December, bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. But achieving full legal protection for homosexuals is proving a slow process, and even when laws change, anti-homosexual attitudes persist.

The old laws must still be challenged in each of the nine provinces, before judges who are not, on average, as liberal as the nation's Constitutional Court. And in the political arena, a backlash is growing, particularly among Christian and Muslim conservatives and traditional black Africans.

In October, for example, Parliament approved a policy change for the armed forces, barring discrimination against homosexuals. The army officer who drafted it, Col. Jan Kotze, expressed pride that South Africa's policy is so much clearer than the American compromise of "don't ask, don't tell." But he said some commanders resent it and, since the anti-sodomy laws are still on the books, homosexual soldiers may be at risk of criminal charges even though

military policy presumably accepts homosexual sex within the same limits it accepts heterosexual sex.

Sodomy, in fact, remains a Schedule 1 crime, meaning that a private citizen can arrest someone he suspects of it and even use deadly violence to do so. Last June, in a case concerning consensual sex between two prisoners, a Cape Town judge ruled the law unconstitutional. But his decision does not apply to the other eight provinces, and dozens of prisoners are still charged each year.

Another law, the Sexual Offenses Act, prohibits any act between men "at a party" that leads to sexual gratification -- including kissing or touching. The law was passed in the 1960s after a vice raid on a men's party at a home in Johannesburg.

Legal discrimination survives in other areas. A doctor may not artificially inseminate an unmarried woman, so homosexual women who want to bear children must find other means. Homosexual couples are not permitted to adopt children. Homosexual relationships are generally not recognized for pension or medical benefits. Some judges have denied divorced homosexual women custody of their children and even visits when their female partner is present.

Meanwhile, in the social arena, bigotry persists. Some homosexual whites are "out," but many remain in the closet, fearing they would be subtly shunned in a society where demeaning jokes are still common. Blacks, and especially African homosexuals like Ms. Kheswa and Ms. Mphika, face far worse -- open hostility and threats.

The homosexual rights movement here is new and strives not to offend. There have been pride marches for eight years, but they attract fewer than 4,000 marchers; New York City, by contrast, has held them for 27 years with as many as 200,000 participants. South Africa's first walk-in legal-advice center for homosexuals opened only in September.

The governing African National Congress is a strong advocate of human rights, so the constitution's equality clause "was handed to us on a platter," said Jonathan Berger, the legal center's coordinator. But in practice, he added, "we're light-years behind the States. Quite prominent people in the ANC have made homophobic remarks."

The coalition and the Human Rights Commission recently sued to overturn the sodomy law. To their surprise, Justice Minister Dullah Omar opposed them on a technicality. Omar is an ANC appointee, but his power base is among Muslims in Cape Town, where fundamentalist imams hold sway.

Changing public attitudes may prove harder than changing laws. The homosexual coalition's budget is now financed entirely with donations from

Norwegian and Dutch organizations. McLean said South African corporations politely but inevitably refuse his requests to help homosexual causes. A few wealthy individuals helped some years back, he said, but he could not release their names.

"You're talking about gay men who are making it in business," he said.

"They don't want to be up front."

There are homosexual bars in Johannesburg and Cape Town, which the police do not raid, even though sex takes place in dark corners.

"We get some celebrities," said a bartender at one of them, Gotham City.

"But they're not out."

Perhaps the best example of how attitudes are changing is in the South African Police.

In 1985, Capt. Corrie van Niekerk was a constable, working with two other homosexual women at the front desk of a police station. She said the commander tried to flirt with them and then, rebuffed, heard that they were homosexuals, who at that time were barred from the force.

"He had my phone bugged," she said. "He sent police social workers to stake out my house. When I switched off the lights at night, they knocked on my door to see who was with me."

Producing evidence that they were homosexuals, he ordered all three to resign quietly or face dishonorable discharges. They quit, she said, and one then committed suicide.

Ms. van Niekerk joined a small force in the black township Soweto that

was

open to whites and did not ask about her sexuality. When it was reabsorbed into the national force, she rose to captain.

Her younger male colleague Adriaio said he came out after his 1993 award allowed him to study police work in Europe. "The commanding general had just

boasted that there were no queers on the force," he said. "Then three months later, he was shaking my hand. But he didn't know."

When he returned the next year, a new government was in place. Adriaio came out, first to a homosexual magazine, then on national television. His colleagues, he said, "have been fine about it." He has gay-pride parade posters in his office and led the police contingent in the Johannesburg parade last month. One Johannesburg commander briefly tried to insist that they not march in uniform. But, citing a directive issued in 1994 by the national commander saying that the force would tolerate no anti-homosexual discrimination, they had him overruled.

Black society has deep homophobic streaks, based less on religion than on the overwhelming emphasis on having children to continue the family line. Ignorance in rural culture also plays a role. Sexuality is rarely discussed at home or school, so myths abound.

"If you tell people you are gay, the first question is, 'How do you have sex?' They think you have a penis and a vagina," Ms. Kheswa said. "At high school, if the boys suspect another boy, they will pull off his clothes to see what's happening with him."

NEW YORK TIMES, November 18, 1997

Frank Rich: Calling Perle Mesta

JOURNAL / By FRANK RICH

Let the rest of the diplomatic community fret about Saddam Hussein. Life was so low-key at the Luxembourg Embassy in Washington Friday evening that the Ambassador was picking up the phone himself. He graciously stayed on the line as a stranger asked for a few basic facts about his country.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is the size of Rhode Island with roughly the population of Wyoming, the Ambassador, Alphonse Berns, explained. A primary industry is banking. A famous historical incident? The Battle of the Bulge.

A half-century later, however, Luxembourg's number may be coming up again -- as the unlikely site of another battle, albeit one as farcical as any in

Gilbert and Sullivan, in America's culture wars. Last week two Republican Senators, James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, prevailed upon their leader, Trent Lott, to hold up President Clinton's choice as ambassador to Luxembourg. The nominee, a 64-year-old San Francisco philanthropist and an heir to the Hormel meat (i.e., Spam) fortune named James Hormel, would be America's first openly gay ambassador. Accordingly, Senator Inhofe, his spokesman explained, is alarmed that Mr. Hormel "might use this post to promote [the gay] agenda."

If William Weld and Bill Lann Lee are the most sublime of the Clinton appointments that have been stymied by Republicans in the Senate this

session, then surely Mr. Hormel is the most ridiculous. Ambassador to Luxembourg is not a post conducive to promoting any agenda more daring than a wine list. The most famous previous occupant of the job, a traditional plum for campaign contributors, was Perle Mesta, the Washington party-giver appointed by Harry Truman and spoofed by Ethel Merman on Broadway in Irving Berlin's "Call Me Madam."

Does Senator Inhofe fear that Mr. Hormel might jump out of a cake at an embassy function and perform Merman's signature song, "The Hostess with the Mostes' on the Ball"? Or does promoting the "gay agenda" in Luxembourg mean participating in the Duchy's sexual demimonde? Bonne chance! An Internet search yielded a "Gay Luxembourg" site of lonely dimensions: Of a handful of "personal ads," one was from a man eager to meet a woman.

Clearly Mr. Hormel, who is now being locked in a closet by the State Department lest a stray remark to the press exacerbate G.O.P. gay-baiting, deserves far better. He gives and raises hefty sums each year not just for Democrats but for such nonpartisan causes as breast cancer and AIDS research, the San Francisco Symphony and the University of Chicago law school, where he was dean of students. He's served his country in appointments to the United Nations and its Human Rights Commission. But no good deeds go unpunished these days if you are chosen as a symbolic punching bag by the far right.

The insulting treatment of Mr. Hormel is hardly unique.

Among the other, 100-plus Administration appointees in Kafkaesque limbo

is

Margaret Morrow, nominated to a district judgeship and vilified without

any

evidence as a judicial "activist" by Senators John Ashcroft of Missouri

and

Jeff Sessions of Alabama. Did they select their target by picking a name

out

of a hat? The first female president of the California Bar Association, Ms.

Morrow is a corporate litigator who has represented such notoriously

radical

clients as McDonnell Douglas and T.W.A. But not even enthusiastic

endorsements by conservative judges appointed by Ronald Reagan and Pete

Wilson have freed her from the right's attack dogs.

No less poignant is the case of David Satcher, the latest Surgeon General

nominee. The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

Dr.

Satcher is an expert in sickle-cell disease, a crusader against illegal

drugs

and teen-age pregnancy, and a major advocate for cancer prevention. (His

first wife died of breast cancer.) But now his nomination is also on hold

because he had the audacity to reveal that he agrees with existing law on

late-term abortion.

Maybe Senator Lott will move these nominations when Congress reconvenes

in

January rather than hand the Democrats an attractive set of martyrs. At

the

very least let's hope he'll order costly new hearings for Mr. Hormel, if

only

to force him under oath to out the closeted ingredients of Spam.

NEW YORK TIMES, November 18, 1997

Gay Executive's Nomination for Envoy Stalls in Senate

By ALISON MITCHELL

WASHINGTON -- The Senate held up confirmation of President Clinton's

choice

for ambassador to Luxembourg in the final hours before adjournment last

week

after Republicans had objected to quick approval of the nominee, a business

executive who is openly gay.

The development left the nominee, James C. Hormel, a longtime Democratic

supporter who is heir to the Hormel meatpacking fortune, in limbo until the

Senate convenes next year. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said

she

and the president remain "firmly committed" to Hormel's nomination.

The delay was the latest instance of Senate Republicans' stalling

Clinton's

nominations over social issues. The nomination of David Satcher, the choice

for surgeon general, has been held up over his position on abortion, and

the

nomination of Bill Lann Lee, the choice for civil rights chief at the

Justice

Department, appears all but dead because of his support for race- and

sex-based preference programs.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, last week condemned the

delay over Hormel.

"I think that it is regrettable that senators, apparently for no other reason than the sexual orientation of this nominee, have indicated opposition," McCurry said.

Hormel, 64, is one of three grandsons of George A. Hormel, the founder of what is now Hormel Foods Corp., the meatpacking and food-processing giant.

He is the chairman of Equidex, a San Francisco-based concern that manages the family's investments. He has been an alternate in the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly and a delegate to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

Hormel is also a philanthropist, has long been active in the Democratic Party and was a major donor to the party in the last campaign cycle. He serves on the board of the foundation of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian organization.

His nomination ran into trouble when Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Sen.

Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, both Republicans, raised 11th-hour objections to him as the Senate was pushing to confirm nominees in the session's final days.

"Our concern is about this nominee's political views," said Gary Hoitsma, a spokesman for Inhofe. "He's been an outspoken promoter of things like same-sex marriages, things we don't agree with."

Hoitsma said Inhofe wanted to insure that there was a full roll-call vote

on Hormel's nomination, and not a voice vote. "It's to register our concern on these issues," he said, adding that Inhofe would vote against confirmation.

Sue Hensley, a spokeswoman for Hutchinson, said that he objected to Hormel because of the nominee's "long history of actively promoting the gay rights agenda" and that the senator wanted more time to look into his background. She said Hutchinson would meet with Hormel next month.

Ray Mulliner, an assistant to Hormel, said Monday that the business executive would not comment. Nominees traditionally do not make public statements until the Senate takes final action.

Gay rights organizations have rallied to Hormel's side and accused the Senate of discrimination.

"He's completely qualified for the position," said David Smith, a senior strategist for the Human Rights Campaign. "There's no reason why his confirmation should not go forward, and the only explanation why it has been held up is anti-gay bias."

Smith noted that Hormel had previously won Senate confirmation for membership in the delegation to the United Nations.

During President Clinton's first term, Hormel was under consideration for ambassador to Fiji, but the White House backed away from making the nomination, fearing opposition from Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and is an outspoken opponent of homosexuality.

This fall, faced with Hormel's nomination for Luxembourg, Helms voted against him but did not stop his nomination from being considered. The

Foreign Relations Committee approved the nomination, and sent it to the Senate floor.

One official familiar with the negotiations between the administration and the senator said Helms had allowed the nomination to move forward after receiving written assurances from Albright that Hormel would not push a political agenda as ambassador and that his partner would not be presented as an ambassadorial spouse, with an official role.

When the Senate declines to act on a nomination at the end of a session, it has the option to carry it over into the next session for automatic consideration or else to require the president to renominate the candidate formally.

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2. POST DISPATCH Editorial: Sticks and stones
3. POST DISPATCH Amy Strongheart: "Prayers for Bobby" story worth telling
4. AUGUSTA CHRONICLE Editorial demands that Congress pass Coburn's HIV bill
5. ROCHESTER MN POST BULLETIN City council rejects legal protection for
gays

Arkansas Democrat & Gazette, November 19, 1997

Box 2221, Little Rock, AR, 72203

(Fax 501-372-3908)(E-MAIL: news@ardemgaz.com)

(250 words or less)

There he goes again: Annals of Clintoniana (excerpt)

(no author listed-- apparently written by the paper's editorial board)

OUR PRESIDENT is a lot better at quoting Harry Truman than emulating

him.

At one of those ubiquitous black-tie dinners in Washington, Bill Clinton echoed a promise HST made in June of 1947, when the issue was equal rights for black Americans. Fifty years later, this president was promising equal treatment for homosexual Americans.

; ; But that's not the only difference between these presidents: Harry Truman

followed through on his promise, and integrated the armed forces. Last week

wasn't the first time Bill Clinton has promised that homosexuals would be treated as full citizens, and he still hasn't followed through.

; ; Instead of doing a Harry Truman--that is, issuing an order to end discrimination in the armed services and letting the generals figure out how

to implement it--this president announced a pious wish and then promptly opened negotiations. Five years later, the status of homosexuals in the armed

services is still unclear, lost somewhere in a kind of verbal limbo. This isn't defending people's rights but obfuscating them.

; ; By now Bill Clinton has negotiated this issue with the Joint Chiefs, with

the secretary of defense, with the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and with just about everybody in sight.

; ; If Harry Truman had adopted this approach, the armed forces would still have all-Negro units.

; ; The net result of all Bill Clinton's negotiating has been the muddle

called Don't Ask, Don't Tell--and even now no one is quite sure what it means. This is what happens when the armed forces of the United States are headed by a negotiator-in-chief.

; ; The first time Bill Clinton promised to end discrimination against homosexuals, he plunged into the question not like a commander but a lawyer.

"Well, I don't want to get into a constitutional debate," he said at one press conference, preparatory to stumbling into one: "But if you can discriminate against people in terms of if they get into the service or not, based not on what they are but what they say they are, then I would think you

could make appropriate distinctions on duty assignments once they're in. I--the courts have historically given quite wide berth to the military to make judgments of that kind...."

; ; By the time he was through, it wasn't clear whether the president was arguing for or against discrimination, or if that many people any longer cared. Hearing this president debate all sides of a question with himself is

almost as attractive a prospect as being locked up for a week with an aluminum siding salesman. For when Bill Clinton, super salesman, takes you by the arm, looks you in the eye, and talks to you pithily for an hour or two, all you may want is out. . .

; ;

Post-Dispatch, November 17, 1997

900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63101

(Fax 314-340-3139)(E-MAIL: letters@pd.stlnet.com)

STICKS AND STONES - AND WORDS

A story about bullying in the Post-Dispatch's Everyday section last week reopened the wound on the soul of a gay friend.

The story was about teasing, hair-pulling and schoolyard brawling and posturing. While it was illuminating in revealing some reasons why children bully and are bullied, the business of masculinity was not discussed.

But what does gender have to do with the subject? Plenty. Think about the bully's vocabulary: sissy, fag, homo, queer, fruit.

Statistical and anecdotal evidence show that gay children, even closeted ones, suffer both more abuse and more violent abuse from their peers. And gay children, or those perceived to be more masculine or more feminine than the norm for their gender, suffer not just from bullying from other kids but also from teachers and administrators. Suicide rates of gay children are higher than those of their heterosexual peers. Some psychologists attribute this statistic to feelings of isolation and the atmosphere of hostility at school.

"When I was a kid the game of dodge ball was also known as 'smear the queer,' " our friend told us. The name of the game was thought up by the gym teacher.

"I had ink thrown on my clothes and glue in my books. Students who had

been friends in elementary school avoided me, or joined in the bullying,
for
fear of being singled out themselves," he said.

What can we do, other than preach the Golden Rule to our own children,
and
to practice it as adults? Parents can demand that the schools put the
kibosh
on all bullying. And if school officials resist, parents can remind them of
Jamie Nabozny's lawsuit against school officials in Ashland, Wis.

From the time he was 11, Nabozny was spat upon, beaten up, subjected to
a
let's-pretend rape. He was kicked in the stomach so many times that he
needed
surgery. His head was shoved into the toilet and somebody urinated on him.

The abuse continued, in spite of protests from his parents, until he
dropped out of school in his junior year. A year ago, Nabozny, 21,
accepted a
\$900,000 settlement from the school district. A jury found that school
officials violated Nabozny's civil rights. It was the first time
administrators were found to be liable for anti-gay violence.

To end gay-bashing bullying, in schools and in society, we must develop
ways to challenge and change a culture that, from the cradle, strictly
segregates the pinks and the blues and punishes the lavenders. We must
loosen
the suffocating proscriptions against variation in gender identification
and
roles. We must reject a culture and a language that loathes differentness,

especially gayness.

Everyone would benefit from such a change of attitude: the children who are bullied, the bullies and those who watch in silence, fear or loathing.

Sticks and stones can break our bones.

And words, most certainly, can hurt us.

Post-Dispatch, November 14, 1997

900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63101

(Fax 314-340-3139)(E-MAIL: letters@pd.stlnet.com)

'PRAYERS FOR BOBBY': A SAD STORY WORTH TELLING

By Amy Adams Squire Strongheart

In a way, it seems a little macabre that Bobby Griffith became the unofficial poster boy for the reality of gay suicide, but all things work together for the good, I guess.

Born in 1963, Bobby grew up in a suburban California community. From the git-go, it was apparent that Bobby was not like his brother Ed, who was able to adapt to social expectations for masculinity with much greater ease than Bobby. Ed liked to work on cars with his dad and hustle a good game of baseball. Bobby liked to play with dolls or dress up in his sister's clothes.

Bobby's inability to conform was a source of profound distress for his devoutly religious mother, who believed, according to the tenets of her Protestant faith, in non-negotiable, God-given directives for appropriate gender expression and behavior.

When Bobby was 15 years old, he confided to Ed that he was gay. When his parents found out, they were mortified and launched a vigorous campaign to convert Bobby from homosexuality to heterosexuality.

Just shortly before his 20th birthday, unable to cope with the guilt, shame and frustration of his parents' well-meaning but misguided endeavors, Bobby moved to Portland, Ore. However the geographic cure proved no more effective than snake oil; and, late one night, in the silent midnight darkness, Bobby did a back flip off an overpass and was crushed beyond recognition by an 18-wheeler.

If I were Mary Griffith, Bobby's mother, I'm not sure that I would have had either the courage or the inclination to publicize this most personal and debilitating family tragedy, but that's exactly what Mary did.

Feeling somehow responsible for his death, she felt led to bring something positive, something hopeful, out of Bobby's untimely and horrible demise.

The fruits of her efforts to transform evil into good have compounded year by year. Ten years after Bobby's death, veteran journalist Leroy (Roy) Aarons

cold-called Mary Griffith to ask if she would be willing to let him write a book detailing the tortuous journey that both she and Bobby had taken.

Thus, the project "Prayers for Bobby" was born. The book was published in 1995, and it inspired Jay Kawarsky to write a choral cantata under the same title.

Kawarsky and Aarons visited St. Louis recently to witness the cantata's

being performed by the Gateway Men's Chorus and Charis: The St. Louis Women's Chorus, of which I am a member. The performance was a fund-raiser for Project Open Mind, an educational campaign sponsored by PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to address anti-gay hate speech.

I talked with Aarons, who confirmed what I had suspected about Mary Griffith - that she must be uncompromisingly candid. You'd almost have to be to share something like this with the world.

"We agreed to do some interviews," began Aarons, "and I put together a proposal based on those. Mary and I hit it off right away, maybe because we're about the same age. She was scathingly honest. She had her own problems, like an addiction to diet pills. But she never tried to hide her shortcomings. This is a woman with grit, and her agenda is to save lives."

Aarons explained that it was Mary's hope that by being completely forthcoming about their family dynamics and her own insecurities, other families might be spared the agony of losing a gay child to suicide.

Aarons was alarmed when Mary Griffith turned over all of Bobby's copious diaries - not copies, but originals. "She gave me her full cooperation," he said, almost amazed. "To her the book would be a permanent record of her son's all-too-brief life, which, if other gay kids read, might help them realize that they aren't alone."

I'll never in a million years believe that God intended for Bobby to die as penance for his same sex-orientation. I've heard many people say things like "Thank God for AIDS," or "He was a faggot and worthy of death. It's

God's law." It's this kind of cruelty that PFLAG hopes to challenge with Project Open Mind and that Mary Griffith hopes to undo by immortalizing her family's struggle to deal with her son's identity.

Sadly, all the books, music, prayers, press releases and sermons in the world won't bring Bobby back. But if even one family is saved from the Griffiths' fate of having a beloved member die hideously by his own hand, then it is indeed a story worth telling, in as many ways as possible and to as many people who care to hear it.

It was Mary Griffith's hope that by being completely forthcoming about their family's dynamics and her own insecurities, other families might be spared the agony of losing a gay child to suicide.

Augusta Chronicle, November 19, 1997

Box 1928, Augusta, GA, 30913

(Fax 706-823-3345)(E-MAIL: letters@augustachronicle.com)

Identify HIV predators

Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff

The horrific news that an upstate New York predator carrying the deadly HIV virus had sexual contact with dozens of unsuspecting girls before being stopped highlights the need for congressional passage of H.R. 1062, the AIDS

Prevention Act of 1997.

The girls and their parents demanded -- and got -- what H.R. 1062 mandates: make public health personnel treat HIV/AIDS like any other infectious disease.

The fact that HIV/AIDS is the No. 1 killer of Americans aged 25 to 44

forced the Chautauqua, N.Y., health commissioner to break precedent and identify the criminal carrier. He did so because there was no other way to find out where Nushawn Williams was, and whether he was still infecting unknowing females.

H.R. 1062, by Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., would routinely test at-risk individuals (although individuals would have the right of refusal) and confidentially pass the names of the infected to local health authorities.

The purpose? Aggressive partner notification.

Coburn would also allow health care professionals to require testing of patients before performing risk-prone invasive procedures. ``Both patients and health care providers would benefit from full medical diagnoses, which should include routine testing for HIV," says Dr. Coburn, who still practices obstetrics.

Another doctor also endorses H.R. 1062 -- former dentist Charlie Norwood, who represents Georgia's 10th District in Congress. We can only hope that their congressional colleagues remember what the degenerate Nushawn Williams did, and make H.R. 1062's passage a priority next year.

Post Bulletin, November 18, 1997

Box 6118, Rochester, MN, 55903

(Fax-507-285-7772)(E-MAIL: feedback@postbulletin.com)

Council rejects changes to human rights ordinance

By Charles Tombarge

Rochester City Council members voted 5-2 against amendments to the

city's
human rights ordinance that would have extended mediation services to
people
regardless of age, disability or sexual orientation.

The decisive vote against the ordinance change brought to an end a long,
impassioned debate over the city's commitment to protecting human rights
and
its role in extending services to help people who claim they have been
discriminated against.

The changes would have brought the city's ordinance into line with state
human rights laws. The city human rights commission submitted the proposed
changes for council consideration last month.

More than 200 people attended Monday's public hearing, including many
who
couldn't fit into the council chambers. After hearing from many speakers on
both sides of the issue, Council Member Walt Stobaugh made a motion in
support of the proposal, but it failed for lack of a second.

The motion against approval passed after council members briefly
expressed
their opinions on the issue. Council members Mack Evans, Ed Hruska, Jean
McConnell, Marcia Marcoux and Dave Senjem voted to reject the ordinance
changes, while Stobaugh and Council President John Hunziker voted not to
reject.

A move to include sexual orientation in the human rights ordinance also
was rejected by the council in December 1993.===== ATTACHMENT 1

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Doug.Case (Doug.Case@sdsu.edu@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-NOV-1997 17:06:00.00

SUBJECT: Clinton's broken promises

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Arkansas Democrat & Gazette

November 19, 1997

<http://www.ardemgaz.com>

There he goes again

Annals of Clintoniana

Arkansa Democrat & Gazette Editorial Board

OUR PRESIDENT is a lot better at quoting Harry Truman than emulating him. At one of those ubiquitous black-tie dinners in Washington, Bill Clinton echoed a promise HST made in June of 1947, when the issue was equal rights for black Americans. Fifty years later, this president was promising equal treatment for homosexual Americans.

But that's not the only difference between these presidents: Harry Truman followed through on his promise, and integrated the armed forces. Last week wasn't the first time Bill Clinton has promised that homosexuals would be treated as full citizens, and he still hasn't followed through.

Instead of doing a Harry Truman-that is, issuing an order to end discrimination in the armed services and letting the generals figure out how to implement it-this president announced a pious wish and then promptly opened negotiations. Five years later, the status of homosexuals in the armed services is still unclear, lost somewhere in a kind of verbal limbo. This isn't defending people's rights but obscuring them.

By now Bill Clinton has negotiated this issue with the Joint Chiefs, with the secretary of defense, with the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and with just about everybody in sight.

If Harry Truman had adopted this approach, the armed forces would still have all-Negro units.

The net result of all Bill Clinton's negotiating has been the muddle called Don't Ask, Don't Tell-and even now no one is quite sure what it means. This is what happens when the armed forces of the United States are headed by a negotiator-in-chief.

The first time Bill Clinton promised to end discrimination against homosexuals, he plunged into the question not like a commander but a lawyer. "Well, I don't want to get into a constitutional debate," he said at one press conference, preparatory to stumbling into one: "But if you can discriminate against people in terms of if they get into the service or not, based not on what they are but what they say they are, then I would think you could make appropriate distinctions on duty assignments once they're in. I-the courts have historically given quite wide berth to the military to make judgments of that kind...."

By the time he was through, it wasn't clear whether the president was arguing for or against discrimination, or if that many people any longer cared. Hearing this president debate all sides of a question with himself

is almost as attractive a prospect as being locked up for a week with an aluminum siding salesman. For when Bill Clinton, super salesman, takes you by the arm, looks you in the eye, and talks to you pithily for an hour or two, all you may want is out.

Other leaders may divide and conquer; this president bores and conquers. There are times, quite a few of them, when Bill Clinton manages to combine Dwight Eisenhower's syntax and Richard Nixon's sincerity. The results are formidable. And interminable. Bill Clinton has many impressive qualities-energy, stamina, a boundless elasticity. But the most impressive may be the ability to sustain an interest in his own, endless disquisitions and negotiations as others' eyes and minds glaze over.

The news of late has been full of piquant ironies from our chief executive, but who bothers to record them any more? They have been lost in the massive inattention he attracts.

Note the president's stirring proclamation of National Children's Day last month, in which he declared: "With the birth of every child, the world becomes new again. Within each infant lies enormous potential for learning and for making life better for others. But this potential must be nurtured."

Not necessarily. On the same day-October 12, 1997-the president vetoed the bill banning partial-birth abortions. Perfect timing. Whoever draws up these presidential proclamations must have a finely developed sense of irony, or maybe just an unconscious one.

Note this clause that some subversive speechwriter inserted into a speech the president made on his recent visit to Brazil: "We do not have a single child to waste."

No wonder one pro-lifer, hearing the president say such things, was moved to mutter: "What are we to make of this man?" In a way, her reaction was a compliment. At least she took this president seriously enough to note his inconsistencies. A lot of Americans have just tuned out on the Clinton clauses by now; his voice becomes part of the background radiation in the America of A.D. 1997.

And yet the president can still rivet. Note this striking, indeed alarming, comment from one of the president's recent, self-congratulatory interviews: "When the history books are written and people look back on it," he predicted, "the public will have a very different opinion...about the ethical performance of this administration."

Oh dear. Does he foresee a future in which his administration's ethical standards become the nation's? Chilling. It could happen. The definition of ethics could undergo the same Orwellian sea change that has already taken place where civil rights are concerned. In Harry Truman's time, civil rights meant equality before the law. In Bill Clinton's, civil rights has come to mean that some are more equal than others. As in affirmative action, another phrase that no longer means what it once did. So why shouldn't ethics come to mean the less than ethical?

Happily, one can safely ignore much of what this president says; it's what he does that speaks loudest. Or rather, what he doesn't do. The buck stopped with Harry Truman. When an issue reaches Bill Clinton, he has just begun to equivocate.

Nevertheless, Bill Clinton may seem like a dynamic, engaging, animated and even fascinating leader once the year 2000 arrives. It'll be the contrast. Because isn't that when Al Gore plans to run for president?

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: rwockner (rwockner@netcom.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-NOV-1997 14:06:00.00

SUBJECT: NC5415: Rofes' Sex Panic! speech in San Diego

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I am trying to circulate this widely, Rex. Can you send it out to any gay
press contacts you have. Thanks very much. Eric

I presented the attached essay (in speech format) in San Diego at the
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference. As some
of you know, many of us were organizing a specific track of workshops and
meetings called the "Sex Panic Summit" aimed at addressing escalating
attacks on gay men's sex cultures.

Some of you may find this helpful and some may not. I am hoping to get
this talk distributed widely and if any of you know folks in the queer
media who might wanna use this, tell them to go ahead and do so. Thanks
much.

Eric Rofes

[The following essay is for mass distribution. Feel free to copy and send
to others. Media folks, feel free to download and print in your
newspaper. Just send me a copy at E. Rofes, 73B Collingwood, SF, CA

THE EMERGING SEX PANIC TARGETING GAY MEN

By Eric Rofes

Speech given at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's

Creating Change Conference in San Diego, November 16, 1997

Historian Allan Berube has defined a "sex panic" as a "moral crusade that leads to crackdowns on sexual outsiders." It is distinct from ongoing harassment and vilification of the sexual fringe. It requires the following components: ideology, the machinery and the power to transform ideology into action, and scapegoated populations, sites, and sexual practices.

During a sex panic, a wide array of free-floating cultural fears are mapped onto specific populations who are then ostracized, victimized, and punished. As Gayle Rubin has observed, historically we have seen that when moral panics are over, countless individuals and groups have suffered greatly and the original triggering social problems have not been remedied.

Gay men have no corner on the market on sex panics. In recent years, we have seen sexual terrors marshaled to create a stampede mentality to trample upon many groups including prostitutes and other sex

workers, African-American men, welfare mothers, sex offenders as a class, and men who engage in consensual sex with male teenagers.

Are We Confronting a Sex Panic Today?

Currently debate rages among sectors of gay male communities about whether contemporary spates of police entrapments, closures of commercial sex establishments, encroachments on public sex areas, and vilification of specific gay male subcultures constitute a sex panic. It is important to distinguish between ongoing waves of harassment and victimization and a full-scale sex panic because, while both are destructive of lives and communities, a sex panic alone is characterized by a sustained period of intensified persecution of sexual minorities involving punitive state action, public disgrace, and a powerful cultural dynamic of scapegoating, shaming, and silencing of alternative viewpoints. While communists were harassed and persecuted in this nation during the 1940s, it took the coalescing of a variety of cultural factors in the late 1940s and early 1950s to create the moral panic we have come to know as "The McCarthy Period."

I believe we may be witnessing the early stages of an emerging sex panic focused on sexually-active gay men who do not organize their sex and relationships following heteronormative models. It is at different stages in different locations. For example, I believe this sex panic has emerged in New York City with a sustained, intensified period of policing, harassment, and closure of many gay sex spaces and an accompanying

discourse in the media about the need to halt continuing gay male HIV infections. In places like Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, D.C., Austin, and Providence, it is clearly at an earlier stage. Sex panic looks different in urban, small city, and rural areas and will have different characteristics, contexts, and trajectories.

What we are witnessing in 1997 are several powerful social shifts which could easily and swiftly fall into place, causing a full-scale sex panic to break out nationwide at any time. This is the way terror and scapegoating operate in a postmodern culture. At least four factors are contributing to a mounting sex panic:

1. The ascendancy and entrenchment of the Far Right and their development, testing, and successful utilization of sex as a wedge issue which speedily divides liberals and Leftists, their primary opponents.
2. The redistribution and intense concentration of wealth creating vast economic disparities and making the urban centers of our nation sites of contentious class-based battles over massive corporate land-grabs.
3. A shift in public awareness from the belief that gay men had stopped transmitting HIV to the realization that gay men continue to become infected with HIV at significant levels. This is accompanied by many gay men and lesbians' feelings of embarrassment, shame, and outrage.
4. The relative success of gay rights efforts where certain victories are offered predicated on the sacrifice of certain sectors of our communities

or the squelching of certain social, cultural, or sexual processes which seem different from heterosexual social norms.

Why Are the Current Debates Flaring Into Sexual Civil Wars?

The emerging sex panic appears to be shaping up as characterized by an ideology which believes gay men's sex is not only sinful and predatory, but is responsible for an escalating AIDS epidemic. We are seeing the machinery and the power to transform ideology into action emerging in media frenzies over gay men's sex, the conceptualization of current health problems as public health emergencies, the use of exceptional measures to restrict sex spaces by public officials, and extreme actions by police officers and other representatives of state power to curtail the sexual activity and drug use of gay men. Media accounts are increasingly scapegoating specific populations--at this moment, circuit boys are the scapegoat-of-choice,--sites such as bathhouses, sex clubs, and circuit parties, and activities such as "barebacking." It is also characterized by the active involvement and, in some cases, instigation and leadership of gay and lesbian journalists, political leaders, public officials, HIV prevention workers, and other public health officials.

This is precisely what makes the current debates problematic and why many have such powerful feelings of rage and betrayal:

- o 20 years ago we heard Anita Bryant and Paul Cameron insisting gay male

sex is diseased and suicidal and these days we hear gay men saying the exact same thing.

- o 20 years ago we fought heterosexuals in the mainstream media who invaded our sex spaces and wrote lurid, uninformed accounts of our sex cultures. These days it's gay men working in the mainstream media who invade the spaces and write the same lurid stories.

- o 20 years ago it was heterosexual public officials who ordered crackdowns on gay bars, mass entrapment at rest stops, and the intense regulation, policing, and closure of sex clubs. These days it could be queer public officials ordering such actions.

Those of us defending gay male sex cultures are not indifferent to HIV prevention efforts. Many of us are leaders in both areas. We know that effective prevention is built on sexual empowerment and believe that decades of public health research show that tactics of guilt, fear, and repression exacerbate public health crises rather than deter them. It is precisely because many people have become frustrated with HIV prevention and feel at a loss to chart new directions for our work, that the time is ripe for an escalation of support for coercive measures to stop gay men's sex.

Those of us standing up for sexual freedom are neither lost in a romanticized version of the golden age of the 1970s nor dick-hungry men who are selfishly seeking more power and more privilege. We have been condescendingly characterized as immature children who haven't grown up

and need to get with the times, put our pricks back in our pants, and apply our energies to the real challenges facing our communities, like gays-in-the-military or gay marriage. Yet we believe that even a cursory look at the histories of our movement will show that sexual liberation has been inextricably bound together with gay liberation, the women's movement, and the emancipation of youth. Among the most effective ways of oppressing a people is through the colonization of their bodies, the stigmatizing of their desires, and the repression of their erotic energies. We believe continuing work on sexual liberation is crucial to social justice efforts.

Those of us taking action to monitor, de-track, and resist the emerging sex panic find ourselves increasingly at odds with mainstream gay efforts to present a sanitized vision of our people which has replaced butch/femme dykes with Heather and her two mommies and kinky gay men with domestic partner wedding cakes. Can we not advocate for a pluralistic queer culture where we affirm everyone's right to self-determination in the ways they organize their sexual relations and construct their kinship patterns?

How Can We Prevent a Full Scale Moral Panic Over Gay Men's Sex?

People who want to stave off the emerging moral panic should go home and organize local activist groups like queers of all genders have done in New York and San Francisco. I hope you write letters and hold the media and public officials accountable for their actions and refuse to

renounce our movement's historic linkage with sexual liberation.

And I encourage you to continue our efforts at HIV prevention but refuse to support a panic-based response to continuing gay male seroconversions or feel that current infections diminish our communities' contributions to the fight against AIDS of the past 15 years.

For those of you who are ambivalent about such organizing, and for mainstream gay groups who are scared to touch these issues with a ten foot pole, let me say one thing: When full moral panics flare history has shown, in Lillian Hellman's words, it's "scoundrel time" and there are limited roles from which social actors can choose. There are the scoundrels who blow the whistle, point the finger, name the names. There are the resisters who take the risk, go out on the limb, take the fall, and get trampled in the mindless, outraged stampede. And there are the vast masses who find themselves locked in silence by confusion, misgivings, self-protection, ambivalence, and fear. When the panic is over and attention has shifted to other issues, when we all shake our heads and say "How did we ever let it get to that stage?," these people are complicit in the destruction. There is no neutral here.

Please consider three final points.

(1) Regardless of your confusion or misgivings stand up firmly against any efforts which mobilize arms of the state to restrict the right of sexual and reproductive self-determination. You don't like sex clubs, don't go to sex clubs. But do not ask your local authorities to shut them down. You don't like sex areas in parks, don't go to sex areas in parks,

but don't invite police to bust the men who enjoy such activities.

(2) Refuse to cast off any section of our community in order to gain privileges and social acceptance. Demand a continuing commitment to a pluralistic vision of community. Resist scapegoating subcultures you don't know and you don't understand.

(3) Try to understand the historic role sex cultures have played in the formation of queer identities and communities and resist seeing them simply as an unfortunate by-product of antigay oppression. Are our sex cultures evidence of our stigmatization, abuse, and reprobation? Or, to borrow James Baldwin's language about a parallel matter, can they be understood as "cultural patterns coming into existence by means of brutal necessity" and can they be seen as strategies for survival?

Perhaps the real trouble with gay men's sex cultures, in a time when many in our communities are replicating heterosexual patterns of social organization, is that they alone give testimony to the fact that gay men as a class have not completely assimilated.

#####

Eric Rofes is a long-time community organizer based in San Francisco and was an organizer of the Sex Panic Summit which occurred in San Diego on November 13, 1997. He is the author of *Reviving the Tribe: Regenerating*

Gay Men's Sexuality and Culture in the Ongoing Epidemic. ===== ATTACHMENT 1

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id <01IQ73AJ37SG00XWFM@PMDF.EOP.GOV>; Wed, 19 Nov 1997 14:09:41 -0500 (EST)

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19 Nov 1997 14:09:37 -0500 (EST)

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19 Nov 1997 11:06:28 -0800 (PST)

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Fenceberry (Fenceberry@aol.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-NOV-1997 15:33:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.21.97.6

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

1. ARIZONA DAILY STAR: Letter: Governor Hull's backward thinking
2. SEATTLE TIMES Col. Cammermeyer's latest battle-- to win a seat in Congress
3. SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS Board of Regents chair on partner benefits
4. ATHENS DAILY NEWS Letter accuses gays' supporters of "heterophobia"

Arizona Daily Star, November 21, 1997

P. O. Box 26887, Tucson, AZ, 85726

(Fax 602-573-4141)(E-MAIL: letters@azstarnet.com)

Letter: Backward thinking

Re: Gov. Jane Hull's reluctance to put children in foster homes run by gays ("Hull questions placement of foster kids in homes of gays" - Nov. 13). Most gays I've known came from stable, middle class, heterosexual homes.

Perhaps we should find out if children from gay families turn out to be heterosexual. Maybe Hull has her vision backward and is going about this all wrong.

-- Sue Dye

Seattle Times, Nov. 18, 1997

P. O. Box 70, Seattle, WA, 98111

(Fax 206-382-6760)(E-MAIL: opinion@seattimes.com)

(300 word limit)

Cammermeyer challenges Metcalf

by Stephen Clutter

Seattle Times Snohomish County bureau

It was a textbook fighting maneuver, one taught at West Point and deployed by battlefield commanders since Bunker Hill: Take the high ground and hold it.

That's essentially what Margarethe "Grethe" Cammermeyer did yesterday in staking out her claim to challenge U.S. Rep. Jack Metcalf, R-Langley, in next year's congressional elections.

Cammermeyer, the retired Army National Guard colonel who successfully challenged U.S. policy toward lesbians and gays in the military, announced yesterday that she will run as a Democrat in the 2nd Congressional District, which extends from Everett to Bellingham.

She said she mailed her filing papers to the secretary of state's office in Olympia and opened a campaign headquarters in Langley, where she lives about a mile from Metcalf.

In announcing her candidacy so early, Cammermeyer is warning off other potential Democratic candidates from entering the race, party activists say.

It also gives her time to raise cash and drum up support in a race bound to receive national attention.

"We've got the 'L' word in this race, and we're not talking about liberal," said Paul Fournier, the Island County Democratic activist who helped persuade Cammermeyer to run.

Decorated for service in Vietnam, Cammermeyer recently retired as chief nurse of the Washington Army National Guard. She was fired in 1992, three years after telling an investigator she was a lesbian.

A federal judge ordered her reinstated in 1994, and the government dropped its appeal of that ruling.

She campaigned for Initiative 677, the gay-rights measure that failed voter muster earlier this month.

Cammermeyer, a divorced mother of four and grandmother of five, was recently in Washington, D.C., participating in a candidates' workshop sponsored by Emily's List, a national organization that works to elect Democratic women.

"She's certainly an exciting prospect for us," said Karin Johanson, spokeswoman for Emily's List.

Metcalf could not be reached for comment yesterday, but his spokesman, Chris Strow, said he is planning to run for a third term next year.

"He has a lot of respect for Grethe Cammermeyer, but is ideologically opposed," Strow said.

Fournier, who has spent years working against Metcalf in political races, said he expects an issue-oriented campaign next year.

News-Press, November 16, 1997

Box 1359, Santa Barbara, CA, 93102-1359

(Fax 805-966-6258)(E-MAIL: SBNPEDIT@aol.com)

REGENTS CHAIR

UC chief discusses key issues (excerpts)

Meredith J. Khachigian, a UCSB graduate, was recently elected to chair the

University of California Board of Regents. She has served on the board since

1987, when she was appointed by former Gov. George Deukmejian. She also chaired the board in 1991 and 1992.

As Khachigian begins her new term as chair, the regents face several key issues. Among them is fallout from the board's 1995 vote to ban the use of affirmative action in admissions.

Next week in Los Angeles, the board is expected to vote on whether the university will offer the same health care and housing benefits to unmarried couples as it now gives to married ones.

News-Press Staff Writer Melissa Grace interviewed Khachigian last week about these issues. Also discussed were possible fee increases, Isla Vista

and Khachigian's memories of UCSB.

Here are highlights of the interview:

Q: When you were appointed to chair the UC Board of Regents, you said: ``I

don't have much hope it will be a smooth ride, but at the same time I look

forward to try to soothe diverse opinions and find ways we can all work

toward the same goal." What are the most contentious issues facing the

board

and how will you look for solutions?

A: The upcoming contentious issue is domestic partnership. I think the

board

is comfortable with the issue, as much as it can be. But, I think it

certainly has very passionate feelings, from various folks on the board and

from the various players. . .

Q: Do you support the university offering domestic partnership benefits?

A: I support offering health care benefits.

Q: Not housing?

A: I need to study that further.

Q: Gov. Pete Wilson is expected to lobby against the benefits at next

week's

board meeting. Do you think it's appropriate for him to do so?

A: He's a regent and I think he should come and express his views. He has a

right to do that and indeed a duty to do that. I think that as the

governor

of the state, he has been very consistent in his views on this matter and

so

I would assume he would want to present those to the university.

Athens Daily News, November 21, 1997

Box 912,Athens,GA,30603

(Fax 706-208-2246)

(online mailer <http://www.athensnewspapers.com/feedback.html>)

Letter: 'Fear of respect' for God motivates some Christians

; ; ;An individual recently wrote a letter (J.B. Ewing, Nov. 13) and stated that "fear is often the basis for homophobia." Quoting "The Good Book," by Peter J. Gomes, he objected to Dr. Stan Satterfield's notions on homosexuality. Satterfield was accused of being too fundamental and "Bible-thumping." It was asserted that fear is oftentimes the "moral fig leaf that covered naked prejudice."

; ; ;I think that "fear" is indeed a motivation for Christians objecting to "gay rights," but not the kind of fear referred to in the aforementioned book. My own feelings about speaking out on this or similar subjects stems from a "fear of respect" for God.

; ; ;Many Christians believe that they should speak out on what God's word states is the right thing to do. It is believed that if Christians remain silent and do nothing, then they could be held accountable to God for that.Christ taught His disciples not to fear those who can kill the body but afterward can do nothing more.

; ; ;Perhaps the problem with fear lies more with the homosexuals themselves. If they were comfortable with their situation, then they would not be so aggressive with their own point of view.

; ; ;They would not be asking Bible-based churches to ordain gay clergy,

contrary to church doctrine and the attitudes and sentiments of believers

within a given church.

; ; ;These "kind, considerate human beings" could show respect for other

people's points of view on some of these issues. Perhaps their own

"heterophobia" is hiding behind their own fig leaf of secular

intellectualism.

-- Thomas M. Berry, Winterville===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:21-NOV-1997 13:10:00.00

SUBJECT: Guest_Book_WH_WWW_MAIL

TO: guestbook (guestbook@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Remote host: elm.uoregon.edu

Remote IP address: 128.223.85.88

BROWSER: Mozilla/3.03 (WinNT; I)

[Sender information]

PERSONAL-NAME: John Nelson

[Message information]

SUBJECT: Uphold your promise to Lift the Ban

[Message content follows]

LIFT THE BAN ON HOMOSEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY!!

You made a promise and gave an executive order in support of
don't ask don't tell....now it is your excellent opportunity
to carry through on your promise to our military to lift the
ban! Most of these people asked to leave the military on the

foundation of homosexual activity when they are not even homo
sexual...in other word(s) some of your most qualified, intelligent
people such as army and navy officer(s) have been asked to step
down some without receiving just honor(s) deserving of their
position. Even if they are homosexual it does not interfere
with their work anymore than it would for a het. Be Brave and
give an Executive Order to the General of the Armies to Lift the
the Ban on Homosexual(s) in the military and I bet he would do it
without even blinking his eye. He know(s) what we are talking
about...if it does not work out you can reinstate it back to the
former policy. Good Luck! Al Bill Hillary and Tipper! You

are sincerely doing a good job representing the American People!===== ATTACHMENT 1

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ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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RFC-822-headers:

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for guestbook@oa.eop.gov id MAA05003; Fri, 21 Nov 1997 12:10:36 -0500

From:

Apparently-to: guestbook@oa.eop.gov

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; Guest_Book

Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW.

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