A scathing human rights report timed for the start of the Atlanta Olympics accuses the state of Georgia of racial discrimination, intolerance of gays and lesbians, undermining freedom of expression and police abuses.

The nongovernmental group Human Rights Watch said its researchers found that state officials and public policies contradicted Georgia state law, U.S. federal law, the U.S. Constitution and international human rights law.

Human Rights Watch, privately-funded and established almost 20 years ago in the United States to monitor and promote observance of human rights accords worldwide, said those responsible for abuses frequently went unpunished.

The organization said it focused on Georgia to illustrate abuses that also occur in many other parts of the United States and because Atlanta had trumpeted its human rights record as a reason for gaining the summer Olympics.

“Just as Georgia embraces the international sporting system, it should uphold the international system for protecting human rights,” Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth said in a statement. “The same standards of fair play and justice that we applaud on the playing field should be applied to our streets, homes and prisons.”

Atlanta beat favorite Athens and several other cities to host the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Olympic Games, between July 19 and August 4. It will be the biggest Games ever, with more than 10,000 athletes from 197 nations taking part.

Human Rights Watch cited Atlanta’s application to host the Olympic Games in which it described itself as “for many the modern capital of human rights” and equating itself with the “justice and equality inherent in fair play.”
RARE FORM OF AIDS
FROM THE CDC AIDS DAILY
SUMMARY

Federal health officials report that a Los Angeles woman has been identified as the first person in the United States to carry HIV Group O, a rare strain of the virus that is more commonly found in West Africa, where the woman is from. Existing tests for HIV detect Group O about 80 percent of the time, and the woman, who has not been identified, repeatedly tested HIV-negative with various assays. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration emphasized that the rare strain poses very little threat to the blood supply. They noted, however, that HIV tests should be reconfigured to better detect Group O. The woman appears to have been infected in her homeland and was identified months ago during a records search that was initiated after Group O appeared in Europe. Still, the discovery was somewhat accidental, as the woman had been listed as an HIV carrier even though her tests had come back negative. The CDC issued a public report of its finding on Thursday, describing the discovery as an indication that Group O could become a public health problem in the future. Officials at the agency say they plan to present the findings in a “late-breaking presentation” at the 11th International AIDS Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, which was set to begin this last weekend.

PROMOTING DRUGS

As an increasing number of AIDS drugs enter the market and HIV infection becomes increasingly thought of as a manageable disease, drug makers are becoming more aggressive in their marketing of AIDS therapies by targeting the patients themselves. Advertisements for new drugs, which are often expensive, run in magazines like Poo, while drug makers court gay advocacy groups like Gay Men’s Health Crisis. Marketing to HIV-infected patients was especially prominent in the Poz Life Expo, described by its organizers as the first consumer show for HIV-positive people. While analysts say there will probably be no billion-dollar drugs for treating AIDS, small biotechnology companies and large pharmaceutical firms can still make handsome profits off of the many new drugs entering the market.

DC WATER ALERT!

Washington, D.C., Public Health Commissioner Harvey I. Sloane has canceled his warning for city residents to boil tap water before drinking it, claiming the advisory was based on old test data. Sloane based his recommendation to the elderly and to people with compromised immune systems on second-hand reports about tests performed in early June. He said he was not aware until Thursday that more recent tests indicated that bacteria was at normal levels in the city’s water supply. “Basically, I didn’t have all the information regarding the latest testing by the EPA,” Sloane said. “The results have been normal since the 25th of June, and had I known that, I would not have recommended that anybody boil water.” Sloane also acknowledged that city officials were concerned that the advisory would further damage the city’s image, and he said that officials contacted him last Thursday morning with the more recent test results. Before the warning was lifted, volunteers who deliver meals to the more than 300 AIDS patients in the Food and Friends Program distributed gallon jugs of water, as well as instructions for boiling tap water as a precaution.

MONKEYS & RESEARCH

Francois Barre-Sinoussi, a pioneer researcher at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, reports in the British medical journal the Lancet that the “driving force behind the evolution of primate lentiviruses” could help further AIDS research. Barre-Sinoussi noted that one key problem is the rapid speed at which HIV mutates, thus allowing new variants of the virus to continually develop and resist anti-HIV treatments. In an editorial accompanying the report, the Lancet stated, “The war on HIV is certainly one that can be won,” noting that “by comparison with the lack of progress toward effective treatments for rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis, those responsible for research into HIV have nothing to be ashamed of.”

AIDS RESEARCH

An editorial in The Economist says that the powerful AIDS research engine, while now showing promising results, demonstrates that medical research in the United States and Europe is ultimately driven by profit and politics. Over the past 15 years, while scientists have been working to understand and treat HIV and AIDS, 4.5 million people have died of the disease, and another 19 million are now infected with HIV. The United Nations estimates that by 2000, another 11 million to 14 million people will be infected. While not hailed as a cure, scientists are hopeful that a new combination of anti-HIV drugs may be an effective treatment for the disease, allowing people with HIV to live longer, healthier lives. The high cost of the drugs is a serious concern, however, and the authors raise questions about whether wealthy countries’ would feel responsible to provide the drugs for poorer nations. The article also points out that while other diseases pose more serious threats than AIDS in developing countries, research is limited because they are not health threats in the United States or Europe.

SCIENCE AND HOPE

A new AIDS therapy, involving a combination of three drugs, has raised the hopes of AIDS patients, doctors, and researchers that the disease may be treatable as a chronic condition. The new drugs are designed to block HIV’s protease enzyme, needed for the virus to replicate. The therapy combines a protease inhibitor with an older drug, a reverse transcriptase inhibitor. This idea was first published by David Ho, of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, and George Shaw, of the University of Pennsylvania at Birmingham. They showed that HIV replicates continually from the time of initial infection, and is not dormant for years as was previously thought. As the body fights off infection, the virus mutates rapidly, until a strain arises that the immune system cannot overpower. At that point, a patient develops AIDS symptoms. The three-drug therapy aids the immune system, making the virus’ chances of developing more powerful.

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CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

CREATING CHANGE

Barney Frank, the outspoken Democratic Congressman from Massachusetts, will kick off the ninth annual Creating Change Conference, regaling attendees with his views of the 1996 Presidential election. Frank's keynote address opens the conference on Thursday evening, November 7, 1996.

The pre-eminent national gathering of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender activists returns this year to its birthplace of Washington, DC. Pre-conference institutes and trainings will be held November 6 and 7, with the core conference running November 7 through 10. All events during this ninth annual national gathering sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

This year's conference features the first Annual Vito Russo Memorial Lecture on Art & Politics, to be delivered Friday, November 8 by author and poet June Jordan. Jordan is a prolific writer and social critic whose greatest strength is her ability to live what she believes. The late Vito Russo, a 1989 Creating Change keynote speaker, wrote the critically acclaimed study of cinema "The Celluloid Closet."

Veteran organizer Carmen Vasquez, currently the director of public policy at the New York City Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, will deliver a keynote address on Saturday, Nov. 9. Vasquez, a self-described Butch-Puerto Rican-Socialist, is co-director of Promote the Vote, a national voter registration and mobilization project of the country's 65 community centers.

Five all-day pre-conference institutes are scheduled prior to the core workshops and roundtables of the conference. On Wednesday, November 6, two institutes will run simultaneously: the annual "People of Color Organizing Institute," with organizers/facilitators Don Kao, Cathy Cohen, Graciela Sanchez, Michael Mariner, and Katherine Acye; and "Race Is The Issue: An Institute for White Activists," with lead organizer Suzanne Pharr of the Arkansas Women's Project, assisted by a team including Amber Hollibaugh, Marj Plumb, Laura Flanders, Mab Segrest and Jamie Grant.

On Thursday, November 7, the three simultaneous institutes scheduled are "Finding Common Ground: Building Alliances Across Race, Class & Gender Lines," organized and facilitated by Pam McMichael and Pat Hussain, co-directors of Southerners on New Ground; "Youth Organizing Institute," coordinated by youth organizers from the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center; and "Community Centers: Laying the Foundations to Create Change," convened by leaders from the country's gay and lesbian community centers.

Two special all-day tutorials are offered: Fundraising Training with Kim Klein on Thursday, November 7 and Board/Leadership Development with Karl Mathiasen on Friday, November 8. Participants at these special trainings are expected to attend them for the entire day. Registration for these trainings is not included in the conference registration fee; a separate fee will be charged and lunch is included.

A Strategy Meeting for Statewide Organizations will be held on Thursday, November 7. This day-long gathering is by, for, and about the people and groups that toil in the state legislatures, building networks across their state, county by county and town by town. This meeting is organized and facilitated by Helen Gonzales of NGLTF, Paula Ettelbrick of the Empire State Pride Agenda, and Urvashi Vaid, attorney and community organizer.

A panel of inside-the-Beltway pros will lead off the morning on Friday, November 8 with a pithy discussion of The Next Presidential Administration. The current discussions of same-gender marriage, the status of ENDA and federal hate crimes law and the outcome of Colorado's Amendment 2 provide much grist for this mill. This panel discussion is organized and facilitated by writer and activist Torie Osborn.

Conference goers can choose from dozens and dozens of workshops, panels, caucuses, meetings and small group sessions about activists' work in their communities. Subject matter includes: freedom to marry, media, sex and gender identity, organizational development, anti-violence, workplace organizing, speakers bureaus, leadership skills, sodomy laws, and current hot topics and trends in the movement. Digital Queens returns for the fourth year with a full schedule of computer, on-line, and web trainings for everyone, from the weak-fingered rookies to the veteran cyberjocks.

For more information or to receive a Creating Change 1996 brochure and registration brochure, call 202/332-6483, ext. 3329. It is also available on the world wide web at http://www.nglif.org/cc96.

Corrections:
The excellent front page article "Disney Movies are Filled with Fairies" published in our June 24th edition was submitted to us by Steven Edward's, but was actually written by Mile Redmond, staff writer of the Indianapolis Star and News. We apologize!

Also in the July 8th edition we printed "Dolly Parton" rather than "Polly Parton" in the Music City All American display ad on page 11.

Please accept our apology for these grave errors!
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The boys down at "Dance Music Authority" have done it again. In addition to publishing the most helpful and informative dance music magazine, they have released a second compilation of dance music, the title, DMA DANCE Volume 2: The Best of Eurodance, accurately describes the contents.

What makes this compilation essential is the difficulty of finding most of the songs. Just about all of the titles were available only on import and have been out of print. I have been trying to track down Herbie’s “Right Type of Mood” since it’s release. Herbie made the great hNRG records “Come on Boy” and “Make My Body Rock” under the name DJ H featuring Steffy.

Although most of the songs are current euro hits, a few classics are thrown in: Dr. Alban’s “It's My Life,” Two Brothers on the Fourth Floor’s “Let Me Be Free” and Two Unlimited’s “No One.” These songs make the CD feel like a greatest hits of euro.

DMA DANCE Volume 2 has something for everyone. For those who like their euro really fast (over 140 beats per minute), Network’s “Memories,” Double You’s “Dancing With An Angel” and Masterboy’s “Anybody” will satisfy the craving. People on the housey tip will enjoy the self titled “Love Message” track. Pop fans will love La Bouche’s “Be My Lover.”

GREATEST HITS
I was bopping around the CD store last week and noticed that there seems to be a million greatest hits packages out there. Some don’t seem necessary. For example, did Stacy Q really need to release a greatest hits package? This girl has two dance hits in the 80’s “We Connect” and “Two of Hearts” and then disappeared into obscurity. Remember her stint on Facts of Life as Cinnamon? Her greatest hits seems more like a last minute effort to cash in on royalties than actual greatest hits package.

Arista has been on a roll, releasing greatest hits packages from their prestige divas. Whitney Houston’s upcoming greatest hits album is being previewed with a new house remix of “I Wanna Dance With Somebody.” Remixed by Junior Vasquez, it is very similar to Cher’s “One By One.”

But even better, the mix starts out very dark as a building bass beat which crescendos into the most high energy mix that Junior has ever done. Look for this to be a huge club hit when it is eventually released.

On the Arista tip, both Taylor Dayne and Expose have Greatest Hits albums. Taylor Dayne mines the singles from her breakthrough “Tell It To My Heart” to her most recent single “Say A Prayer.” Remixes of these singles and “I’ll Wait” are included as bonus tracks on the CD. Her hits such as “Love Will Lead You Back,” “Prove Your Love,” and “I’ll Be Your Shelter” stand up well against the test of time.

Expose has been through several member changes, but their music has been consistently excellent. From dance hits such as “Point Of No Return” and “Come With Me” to ballads like “I’ll Never Get Over You” and “Season’s Change,” Expose was a strong group. Their cover “I Specialize in Love” was remixed for their greatest hits CD.

While Boy George is currently exploring his rock and roll side, his greatest hit album At Worst...the Best of Boy George combines his solo hits with the best of the Culture Club. “Do You Really Want To Hurt Me” introduced Culture Club to the world. Who can forget all the controversy that his effeminate nature and cross dressing caused? Ditties like “Karma Chameleon” and “I’ll Tumble 4U” are some of the best dance songs that the early 80’s had to offer. The most humorous track is definitely “Down Mister.” Recorded during his conversion to Hare Krishna, he suggests an end to the world’s problems through new found self enlightenment.

Also good for a laugh is Cyndi Lauper’s 12 Deadly Cyn... Of course “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” is the most obvious, but did you ever hear the reggae version “Hey Now!” Cyndi never took herself too seriously, with dance hits such as “She Boy” (an ode to female self satisfaction) and “Money Changes Everything” (trash cans as motorized vehicles anyone?) Ballads such as “Time After Time,” “True Colors” and “Change of Heart” all stand the test of time. Actually, her hit “I Drove All Night” was recently covered by dance act Bandido, which makes me wonder which of her hits will be covered next.

Good Garbage
Last week, I mentioned the Todd Terry remix of Garbage’s “Stupid Girl” and thanks to Rich from the Mix Factory, I got a tape of it. Although I liked Garbage’s previous songs “Queer” and “Only Happy When It Rains,” I always hoped for a club mix. Similar to the remix of Smashing Pumpkins’ “1978,” the mix is phenomenal. All that is added is a steady drum machine beat with the original vocals and effects kept in place. Be sure to check out “Stupid Girl” when it is released commercially in the upcoming weeks.
SUNDAY
Music City Rollers Winter Bowling League: 12:30 p.m. 227-3543
Volunteer Volleyball: 7:30 p.m. - 297-0008
Stonewall Mission Church: 6:30 p.m. at 703 Berry Road 297-0008
Dayspring Christian Fellowship: 7:00 p.m. 13th & Holly Street at East End
United Methodist Church in east Nashville 227-3261
Metropolitan Community Church: 7:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd.
MONDAY
Positive Attitude: 6-8pm at the Connection for HIV+ individuals & friends 742-1166
NOW: National Organization for Women 4th Monday 7:00 p.m. 292-6371
Program Study Group (AA): 7:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
HIV - infected & Affected (AA): Met at the Tree, 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Integrity: Alternatives (AA): 7:30 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.
Vanderbilt Lambda Association: 7:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd
OTHER
Overeater's Anonymous: 5:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Program Study Group (AA): 7:00 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.
THURSDAY
Music City Rollers II: Bowling League 6:30 p.m. Donelson Plaza Lanes 227-3543
The Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice: The Board meets 7p.m. the 1st Thurs &
the general membership meets 7p.m. the 3rd Thurs. At St. Ann's Episcopal Church 5th &
Woodland. Info 298-LOGC (5425)
INTERACT: Gay men's discussion group 7:00-8:30 P.M. on 2nd & 4th Thursday
703 Berry Road 297-0008
Vanderbilt Lambda Association: 7:30 p.m. Winter & Fall 322-0376
Alternatives (AA): 7:30 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.
FRIDAY
1-800-845-4266
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Program Study Group (AA): 7:00 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.
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DIVERSITY, UNITY AND WILDLIFE

Diversity, Unity, and Wildlife

“I see that you’ve been writing,” he said, “but how do your stories serve the purpose of that public: promoting diversity, visibility, and unity in our community?”

I knew the answer, but how could I explain it? Most of my stories dealt with wildlife, with an event in nature, or with the emotions and feelings of a certain type of individual in a certain situation. Rarely do I write about everyday prejudice against a gay or lesbian individual, or about news events concerning the same.

Yet, I do feel there is a connection. It has to do with the balance among and connections between all of us: the living and the inanimate, the humans and the many creatures. A person who has no appreciation for the various creatures in the animal kingdom likely also has no appreciation for the various types of human beings, in my opinion. Yet, I believe they are part of “our community.” How likely is an individual who never notices the beauty of the flowers in his yard to notice the beauty buried beneath the surface of a human whom he does not necessarily like? To find those flowers in the grass, he must lie on his belly and look carefully among the green blades. Unless the lawn has been inundated with chemicals, there will be tiny flowers scattered among the grasses: there is a whole eco-system living there that we rarely see. And just as one must lie on his belly and carefully see to those wonder, one must often look closely beneath the surface of an otherwise uninteresting human to see the wonder that is there. So then, if I can stir one to look for the wonders among the grasses, might they not also look for the wonders of the rest of the human race, and learn that the diversity is a wonderful thing?

Then there are the larger creatures. Whether it be a snake, skunk, raccoon, opossum, hawk, sparrow, or whatever: there is a wonderful diversity among them. Among them, there is much for us to learn, to appreciate, to laugh about, and to wonder about. They can teach us, if only we will open our ears and eyes and learn. They, too, are part of “our community.”

Although the one next door has only a patch of white upon his head, and is otherwise completely black, this one is almost completely white. I have watched this young creature for many nights while he rooted his tiny nose among the grass in the yard, and dug with such energy that dirt flew behind him like a waterfall. He pounces, much like a cat, when he spots the substance he feeds upon. But to witness all of his frolicking, I first had to patiently gain his trust. Perhaps you would say I am crazy, because the penalty for not being trusted would surely have been a heavy dose of his pungent oil. I say that sometimes the risk is worth the reward, and that I was confident in my ability to be trusted. So, I sat far away for several nights, quietly scooting a little closer every so often. He watched me guardedly at first, but now he pays attention as I sit about twenty feet away and watch.

Now I ask you: Is this not also true of relationships with fellow human beings? Do we not risk when we try to earn the trust of these creatures? Is it not worth the reward? Can we not enrich our lives by patiently working to earn the trust of those much different from ourselves? And does this not foster unity among the human race? I think the answer to each is “yes.” So then, as you read my columns in the coming months, (with Linda’s blessing) consider them as more than just wildlife stories. Consider the broader applications behind them, and how they might promote diversity and unity within your own community. We must be accepting to be accepted.
**XENOGENY NEWS BYTES**

**EXPELLED FROM PARK SAFE ZONE**

On July 6th, Merrisa Leigh Coleman, a Sacramento-area transsexual and her son, were harassed and expelled from “Water World,” a local theme park opened to the public.

Confronted by a small army while at the park, Coleman had tried on and purchased a bikini at the park store. A short time later, she was surrounded by 3 Park Rangers, a Deputy Sheriff, and several park employees (including the park’s General Manager). Informed there had been a complaint, Coleman was questioned and forced to leave.

The woman who lodged the complaint refused to give her name, and when asked by officers present if Coleman appeared male or female to her, responded “I don’t know.”

“Will Have You Checked Out.” Referring to Coleman as “a guy in drag,” the Deputy Sheriff also accused her of lewd conduct for using the Women’s Room to relieve herself. When informed her California driver’s license and ID show her as female, he responded, “Well, we’ll just take you into the restroom and have one of these ladies check you out,” adding “Whoever issued you your driver’s license didn’t check you out good enough.”

The Sheriff declined to take any formal statements in this case, including one from the complainant, and formal charges were filed. The entire affair was conducted as publicity as possible, possibly to maximize Coleman’s humiliation.

“I feel humiliated and degraded and made to feel like a freak, Stated Merrisa This was done completely indiscriminately right in front of hundreds of people as well as my own son. I could have been taken aside, questioned in private, and asked for my ID and, when it showed me as female, the matter dropped.

“I’ve worked so hard to get to where I am in such a short time, and now I have no idea where I am going. I’ve been having nightmares, nausea, lack of appetite and I’m terrified to be alone or even seen in public right now.”

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Southwest Air (800/435-9792) is running a promotional special that is good through the display in DC. They just announced it: $100 round trip from West of the Mississippi to Baltimore-Washington International, $50 round trip east of the Miss for travel between August 19 and October 31. This is extraordinary and will not last very long. Tickets must be bought by July 23rd.

The professional staff and Professors at Western Washington University now can post stickers declaring their offices safe zones for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. Supporters say the stickers send a message that the students can find an understanding listener.

“It’s symbolic of a willingness and a commitment for open discussion about anything and everything. But there’s a big difference between being willing to talk to people and treat people as people regardless of whether your values match theirs, and signing on,” Nelson said. “I’m not going to put a sticker up for that reason.”

Other professors worry that the stickers will cast them in a counseling role they’re not trained for. Still others wonder if people will assume they don’t accept homosexuals if they decide not to display the stickers.

The stickers first were available four years ago and are being reintroduced by the campus Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns Committee.

The first round of distribution didn’t reach everyone, and some students still find the campus hostile, said Matt Pearcey, a WWU graduate student who co-chairs the committee and led efforts to get the stickers.

The committee sent memos to department heads and student affairs administrators in late May telling them about the stickers. Since then, faculty and staff members have requested about 50 of the 500 stickers.

The stickers are intended to identify people who support gay, lesbian and bisexual students and who can refer them to others better able to address their needs and concerns. Pearcey said.

An example: A lesbian would know she could speak openly with a financial aid officer about any financial obligations she had to her partner’s child.

Psychology professor George Cvetkovich, president of the Faculty Senate, said he regards the stickers as a positive effort and understands why the committee thinks they are needed, given anti-gay rights initiatives in several states, among other things.

But when asked whether he would display a sticker, he said his first reaction was “no.”

“It’s sort of claiming something about me in terms of what I can provide in terms of counseling,” he said.

But Cvetkovich said he would be willing to refer students to the appropriate campus and community agencies to seek help with personal problems.

Marie Eaton, dean of Fairhaven College, supports the sticker program. She still has a sticker from the previous distribution, which she helped engineer when she was WWU’s vice president for student affairs.

Then, she and other student affairs administrators saw the stickers as a response to surveys showing that gay, lesbian and bisexual students felt invisible on campus or felt hostility from others.

The safe zone stickers are one small way to help shift that climate.

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WHO'S ATTACKING CHRISTIANITY?

BY BILL TURNER

I recently read a story about two Tennesseans who attended the latest annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. You will have heard about that meeting, no doubt. It was the one at which the Southern Baptists resolved to boycott Disney for its willingness to recognize the rights of lesbians and gay men.

According to this latest story, one speaker at the SBC meeting predicted that in just a few years it would be acceptable to attack Christians openly. As evidence, he offered the infamous example of "Piss Christ," in which an artist photographed a crucifix submerged in urine. He went on to suggest that, should any good Christian decide to photograph a rainbow flag submerged in urine, that person would suffer consequences from lesbians and gay men.

This argument rests on several mistaken assumptions. One is the idea that all Christians agree with the SBC. Thus, anything that the SBC doesn't like constitutes an attack on Christianity. The Southern Baptists cannot fathom the possibility that many devout Christians might find "Piss Christ" profoundly offensive, but not see in it evidence of a conspiracy to attack Christianity as a religion. Or, at worst, see it as a conspiracy of one.

More disturbing is the automatic parallel from art that Southern Baptists find offensive to lesbians and gay men. Why did this speaker use the rainbow flag for his example? Why not a Star of David or something similar?

Because for some Southern Baptists, the mere existence of openly lesbian and gay persons constitutes a threat to Christianity.

Never mind that many lesbians and gay men are devout Christians. Never mind that we would all be perfectly happy just to ignore the SBC if its members could get over their morbid fascination with us. From their perspective, if we're out of the closet, Christianity as a whole is under siege.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"Piercing your tongue is a lesbian contradiction in terms."
—From Shelly Roberts' new book "Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Living."

"There's somebody I've been seeing, a wonderful, wonderful man. Dating's weird. It's hard... I don't think I've ever felt as emotionally close to someone. But it's difficult. He's HIV-negative and I'm positive. It's an issue, no matter how well-adjusted we are. It is an issue... something's got his success in his own right. He's even said, 'I'm used to being the star.' The roles are a little reversed."
—Greg Louganis to Portland, Oregon's Just Out.

"They have been more supportive since I have come out."
—Diver Greg Louganis to Atlanta's Etcetera magazine on his advertising association with the Speedo swimsuit company.

"I thought I was out... I never made any secret about my life. But, you know, [British actor] Ian McKellen... wrote to every gay artist and said, 'It's your duty to come out.' I said: 'Not F-k that!' I don't feel a duty until I'm good and ready. I mean, as far as I'm concerned, I made 'Sunday Bloody Sunday.' I made 'Darling' with a positive gay character, and I'd done 'Midnight Cowboy' which I never considered anti-gay... I hate outing. I absolutely despise it. I think it's just as bad as any fascist activity, unless it's somebody in public office who's against any formal change in gay law but is a raving homosexual."
—Film director John Schlesinger to Atlanta's Etcetera magazine.

"NBC cast me as a captain in the military in a miniseries. I just strut on stage and nobody says boo about it. And I'm the biggest, butchest, bull-dyke you've ever seen in your life in that uniform! I thought they were going to poop my hair like they do with [my character on the TV series] 'Matlock' [but] they cut it, they made my hair shorter, they made me even butchier than I am."
—Comic Lea DeLaria to Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle.

"The femen. The long-haired, beautiful babes. And young, young, young! I always say that if they're old enough to be in my field of vision, they're old enough for me!"
—Comic Lea DeLaria when asked by Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle, "What kind of girl gets your attention?"

"I believe that those who promote discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are gravely mistaken—about the values that make our nation strong. I will continue to move my administration in the direction of compassion, acceptance, and understanding."
—President Bill Clinton in an interview with The Advocate (June 25 issue).

"The human sex drive is extraordinarily powerful. It may become inappropriately affixed to underwear, corpses, animals, children, footstools and members of the same sex."
—Long Beach, Calif., City Councillor Jerry Shultz, in a speech opposing domestic-partnership registration.
In the South, the adage "it's better to let sleeping dogs lie" has a long and honored history of accuracy. Everyone knows that if you wake up a sleeping dog, he's a damn nuisance. I've heard it was God's punishment to me for teaching my Aunt Elsie's boyfriends, ex-girlfriends, and ex-spouses, where the parrot to say "cunnilingus." But whenever my ex—well, you want to call "Dean," a good name for a dog—reappeared, I simply thought of him as a sleeping dog and left him pretty much alone.

Then a few months ago, there was a message blinking seductively on my machine. It was "Dean." He was in Atlanta for a conference. He said he really missed me, he would have envisioned. I let him win. I walked away from the game. I had an ex like that. Until recently. Every six months to a year, he'd show up in my life, do something really interesting, too. It's better to leave 'em alone. One of my friends even changed his phone number after his ex tried calling too many times.

Our evening was surprising and completely unexpected. There was none of the old rancor that had characterized our interactions before the break-up. He no longer seemed like a strange gay space alien in human form interit on making my body feel, and the way mine felt against his. I feltemy feelings of connection with him, once re-awakened, were still there. I found I'd missed the way his body felt, and the way mine felt against his. I felt safe again, as though nothing bad could ever happen to me, so long as we were in each other's arms.

Yet my little voice was nagging at me, telling me that the encounter would be full of sound and fury, latent and lubricant, ultimately signifying nothing. And my inner voice was right. "Dean" left Atlanta two days later, without returning my calls, or even calling to say good-bye. At first, I was stunned. Then I was hurt. Then I was, quite oddly, really amused. I'd fallen for the same ruse all over again, the same power game that led to the end of our relationship in the first place. I could almost see a dog sitting at my feet, laughing at me, hyena-style (doggie-style seeming an inappropriate expression here). So I decided to stop worrying about it, and did the unthinkable. I let him win. I walked away from the game. I also walked to the nearest phone—someone else's phone—and paged an escort, Helga, Princess of Pain, Whip and Cuffs Optional, to his home. The best revenge must always fit the crime, have a sense of humor, and never hurt anyone. "Dean" was clearly seeking the services of a prostitute in Atlanta, so I sent him one. Actually, two. Hans, the Bavarian Slave Master looked interesting, too.

Of course, the sad part was that "Dean" was someone I truly, deeply loved, and this was hardly the final good-bye I would have envisioned.

But I've learned my lesson, and melodramatic moments aside, I guess I'm just lucky I didn't need a proper scooper.

Next time, you can be sure I'll remember to let sleeping dogs lie.

Kevin Isom is an attorney and writer in Atlanta. His columns appear in newspapers and magazines throughout the U.S. and Canada. His fiction has appeared in Paris Transcontinental and other magazines.

**LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE**

**BY KEVIN ISOM**

*Cirripede* is a bust...no pun intended!

*58% of the people polled think that Cathie Lee Gifford should leave the show. Can I see a show of hands of those who whish she would fall off the ship!

*The Who (Who?) performed a concert in England for charity benefit...150,000 people attended the event.

*The cereal wars rages on...now Post has lowered their prices. Soon I will be able to eat Fruit Loops, again...wait a minute...that wasn't...cereal...there was no milk involved...but I do definitely in a box!

*Prince or Lady!!! He & his lovely wife are expecting...the question is will the kid have a name or a symbol?

*Elton John divorced his wife, it cost him $12.5 million...I got divorced last year and all I got was the furniture!

*"Courage Under Fire" stars Denzel Washington & Meg Ryan. The film is about the 1st woman ever awarded the Medal Of Honor in combat.

*"Multiplicity," starring Michael Keaton is about a man that works way too much! So he has himself cloned...couldn't he just hire himself a maid?

*I've never been one to turn away a puppy, so the evening naturally progressed down a more intimate pathway. Never mind that he'd put on twenty pounds in two years and seemed to have lost a commensurate amount of hair. My feelings of connection with him, once re-awakened, were still there. I found I'd missed the way his body felt, and the way mine felt against his. I felt safe again, as though nothing bad could ever happen to me, so long as we were in each other's arms.

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**CELEBRITY CHIT CHAT**

**BY RICHARD MORTON**

* The talk in "Tinsel Town" is that Demi's new movie "Striptease" is a bust...no pun intended!

* The Who (Who?) performed a concert in England for charity benefit...150,000 people attended the event.

* The cereal wars rages on...now Post has lowered their prices. Soon I will be able to eat Fruit Loops, again...wait a minute...that wasn't...cereal...there was no milk involved...but I do definitely in a box!

* Prince or Lady!!! He & his lovely wife are expecting...the question is will the kid have a name or a symbol?

* Elton John divorced his wife, it cost him $12.5 million...I got divorced last year and all I got was the furniture!

* "Courage Under Fire" stars Denzel Washington & Meg Ryan. The film is about the 1st woman ever awarded the Medal Of Honor in combat.

* "Multiplicity," starring Michael Keaton is about a man that works way too much! So he has himself cloned...couldn't he just hire himself a maid?

* Jeff Fisher, coach of the Oilers best season was 7 to 9!

* Queen Elizabeth or (Liz as I like to call her) and Prince Philip have been married for 50 years! Why isn't Phillip King?

* Margot Kidder will be playing the lead in "Calamities." They have already removed all the foliage around the building!

* "Excess Baggage" is the next film for Chris Walken & Harry Connick Jr. I can just hear it now, huh huh huh huh!

* Dr. Joyce Brothers said of her experience while acting on "Baywatch"..."I was the only one on the set without a push-up bra! See I knew David Hasslehoff was a cross dresser...it's in his bra!

* Rosie O'Donnell says since she adopted her baby, she's in bed by 10pm, before that she was just getting started at 10pm

* Fergie soon will be seen on QVC selling jewelry...I wonder who's?????

* Greg Louganis is touring the U.S. promoting and signing the paperback version of his bestseller, "Breaking the Surface." Louganis will not be reporting the Summer Olympics.
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SISTER SAGE’S ASTROLOGICAL READINGS

Aries March 21st - April 20th
You super rams are able to leap tall buildings in a single bound and perform exceptional acts of bravery. But just like Superman/woman, you become vulnerable (defensive) when exposed to matter from the grapevine (gossip). There is an antidote; but all you I-did-it-my-way-types may find it hard to swallow. It’s called ignore it and compromise “believe only half of what you hear.” Liberal doses will soothe the pain.

Taurus April 21st - May 20th
A major planetary shift has set the stage for significant long term changes is your career. You are a charter member of Procrastinators Anonymous. But don’t worry, you don’t have to do anything except think about doing what you’ve always dreamed of, but for Security reasons never pursued. It is hard for you to change but in the long run you will be glad you followed your heart’s desire and made the switch.

Gemini May 21st - June 20th
At the risk of having you think I’m a one-note astrologer, I have to bring up your love life again. Face it, you were in serious danger of being dubbed a “must to avoid”. If you’re otherwise engaged, you’ll deepen your attachment; if you’re a single Twin, renounce the glitterati and go for the gold. It is time for you to try out what you learned about love on a real, live person. Keep soul searching for your soul mate.

Cancer June 21st - July 22nd
Hello! You have reached the Birthday wish hotline. If you were born under the sign of the crab, please select one. If you wish to be smothered with love- by someone other than your mother- press one. If you wish to smother your mother press two. If you wish to remain in your current co-dependent rut- please hang up. There is no time like the present to break free and realize your wildest dreams. It’s your call.

Leo July 23rd - August 22nd
This week will find you running low. It is a good time to pull off the road and replenish your spirit. You’ll get more mileage by cruising around and exploring something new for your favorite night spot. There will be plenty of them coming your way. This week you can do what comes easy for you Egoists: self reflection. The more enlightened among you can challenge yourselves by doing it without a mirror.

Virgo August 23rd - September 22nd
Your detractors claim that because you see life in all its dizzying detail, you don’t grasp the big picture. Those armchair philosophers are the same ones who come running to you when they can’t close the deal or change the tone in the copy machine. No matter because you will have the last last laugh. Your career is about to speed into high gear and leave them all behind in the dust. Not that you would leave any dust.

Libra September 23rd - October 22nd
In the next episode of “All My Libras” Pat - on a business trip- meets dashing Kelly, who begs them to stay and vacation at their villa. Trouble is, Pat has just landed the plum project of their career and is expected to holiday at the family bungalow. Caught in the classic Libra dilemma trying to please everyone. Does this shoe fit you????

Scorpio October 23rd - November 22nd
You have been stereotyped as the sex fiend of the zodiac, but you hunger for far more than physical passion, and now you’re going to get it. In (ahem) lay terms: Lust and love are coupling in your house of sexual transcendence. Unleash your power where you and your partner will soar to heights of simultaneous ecstasy! Your career will skyrocket if you just put forth a little effort.

Sagittarius November 23rd - Dec. 21st
Itching to explore uncharted territory? Look no further than your own intimate relationship or lack thereof. Your partner has to spur, nag, bribe or do whatever it takes to get you to grab more out of your love life. All you have to do is take those blinders off and sit still long enough to identify your issues. Then you will be free to strut your stuff and ride tall in the saddle. Work on travel plans and self-promotion.

Capricorn December 22nd - January 19th
A blue moon represents a rare opportunity to identify and express your deepest feelings and needs. So don’t even think about using work as an excuse to avoid them. When it comes to sexual intimacy, revealing a little vulnerability will go a long way toward avoiding a major confrontation. Just be grateful you only have to do it “once in a blue moon.”

Aquarius January 20th - February 18th
Do take advantage of the love planets stimulating your house of self-expression to show how innovative and experimental you can be. You can make the most of the situation by trying out some of your more ingenious ideas in your bedroom. Don’t be surprised if your partner has some ideas of his own. As hard as it is for you to believe, other people do get to control the situation every now and then. Flip a coin to see who wins.

Pisces February 19th - March 20th
“Where’s the romance?” is what you Fabulous Fish ask. Ooops!! I went for the bottom line and made some exemptions from reality. Your love life and creativity bloom this week. Even a potential domestic disturbance can’t dampen your high spirits. It’s as near a Pisces paradise as I can imagine, complete with cool days and hot nights.

Sources:
Metro Health Department, Nashville Davidson County, TN.

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On June 28, MTV broke new broadcast ground when the network included same-sex couples in its popular dating game show, “Singled Out.” As with other media milestones, however, this advance was marked by a simultaneous retreat. For “Singled Out’s” lesbian and gay episode, MTV canceled the show’s usual prime-time broadcast. Instead, the program was shown four hours later at 11:00 PM. Moreover, the broadcast was a one-time deal. Whereas regular (heterosexual) episodes of “Singled Out” are repeated several times during the week, the homosexual episode was aired only once.

In an interview with the Associated Press (June 27), MTV spokesperson Tina Exarhos attempted to explain the network’s extraordinary scheduling. There was some content we felt should air at a later time,” Exarhos said. “It has absolutely nothing to do with outside pressure from any group. We’re proud to present the show, and we’re doing it during Gay Pride week.”

Of course, by “some content” Exarhos meant “homosexual content” — ANY homosexual content. The lesbian and gay episode did not, after all, differ in any other way from previous broadcasts of “Singled Out.”

Privately, MTV staff have challenged the network’s official explanation. According to one employee, the 7:00 PM broadcast was actually preempted because several “advertisers, led by McDonalds, backed out.”

A spokesperson for NAYA botted water— one of “Singled Out’s” regular sponsors— publicly took exception to MTV’s preemptive strike, however. “It looks like censorship, and you don’t expect that from MTV,” said Steve Wasik, NAYA’s vice president and general manager.

Of course, relegating lesbian and gay subjects to fringe time slots is hardly without precedent in other mainstream media. Most recently, ABC touted an episode of “Roseanne,” simply because it contained a gay wedding scene. According to ABC’s (double) standards and practices department, such “adult content” was not suitable for young viewers.

MTV’s decision is especially discouraging, though. As Wasik suggested, this network has made more of an effort than most to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender content. Queer themes have not only appeared in MTV’s music video rotations, but also in the network’s “Sex in the 90’s” documentaries, “MTV News” reports, and every incarnation of “The Real World.” (See “Real Sex,” below).

In deciding to relocate the lesbian and gay episode of “Singled Out,” MTV capitulated to one of the most regressive programming assumptions. In the dominant entertainment media, queers are consistently (if not exclusively) presumed to be something of “special interest.” Often, homosexual subjects are treated as if they can (or should) appeal ONLY to homosexuals. Clearly, this was MTV’s assumption.

Most of the promotional energy for “Singled Out’s” lesbian and gay episode was spent pitching the broadcast to a lesbian and gay audience. MTV placed ads for the show in “Out” magazine, which subsequently purchased airtime on MTV. “Out” was conspicuously advertised during the episode, appearing as the irregular sponsor for an irregular broadcast.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with patronizing or promoting queer publications. With regard to the mainstream media, however, such targeting can (without direct intention) cause a confused audience—which is often ignored, or overlooked.

In his review of “Out On Tuesday” (a lesbian/gay series that aired on British television in the early 1990s), media critic Colin Richardson identifies a similar problem. “Channel 4 advertised the series in the lesbian and gay press,” Richardson reports. However, the channel ran very few trailers for the series on screen, suggesting that it neither wanted to draw attention to what it was doing lest it attract criticism nor that it had much interest in converting—a straight audience.”

Richardson also cites a survey on “Sex and Sexuality in Broadcasting,” which had been conducted by England’s Broadcasting Standards Council (BSC). When asked for their opinions about “homosexual representations on television,” 61 percent of the respondents “were opposed to banning ‘programmes and films about gays and lesbians,’ but 71 percent agreed that they ‘would find it embarrassing to watch homosexual sex scenes with some of the people with whom I watch TV’ and 58 percent agreed that ‘homosexuals should be able to see their own programmes.”

The public’s allowance for “their OWN programmes” is most revealing, says Richardson, because “Out On Tuesday” was “just that.” “Unusually for a television series, it was cut off from the general flow,” he observes. “We were left talking to ourselves... The place it occupied in the schedule, far from being a bridgehead from which lesbians and gay men would move on to conquer the commanding heights of British broadcasting, became in fact a black hole into which every programme idea even remotely concerned with homosexuality disappeared.”

Admittedly, Richardson fails to acknowledge the value of “talking to ourselves”— a media activity that is most often a privilege of the dominant culture. There is an undoubted place — and need — for “special interest programming.”

Yet, in a pluralistic society, the mass media ought to reflect diverse communities to EACH OTHER — not only to THEMSELVES. Homosexuality is a television taboo PRECISELY BECAUSE the networks systematically treat such themes as ESSENTIAL controversies — mature subject matter that “should air at a later time.”

In the broadcast industry, such heterosexist expectations — of viewer disinterest or disgust — become self-fulfilling prophecies. The networks do not simply appease an audience of homophobes — they cultivate it.

As long as they continue to sequence “general audiences” from homosexuality, the producers of popular entertainment abet a taste for hate. **** ACTION/OPTIONS: The first step in cultivating a general audience for prime-time diversity is simple: GIVE IT TO THEM. And DON’T hide it away. In the past, MTV has demonstrated a capacity to do better in this regard. Contact: Judy McGrath, President, MTV Networks, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036.
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  - 2535 Franklin Road
  - 297-4571

- **Chez Collette**
  - 300 Hermitage Ave
  - 256-9154

- **Connection**
  - 901 Cowan Street
  - 742-1166

- **Gaslight Lounge**
  - 167 1/2 8th Ave
  - 254-1278

- **The Jungle**
  - 306 4th Avenue South
  - 256-9414

- **KC's Club 909**
  - 909 Church Street
  - 251-1813

- **Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern**
  - 515 2nd Ave S.
  - 256-9682

- **The Triangle**
  - 1401 4th Avenue South
  - 242-8131

- **Worlds End**
  - 1713 Church St.
  - 329-9480

- **Yonah's Saloon**
  - Cafe Girlfriend
  - 700 4th Avenue South
  - 251-0980

Therapists:

- **Karin Abbiot, Ph.D., LCSW**
  - 1916 Patterson Street, #206
  - 320-1502

- **Joyce Arnold, M.Ed., M. Div., Ph.D.**
  - 385-9255

- **Carlon Cornell, LCSW**
  - 322-9309

- **Terri A. Franco, LCSW**
  - 664-5185

- **Julie D. Jones, LCSW**
  - 646-5185

- **Barbara Sanders LCSW**
  - 327-0756

- **John Senter, LCSW**
  - 700 Craighead Blvd. #101
  - 385-4411

- **John Waide, PH.D. LCSW**
  - 329-0758

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- **John Senter, LCSW**
  - 700 Craighead Blvd. #101
  - 385-4411

- **John Waide, PH.D. LCSW**
  - 329-0758

Travel Agents:

- **Pride Travel**
  - 1123 Murfreesboro Road
  - 360-8485

Adult Entertainment:

- **Metro News**
  - 822 5th Avenue South
  - 256-1310

- **Purple Onion South**
  - 2807 Nolensville Road
  - 259-9229

Florists:

- **Brentwood's Botanical Creations & Gifts**
  - 127 Franklin Road
  - 661-8811

- **Florist Nashville**
  - 1819 Church St
  - 259-9229

Clothing, Gifts & Jewelry:

- **PANGAEA**
  - 3203 Belmont Blvd.
  - 269-9665

DJ's:

- **DJ's Without Attitude**
  - 269-3420

- **Ron Slomowicz (DJ 91.1)**
  - 661-8811

Churches:

- **Stonewall Mission Church**
  - 703 Berry Road
  - 269-3420

- **Davis-Kidd Bookstores**
  - 4007 Hillsboro Rd.
  - 385-2645

Art:

- **Local Color Art**
  - 1910 Broadway
  - 321-3141

Books, Music and More:

- **Barnes & Noble Bookstores**
  - 1701 Mallory Lane
  - 377-9977

- **Bookstar Book Store**
  - 4310 Harding
  - 292-7895

AIDS Support:

- **Vanderbilt AIDS Trials**
  - 993-1174

Bed & Breakfast:

- **Dancing Fish Lodge**
  - 627 Waverly Lane-Waverly
  - (615) 296-5333

- **Women's Center**
  - 1313 Woodland Street
  - 262-1766

- **Purple Onion South**
  - 2807 Nolensville Road
  - 259-9229

- **Brooks Bookstore**
  - 127 Franklin Road
  - 257-1020

- **Tower Books, Tower Music**
  - 2400 West End
  - 327-3722

Chiropractor:

- **Dr. Deborah Kowalski**
  - 110 Harding Place
  - 532-1234

Therapeutic Massage:

- **Body Conscious Massage**
  - 108 Harding Place, Ste 100
  - 356-1082

- **Solo To Soul**
  - 321-0600

- **Becky Bucman**
  - 386-1224

Hair Stylist:

- **Thomas Myers Salon**
  - 121 21st Ave North
  - 321-5600

- **New Beginnings**
  - 2123 8th Ave. South
  - 385-0099

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