

LAKE SHORE 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 of EVERY month.

Next meeting: Sep. 12th.

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!



MEMBERSHIP: \$20/Year, **NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY:** \$5 Per year or donation.
 This Publication is intended as informational for members & friends of P-FLAG Lakeshore. Please feel as free to republish from it as I have in 'borrowing' from others for it. **PLEASE GIVE CREDIT WHEN USING OUR MATERIAL!** Opinions expressed in this newsletter may not reflect the views of some P-FLAG members or this editor.

ABOUT LAST MONTH

I apologize for making the August issue appear to be an "AIDS special", but since last June marked the 10th anniversary of the realization that 'something was wrong', most of the things which were received dealt, in some way, with AIDS. Let us remember those who have contracted AIDS, and hope and pray that this terrible disease is conquered before another decade runs its course!

HELP!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Earlier this year I put in a notice that dues were due. Since the response was almost nil, our treasury is running dry. Now it's to the point where YOUR continuing to receive this newsletter is now threatened! If some postage money doesn't come in soon we will be forced to: 1) Cut back the newsletter to every other month, and 2) thin out the mailing list! (Remember, we get newsletters from other P-FLAG chapters and other publications without paying for them, and we reciprocate the favor). If you cannot afford to pay \$20 dues, could you **AT LEAST** send in \$5 to offset the cost of mailing you this newsletter? (Please use enclosed envelope). Thanks!

GAYS ASKED: SEND LOVE LETTERS TO HELMS

GC

[Raleigh N.C.] (AP) (Edited) The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is asking Gay men and Lesbians to send conservative Sen. Jesse Helms "love letters" that describe what is "good, positive, challenging and special" about being homosexual. The group is expecting a strong response to the campaign directed at the North Carolina Republican known for his opposition to Gay Rights legislation. "We don't expect to change his mind, but ... we want to level the playing field as far as understanding about who Gays and Lesbians are versus who Helms says Gays and Lesbians are," Timothy Lane, a spokesman for GLAAD, said.

"It is not a 'bash Jesse' operation. It's quite the opposite," said Lane in a telephone interview from GLAAD's New York office. "Each letter to Jesse should be a personal affirmation, a sharing of experience, a statement of all that is good, positive, challenging and special about being Gay or Lesbian."

P-FLAG COLLECTING DISCRIMINATION STORIES

The Federation P-FLAG is collecting stories to be used in observance of National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11th. Members are asked to write a story or keep a Journal of approximately a week in which they document the ways that anti-Gay/Lesbian discrimination affects their lives. They can describe overt or subtle affronts to their dignity, emotional and Practical costs of living in the closet, anti-Gay violence, or discrimination in employment and housing services.

Diaries will be accepted in any form, preferably type-written, one or two pages long, and may be signed or unsigned. THEY SHOULD BE SENT BY SEPT. 15th to: P-FLAG Discrimination Diary Project, P.O.Box 27605, Washington, D.C. 20038.

THE OTHER END OF THE AGE SCALE

NO

(From an editorial by the editor of the New Orleans P-FLAG newsletter.

...I, (age 60), attended a workshop Presented by SAGE, (Senior Action in a Gay Environment, a New York organization since 1977). Naturally, P-FLAG is mainly concerned about our Gay and Lesbian children - but we must not forget that Gays and Lesbians do grow up and even grow old - and still are often forced to be "invisible". As a member of the American Assn. of Retired Persons, (AARP), for years, I had read the letter from a Gay man asking that some occasional recognition be given, in their Publication, MODERN MATURITY, to the Gay members of the group. I also read, with dismay, two viciously homophobic responses in the next issue's "letters" section. Now I have learned that SAGE has tried to place a paid advertisement in the magazine but were told it was "objectionable".

I plan to follow up on SAGE's request that people write or call Henry Fenwick, Editor of MODERN MATURITY, 3200 East Carson St., Lakewood, CA 90712, and complain about the refusal to accept the SAGE ad, the publication of homophobic letters, and the deliberate ignoring of 10 percent of the senior population being Lesbian or Gay. And I would be delighted to think that other P-FLAG members or readers, especially those who are AARP members, would do the same.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

LP

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the Press; or the right of the People peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write."

- John Adams, second President of the U.S. 1991 marks the 200th anniversary of the first amendment.

Courage is the "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." - LP

TEEN ATTITUDES

PC

In the August issue of PARENTS Magazine, writing about "Teen attitudes toward homosexuality," Tufts Univ. Prof. David Elkind, Ph.D. encouraged Parents to talk to their teenagers about same-sex attraction, and discuss homosexuality as "a normal and common form of human expression."

The discussion of teens and homosexuality represents a major breakthrough in the coverage of this sensitive, family-oriented Press. P-FLAG members and friends are encouraged to write to PARENTS magazine at 685 Third Avenue, New York, NY, 10017, and thank them for publishing this article and encourage them to feature more.

IT'S TOO LATE!

(Comment)

We receive many notices of events which readers of this newsletter would be interested in, (such as one telling that Lillian Faderman, author of the book "SURPASSING THE LOVE OF MEN: ROMANTIC FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT" and several others, was to sign her latest book, "ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS," however the release is dated July 31, (received a couple days later), and the event took place Aug. 13th. I am happy to include announcements of such events, but PLEASE, FOLKS! I TRY to get this newsletter printed and in the mail the last week of the month, and CANNOT do everything at the last moment! Therefore I set the deadline for the newsletter as "In the P.O. box OR to the BBS by the last Sat. before the 25th of the month". This is to benefit YOU AND OUR READERS! If you have an upcoming event and cannot get mail to me before the deadline, get to a computer with a modem, and call Ivy's WALL BBS, (300/1200 Baud 8N1), at (414) 457-9255 between 5:30pm and 11am (Central time)/ 24 Hours weekends & Holidays. Logon as a new user, then select "F" (Feedback), and send mail to "PFLAG" (#2). This is the FASTEST way to get items to me. (Sending items to the Church is the SLOWEST!)

PLEASE TRY TO GET YOUR ITEMS IN BEFORE THE 25th SO I CAN PUBLICIZE THEM BEFORE THEY HAPPEN! Thank you!

DIVERSITY!

From L.A. P-FLAG's newsletter:

At our April meeting, Christopher McCauley described his work with the L.A. based FAMILY DIVERSITY PROJECT begun in 1985. It uncovered the fact that 85% of the households in the U.S. do NOT consist of a working husband, an at-home wife and children. Contrary to popular belief, they consist of a rainbow of diversity: Foster families, Gay/Lesbian couples, stepfamilies, divorced persons, unmarried roommates, multi-generational families, single parents, guardianship families, etc. Therefore, they look more like 'The Golden Girls' than 'Ozzie and Harriet'! He spoke of the California Family Registry in which hundreds of diverse households have registered with the Secretary of State's office as a family, receiving a certificate declaring them "The family of..." or "The household of...", for example. Christopher and his subject were so fascinating that we all stayed until the lights (literally) went out!

GAY RIGHTS NEEDS LEADERS Letter to editor,
USA Today

I applaud your editorial (Thursday) supporting the right of Privacy for Gays in the military. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney was right on target when he called the military ban "an old chestnut," and now he needs to show leadership by recognizing that sexual orientation does not make a good or a bad soldier.

As an openly Gay male, I see how ignorance and bigotry toward Gays can lead to many forms of Gay-bashing. The USA can overcome these unfortunate incidents by our business and community leaders setting proper examples to follow. Several top universities and corporations have adopted effective Gay rights policies. Now, our Political leaders need to join in. - Mark W. Malone, Dallas, Tx.

SANCTUARY

DIM

In these days of questions of varied sexual practices and abuses, Bishop David Lawson called upon the clergy and the Church to be a safe place for all God's creatures. Every person who comes to our Church or to one of our Pastors ought to be able to expect sanctuary from the sexual hurts and insults of others.

Issues of trust loom even larger than sexual misconduct on the part of the few. The Church must regain its position as the community's safe haven. We know that one bad experience casts a shadow on everyone. If a sanctuary is to develop, healing must take place, and a new understanding of sexuality must be adopted. Every person must feel safe in order for the community to emerge.

DANGER!

Question: What is the most dangerous letter in the alphabet?

Answer: "S": It changes WORDS into SWORDS!

(Some snakes hiSSSSSS before striking, others strike without warning!)

BACKLASH

Edited from WL

[MILWAUKEE] "I don't care if you Queers die of AIDS or dismemberment, do us all a favor though and hurry it up, OK? I hope Dahmer gets off on a technicality."

That anonymous letter, postmarked July 26th, was mailed to Terry Broghmer, Executive Editor of The WISCONSIN LIGHT.

Dan Schramm, President of GLINN, (Gay/Lesbian International News Network), recieved the following message on his answering machine the same day:

"Hello, this is Jeffrey Dahmer. I want your head in my refrigerator. Call me."

These are but two examples of the homophobic backlash which has decended upon members of Milwaukee's Gay community since the Dahmer murders hit the headlines on July 23rd.

Other examples: The popular M&M club at 124 Water St. has recieved bomb threats, Patrons of Gay bars in the 200 block of S. Second street have been pelted with eggs, Bartenders and Patrons of Gay bars have detected a notable increase in shouts like "Faggots!" and "F**king Queers!" from cars cruising near Gay bars. On July 30, two uniformed Milwaukee Police officers walked into CLUB 219, harassed Patrons, then approached the bartender and demanded to know the location of "the S&M rooms where people are tied up and tortured."

On July 30, Dave Orley, a lobbyist for the Milwaukee Police Association, made the comment, in the presence of at least 5 or 6 witnesses, "People ask the Police if it's hard to look at at the [Dahmer] murders. It's a lot harder for me to see a ten month old baby with it's head beat in. I feel more sorry for the baby. The baby was completely innocent... These Gays all choose the lifestyle which gets them killed." One of the witnesses of the above comments was Ken Scott, a legislative aide at the capital. He was so disturbed by Orley's homophobic blame-the-victim mentality that he told The WISCONSIN LIGHT that he was willing to be fired from his job for reporting the incident.

Mark Bellin9, Gabshow host on WISN-AM, has also made numerous inflammatory comments. Example: On July 23, the day the murders hit the headlines, he stated: "Most Gays I've come in contact with are not happy - it's why they're always lashing out at society... and perhaps that's what's at work with homosexual overkill, it's the ultimate in lashing out..." On July 29, Bellin9 called Dahmer's victims (Paraphrased): "a handfull of people who made bad decisions and suffered because of it."

Complaints about Bellin9 can be addressed to WISN Radio Program Director, Richard Holocomb at P.O. Box 402, Milwaukee, WI, 53201, Phone (414) 342-1111, or FAX at 342-4734.

There is also a move afoot by several groups, including Gays, Lesbians and Afro-Americans, to get sponsors, most notably COLDERS, to withdraw advertising from Bellin9's show. Bellin9 was hired to generate "hate mail", so chances of getting him fired may seem slim, however according to Dan Fonz of ACT-UP, "I don't think people realize how easy it would be to take Bellin9 off the air. No sponsor is going to want to publicly admit supporting [Bellin9's] ideas."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: It only takes ONE mass-moron like Dahmer an (almost liberal) heartbeat to undo work it has taken thousands of Lesbians, Gays and open-minded "others" YEARS to build up: Open-mindedness, trust and friendship with the "straight" community, and an atmosphere of equality for all. How long will it take us to rebuild what Dahmer, Bellin9, and other bisots have destroyed?

PERSONAL NOTE TO MARK BELLIN9: If I were you, fella, I would re-think my on-air attitudes, or you might feel lucky to be giving farm & market reports on WCOW in South St. Paul, Mn.!!!

GUILT?

Editorial

This editor, (not Gay), has never lashed out in this Publication, however, between Jeffrey Dahmer's unbelievably warped mind and the Poisonous bigotry Propagated by WISN's Mark Bellin9 and others, (which will likely DIRECTLY result in serious injury or death for MANY MORE People in the Gay community), things have gotten to the Point where I can no longer contain myself!

I REFUSE to Patronize ANY sponsor who advertizes on Bellin9's show and encourage my readers to do likewise, and tell them WHY! I am sending a copy of this newsletter to WISN-AM for the General Manager, Program Director AND Mr. Bellin9 to read. WISN was granted a license by The Federal Communications Commission 'TO BROADCAST IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST', and I hardly feel that inciting the Population of Southeastern Wisconsin to harm ten Percent of that Population is "in the Public interest"! Perhaps letters addressed to the F.C.C., complaining about Bellin9's bigotry and the very real dangers that his verbal Poison causes to citizens in the community MIGHT be effective in changing WISN's on-air Policy! May 'Bellin9 the bigot' soon learn what the unemployment line is like, and be blackballed in the broadcasting industry! In my opinion, by directly or indirectly condoning and encouraging hatred and violence against Gays and Lesbians, Bellin9 has done MORE damage than Dahmer! Dahmer killed less than 20 victims, bigotry espoused by Bellin9 and others could easily cause many times that number of deaths! In my opinion, every case in which someone assaults a homosexual or PERCIEVED homosexual because of Bellin9's bigotry, Bellin9 should stand the same legal charges as the attacker! It is too bad that criminal charges for inciting great bodily harm cannot be brought against Mr. Bellin9 and other bigots! (Shall we encourage our lawmakers to write such laws?) The same applies to ultra-fundamentalist clergy who Preach similar Poison from the Pulpit "...in the name of God!!!" The God that I know and worship says "LOVE thy neighbor as thyself," not "Kill those whom you do not understand!". I shall now dismount my soap box.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WL

Mass murder has as much to do with sexual orientation as rape does with love, or child molestation does with affection.

If either suspect, [Dressler in Racine and Dahmer in Milwaukee], in these gruesome murders had sex with their victims has not been established. And if one or both did, what does it Prove? Does it Prove they were homosexual? Evidence in the [Dressler] trial Portrays the suspect as a loving family man, a good husband and father. In other words, a straight man. The attempt by the Press to label him a homosexual in order to shift the blame from their own violence-consumed reality is not only an insult but a sham.

Regardless, these two suspects certainly were not and are not Gay. Being Gay is being Proud. It is the ability to love a Person of the same sex, to share love, affection and life. If sex was involved, it was not a matter of making love. It was a matter of violation, like rape and child molestation, an assault bred of anger, of hate, of corrupt Power, of humiliation, and of intense homophobia. It was not "homosexual overkill," it was HOMOPHOBIC overkill.

Violence, murder and dismemberment - the ultimate violation of the human body - is not the Product of love, of being an 'out' and Proud Gay Person. It is the Product of hate. It is the Product of a society that fears two men loving each other, but accepts the widespread depiction of murder and complete barbarity on the small and silver screens. It is the Product of self hatred engendered through the opposition of Gays BY SOCIETY AND CHURCH THAT WANTS SEXUAL CONFORMITY AT ANY COST. It is the Product of violence on the streets and dysfunction in the home. It is, quite simply, the Product of a society that heterosexuals have forced upon us.

Gay People have not created the society in which we all live. We have not created a society that drives thousands of Gay and Lesbian teenagers to commit suicide.

(Continued on Page 6)

We have not created the society that causes gangs of heterosexuals to go out to find Gays to brutally attack and murder. We have not created the society that looks away when heterosexuals rape Lesbians to "make them straight." We have not created the society that forces People to hide in the closet or face rejection by their families, lose their jobs or assault on the streets. And most certainly we have not created the society that turns out mass murderers. We have been the victims of it. The facts in these two cases, when they fully emerge, will Prove we are the victims of it still. - Dan F. Schramm

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

IS

Homophobia is a social disease: Ignorant People down on something they aren't up on! - L.S. Welch

CREDITS for items used in this edition:

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

Sources: IS: In Step Magazine; NP: New Orleans P-FLAG; LP: Louisville P-FLAG; PC: P-FLAG Charlotte, N.C.;

DIM: Dimention - Daily Paper of United Methodist General Conference, 1991;

WCT: Windy City Times; WL: Wisconsin Light.

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, SeP. 12th, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 823 Union Av., Sheboygan, WI.

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

Modem them to: IVY'S WALL BBS, (414) 457-9255, 5:30 Pm to 11:00 am weekdays, (Central)/ 24 Hrs. on weekends & holidays, 300/1200 Baud, 8N1.

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

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BUSINESS CARDS

We will Print **YOUR** business card for a donation of only \$5 Per month.

Parents-FLAG assumes no responsibility for advertisements. Publication of business cards does not imply that the owners of the businesses are Gay, but they DO support equal rights for all.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS-THEY SUPPORT US!

SHEBOYGAN FALLS VETERINARY SERVICE

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LIKE
PARACHUTES:

THEY
FUNCTION
ONLY WHEN
THEY ARE
OPEN!!!

