

→ PARENTS FLAG ←

P-FLAG - Lakeshore Chapter

Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays

-> Listening, Learning and Loving <-

P. O. Box 1396, Sheboygan, WI. 53082 - 1396

Meets: 2nd Thursday each month.

Next meeting: Dec. 13th.

PLACE:

Wesley United Methodist Church,

823 Union Av., Sheboygan, Wis.

TIME: 6:30 Pm. Social time,

7:00 Pm. Meeting.

I Sure hope to see you there,

AND BRING A FRIEND!



There is no copyright on this publication! It is intended as informational for members and friends of P-FLAG Lakeshore. Please feel as free to re-Publish from it as I have in 'borrowing' from others for it. (Please give credit.)

WE NEED YOU!

Commentary

Since there were only two people at the November meeting, some of us at P-FLAG have been banging our heads together. Now we need **YOUR** input! Our obligations in P-FLAG, (as we see them), are two-fold:

1) For those of us who are NOT comfortable with homosexuality and related subjects to receive support and encouragement, and

2) For those of us who ARE comfortable with homosexuality and related subjects to GIVE that support and encouragement! As a result, no matter where you are on the 'comfort scale', **P-FLAG NEEDS YOU!!!**

Are there conflicts making it difficult or impossible for YOU to get to our meetings? Should we have TWO meetings a month, on different days of the week, (like the 2nd Tuesday and 3rd Thursday)? **LET US KNOW!!!**

PLEASE call the Church at 458-4889, or if you have a computer and modem, call the BBS, (info on Page 6), and tell us **WHEN IS A GOOD TIME FOR YOU** to come to P-FLAG meetings... better yet, come to the December 13th meeting and **TELL us!** **P-FLAG NEEDS YOU!** (See item on P.2).

LATE UPDATE

WL

[St. Louis, Mo.] Reversing his earlier decision, to exclude P-FLAG, [as reported here last month], St. Louis County Executive H. C. Milford decided to allow the local chapter of P-FLAG to participate in a litter clean-up program.

Milford had threatened to dismantle the entire "Adopt a Roadway" program rather than allow P-FLAG to participate. In the program, community groups volunteer to clean up a particular stretch of roadway in exchange for a sign along that roadway recognizing their efforts. Milford objected to the words "Lesbians" and "Gays" appearing on the sign.

P-FLAG kept up the pressure and, when a survey of "Adopt a Roadway" participants revealed that 155 of 156 respondents said that ANY group should be allowed to participate and be honored with a sign, Milford relented.

'Prejudice is the most lethal disease there is... leaving us unable to think, speak or act. It happened before, in Nazi Germany; it's up to us to keep our minds and hearts open so it won't happen again. Please resist homophobia; it is one of the noblest things you can do, and nobility is sexy.' Nancie Martin, Editor-in-Chief of Playgirl, about the magazine's Presumably Gay male readers.

IMMUNE SYSTEM BOSTER!

WHC

'Unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. The truth is, love heals. Miracles happen every day to patients who have the courage to love, those who have the courage to work WITH their doctors and therapists as participants in their own recovery. One cannot separate the mind and body. Heal your life and you will reap by-products.'

Bernie Siegal, M.D., Author of LOVE, MEDICINE AND MIRACLES.

.....

Also from the Holistic Health Center: There will be a meditation class dealing with HEALING HOLIDAY DEPRESSION at the WHC. It will meet Dec. 5, 12 and 19th, from 7-9pm. There is a charge. For info on this or ANY of their many offerings, call WHC at 459-9277.

We wish to thank Dignity Milwaukee, the Gay support organization of the Catholic Church, for the very generous donation. It is greatly appreciated, and it will be put to good use!

THANK YOU DIGNITY!!!

.....

WE CAN'T DO IT ON DONATIONS ALONE!

DUE DUES!

Federation P-FLAG reminds us that it's that time again! Dues at P-FLAG Lakeshore Chapter have been voluntary, but THIS COULD CHANGE! Federation P-FLAG is asking for \$5 for each member household as dues for the chapter. Also, this newsletter DOES cost money to print and mail. (My labor is free to the chapter, but paper, printing, envelopes and especially the postage cost a lot of money! ONE of the things which we need to discuss at the meeting is: Should the dues remain optional, should they be increased, and should we charge for the newsletter subscription for non-members? (Each month it costs around 30-35 cents, or about \$4.00 per year for each copy we mail!) WE NEED YOUR INPUT! If you can't come to the meeting Dec. 13th, PLEASE call the Church at 458-4889, drop a line to the P.O. Box OR call the BBS to LET US KNOW. Don't forget to tell us when would be a good time for YOU to come to the meetings - should we have two meetings a month? (Also see item on Page one.)

-> FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT SENT IN DUES THIS YEAR, THIS IS YOUR REMINDER!

ANNOUNCEMENT

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR AN EXPERIMENT USING AUDIO FREQUENCIES FOR AIDS!

KEEP HOPE ALIVE has received information that certain frequencies have been successfully used to dramatically increase T4 helper cell counts in HIV seropositives. They are now seeking HIV+ volunteers to duplicate experiments done in both New York and California. Dr. Scott Gregory from California claims to have increased the T4 count in one AIDS patient from 30 to over 300 in just one month. He also claims that using the same patient, his T8's decreased from 2,000 to 500. In New York, Steve Yates using almost the same identical hertz frequencies says one patient increased his T4 from 20 to 600 in a 90 day period. This patient now claims to have converted to HIV-. KEEP HOPE ALIVE has interviewed both practitioners extensively and has the equipment necessary to duplicate these experiments. The audio frequencies are believed to destroy the HIV virus systemically. The painless treatments will be administered three times a week. Each session will take about 20 minutes. For more information, write to KEEP HOPE ALIVE, P.O. Box 32001, Franklin, WI 53132, or call (414) 529-9560 at 6-7pm (CENTRAL), week days.

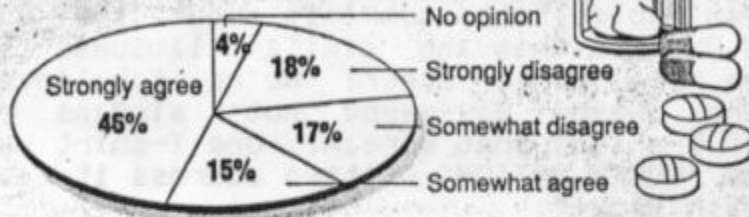
From: Sheboygan Press, Sunday, October 28, 1990 9

Reported by Paul Harvey: Latest research shows that cocaine speeds the growth of the AIDS virus by 300 Percent! Is that reason enough to stay off of cocaine? (See chart to the left)

Attitudes toward drug use

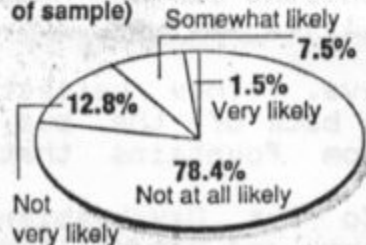
Some findings in a nationwide survey of 1,401 adults.

"All drug use is immoral and should be illegal."

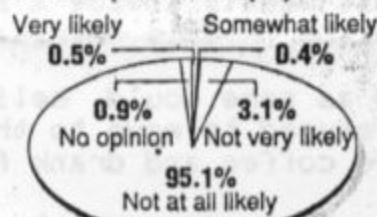


"How likely would you be to try cocaine if it were legalized."

People who have tried powdered cocaine in past (11% of sample)



People who have not tried cocaine (89% of sample)



SOURCE: Drug Policy Foundation
NOTE: Figures do not total 100 due to rounding.

GOD'S PUNISHMENT?

To those cheerful souls who claim that AIDS is a Punishment of God for the sin of sodomy, I respectfully respond that such a God is not the God I know.

If God is out to do in Gay People, why don't they ALL acquire the disease; and if he's interested in Punishing ONLY them, then why do others, utterly innocent of objectionable behavior also contract the disease?

Pretty inept God, huh?
And while God is spreading around viruses to torment evil, what has SHE done recently to scourge thieves, liars, murderers, cheaters, Journalists and other varieties of human sinners?

If there is anyone who is especially offensive to God in the AIDS controversy, it is not the victim, but the self-righteous Christian who usurps God's Perogitive and Judges the victim. - Father Andrew Greeley, in his 2/23/90 syndicated column entitled "AIDS is not a Punishment sent by God."

IT IS TIME!

PS

It is time to stop treating the Gay and Lesbian members of our society as moral outcasts. It is time to acknowledge individual sexual orientation as a fact of life, to recognize and accept that a sexual relationship with a person of the same sex is normal for the Gay or Lesbian person. Society can ill afford to continue to alienate itself from some of it's more caring and gifted members. Those of differing sexual persuasion must be free to work, live and conduct their lives so as to fully realize their potential to the best interests of all concerned. Let us all give these equal citizens equal protection against prejudice and discrimination. Let us acknowledge that we are valuable partners in the dance of life. (Testimony before the Arlington Va. County Council by mother of a Lesbian daughter.)

SEEKING ENTRIES FOR '91 GAY PRIDE LOGO

WL

[Milwaukee] The 1991 Gay Pride theme "Together in Pride" will be the central focus of the Logo contest sponsored by the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee, (MLGPC).

The chosen logo will be featured in all media, advertisements, and on 1991 merchandising.

To submit an entry, send a quality copy of your interpretation of the 1991 theme along with a brief biography yourself and a synopsis of the idea to: MLGPC, P.O. Box 93582, Milwaukee, WI, 53203 before Dec. 15, 1990. The winner will be announced shortly after Jan. 1st.

QUEER NATION!

Edited from WL

The group QUEER NATION, (QN), was mentioned in last month's edition of this newsletter, but I did not have room to tell you about this new group. They are a group of homosexual activists, with chapters already in Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Rhode Island, Ithaca N.Y., Philadelphia, Montreal, England, and perhaps more by the time you read this. QN-Philadelphia has even called for a Queer Nation Constitutional Convention to be held there next year.

While THE ADVOCATE and other Gay/Lesbian Publications complain about the use of words like "queer", "fag" and "homo", QN uses this and similar language to describe themselves. Their call is "We're here! We're Queer! We're fabulous! Get used to it!" They have abandoned the 'Maybe Gay-maybe not' slogans of ACT-UP, like "SILENCE=DEATH", in favor of T-shirts that scream. One T-shirt has a map of the United States with the words "QUEER NATION" written across it, and another that says "From now on, Queers Bash Back!"

Some Lesbians and Gay men fear that the tactics could cause a "straight backlash", and some think that it may have already happened. Their tactics include: Visiting shopping malls in New Jersey, Seattle and San Francisco for their "Queer Shopping Network", and almost weekly invade a straight bar to hold a "Kiss-in". They have decided that, whether Middle America likes it or not, it's time to stand up and be counted.

These actions aren't as absurd or new as some would believe. They reflect the same techniques used by Blacks who refused to move to the back of the bus, marched into small restaurants and ordered coffee and drank from fountains that said "Whites only."

QN's actions are meant to antagonize. They are meant to put Gay/Lesbian rights, Pride and visibility first. Their position is that they are not willing to negotiate or wait and they don't care what you think. QN will fight back, kick and scream. They don't intend to change minds, they only intend to change attitudes. As one member said, "All we want to do is hold our lover's hand in public."

COMMENT: It worked for the Blacks, and I hope it will work for the Gays and Lesbians also! I only pray that it doesn't backfire!

I AM ME!

PS

In all the World, there is no one else exactly like me. Everything that comes out of me is authentically mine, because I alone chose it -- I own everything about me. My body, my feelings, my mouth, my voice, all my actions, whether they be to others or myself -- I own my fantasies, my dreams, my hopes, my fears -- I own all my triumphs and successes all my failures and mistakes -- because I own all of me, I can become intimately acquainted with me -- by doing so, I can love me and be friendly with me in all my parts -- I know there are aspects of myself that I do not know -- but as long as I am friendly and loving to myself I can find solutions to the puzzles and for ways to find out more about me -- however I look and sound, whatever I say and do, and whatever I think and feel at a given moment in time is authentically me -- If later some parts of how I looked, sounded, thought and felt turn out to be unfitting, I can discard that which is unfitting, keep the rest, and invent something new for that which I discarded -- I can see, hear, feel, think say and do. I have the tools to survive, to make sense and order out of the world of people and things outside of me -- I own me, and therefore I can engineer me and...

I AM OK

Virginia Satir

If my theory of Earthquake Prediction is accurate, I predict a "rather large" quake around Dec. 2-5 in the Northern Hemisphere. The other day I heard that an earthquake researcher was predicting one for the New Madrid fault in Southern Illinois during those dates. I PRAY we're BOTH wrong! If we're right, you're warned. If wrong, I'll have egg on my face, which I would DEFINATELY prefer!

A SPIRITUAL DEAD-END

Bob Bernstein PD

- In his apparent yen to replace Jerry Fallwell as the Political messiah of American fundamentalists, Rev. Lou Sheldon could turn out to be a blessing in disguise to the cause of general enlightenment.

Sheldon is a Presbyterian minister and founder of the 'Traditional Values Coalition', a Political organ for several thousand fundamentalist California Churches. He apparently seeks to Parlay a fiercely anti-Gay Posture into the Political void left by the departure of Fallwell's now-defunct Moral Majority.

An important plank in his moralistic Platform is the Promotion of so-called "reparative therapy" -- counseling Programs designed to "cure" homosexuality. On the surface, that sounds like bad news for the Gay/Lesbian movement, But there's a silver lining that could engulf Sheldon's dark cloud. By a making Public issue of "reparative" efforts, he is helping to cast a much-needed spotlight on a hitherto dark corner of misguided psycho-theology.

In Practice, the so-called "ex-gay ministries" are too often the engines of Psychological and spiritual destruction. The "cures" are at best highly suspect: they are examples of how the Psyche can be driven to extremes of self-deception, denial and repression when faced with threats of hellfire and damnation.

To understate, their failures are tragic: decent human beings become guilt-ridden to the Point of despair, suicide and even self-mutilation. At least one ex-enrollee even used a razor blade on his genitals to curb sexual desire.

In short, the whole grim matter cries out for the light and air of intelligent Public scrutiny. Past and would-be victims need to know that there is another way--a way of decency, honesty and true spiritual health. Ironically, Sheldon's Political ambition can generate some of that needed light.

For example, he recently held a "National Summit of Homosexuality" in Washington, focused largely on reparative therapy. One result: a Public outpouring of scientific, religious and "traditional family" commentary, all dedicated to the Proposition that the good reverend is full of bane.

An official of the American Psychological Assn. states: "Efforts to 'repair' homosexuals are no more than social prejudice garbed in Psychological accoutrements."

The medical director of the American Psychiatric Assn. says: Homosexuality is not a mental disorder, reparative therapy has no standing in the scientific community, and there is no unambiguous evidence that it can have any effect on deep-seated same-sex feelings.

A Baptist minister, now President of 'PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY' states: "Sentiments such as Sheldon's merely "Pollute the climate of our society and make hatred socially acceptable."

From Laurie Coburn of Parents FLAG: "We love our kids just the way they are. We don't want them fixed, cured or repaired."

Perhaps, too, the Public discussion will draw needed attention to the work of clergy who have recognized the dangers in the conversion Plans, such as Rev. Sylvia Pennington, who started out 25 years ago as a Pentecostal minister to "save" Gays by Prayer and Persuasion. She now works full time at her own "reparative" mission: undoing Psychological damage caused by those same "ex-Gay" ministries. Her latest book is entitled "Ex-Gays: There are none!". In it she says: "To those who try to convince me of these things, I tell them to see me in 5, 10 or 20 years and I'll try to put the broken pieces of their humanity together as I've done for many years. The inevitable human fragments will have been shattered through years of denial, repression, Pretense and Pietistic ideals. Many people are damaged, maimed, scarred or killed by the well-meaning ex-Gay ministries."

One was Jack McIntyre, a Californian who signed up with a ministry called 'Love In Action'. He killed himself a year later at age 45 because, according to his suicide note, "No matter how much I Prayed and tried to avoid temptation, I continually failed."

For me, the central irony in these tragedies was captured by a devout young Catholic Lesbian who spent a year in one of the Programs, and who at times also experienced suicidal feelings. She says "Still, the worst Part was that the so-called ministry really took away my own sense of spirituality."

THIS SPECIAL MOMENT IN LIFE

AU PD

Think freely. Practice Patience. Smile often. Savor special moments.
 Make new friends. Rediscover old ones. Tell those you love that you do.
 Feel deeply. Forget trouble. Forgive an enemy. Hope. Grow. Be crazy.
 Count your blessings. Observe miracles. Let them happen. Discard worry.
 Give. Give in. Trust enough to take. Pick some flowers. Share them.
 Keep a promise. Look for rainbows. Gaze at stars. See beauty everywhere.
 Work hard. Be wise. Try to understand. Take time for people.
 Make time for yourself. Laugh heartily. Spread joy. Take a chance.
 Reach out. Let someone in. Try something new. Slow down. Be soft sometimes.
 Believe in yourself. Trust others. See a sunrise. Listen to rain. Reminisce.
 Cry when you need to. Trust life. Have faith. Enjoy wonder.
 Comfort a friend. Have good ideas. Make some mistakes. Learn from them.
 Celebrate life.

This is what you should do: Love the Earth and Sun and the animals, despise the riches, give alms to everyone who asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward people, take off your hat to any man or number of men... RE-EXAMINE ALL YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD at school or Church or in any book, dismiss what insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem. Walt Whitman (PM)

Keep this in mind while talking to homophobes: (PDC)
 THEY WOULD DO BETTER IF THEY KNEW BETTER.

A FRIEND!

Ecclesiasticus 6:14

A faithful friend is a sure shelter. Whoever has found one has found a rare treasure.

CREDITS for items used in this edition

(Most items edited to make the news fit!).

Sources: AU = Author Unknown; PD = P-FLAG Denver; PDC=PFLAG-D.C.;
 PM=P-FLAG minn.; PS=P-FLAG Seattle; SS=Southern Signal, (P-FLAG Lafayette, La.);
 TR=The Advocate, via SS; WHC = Newsletter of the Wholistic Health Center of Sheboygan.

Well, that's it for now... Have a good one, and I'll see you next meeting.

--> GET THOSE NEWS ITEMS IN!!! <==

Deadline for the newsletter: In the P.O. box OR to the BBS by the last Sat. before the 25th.

You may bring news items to the next meeting, 6:30 Pm, Dec. 13th, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 823 Union Av., Sheboygan, WI.;

Modem them to: IVY'S WALL BBS, (414) 457-9255, 5:30 Pm to 11:30 am weekdays, (Central)/ 24 Hrs. on weekends & holidays, 300/1200 Baud 8N1; or:

Mail them to: P-FLAG Lakeshore, P.O. Box 1396, Sheboygan, WI. 53082-1396

If you need a ride, call the Church at 458-4889

Sure hope to see you there, and bring a friend!

Your Editor. 0 0

 L

 ┌