

Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



The Wisconsin Light

Primary Election Gains Put Radical Right in Good Position for November Victories

Nationwide Gay Ad Campaign Begins in Topeka, Kansas

(Dallas, TX)- The nation's first Gay and Lesbian civil rights TV commercial has aired in Topeka, Kansas on the 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. newscasts of NBC affiliate KSNT. A dozen LesBiGay-related groups rallied at the Kansas Capitol to launch the nationwide advertising campaign of Alliance For Progress (AFP), a Dallas-based human rights organization. One hundred persons gathered on the Capitol's south steps to hear AFP co-founder Christopher Parman respond to the Radical Right's campaign of hate, deception and discrimination waged against the LesBiGay community.

"With this first TV commercial calling for equal rights for Gays and Lesbians, Alliance For Progress is signaling that Gays and Lesbians in mainstream America share similar values and lead similar lives, the difference being that we love same-gender partners," Parman said.

The commercial aired in Topeka depicts various Gay and Lesbian couples with family and friends engaged in typical Sunday activities common to most Americans.

A second AFP ad now ready for airing, focuses on the horrific results of a recent U.S. government study which shows that close to 30% of teen suicides involve Gay and Lesbian youth.

The initial spots and additional commercials will be shown throughout the country to counter Gay teen suicide trends and the Religious Right's on-going campaign of hate.

The next scheduled broadcast will run one week beginning September 16 during prime time on a major network affiliate in Mississippi.

"Our commercials are available free of charge to any LesBiGay group that raises money to air them," said AFP co-founder Jon Etienne Mourot.

AFP can be reached by calling (214) 520-2205

Study Finds One In Five Americans Have Been Attracted To Members of the Same Sex

(Washington, D.C.)- A recent survey indicating that nearly one in five Americans have been attracted to someone of the same sex at some time since the age of 15, illustrates that sexual orientation isn't a simple question of being Gay or straight, one of its authors says.

"I think in most individuals there is some sort of range," said David Wypij, a Harvard University statistician and co-author of the study. "You may be more heterosexual, you may be more homosexual."

The research, conducted at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Center for Health Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., found that between 6.2% and 20.8% of American men and 3.3% and 17.8% of American women could be considered "incidentally homosexual."

The lower estimates are based on reported same-sex sexual activity during the previous five years. The higher numbers are based on reported same-sex sexual activity or attractions since the age of 15.

"Our perspective is that sexual orientation isn't just a yes-no, heterosexual-homosexual [question]," Wypij said.

Research that might help define the size of the Lesbian and Gay male population plays directly into the debate over extending civil rights protections to Lesbians and Gay men. Congress is currently considering legislation that would outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Opponents, chiefly the Religious Right, cite research that they say shows only 1% of the population is Gay, suggesting that Gay people have little political clout. Such a position also indicates, say some, that civil rights in this country are determined by numbers instead of principle.



Legendary Musicals—Lena Horne (far left) is shown in a scene from the film "That's Entertainment III" which plays for one week opening Sept. 30 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater. Scenes from dozens of MGM musicals are revived in this musical walk through history.

sexual activity and 1% identified themselves as exclusively Gay. Researchers of that study have pointed out that their research and conclusions have been misused.

The Harvard study, which was presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto in August and is being published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, is the first national survey to look at the question of same-sex attraction.

Interviewers spoke with 1,288 American men and 674 women, ages 16 to 50, and asked them each to complete questionnaires. The study said 1,200 men completed face-to-face interviews, which included 100 questions, and 1,130 answered 68 questions in the written survey. A total of 634 women completed the interviews and 588 finished the written portion.

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Action is Needed As Federal Education Bill Moves to House-Senate Conference

(Washington, D.C.)- A federal education bill tainted by anti-Gay provisions moves in the third week in September to a House-Senate conference committee, where Congressional moderates are poised to remove discriminatory language from the final version of the bill. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is urging people concerned with the anti-Gay provisions to call Congress immediately and ask that the discriminatory language be removed from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The anti-Gay provisions were sponsored by Sens. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Robert Smith (R-NC), and in the House by Rep. Mel Hancock (R-MO).

The provisions would encourage discrimination against Lesbian and Gay youth and cut off federal funds to schools that in any way provide student with neutral information about

Gay people.

The two provisions threaten HIV/AIDS and suicide prevention projects, and strip local schools of the ability to determine the content of curricula.

Numerous sources and authorities have said that if the amendments are retained, they will materially increase the threat of suicide among Gay teens. The suicide rate of these young people is already among the highest among all teens.

Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI) voted with Helms in supporting the amendments.

HRCF is urging that interested people, those concerned for young people at risk for HIV and suicide, to call their Congressional representatives. The number is (202) 224-3124.

The member on the Conference Committee from Wisconsin is Rep. Steve Gunderson.

(Milwaukee)-Taking advantage of a low voter turnout, Right Wing Republicans were crowing about the results of Wisconsin's September 13th primary. The primary election may serve as a warning shot to more moderate political elements in Wisconsin.

In the most closely watched race, the Republican nomination for the US Senate seat now held by Senator Herb Kohl, State Representative Robert Welch easily trounced the field. Welch's victory had been expected but his lopsided margin was not.

In the closing days of the campaign, an effort was made to rally Gay and Lesbian support for Osseo Sports Marketing Executive Matt Gunderson. Gunderson finished a distant second in the race.

Third place finisher, Kate Zueske, blamed two organizations, Wisconsin Right to Life and the National Rifle Association for Welch's victory. Both groups heavily backed Welch.

Gunderson agreed with Zueske. In his concession speech he said, "Wisconsin Right to Life showed its muscle tonight. Our people, the moderates, the independents, need to get off their duffs."

A major casualty of Wisconsin Right to Life's (WRL) effort was State Senator Barbara Lorman. Lorman, a senator since 1980, went into the primary as the legislature's most senior woman member. She finished third to two conservatives. Scott Fitzgerald won WRL's endorsement. The group even sent out letters urging its supporters not to support Fitzgerald's opponent, Herbert Fell despite Fell's anti-abortion stance.

Lorman's pro-choice positions were the central issue of the campaign. Her opponents mobilized right wing Christians from throughout the district.

Senator Jo Anne Huelsman (R-Waukesha) beat back a right wing challenge mounted over her pro-choice stance. Her opponent David Marlowe attacked Huelsman for being pro-choice and accused her of supporting homosexuality in the schools.

Marlowe was angry because Huelsman co-sponsored a bill introduced by State Representative Barb Notestein. The legislation mandates that sex education classes in Wisconsin schools tell the truth. Notestein introduced the legislation to ensure that homosexuality was accurately depicted in classroom discussions and text books.

The Republican primary in the Eighth Congressional District was perhaps the only race where a moderate Republican tried to unseat a conservative incumbent. Arch conservative Congressman Toby Roth trounced De Pere Mayor Nancy Nausbaum winning over 60% of the vote.

In Western Wisconsin, incumbent congressman Steve Gunderson survived a primary fight against a conservative Republican challenger. Brill was heavily backed by Religious Right Wingers who have seized control of the GOP in Gunderson's third Congressional District.

In one of the few bright spots for liberals in legislative races, State Rep Frank Boyle (D-Superior) beat back a vigorous conservative challenge from Ronald Thoreson, President of the Superior City Council. Boyle is one of Wisconsin's most liberal legislators and has been a consistent supporter of Gay and Lesbian rights.

While some might say that the Radical Right broke even in the State Senate races it most wanted to win, political analysts see the results as a clear victory for the Radical Right.

Incumbents, especially the Republican incumbents, have been sent a clear message, "Vote our way or we will organize and throw you out in the next party primary." It is a message that has had a chilling effect in other states and is being heard for the first time in Wisconsin.

While few if any analysts think that Welch has a chance to beat Kohl, the fact is that if you can't get your party's nomination you can't get elected to office. A well organized grass roots based campaign of hard core conservative activists can effectively block moderates from getting on the general election ballot.

As Matt Gunderson said in his concession speech, "Unfortunately I don't think the people who believe in the true fundamentals of Republicanism went to the polls today."

In the general election, the Democrats and the Republicans each are fielding overwhelming favorites. In Senator Herb Kohl the Democrats have a candidate with a high approval rating and a huge campaign war

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