



# Task Force in the News

## Media Highlights

March 16, 2006 – March 27, 2006

Roberta Sklar, Director of Communications

### Quote of the Week:

Pew poll finds U.S. warming to gay marriage:

"I think people have thought more about gay families in the last two years than in the previous 30."

– Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

*San Francisco Chronicle*  
March 23, 2006

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# San Francisco Chronicle

## **Poll finds U.S. warming to gay marriage**

### **Opposition off 12% since '04 - support for adoption, military role is up nationally**

By Wyatt Buchanan, Chronicle Staff Writer

*Thursday, March 23, 2006*

Opposition to same-sex marriage dropped sharply across the country during the past two years, though just over half of Americans still oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center released Wednesday.

The poll also showed increased support for allowing same-sex couples to adopt children, and substantial backing for the rights of gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

The survey was released one day after a poll of California residents indicated increasing support for gay rights in the state, including for same-sex marriages. The nonpartisan Field Poll found that support for same-sex marriage in the state had risen from 38 percent in 1997 to 43 percent today.

The Pew center's national poll of 1,405 adults, conducted from March 8-12, found that 51 percent opposed same-sex marriage and 39 percent supported it. In February 2004, as same-sex couples were marrying in San Francisco, a Pew poll found 63 percent of Americans opposed the right of gays and lesbians to marry and 30 percent in favor. The margin of error in the latest survey was plus or minus 3 or 4 percentage points, depending on the question.

"In 2004, (same-sex marriage) was an emotional issue that struck a very deeply rooted chord in a lot of people," said Michael Dimock, associate director of the Pew Research Center for People and the Press. "It is still an issue -- a lot of people who opposed it then still oppose it now. But a lot of people who opposed it then were in an intense environment and either feel less strongly or feel that people can do what they want to do."

Support for same-sex marriage has grown steadily over the past decade, according to the Pew center, which is an independent research organization. In 1996, 65 percent of Americans opposed same-sex marriage and 27 percent supported it.

Wednesday's poll found the country nearly evenly split on allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt children -- 46 percent in favor, 48 percent opposed. In 1999, 38 percent of Americans supported adoptions by same-sex couples, while 57 percent opposed them.

Sixty percent of those polled in the most recent survey supported allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while 32 percent opposed the idea.

"It indicates people are changing," Dimock said. "They're becoming more open and tolerant, and we also have a shift in generations, which has a big impact."

The poll noted a distinct change in the number of respondents who said they "strongly oppose" same-sex marriage. In February 2004, 42 percent were in that category. That dropped to 28 percent this year, with the biggest decreases being among people over 65, Republicans and those who described themselves as religious moderates.

Gay rights advocates said Americans have had plenty of opportunity in the past two years to hear the stories of gay couples and same-sex parents, which has increased tolerance for gay and lesbian rights.

**"I think people have thought more about gay families in the last two years than in the previous 30," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force in New York.**

Any shift toward support for same-sex marriage has yet to show up at the polls, however, Since 2004, voters in 13 states have passed constitutional bans on same-sex marriage. At least seven states will vote on similar measures in November.

A representative from the evangelical Christian organization Focus on the Family declined to comment on the poll. The Family Research Council, a conservative Christian lobbying group in Washington, D.C., did not return a phone call.

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## National poll on gay and lesbian rights

Public acceptance of homosexuality has increased yet remains a deeply divisive issue, according to a recent nationwide survey.

### Trend of opinion on allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally

	Oppose	Favor
March '01	57%	35%
February '04	63%	30%
March '06	51%	39%

### Shifting views on policies toward gays and lesbians

#### *Adoption by gays or lesbians*

<u>1999</u>			<u>2006</u>		
Oppose	57%		Oppose	48%	
Favor	38%		Favor	46%	
No opinion	5%		No opinion	6%	

#### *Gays serving openly in military*

<u>1994</u>			<u>2006</u>		
Favor	52%		Favor	60%	
Oppose	45%		Oppose	32%	
No opinion	3%		No opinion	8%	

Results from the 2006 survey are based on telephone interviews conducted March 8-12 from a nationwide sample of 1,405 adults. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3-4 percentage points.

Source: Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

March 16, 2006

## Religion News in Brief

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 1:26 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON (AP) - An alliance of gay caucuses in seven U.S. religious denominations is becoming a program within a major secular group, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a Monday announcement said.

The alliance, known as the Institute for Welcoming Resources, represents caucuses in the American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Community of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

The statement said the task force will provide resources to increase religious support for equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It called the institute's 1,300 local congregations valuable allies against "those who try to justify anti-gay bigotry" on religious grounds.

The task force plans to assign religious field organizers around the nation to educate congregations and seminaries, and to reach "progressive people of faith" beyond the seven denominations.

The task force also sponsors the National Religious Leadership Roundtable, an interfaith clergy group. The roundtable issued a January report saying conservative groups within U.S. denominations have eight times the budgets of the pro-gay caucuses.

The Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, a United Church of Christ minister and executive officer of the Minneapolis-based institute, will join the task force staff. She charged that religious language "has been hijacked by the radical right and used to attack and abuse."

# Seattle Post-Intelligencer

## Rally to mark passage of new gay rights law

By Seattle P-I Staff

*Saturday, March 11, 2006*

o celebrate a new state law making it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation -- and in anticipation of an upcoming state Supreme Court decision on gay marriage -- Marriage Equality Now will hold a rally today.

Participants in the March & Rally for Marriage Equality will gather at noon at Seattle Central Community College, near the corner of Broadway and Pine Street, and walk to Westlake Plaza for a rally from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Scheduled speakers include state Rep. Ed Murray, Green Party Senate candidate Aaron Dixon and gay rights advocates, including attorney Jamie Pederson of Lambda Legal; the Rev. Monica Corsaro, of the Religious Coalition for Equality; **Marsha Botzer, board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**; Drew Emery, director of the documentary "Inlaws and Outlaws"; and Davina Kotulski, author of "Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage."

## Pro-gay and Christian groups merge Move aims to boost support for gays in faith communities

By Deborah Bulkeley

Monday, March 27, 2006

In an effort to bolster a movement to mainstream Christianity among gays and lesbians, a national Christian organization said recently that it has merged with a nonsectarian advocacy organization for gay rights.

**The Institute for Welcoming Resources — an umbrella organization of more than 1,300 mainline Protestant congregations that welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals — is joining with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.**

The move is meant to create new resources, training and strategies to increase the numbers of people of faith who support equality for gay people.

Emily Eastwood, executive director of Lutherans Concerned/North America, said it's a common perception that being Christian and being gay is an oxymoron.

She said many mainline churches don't mix politics with their religion, but as parishioners become more welcoming to gays and lesbians, they're "more likely to carry their witness into the voting booth."

"From my perspective as a Lutheran, this is not about directing our congregations to become more political," Eastwood said. "It's about helping our congregations to become welcoming. It's a very fine line."

The institute works with seven mainline Protestant denominations — the Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Community of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the American Baptist Churches.

Member congregations decide to offer an unconditional welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and their families.

**"Much of the most important and heroic work to win hearts and minds on LGBT issues has been within religious denominations," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the Task Force. "It's long past time for the secular and faith-based wings of our movement to share resources and expertise and advance as a united movement."**

Six congregations in Utah are listed on the institute's Web site, [www.welcomingresources.org](http://www.welcomingresources.org), though not all are part of the seven sponsoring denominations.

One congregation is Sacred Light of Christ Metropolitan Community Church, in Salt Lake City, where pastor Dee Bradshaw said his congregation is welcoming but isn't politically active.

"We've looked at it and said, 'Spirituality is what we're for,' " he said. "We encourage people to get involved in politics, but we don't take a stand."



## **Bloomberg Pushes, Pride Agenda Pushes Back, and a Meeting Takes Place As Well**

### **Amidst political jockeying by mayor, state gay rights lobby, marriage summit participants voice hope**

By Paul Schindler

*Friday, March 24, 2006*

Fulfilling a commitment he first made in an interview with Gay City News this past December, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg convened a breakfast for gay and lesbian leaders this morning, March 24, at Gracie Mansion to discuss how he can contribute to the community's efforts to win same-sex marriage rights in New York State.

Public statements from the LGBT attendees, who numbered more than a dozen, reflected several common themes—an acknowledgment that the mayor appeared committed to lending his political capital to moving both the public debate and the legislative prospects for a gay marriage bill forward in Albany, optimism that the meeting indicated an unusual degree of comity between Republican Bloomberg and Democrat Christine Quinn, the lesbian speaker of the City Council, and recognition that today's gathering was just the first step in a process that could span years.

The apparent success of this initial meeting on gay marriage between the mayor and gay advocates—which ran to two hours—stands in stark contrast to the buzz in gay circles in the 24 hours leading up to the breakfast. Throughout the day Thursday and into the evening, many in the community, among both those invited and others, engaged in heated discussion about what proved to be a stark absence from the meeting—representation from the Empire State Pride Agenda, the state's LGBT political lobbying organization. The Pride Agenda has played the lead role in enacting gay rights legislation in Albany for more than a decade—its most significant triumphs coming with the 2002 enactment of the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act and the 2000 hate crimes statute.

The Bloomberg administration first confirmed that the meeting was taking place early Thursday evening, indicating that the subject was marriage equality—what strategy gay leaders have on the issue and “what the city can do to assist in that effort”—and that the Pride Agenda had been invited.

In a telephone interview late Thursday evening, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn told Gay City News that she had first been invited to the breakfast early this week. She could not recall whether the mayor's office had asked for suggestions of people who should attend, but said that she had her staff pull together a list of names, which included the Pride Agenda.

“We were told that the Pride Agenda was invited,” Quinn said.

But the devil in this matter was clearly in the details. In fact, the Pride Agenda was faced with an ultimatum from the Bloomberg team—the group was welcome to send board members, but its executive director, Alan Van Capelle, would not be invited.

At working meetings of this type, board members typically would not attend in place of an executive director or senior staff member, and the Pride Agenda rejected the offer to send representatives from its board. The group withheld comment Thursday evening when contacted, but struck back hard at Bloomberg Friday morning.

“Throughout this city, tens of thousands of gay and lesbian couples live with daily uncertainty because they are not afforded the rights and responsibilities that come with a marriage license. They look to the mayor and the Empire State Pride Agenda to work together to make their lives better,” Van Capelle said in a written statement. “The Bloomberg administration may have tried to punish the Pride Agenda this morning by excluding us from Gracie Mansion, but in the end all they did was let down the tens of thousands of gay families that expect leadership—not politics—on this issue and, who frankly, expected more from their mayor than this.”

The mayor's office first publicly raised the prospect of such a meeting in an interview Bloomberg gave Gay City News on December 12 of last year. On that occasion, the mayor was explaining what many in the gay community view as the contradiction between his appeal of a favorable gay marriage ruling that came down from a Manhattan trial court last February and his stated support for a same-sex marriage law in New York. Stating that his corporation counsel had an obligation to challenge the pro-gay ruling in order to test whether it would be affirmed by the state's highest court and become permanent, he went so far as to say, "My hope is that the court will say that it is legal under the Constitution."

During the interview, after extended discussion of the issues involved, Anthony Crowell, who serves as special counsel in Bloomberg's office, jumped in to say that Bloomberg had directed him to convene "a legislative meeting among all the LGBT groups in the city in January where we're going to discuss a variety of issues, identify our common goals, and pursue them accordingly."

If in fact today's breakfast was intended as a legislative meeting, many in the community contacted Thursday evening, including some who attended, questioned how serious progress could be achieved in the absence of the community's surrogate in Albany. Some speculated that the snub of Van Capelle was intended as payback for the Pride Agenda's endorsement of Democrat Fernando Ferrer in last year's mayoral election. But others told Gay City News that there was a deeper issue of trust dividing the mayor and Van Capelle, one that may have been created by the Bloomberg team's sense that the Pride Agenda had dangled the prospect of an endorsement last year when in fact that was never in the cards.

Quinn indicated that her office learned only late on Thursday that there was controversy over the Pride Agenda's role in the meeting. A former executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, the speaker was asked how she would have responded had a mayor informed her that she could not attend a meeting but that her board members were welcome. She said, "It would depend on the circumstances of who was being invited from other organizations." She added, however, "I can certainly understand the concerns this would raise for the Pride Agenda."

Quinn emphasized that Bloomberg's interest in convening the meeting is a positive.

"I can't imagine he would pull this meeting together if he were not willing to step forward more," she said of the mayor's role as a same-sex marriage advocate. "He is in a unique position in Albany, being a Republican and having just been reelected. Hopefully, this is his first salvo in his becoming more public and active in this."

Several of the attendees who spoke to Gay City News in the wake of the gathering echoed the optimism in Quinn's statement.

**"What we were told by the mayor and the speaker was this was an opportunity to share ideas, hear from us, and formulate a plan," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the former head of both the Pride Agenda and the Anti-Violence Project. "This was not a meeting where the strategy was handed down to us from on high. The mayor said it repeatedly that he wanted to work on this and I think it is significant that he asked the speaker to work with him."**

**Foreman's comments were significant given the speculation by a number of people Thursday evening that he would boycott the meeting to protest the exclusion of his Pride Agenda successor. Foreman told Gay City News today that he had considered doing just that, but explained that the mayor's office made clear to him that he had been invited not in his role as head of the Task Force, but rather due to his position on the city's Human Rights Commission, to which Bloomberg appointed him.**

**In fact, Foreman as a mayoral appointee has a complex relationship with Bloomberg. In 2004, he resigned from the Commission to protest the mayor's veto of the Equal Benefits Bill, a measure that would have required contractors doing business with the city to offer the domestic partners of their employees the same benefits given to spouses of workers. Faced with an override of his veto, Bloomberg successfully challenged the law in state court. Foreman, however, rejoined the Commission last summer when Bloomberg prevailed on a number of insurance providers to make available domestic partnership policies to companies with fewer than 50 employees. Such policies had not previously been commercially available, and the Task Force head lauded the mayor for his efforts.**

**In explaining how his role on the Human Rights Commission played into his decision, Foreman said, "I can see ways that the Commission can weigh in on this discussion."**

Another Human Rights Commission member, Jonathan Capehart, a former journalist who worked for Bloomberg's media company and advised the mayor in both his election campaigns, was more emphatic in declaring the meeting a success.

"Anytime the Mayor proactively calls on the community for help in devising a strategy to achieve its goals is a good thing," Capehart wrote in an e-mail message. "That Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Chris Quinn convened the first of many meetings to focus specifically on ways the administration can work with the community to secure marriage rights... Because they sat side-by-side at this extraordinary meeting, I am very encouraged by what can be accomplished."

Richard Burns, as the executive director of the LGBT Community Center since the 1980s, is both one of the community's longest-serving leaders and the head of an institution that has received significant city budget support-for operating and capital costs-in recent years. He voiced the view that the Bloomberg breakfast was a sign of progress.

"I thought the meeting was a good first step," he told Gay City News. "I was impressed that the mayor called for this meeting and engaged Speaker Quinn in convening it together to work with our community to ensure that we would have a focused, vigorous campaign with the state Legislature and the people of New York to achieve marriage equality."

Christopher Taylor, president of the New York City chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, not surprisingly gave the mayor good marks as well.

"It was a good meeting," he said. "He was way more aggressive than I thought he would be in terms of stuff that he's willing to do to promote gay marriage in Albany."

Then, in a clear reference to Van Capelle's absence, he Taylor added, "No organization was excluded."

That line matched the message from Stu Loeser, the mayor's press secretary. Asked about Van Capelle's exclusion from the meeting, he said, "We were careful and attempted to invite a couple of people from the Pride Agenda. We put out calls and some were not returned." Pressed further on why Van Capelle was not invited, he said, "We are not commenting on that."

Neither Burns nor Foreman was buying the explanation that a board member invitation was the equivalent of one extended to the head of an organization. Both said they raised their concerns with "mayoral staff," but it is clear that the topic of the Pride Agenda did not rise to the level of a major issue in the meeting.

Among others in attendance were Andres Duque, a senior staff member at the Latino Commission on AIDS and the head of Mano a Mano, an umbrella group made of up of Latino LGBT organizations, and Gary English, executive director of the People of Color in Crisis, an HIV prevention group in Brooklyn. Neither could be reached for comment.

Everyone who was reached, Loeser included, acknowledged that today's gathering was the first of what they hoped were many, and nobody was talking about anything close to a clear road map. Burns voiced the hope that if the ruling from the Court of Appeals, the state's highest, on several pending marriage lawsuits, expected as early as this summer, proves favorable "the city will say, 'We don't need six months, we're ready now.'"

Loeser predicted that the next steps will be take shape in what he termed Bloomberg's customary style-"He pursues legislation with dual strategies and the public lobbying is not the only part... People can critique this mayor for not grandstanding, but there is a lot of work he does in private as well."

Some not in attendance were not shy about criticizing the meeting. Allen Roskoff, president of the Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club, a gay political club, told Gay City News, "The people who went to this meeting allowed Mayor Bloomberg to divide our community. The moment that Alan Van Capelle was not invited, people should not have attended. They should be ashamed of themselves for attending."

Quinn could not be reached for comment on Friday afternoon. The previous evening, she told Gay City News that she is planning an April meeting of LGBT leaders to follow up on a March 16 gathering that Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton convened in Washington of the Democratic Senate Steering and Outreach Committee that included New York LGBT leaders, the speaker and Van Capelle among them. Quinn said that the Clinton meeting focused on the effort to defeat a June congressional vote on the federal marriage amendment that President George W. Bush is pushing to enshrine marriage inequality in the Constitution. That group also talked about pushing back with a hate crimes law and an employment non-discrimination effort to call the Republicans' bluff on their assertion that it is only marriage they are concerned about keeping a heterosexual institution.

"It's sort of like, 'You're not even willing to do that?'" Quinn said of the emerging Democratic approach.

The speaker said the April meeting in New York would provide a chance to add grassroots activists to the mix of organizational leaders who attended the gathering in Washington.

How Quinn's meeting in April will dovetail with her new effort with Bloomberg remains unclear. And how the administration and the Pride Agenda will pull back from the brink-if in fact both sides wish to do so-will also be a fascinating story to follow.



## HTJ! kickoff meeting welcomes new energy, NGLTF invites Detroiters to Wisconsin for training

By Imani Williams

*Originally printed 3/23/2006 (Issue 1412 - Between The Lines News)*

DETROIT - Following the first HTJ! Community Planning Meeting for 2006 emails containing messages like, "It was nice meeting everyone and I'm excited about being involved," are flowing back and forth on the HTJ! Yahoo listserv. One email after another had a message of community and the sense of "a fresh new feeling" associated with becoming involved in the event.

Just over 30 people came out to the meeting held earlier this month at the Hilton Gardens Hotel in Downtown Detroit. Most in attendance had never worked with Black Pride Society in the pride preparation, which generally starts in February and gets more involved as the month of July gets closer.

The meeting, titled "I'm Coming Out, Eyes Wide Open," was facilitated by Hank Millbourne, BPS President, and HTJ! Co-founder/Director Johnny Jenkins. **The meeting also included a presentation by National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Senior Field Organizers Jason Cooper and Dave Fleischer. The Task Force came from New York to raise awareness about the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, the anti-affirmative action measure slated to be on the November ballot to make affirmative action illegal in Michigan.**



BTL photo: Imani Williams - National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Senior Field Organizers Dave Fleischer and Jason Cooper invited Detroiters to Wisconsin for activist training.

Cooper and Fleischer told the gathering that NGLTF is holding a power summit April 7-9 in Milwaukee, Wisc. and is seeking people from Detroit's community to get involved. Ideally they would like a cadre of people from the area to attend, get trained and come back home to organize so that voters in Michigan understand the far-reaching ramifications of the anti-affirmative action measure.

As Cooper explained, "It isn't just a black, white, male or female, gay or straight thing, this type of ballot measure hurts everyone in the long run." He stressed the importance of knowing the issue and how to generate conversations around the issue so that people understand how to correctly interpret the language that is misleading.

Attendees signed up to get more information and to be part of the caravan that will leave Detroit and come back empowered to engage the community on the impact that the ballot measure will have if it isn't defeated.

In addition to learning about the Task Force and their mission, the meeting included information on the various ways that people can become involved as individuals and organizations in HTJ! There are opportunities to volunteer throughout the HTJ! celebration, which runs July 26-30. Committees include: Communications, Entertainment, Genesis Summit, Hospitality, Palmer Park, and Partner Development.

Many people at the meeting were entrepreneurs and party givers who were there for a chance to become part of the community process by becoming HTJ! Partners. There are several levels of involvement ranging from vending opportunities at the picnic and other official events to promoting parties to becoming part of the Genesis Summit and imparting much needed educational information that affects the community.

The idea, said Millbourne, "Is to give everyone an opportunity to get involved and become part of the process."

"HTJ! is as grand as the people make it," said Jenkins, who stressed that he strongly supports community participation at the table from the beginning and throughout pride festivities.

"This is the best community planning meeting that I've seen over the years," said BPS Director Charlene Roseborough.

The group will convene again next month to initiate committee assignments. For more information go to [www.hotterthanjuly.com](http://www.hotterthanjuly.com).

Those interested in becoming involved in the NGLTF Wisc. trip, contact Jason Cooper at [jcooper@TheTaskForce.org](mailto:jcooper@TheTaskForce.org) or 616-358-1451. Scholarship assistance is available to help defray the \$100 conference fee. NGLTF doesn't want anyone shut out of participation because they lack financial resources.



## Leap of Faith

### **New Jersey's Supreme Court is considering legislation that would make the Garden State more attractive to gay couples.**

by Jesse Smith

*week of March 22-28, 2006*

Recent activity suggests that when it comes to gay rights, neighboring Pennsylvania and New Jersey couldn't be farther apart. And though the actions of one have no legal bearing on the other, each state stands to affect the gay population of the other.

Last week the Pennsylvania House State Government Committee voted to send to the full House a bill that would amend the state constitution to legally recognize only opposite-sex marriages.

Across the river, New Jersey's Supreme Court is considering a challenge from same-sex marriage advocates that, if successful, would make the state only the second after Massachusetts to allow gay and lesbian couples to wed.

The dichotomy can be frustrating.

"It's unfortunate that while one state looks at expanding legal recognition of gays and lesbians, Pennsylvania is considering taking them away permanently," says Stacey Sobel, executive director of Philadelphia's Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

Laws in other states have no effect on Pennsylvania's citizens, but Sobel says advances elsewhere often impact Pennsylvania legislation.

"Gay-friendly court decisions in other states often cause Pennsylvania legislators to try to take away rights as a preemptive measure," she says, citing pushes to ban adoption by gay parents and deny benefits to gay partners of state employees following Massachusetts' legalization of same-sex marriages.

Though same-sex unions are already illegal in Pennsylvania, the bill's sponsor-Republican state Rep. Scott Boyd of Lancaster-agrees that actions in other states warrant the expansion of that law into a constitutional amendment.

"The things that happened in Massachusetts have elevated concerns about our current Defense of Marriage Act," Boyd says.

If that response to extrastate action is crucial to the bill's success, timing may work to its advantage-the New Jersey court is expected to hand down its decision at approximately the same time the bill will begin the lengthy amendment process of legislative and public approval.

But the bill's future is dependent on more than the response of its backers alone. A New Jersey ruling favorable to same-sex marriage could gradually erode support among its opponents-Massachusetts may have been too far a jump for some of the more than 8,000 same-sex couples living in the five-county region, but full marriage benefits would be attractive draws just a PATCO ride away.

**Sue Hyde, a Massachusetts community activist with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, says that though the decision to relocate great distances for marriage rights alone is difficult for most couples, moves within a metropolitan area are far easier.**

**"If I lived in Michigan, would I feel so compelled to marry that I'd move to Massachusetts?" she asks. "I doubt it. But if I could just move across a border and keep my job and friends, I'd do it."**

**But Hyde cautions that legalized same-sex marriage in New Jersey shouldn't hamper efforts for the same rights in Pennsylvania.**

**"I don't want our colleagues in Philly to just throw in the towel simply because it would be easier to move to New Jersey," she says.**

Referencing Texas Gov. Rick Perry—who in response to gay veterans protesting a same-sex marriage ban, said, "If there's a state that has more lenient views than Texas, then maybe that's a better place for them to live"—Hyde stresses that the battle for equal marriage rights should be fought where people live, and not dictate where they choose to do so.

"Our personal community is the most meaningful context in which to do our work," she says. "We need to say, 'I live here, my kids go to school here and I'm an equally productive member of this community. I deserve and demand full equality.'"

*Jesse Smith ([jsmith@philadelphiaweekly.com](mailto:jsmith@philadelphiaweekly.com)) last wrote about urban planners' designs for our empty inner-city neighborhoods.*

# BAY AREA REPORTER ON THE WEB

## **LGBT health reps upbeat at spring meeting**

by Bob Roehr

Members of the National Coalition for LGBT Health were upbeat as they met in Washington, D.C. on March 19. The just-concluded LGBT Health Awareness Week had generated a record number of hits on their Web site, while growing numbers of programs and increased funding offer better ways to serve the community.

"One of the biggest accomplishments is that we have maintained a powerful and legitimate presence in government given the hostility and antipathy" toward the gay community from many members of the Bush administration, said Barbara Warren, director of planning and research at the LGBT Community Center in New York City.

Joel Ginsberg, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, said they are working with the Human Rights Campaign and others to develop a healthcare quality index that will rate hospitals on their policies toward LGBT patients and employees. It is based upon the survey developed by HRC for its workplace project and will be compatible with the standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

"It opens the door to issues of cultural competency" in serving LGBT patients, said Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project for lesbians with cancer. She said the business model is most appropriate for large institutions like hospitals. The rating system could later be adapted and rolled out to other settings, like community clinics.

Health issues are an increasingly important component of the public debate over LGBT political rights. Hospital visitation and health care are winning elements in the discussion over gay marriage and domestic partnerships.

HRC lobbyist Dena Wigder said increased funding for abstinence only programs of sex education and HIV prevention "is really, really alarming." She said the newest restrictions not only require teaching that sexual activity should be only within marriage, but it must be defined as a union between a man and a woman. "It's not about health, it's about ideology. It's trying to make the LGBT community invisible."

One way mainstream health advocates are trying to strike back is with a provision in an appropriations bill requiring that "all federal funding for sexuality education programs must be medically accurate," Wigder said. About 120 members of Congress have signed on as co-sponsors. The religious right has tried to strip out the "peer-review" language, because much of the so-called data behind its positions would not survive the peer-review process of medical journals.

Ginsberg said Democratic members of Congress are proposing a federal health disparities bill. "It does not address LGBT populations, it addresses all of the other populations that have demonstrated health disparities – immigrants, rural populations, women, and racial and ethnic minorities."

GLMA spoke with Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen (D-Virgin Islands), a leader of the Congressional Black Caucus on health issues and a physician. She added LGBT-inclusive language in the House version of the bill, but it got dropped in conference with the Senate. "We don't know exactly why that happened," he said. Ginsberg called it "an opportunity for our community to lobby around that bill. It's an interesting educational tool."

**The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is creating an inventory and profile of the services, capacity, and funding of as many LGBT social services and healthcare organizations as possible, said policy director Eldie Acheson.**

**NGLTF is working with seven to 10 agencies a year "to seek earmarks" to federal appropriations legislation, seeking to direct funds to individual LGBT service provider groups. During this first cycle, the task force has**

**assisted five groups in developing appropriate requests and has helped set up 35 meetings both on the Hill and in district offices. Acheson called it "a tremendous way to educate congressional staff and members."**

Warren offered an example of success. She said New York has been struggling with an emerging methamphetamine problem, particularly within the gay community. Working with the coalition and others, the community center was able to secure an \$825,000 earmarked appropriation through its congressional delegation. She explained that part of the activities with those funds would benefit the coalition.

Andrea Densham, a health consultant from Chicago, was enthusiastic about a request for grant applications addressing LGBT health issues that was released by the National Institutes of Health on March 7.

"We are moving forward in an area where we thought we had hit a brick wall. It is a big deal, and we are very excited about it," she said. Densham added that lobbying on Capitol Hill is important to empower the people inside of agencies like NIH to fund the types of research that are necessary to gather data and better understand LGBT health issues, in the face of what are often hostile political appointees at more senior levels.

"Sometimes funding for research can seem ethereal," Densham said. "But you need numbers in order to say this is impacting my client. Without them you are in a room talking to yourself. This kind of high quality research means that we can mobilize the resources to provide services to clients across the country. That's why it is so important."



## NGLTF honors Rep. Baldwin at fundraiser

By Cornelius A. Fortune

Originally printed 3/23/2006 (Issue 1412 - Between The Lines News)

**DETROIT - A benefit for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was held March 17 at Detroit's Scarab Club.** The benefit honored U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), whose work has been pivotal in the fight for equality in her state and on Capitol Hill.

**"I was delighted to be invited to come to Detroit to support the work of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and its collaboration with the Triangle Foundation," said Baldwin.** "The conversations I've had with supporters of these efforts tonight encourage me greatly, and I certainly want to be as supportive as I can to find people to take part in their communities and

address the problems that they see."

As an out lesbian, Baldwin admits that she uses her status to keep the issues concerning gays and lesbians at the forefront of her legislative efforts.

"It's never been a question in my mind that having an out lesbian serving in the United States Congress matters in terms of getting people to move on our issues," she said. "Organizations like the Triangle Foundation, and like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are the foundation for this movement, so your support is extremely powerful."

She applauded the work of the NGLTF and urged for continued support through funding and volunteerism.

"Oftentimes the LGBT community is under attack from policies that are harmful," she said, "and so I also rely very heavily on the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to try to defend against bad legislation and bad policies."

"We're very honored to have Congresswoman Baldwin to talk about what's going on in Washington and to highlight what's also happening in Wisconsin," said Matt Foreman, NGLTF's executive director, "because we're also making a major investment there in hopes of defeating the anti-marriage constitutional movements on the ballot."

As for Michigan, Foreman suggests that our state is very much on the agenda.

"Michigan is one of our capacity-building partners, and so we make a long-term investment in helping to build the community in Michigan for a number of reasons," he said. "We're also going to be actively involved in the anti-affirmative action ballot measure that's going to be facing Michigan voters in November."

"We're going to be active in the civil rights initiative," said John Allen, NGLTF board member, "and we're working with local groups to build capacity in the way they run their organizations. That's a big part of what the Task Force does."

Allen was pleased with the evening's turnout. "I think it was a real successful event," he said. "It was an opportunity for friends to get together to have a little conversation to hear what the Task Force is up to in Michigan. Hopefully we'll be able to build on it and do it again next year."

Paula Merideth, a member of the Triangle Foundation's board of trustees, thought the fundraiser went very well and was impressed by Rep. Baldwin's work and character.



Elizabeth Carnegie - From left, Allan Gilmour, Jeff Montgomery (Triangle Foundation), Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Grace McClelland (Ruth Ellis Center) and Matt Foreman (Nat. Director NGLTF).

"Just the idea of having an out legislator representing our community in a visible way is so wonderful," she said. "It is true that the work the NGLTF is doing in terms of really supporting local organizations and local activism is just so helpful. There are so few national organizations who get down and do this level of support. They really put their money where their mouths are, and it helps us."

"The energy from NGLTF is palpable here in Michigan, and the commitment is palpable," said Kate Runyon of the American Friends Service Committee. "This is a consistent reminder that the energy is real, the commitment is real, and we're in this together. It reduces the sense of being isolated, and is an opportunity for us to continue to be energized together within the movement."

*For more information visit [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org).*

# BAY AREA REPORTER ON THE WEB

## Gill Foundation helps gay groups

by Bob Roehr

Rodger McFarlane has never been the shy retiring type. At six feet six inches tall, sporting a shaved head and jug-ears, he'd stick out in any crowd. Then there is his speech; the manic pacing, aggressive "candor" of a New Yorker, overlaying the honeyed drawl and metaphors of his native Alabama. And the company he has kept – buddies with Larry Kramer, a founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP, and executive director of Broadway Cares – he's held his own among some colossal egos.

So it was a bit of a surprise two years ago when he decamped for what any dedicated Manhattanite would consider the sticks, in this case Denver, to become executive director of the Gill Foundation, the largest single funder of gay and lesbian activities in the country.

The foundation is the creation of Tim Gill, a Colorado native who made a fortune in computer software – he founded Quark Inc. in 1981. The battle over Colorado's 1992 antigay Amendment Two, ultimately struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark gay rights case *Romer v. Evans*, was the catalyst that turned Gill into a social activist. Since then he has written an estimated \$100 million in checks supporting LGBT causes through the foundation and direct political contributions.

According to the foundation's IRS Form 990 for 2004, the latest filing available, it had assets of more than \$170 million. According to its Web site ([www.gillfoundation.org](http://www.gillfoundation.org)), the foundation has made 3,065 grants since 1994, with the average amount being \$16,000. Grants range from \$2,500 to over \$100,000.

"What drew me here was Tim Gill's bankroll. Simple, simple, simple," McFarlane said in a February interview in his spartan office at the foundation. "I had always known, from day one, that you make very different decisions when you are talking about what can I afford to do as opposed to what needs to be done and how much does that cost. I was going to come out here and show them what to do with that money."

He says the foundation always has been supporting worthy activities, but it often was reactive and spread so thin that it had little lasting impact. "Tim was not entirely satisfied with the return on investment."

McFarlane spent a lot of time that first year leading the foundation, friends, and allies through a process to identify the problems and define what success would look like.

"Our snapshot of the movement was this: We don't have a common vision and coherent plan between organizations and funders, they're all over the place. Grassroots participation, the ability to swing an election, or campaign contributions, until recently, was not there. We don't have the capacity to do legislative work in the states, those organizations are fragile as shit and convulsive, they run from cycle to cycle. We expect too much from one national organization. And we don't know how to talk to the swing vote."

He said the Gill Foundation "defined what equality looked like epidemiologically, what it looked like economically, those sorts of things. Endpoints. And then we backed in, like a classic business plan and what do you need to achieve each of those things."

McFarlane took a lesson from the far right and the sea tide of change it has wrought in the country over the last several decades, which has come about in large measure because of the organizations that it has funded. He says the right gives general operating grants, on a large scale, and over a sustained period of time. The organizations that it supports are not bogged down with detailed program guidelines for relatively small sums of money.

The result has been a significant reorganization of the foundation's priorities, as well as the creation last August of the companion political action committee, the Gill Action Fund. The focus is on gaining recognition and protection for LGBT relationships and ultimately marriage, first at the state level and then the national level; along with employment protection.

"The foundation simply does not have enough money to do all," declared McFarlane, "so a big piece of our work is influencing other donors, philanthropically and lately politically, on getting together and getting on the same page, and then putting the real bucks on the table."

"Let's get a strategy, let's have an ongoing evaluation – quantifiably, what have we achieved, what are the goals, where are the gaps – and then, stick to that over time. And also, quit telling them what to do."

"You cannot ask people to give you a blank check and not come home with anything. Or you win the court case and got killed three months later [at the polls] and it all unravels. That's not good enough, not for people who made money like my boss, and legitimately want to see a return on their investment. They're not children, they're entrepreneurs, they know you have to fail repeatedly to find success," but you have to show progress.

"I don't mean you just hand somebody a check and they are magically good," but, McFarlane said, the foundation is very hands off with those who have a track record of accomplishment, established goals, a solid plan on how to achieve them, and benchmarks by which to evaluate progress along the way.

"You don't tell Matt Coles [director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project] what we are funding this quarter, you give some money and say, go be Matt. Look what Evan [Wolfson at Freedom to Marry] has done since he didn't have to worry about raising money day to day, he's created a revolution."

"It really is the matter of being able to write a check for \$2 million instead of saying, I've got \$150,000, what can we do? It's totally different."

## Saying no

**Another key for McFarlane is "saying no decisively. Because I'm not raising money I really can look at a state organization and say, you're not in shape to take on this fight. We will help you build, but I'm not supporting you politically in this cycle. You've got to lower your profile and get your shit together and build an organization. You can't say that at HRC [Human Rights Campaign] or NGLTF [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force] where you are raising money from literally thousands and thousands of people in 50 different states."**

About a quarter of the foundation's money is spent through the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, which supports mainstream civic, cultural, and social services organizations. Recipients must have an employment nondiscrimination policy in place and "give us equal billing with Wells Fargo; you've got to put gay and lesbian in front of everybody. Tim's purpose is to demonstrate the contribution of lesbians and gay men to the state of Colorado," said McFarlane.

The impact of being one of the larger philanthropies in the state has been huge, both in terms of expanding employment protection and gaining social and political visibility.

Protection in the private sector workplace has been growing nationally thanks to the foundation's support of program activities at HRC. "Very quietly, over the last two years we have knocked off all but one of the Fortune 100 companies, for employment nondiscrimination and domestic partner benefits. Then we cycled this year into the 100 largest employers and we're batting them out of the park," McFarlane said.

"It doesn't work if you are public about it; you can't put them on the defensive, you have to work through their workers and their human resources and senior people and get them to buy into it, because it is good business, and they know that."

McFarlane said the relocation to Denver has helped him to realize just how isolated he was in Manhattan. "I was incapable of persuading anybody outside of New York or LA of anything. Then I began to realize that the real power is here, it is state by state; that's who gets to Congress.



## Conversion Therapy Bogus: US Study

*Wednesday, March 22, 2006*

A US study has found that almost 90 per cent of those undergoing 'conversion therapy' to prevent homosexual tendencies have reported long-term harm, including depression and suicide attempts. Furthermore, of the 202 individuals studied, only 26 claimed the therapy was successful, and only eight of those reported no further difficulty with same-sex attraction.

**The New York-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute released the report in the state of Florida, headquarters for Exodus International, a leading Christian conversion therapy organisation.** Exodus claims the therapies are successful for "hundreds of thousands of men and women... who have found that change is possible."

**Taskforce director, Matt Foreman says these programmes are not monitored by trained professionals and are "crossing the line as to what is approved under freedom of expression."** He calls the programmes "frightening", by playing to stereotypes, and often casting blame on parents for their children's sexual orientation.

The American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Paediatrics all oppose the science and practise of conversion therapy.

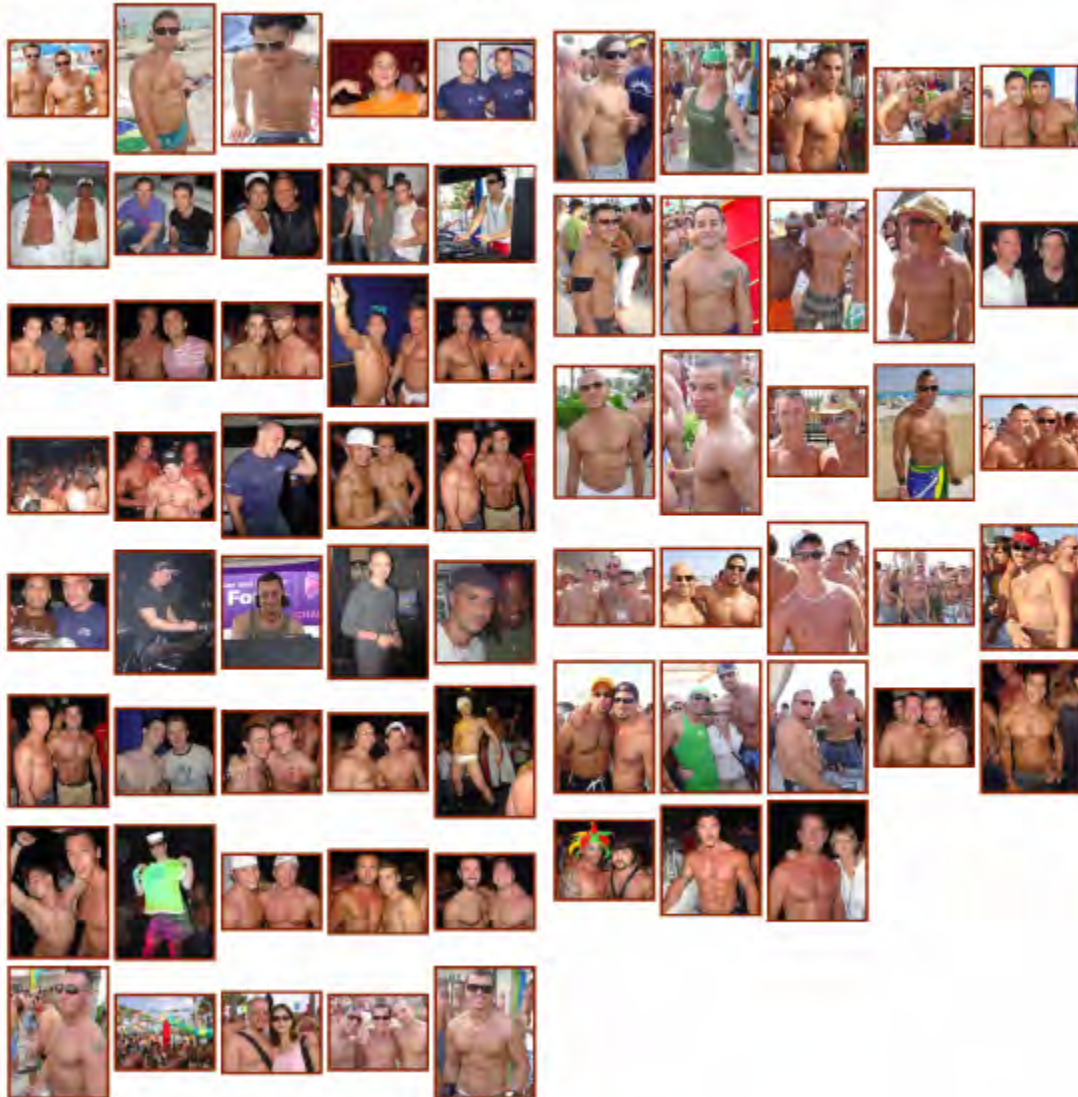


## PARTY PHOTO ALBUMS

Photos by Dean Mistretta

Online at <http://www.edgeboston.com/index.php?ci=108&ch=parties&sc=&sc2=photoalbum&id=284>

### Party Photo Albums Winter Party, Miami :: March 1-6, 2006





## Opinion: Some people just need more schoolin'

*Originally printed 3/23/2006 (Issue 1412 - Between The Lines News)*

"School days, school days, good old Golden Rule days..."

Unless you're seen as too fat. Or too thin. Or you wear the wrong clothing or like the wrong musical artists or...

...unless you are, or are seen as, being gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgendered.

You don't have to be LGBT to have been bullied at some point during your school years, but it helps. That's why State Representative Glenn Anderson introduced Matt's Safe School Law; to make Michigan's schools a safe place for all children. The fat ones, the thin ones, the socially-less-than-adept ones - and, yes, the LGBT ones. Read about how you can be part of Safe School Lobby Day in this issue.

Protecting the public schools from any kind of bigotry is the focus of a national set of guidelines endorsed by both the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and a group of Christian educators. The guidelines, which place our common heritage as Americans bound by the First Amendment over our inborn sexual orientation or our choice of religion, may just be the beginning of a truce that will serve students and communities alike. Read about this First Amendment-Center dose of common sense on page 8.

Despite these notes of progress, though, bigotry against LGBT students and their young allies is still all too prevalent in the public schools. That's why GLSEN will sponsor the National Day of Silence on April 26, and why BTL will cover Day of Silence events in Michigan's schools. Because while right-wing, self-styled Christians have every right to believe and to say that our lives don't fit in with their understanding of their Bible, they don't have the right to frighten or bully LGBT students into silence in the secular arena of our public schools. GLSEN will hold, and BTL will cover, the National Day of Silence until the discrimination and bullying ends.

Meanwhile, our community continues to thrive with creativity and vibrancy and life, regardless of what the dogma of a few small-minded souls has to say about us. Second-parent adoption has won an important voice of support in the Michigan Women's Commission, taking Paul Condino's bill one step closer to becoming a law that will protect children by acknowledging their right to a legal relationship with both of the people who are raising them. **The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force held a successful Detroit-area fundraiser on March 17, Hotter Than July!** is gearing up for another successful summer event, and a group of Detroit-area transgender activists have begun TransGender Detroit to provide local support to our local transgender residents.

Religious extremists have made a great deal of fuss over the so-called "homosexual agenda." Reading this week's issue of Between The Lines, one must concede that "the right" is right. We do have an agenda: Equal rights for all people. A country that is free from bias-instigated violence. Children being raised by, and sheltered by the protection of, two parents who can provide them with health insurance and survivor benefits and can make medical decisions for them in emergencies with no questions asked.

And safe schools. Don't forget safe schools - for every student that walks in their doors.

It's a shame this agenda is opposed by so many people who call themselves Christian.



## Gay & Lesbian Task Force Attacks Ex-Gay Therapies

By Ross von Metzke

Posted 3/23/2006

(Miami, FL) - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is one of several gay rights organizations speaking out this week against religious organizations offering what they call "bogus therapies" to gay teens to prevent them from becoming homosexuals.

**In a report released this week in Miami Beach, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute questioned the effectiveness and legality of reparative therapies and called on state and federal governments to crack down on such programs aimed at youth, the Associated Press reported.**

The report said several Christian-based gay prevention and treatment groups employ counselors who offer therapy without a license. NGLTF said many organizations hide behind a First Amendment protection of religion in to avoid sanctions by state health officials.

Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman said too often officials don't ensure therapies are being administered by licensed doctors and many ex-gay therapies are provided by members of the clergy. Foreman also urged that clients and their parents should be informed about the programs' long-term success rates.

"Many of these programs are crossing the line as to what is approved under freedom of expression," Foreman said, according to the Associated Press. "This deserves attention. It deserves to be regulated."

An AP article said the task force chose to release the report in Florida because it is the home base of Exodus International, the nation's largest Christian ministry devoted to converting gays and lesbians to heterosexuals. Exodus International's Alan Chambers told AP reporters he had not seen report but stood behind the success rate of his ministries. He said the organization used clinically trained professionals but admitted only 30-percent of the 130 Exodus ministries nationwide have onsite professionals.

"The truth is that there are hundreds of thousands of men and women like me who have found that change is possible," said Chambers, who counts himself among the ex-gay.

In 1979, Michael Bussee and Gary Cooper, the founders of Exodus International, left their wives to move in together. In 1982, the two were wed in a commitment ceremony.

Foreman called ex-gay therapies frightening, saying they play into stereotypes and caution parents that sons who are too feminine and daughters who are too butch are at risk. Foreman also said ministries tend to blame parents for their children's sexual orientation.



## Arrested justice: When LGBT people land in jail

### *Part one: A frightening odyssey*

By Patrick Letellier

March 27, 2006

When Steve Slater was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving in West Hollywood in 2004, he began what was to become the most frightening odyssey of his life -- spending six days in the notorious Los Angeles County Jail.

"It was so horrible, so terrible, I try to forget it ever happened," Slater (a pseudonym) says.

But forgetting does not come easy. Two years after his release, Slater, a 37-year-old gay marketing executive, is still bitterly angry and, at times, deeply ashamed of the abuse he says he endured at the hands of sadistic guards and cruel and uncaring inmates. He recounts the details he'd rather not remember with startling clarity and little emotion.

Marked as gay by jail officials, who require gay and transgender inmates to wear different-color clothing from nongays, Slater was screamed at by guards and inmates alike for being a "cocksucker," a "pussy" and a "faggot." Within days, he was sexually assaulted by an HIV-positive inmate. He spent two days locked in a psych ward, naked, where the walls were smeared with feces and where other inmates -- blurry figures Slater could hardly see because guards had taken away his glasses -- wailed day and night.

"Those guards took something from me, an appreciation of who I am, and made me feel lower than I ever thought I could feel," he says. "I was happier not knowing a place like that existed."

But places like that -- jails and prisons rife with sexual abuse, violence, disease, and the explicit targeting of gay and transgender inmates -- exist in countless cities in every state. Shocking as it may be, Slater's experience is, in fact, the rule rather than the exception for LGBT inmates in America's prisons.

Gay men and transgender women, in particular, are frequent targets of sexual abuse; many are raped within days or even hours of their incarceration. Gang rapes are not uncommon, and gay and transgender inmates may find themselves "owned" by a gang and forced to endure repeated sexual violence from gang members in exchange for protection from other prisoners.

One former inmate, Roderick Johnson, sued the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 2005 for failing to protect him from harrowing sexual abuse. Johnson testified that during his 18-month sentence he was raped up to 100 times and sold as a sex slave by prison gangs for \$3-\$7 per act.

Rape in prison can also mean exposure to HIV and other STDs, since condoms are rare and rates of HIV/AIDS are four to five times higher behind bars than in the general population, according to research by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"HIV infection should never be part of anyone's prison sentence," says Andrea Cavanaugh Kern, a spokeswoman for Stop Prisoner Rape, an organization working to end sexual assault in jail. "There's a perception by prison officials that gay men like to be raped, and it gets treated like a joke," she says. "But this is a life-or-death issue for the LGBT community."

Transgender prisoners are especially vulnerable to attack because, regardless of their appearance or gender identity, they are almost always housed according to their birth gender. A transgender woman with breast implants who may have been on hormones for years will be locked up with men in an environment ruled by hypermasculinity and violence. Transgender men housed in women's prisons also face abuse, though more from guards than other inmates.

Two transgender prisoners filed suit in January challenging a Wisconsin law that bars inmates from receiving hormones or sex reassignment surgery, a case that highlights the rampant discrimination transgender inmates face, activists say.

"What happens in prisons is a magnification of the discrimination and homophobia people face on the outside," says Kern. "It's important for all of us to fight it."

Yet the mainstream LGBT community has virtually ignored issues of police brutality and the plight of prisoners, focusing its political muscle instead on marriage, the military and hate-crime laws.

**"Society as a whole really ignores prison issues," says Sean Cahill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, "and our community is not so different."**

**All that, however, may be changing.**

**The Policy Institute is now conducting three LGBT prisoner-rights research projects, and this year Lambda Legal took on its first transgender prisoner-rights case.**

"There's a lot of concern about this issue bubbling up right now," says Dean Spade, an attorney with New York's Sylvia Rivera Law Project, which advocates for LGBT prisoner rights. The recent closure of the gay and transgender facility at New York's Rikers Island has galvanized activists as well, Spade says.

"This is a human rights issue, and it can be overwhelming for people to think about," Spade says. "But I'm pathologically optimistic. I have great faith in the power of people to make change."

***Tomorrow: Rape and HIV are all too common***



## The new anti-America conspiracy revealed Book untangles web of extremists giving aid and comfort to enemy

Posted: March 23, 2006

1:00 a.m. Eastern

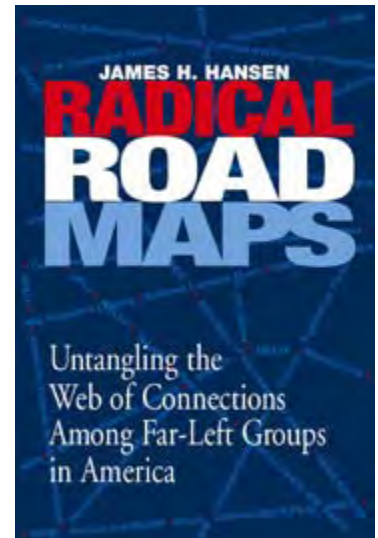
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The Cold War may be over, but there is more interaction between anti-American radical groups, American "progressive" organizations and hostile foreign governments than most Americans realize, reveals an explosive new book by a retired intelligence officer, who, for the first time, tracks the interlocking connections between them.

**In "Radical Road Maps: Untangling the Web of Connections Among Far-Left Groups in America," James Hansen dissects 29 such organizations and reveals their links, their goals, how they operate, why they have been so successful and how they impact American politics and culture.**

Hansen brings his nearly 30 years of experience as an operations officers and analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency and as a senior official in the Defense Intelligence Agency counterintelligence office to the task of chronicling the connections of radical groups – a systematic process never before attempted. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he is the author of "Correlation of Forces: Four Decades of Soviet Military Development and Japanese Intelligence: The Competitive Edge."

Hansen makes the case that both the media and government officials are complicit in the cover-up of what some of the most notorious radical groups really represent.



"Today, radical groups such as the troika of the Workers World Party, International Action Center and Act Now to Stop War and End Racism have sponsored and organized the largest demonstrations against the U.S. war in Iraq," the author says. "The radical troika is helped by a host of liberal groups that participate in these demonstrations, that ignore any warnings of the troika's true character, or that otherwise give radicals a stage or a media outlet. To this day, liberals in the print and broadcast media have obscured the nature radical groups while liberal members of the U.S. Congress have gone out of their way to accommodate and support various radical groups."

**Among the other groups that get special attention from Hansen are the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Institute for Policy Studies, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for National Security Studies, Revolutionary Communist Party USA, People for the American Way, Democratic Socialists of America, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, MoveOn.org, Media Matters and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.** He also takes a close look at individuals such as George Soros and Ramsey Clark.

Employing analytical intelligence techniques and diagrams that seek to clarify the web of connections to expose the radical core, military intelligence expert Hansen helps pave the way for a counteroffensive against what he sees as an anti-American con job.

David Horowitz, former leftist and best-selling author, has this to say about "Radical Road Maps": James Hansen has written a much-needed guide to the fifth-column Left, which wants America to lose the war on terror and will do everything in its power to help the terrorists to win."

"In an era of peace, these aberrant affiliations seem harmless; but in the age of terrorism, these groups become an unwitting – and often more witting – propaganda tool and fifth column for terrorists seeking to mollify and then destroy Western freedoms," says Elizabeth Bancroft, executive director of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. "An important reminder of how easily dissent can become malignantly distorted, metastasize, and kill its host."

"Radical Road Maps" is a handbook designed to help Americans understand how extremist groups are penetrating every element of society. By understanding each group's philosophy, techniques and overall effectiveness, citizens will be equipped to make educated decisions at the ballot box and in everyday life.