

LGLC NEWSLETTER

**LIBERTARIANS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN CONCERNS
NUMBER 25**

SUMMER 1992

LGLC Sponsors International Conference

By Richard Sincere and James Hudler

THIS YEAR'S LGLC International Conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11 in Washington, DC. Hosted by the Washington area activist group Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty (GLIL) in the Quality Hotel Central near downtown Washington's historic Dupont Circle, the conference is scheduled to coincide with National Coming Out Day (October 11) and the display of the AIDS Quilt in Washington.

Invited speakers include Andrew Sullivan, editor of *The New Republic*; Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; and Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Also invited are Libertarian Presidential Candidate Andre Marrou and Vice Presidential Candidate Nancy Lord; research scientist and author Mary Ruwart; and LGLC International Coordinator James Hudler. A full program will be announced when these and other speakers are confirmed. There may also be some pleasant surprises.

Speakers will be heard Saturday. A business meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning, according to Hudler, for discussion of topics including adoption of an LGLC platform and a specific program for activism.

Early registrants can take advantage of a reduced registration fee of \$75.00, which covers breakfast, lunch, and dinner plus conference materials. The fee increases to \$90.00 after September 20. Send your check, payable to GLIL, PO Box 65743, Washington DC 20035. For more information, contact Rick Sincere at (703) 920-4023.



Richard Sincere, GLIL leader and chair of the LP of Virginia, has been one of the major organizers of the 1992 LGLC Convention.

For information about room rates and reservations at the Quality Hotel Central, call (202) 332-9330. Additional rooms for conference participants are being put aside at the nearby Normandy Inn, (202) 483-1350.

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ELECT ANDRE MARROU PRESIDENT! ELECT NANCY LORD VICE PRESIDENT! SUPPORT LOCAL LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES!

Paid Political Ad

From the International Coordinator

By James Hudler

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP, a growing list of interested persons and a few sizable donations have strengthened LGLC over the past four months. More local activism and the organization of additional local gay/libertarian groups mark our continued success. We are still deficient in getting gay media exposure for libertarian views and in wielding libertarian influence in mainstream gay political activity.

Over twenty-five dues-paying members have joined LGLC since last I wrote, and we have received about the same number of inquiries. These are encouraging numbers, considering that we have not advertised in the past four months due to financial constraints. It would help LGLC a great deal if those of you who are receiving this newsletter but have yet to join or make a donation would do so. A colored circle will appear on your envelope mailing label if we have not received any funds from you.

Two different LGLC recruitment brochures are being prepared for publication now. A copy of each will be mailed to each member along with an order form, so you can start promoting LGLC in your area!

Washington, DC's Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty recently presented a panel discussion on "The March on Washington Platform." This gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender political platform is substantially non-libertarian and demonstrates the need for more action on our part.

I had the pleasure of meeting with leaders of the Liberty Belle Political Action Group while I was traveling near Philadelphia recently. Charles (Chip) Kroekel is the President of this libertarian/gay group, and

Zach Menschhofer is the newly elected Executive Secretary. Active in eastern Pennsylvania and southwest New Jersey, LBPAG is planning a presentation on libertarian political alternatives to the social group Gay People of Princeton on October 26; and they will sponsor author Marvin Leibman's book tour in the Philadelphia/Princeton area for his newly-published *Coming Out Conservative*. LBPAG is included in our LGLC contacts list.

LGLC Contacts

- George Meyer, 20 Ford Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
- Allen J. Lopp, PO Box 3691, Cerritos, CA 90703-3691 (Los Angeles area)
- Kelly Young, c/o GLIL, PO Box 65743, Washington Square Station, Washington, DC 20035
- Donald C. Monroe, PO Box 383, Bladensburg, MD 20710
- James L. Hudler, PO Box 447, Chelsea, MI 48118 (Ann Arbor area)
- Raymond Warner, 1001 E. Jefferson Avenue, Apt. 417, Detroit, MI 48207
- Ross Ivan Jacobs, (212) 473-6248, (New York City) (New number)
- Liberty Belle Political Action Group, Continental Station PO Box 40085, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (Revised address)
- Donald Jatho, c/o Chain Drive, 504 Willow Street, Austin, TX 78701
- Dave Doss and David Morton, 3724 N. 28th Street, Tacoma, WA 98407, CompuServ e-mail 75070,2252 (New listing)

The Libertarian Party of Washington State is targeting the gay and lesbian community with special outreach forums to explain the LP and libertarian ideas. The LPWS has begun to advertise in the local gay media and is sponsoring a team and an information booth at Washington's 1992 AIDS Walk. In our next issue of *LGLC Newsletter* we plan to bring you more news of this new, vigorous, and well organized effort. Dave Doss (see the list of LGLC contacts) is the individual to call if you want to help with this effort. □

LGLC Newsletter is published quarterly by Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns. Editor: James L. Hudler. News and editorial material of interest to our readership are solicited. Subscription rate: \$15.00 a year. Signed articles contain the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of LGLC or *LGLC Newsletter*.

Subscribers are eligible for a free 30-word personal ad. Display ads are available at \$4.00 per column inch. The editor reserves the right to refuse any ad.

LGLC officers are James L. Hudler, International Coordinator; and Raymond Warner, Secretary. Our new world headquarters is Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The mailing address for LGLC and *LGLC Newsletter* is PO Box 447, Chelsea MI 48118.

We're Using Envelopes

LGLC NEWSLETTER has heard of more than one potential member who refused to join LGLC because we've been mailing the *Newsletter* without an envelope. While it's great to be open and honest, for many of us, it just doesn't do to receive mail that says "GAY GAY GAY" all over the outside.

So *LGLC Newsletter* has listened, and is changing its method of mailing. From now on the *Newsletter* will be sent in a white envelope with "LGLC" plus our Chelsea, Michigan PO Box as the return address.

If you have more specialized mailing needs, let us know and we will try to accomodate you. □

Quickies from Warner

By Raymond Warner

Basic Stink

GLAAD, Queer Nation, and other gay/lesbian/bisexual media watchdogs have been creating a great deal of publicity for *Basic Instinct*, the new film with Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone. The protests were most visible during the recent Academy Awards, where rumors of a disruption of the ceremony were spread by Lance Loude but failed to materialize. (It was a queer sweep of the awards, however, with Jodie Foster, the coming out poster child of Greenwich Village taking best actress, and Anthony Hopkins, who as a British actor is always sexually suspect, taking best actor.) Imagine a feature film which is like a fifty million dollar episode of the *Streets of San Francisco*: richly staged, torridly paced, a total hetero fantasy. Stone's character is a straight man's stereotype of a wealthy, glamorous, and skinny lesbian. More true to type was the wonderful cameo by Dorothy Malone as an elder butch. Ms. Stone's performance could be a role model for lip-stick lesbians every where, except I don't understand why she wanted Michael Douglas' sagging ass. Sorry, GLAAD, this picture is just fun, but then I own a copy of *Cruising*.

Heterodoxy

You get on mailing lists and they send you shit like this in the mail. *Heterodoxy* is the latest journal in the "political correctness" debate. It's trash from right-wing intellectuals who want to dislodge the last humanists from every English department in North American. Of course, I part company when the gay movement advocates state action, but I clearly understand the

It makes a difference what people are called and it makes a bigger difference what people call themselves.

semantic battle which must be fought against the dominant culture. It makes a difference what people are called and it makes a bigger difference what people call themselves. We think in words (see George Orwell): "freedom fighter" or "terrorist," "drug addict" or "self-medicator." For me, NORMAL is a cycle on your washer. So count me among the multi-culturalists. I honor all individuals, no exceptions.

"Justified and Ancient"

Spend an evening with your dog-eared copy of Robert Anton Wilson's *Illuminatus Trilogy* and try to decode the lyrics of today's number one dance hit "Justified and Ancient" by KLM and Tammy Wynette. Strange stuff, but at a recent tea dance it was the only

tune that got everybody on the floor. Stranger still, Tammy Wynette was taken seriously ill and KLM announced that it was disbanding and requested their records be withdrawn from the market. Don't mess with the JAMS.

Free Uncle Ed

In Philadelphia, Edward I. Savitz is being held on \$20 million bond for violating age consent laws. This is perhaps an all time record for state extortion, and certainly exceeds the bail in the Jeff Dahmer case. The media took a prurient interest in Mr. Savitz's practice of

When you're six feet tall and being paid, you're a whore (sorry, parents).

purchasing briefs from young men. Egyptian cotton topped with a caramel skid mark, how delightful! Mr. Savitz's alleged ephebophilia generated a lot of hysteria about "molested children," but when you're six feet tall and being paid you're a whore (sorry, parents).

LA Law

White cops beat a black man so the brown gangs rob the yellow shopkeepers. There's multiculturalism for you. The brutality of LA cops is legendary in the gay community, that's why years ago West Hollywood seceded.

Housekeeping from Previous Issue

1. The story about C.J. the heterosexual terrorist turned out to be a classic urban hoax.
2. Kimberly Bergalis is dead after a life without sex or drugs. But she can be an example to Dr. Peter Dusenberg, who still preaches that poppers cause AIDS.
3. Good News: Jeffery Hanlon was released after spending seven months in a Michigan jail on charges of failing to reveal his HIV status to his sex partner. A plea bargain was accepted after the state's case fell apart because plaintiff Kevin Leiffer continued to test negative. "This was not a case of infection but of exposure" according to the county prosecutor. Additional legal tangles arose from charges that Hanlon's medical confidentiality was violated and that Leiffer admitted to unprotected oral sex with individuals other than Hanlon. Finally a Michigan circuit court has declared the law unconstitutional. Hanlon has left Michigan. I may be next. □

Marrou's Message to LGLC

ANDRE MARROU recently wrote to LGLC, affirming his Libertarian position on Gay Rights:

"Dear LGLC Members,

"The Marrou/Lord campaign wholeheartedly supports the liberation of all individuals, including gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals from state oppression.

"We oppose such forms of gay oppression as:

"1. Sodomy laws. Marrou and Lord call for the immediate abolition of such laws

"2. Taxation, which is generally higher for gays, who lack dependents. Marrou and Lord will repeal the income tax and abolish the IRS.

"3. Military service inequities: Marrou and Lord call for the immediate end to discrimination against gays in the military.

"4. Tax funding of education: Gays are forced to finance the education of other people's children. Financial support of education should be voluntary and private.

"5. Discrimination in immigration laws. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, people with AIDS, and all other people should be permitted to move freely across borders.

"Government has been throughout modern history, from Hitler's Germany to Castro's Cuba, the biggest enemy of gays. In the 1992 presidential race, the Marrou/Lord ticket is the sole foe of illegitimate government power.

"Please support the Marrou/Lord campaign!

Sincerely,

Andre Marrou

1528 Pennsylvania Ave SE

Washington DC 20003"

Editor's note: LGLC members are urged to support political candidates who have a libertarian perspective on gay and lesbian issues by (1) Talking to friends, neighbors, and relatives; (2) Purchasing and distributing candidate literature; (3) Writing letters to local newspapers and promoting libertarian positions and candidates; (4) Purchasing advertisements for candidates in local newspapers (the candidates can supply the copy); (5) Contributing money □.



Libertarian Presidential candidate Andre Marrou speaks to LGLC International Coordinator James Hudler at the Ohio Libertarian Party Convention in July.

Valverde Runs in SF

SAN FRANCISCO gay libertarian activist Mark Valverde is running for the Thirteenth District seat in California's state Assembly. The race is of considerable national interest, since Valverde is opposing Willie Brown, a powerful Democratic demagogue in a heavily gay district.

Valverde, 34, is a legal assistant and San Francisco Libertarian Party secretary who previously lived in Kansas City and Denver. He was involved in California's Legal Needle Initiative to fight the spread of AIDS and has supported the Medical Marijuana Initiative and the Fully Informed Jury Amendment.

Valverde is actively campaigning as an openly gay and visibly libertarian candidate.

Valverde solicits political contributions from his fellow LGLC members. Checks should be made out to: San Francisco Libertarian Unified Campaign Committee '92 (SF/LUCC '92), 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Valverde is running on a ticket with Marrou and Lord; Senate candidates June Genis and Dick Boddie; Congressional candidates James Elwood and George O'Brien; and California legislators Will Wohler and Anton Sherwood.

See photo on page 8. □

Obituaries of Libertarian Activists

LIBERTARIAN WRITER and past member of LGLC Roy Childs died this past summer. Roy was present at the beginnings of the modern libertarian movement in the U.S. and wrote many essays clarifying libertarian positions.

Roy had been an editor of *Libertarian Review* and was a contributor to *Inquiry* magazine. He most recently worked as a literary reviewer for Laissez Faire Books. Always a stout man, Roy died of overweight.

The California Libertarian carried notices of the loss of two Los Angeles libertarians. John Dentinger and Rudolph Laubscher. Readers of *The Pragmatist*, a Forest

Grove, PA libertarian periodical, will recognize John Dentinger's as an witty and insightful advocate of freedom. John's last article, "Gay Rights—or Straight Privileges," appeared in the April 1992 number. John wrote for numerous other periodicals and was the 1987 recipient of the Free Press Association's Mencken Award. John was an LGLC member. Rudolph Laubscher was an artist and stage producer who was associated with many California Libertarians in the 1970s and was an LGLC member. Both Dentinger and Laubscher were lost to AIDS. □

Book Review: *Fag Hag* by Robert Rodi

By David Boaz

(Dutton, 1992, \$20.00, 296 pp.)

WHAT A DELIGHT: a new novel in which a major plot twist depends on a libertarian character's being out of town to attend a Cato Institute seminar on economic freedom. Though this book is controversial within the gay community for its portrayal of a pathetic young woman desperately in love with a gay man, it will be appreciated by libertarians for its real hero: a gay libertarian gun dealer who talks about free trade, property rights, and the Second Amendment; has a bookshelf drawn entirely from the Laissez Faire catalog; and

inspires an inner-city youth to leave his gang and form a band, Ayn Rap 2000. This is *not* a political novel—it has a snappy plot about personal relationships—but its political aspect is a welcome indication that libertarianism is seeping into popular culture.

David Boaz is a member of *Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty* in Washington, DC. This review is reprinted by permission from the catalog of Laissez Faire Books (800-326-0996), from which you can obtain this and many other libertarian books. □

Theater Producer is Long-Time Libertarian

By James Hudler

LGLC MEMBER Jeffery Corrick is a Greenwich Village theater producer who got his start in the theater and in the Libertarian Party back in Kansas, but has been producing plays in New York ever since he moved there in 1985. Wings Theatre Company, his non-profit production organization, is devoted to doing new works by American playwrights and includes eighteen different plays and musicals in its 1992-93 season.

I recently spoke with Corrick and box office manager Nelson Rosado in a coffehouse near the Company's Christopher Street venue. Wings presents, I learned, three different series of plays: a Gay Series, a general audience Mainstage Series, and a Family Theatre Series for kids. Though light and serious works are included in the theater's offerings (guess which kind brings in more money), one kind of play has so far been missing: libertarian plays. A Libertarian of many years' standing, Corrick seemed uneasy explaining why he had not mounted any works which explicitly enunciated his own political philosophy. Part of the problem seems to be lack of material, but Corrick promised to read works sent to him for consideration, explaining that he would only consider material consistent with his Company's criteria: new works, with no prior New York production, and

works suitable to his intimate-sized theater and volunteer staffing.

Prior to my conversation with Corrick, I attended Wings Theatre Company's current production, *The Naked Corpse*, a gay murder mystery written and directed by John Wall. Set in a Fort Lauderdale condo, the drama features a cast of hunks who are taping an all-male video when one of them is found dead. A very handsome young homicide lieutenant is assigned to the case. It's an engaging work, and well-performed. Cute bare butts were seen, but no frontal nudity. The play has a forthright, positive gay sensibility. Other plays in this season's Gay Series include *Dos Lesbos*, *Sea Cruise*, and *Night in the Mineshaft*. General audience offerings include *Motherless Child* (a serious drama), and two musicals, *The Boston Rivals* (an adaptation of Sheridan) and *Stars 'N Stripes*.

Wings Theatre Company solicits monetary contributions, plays to be considered for production, ticket orders, requests for inclusion on its mailing list, and offers of volunteer help. Write to Wings Theatre, 154 Christopher Street, New York, NY 10014, or call (212) 627-2960. □

Sodomy Laws in the US

By David Edmondson

TWO WOMEN are seen in a state campground in close bodily contact for about an hour. Later that evening, they repair to a single tent. The state police, who have by now been tipped off, stand outside the tent, listening for "obscene" conversation. Once they hear it, they zip open the tent flaps, take photographs of the two women, and arrest them for "gross indecency," a felony that basically consists of whatever the jury will find shocking and that carries a prison term of up to five years.

Can't happen in America? It did happen in a state campground in Michigan. Almost half the states in America—the number is uncertain because differences in judicial interpretation have turned some states into gray zones—have criminal statutes forbidding sodomy, acts of gross indecency, unnatural and perverted sex acts, abominable and detestable crimes against nature, buggery, and other creatively named acts that in previous centuries offended the delicate sensibilities of a king, a state church, or a self-appointed spokesperson for the majority. In many states, sodomy is a felony; in Michigan, a person found to be "sexually delinquent" and convicted of sodomy or gross indecency can with the blessing of the legislature be put away for life.

Moreover, sodomy laws pose a threat to freedom that extends far beyond criminal prosecution or even the threat of it. In jurisdictions with sodomy laws, lesbians, gay men, and bisexual persons are often presumed guilty with no chance to prove their innocence; and courts are not always in any major hurry to enforce the rights of presumptive felons. For instance, both federal and state courts have upheld governmental rules prohibiting sexual-minority persons from working in law-enforcement agencies, the reasoning being that the public should not see the laws being enforced by presumptive sodomites. Sodomy laws have even been used to limit our freedom of association on the ground that state colleges should not have to endorse the commission of a crime.

State courts appear to offer some hope. Since *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the infamous United States Supreme Court ruling that called any comparison between gay rights and other privacy rights "facetious" and that thereby read

homophobia into the due-process clause, trial courts in three states—Kentucky, Michigan, and Texas—have struck down their states' sodomy laws under their state constitutions. In the Kentucky case, the Fayette County circuit court relied on a provision in the Kentucky constitution outlawing the exercise of "arbitrary" power; the courts in Michigan and Texas relied on more general concepts of privacy.

The Texas decision has recently been upheld by the Third District Court of Appeals of Texas; the Attorney General of Texas has announced that he will appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas. That court will have the final say, since the United States Supreme Court lacks jurisdiction to interpret state constitutions.

The Attorney General of Michigan has declined to appeal the decision in that state, most likely to avoid creating precedent. The decision, reached in the Circuit Court for Wayne County [Detroit], is pretty much ignored in the rest of the state.

In addition, the Court of Appeals of Maryland, that state's highest court, has ruled that the Maryland "unnatural and perverted sex acts" statute does not apply to consenting *heterosexual* adults in private. The court reached its result through strained statutory interpretation, and both the ACLU and old-time moralists have criticized the decision. Nonetheless, it appears to open up the possibility of an equal-protection challenge.

Ultimately,

however, only one thing can protect us from such blatant exercises of governmental power for power's sake, and that is the abolition of criminal law as we know it and its replacement with private prosecution. Anglo-American law as it is currently developed draws a rigid distinction between torts—that is, harms against an individual, in which case the individual plaintiff must prove

In December of 1990, *The New York Times* printed a map of states with sodomy laws, categorizing them as follows:

- States with sodomy laws enforceable against same-sex and opposite-sex couples alike: Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.
- States with sodomy laws enforceable against same-sex couples only: Nevada, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee.
- States with no sodomy laws: All other states.

Edmondson hesitates to put Kentucky and Michigan on the list of states with no sodomy laws until definitive appellate-court rulings come out in those states. Also, Edmondson reports that *The Times's* information with respect to Maryland was outdated. Finally, the District of Columbia also has sodomy laws, thanks to the tender mercies of a U.S. Representative from New Jersey.

damages—and crimes—that is, "harms" against the majesty of the State, in which case the State is privileged to define what harms its majesty. It is time for the states to get out of the majesty business altogether.

Edmondson is a Washington, DC, attorney □

Gays in a Second Closet

By Brian Jendryka

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted with permission from The Michigan Review, a conservative, oftentimes libertarian independent student publication at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor).

When he came out of the closet, Rich Tafel faced many of the same problems that other gays confront as they seek respect and equal treatment in a heterosexual world. Tafel, an adolescent health specialist at the Massachusetts Department of Health, then faced an additional obstacle, however: discrimination and ridicule from other gays. Why? Tafel is a Republican. Not only does he face the trials of being gay, but he also has to cope with the frequently more precarious situation of being a gay Republican in a leftist-dominated gay movement.

Tafel, president of the Log Cabin Federation, a national Republican group for gays, is one of many gays challenging the dogma of the leftist gay groups. Dave Edmondson, a third-year law school student at the University of Michigan, is another. Though Edmondson is a Libertarian, he encounters many of the same challenges — and yet does not expect any special favors or rights from the government or society at large. Edmondson is a member of both the Washtenaw Libertarian Party and Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns (LGLC), a national group based in Ann Arbor and headed up by U-M alumnus James Hudler.

Hudler, Edmondson and Tafel are all working for gay rights, in the process trying to dispel the attitudes of many of their peers and society in general. Instead of receiving support from the rest of the gay community, however, they have been ostracized, and even blackballed for their political beliefs.

Equal Rights or Special Rights?

While Tafel, Hudler, and Edmondson are working for gay rights, they are working for equal rights, and not special rights. This is an important distinction, says Tafel. "I'm not asking for any special rights. I'm not asking for money. And I'm not asking for affirmative action. I just want the same rights as every other taxpaying citizen."

On this issue, the Republican and Libertarian gay populations often find themselves in agreement. "Most political parties have a completely wrong-headed philosophy because they emphasize the group over the individual," says Edmondson. "Ironically, it is the elevation of the group over the individual that has been behind the oppression of gays."

While Republicans and Libertarians differ on many issues, gay Republicans and Libertarians also share many of the same views. In fact, Tafel considers his beliefs largely libertarian, though he believes that many of these ideals — especially the concept of individual rights — were once staunchly supported by the Republican party. While he considers himself quite conservative on fiscal matters, he parts company with right-wing Republicans on the issue of government and individual rights.

"When I disagree with Republicans, it is with the new Religious Right that is for the government inserting itself into the private lives of individuals. I do not see these people as being true to the party as it was founded by Abraham Lincoln."

The Party Difference

So why is he a Republican and not a Libertarian? "The reality is that the US. is a two-party system," he says. "If you want to be in the fight, you have to work within one of those two parties."

Edmondson, who began as a conservative Republican before becoming a Libertarian, also sees the Republican party abandoning these rights. Therefore, he sees the Libertarian Party as the only viable option for gays.

"Gay and lesbian rights are a subset of individual rights of free thought and action. The Republican party has held itself out as the party of individual freedom, as opposed to the Democratic party, which paints itself as more for collectivism. I question whether or not the Republican party has held to these principles," Edmondson said.

Hudler also sees the Republican party — as well as the Democratic party — as less suitable than the libertarian party for gays. "It's just a huge party machine. It's very anti-Libertarian. We're the party of principle, we don't compromise, and they do."

"With the libertarian party, homosexuality is not even an issue. Nobody cares if you are gay." And while Hudler admits there is some

prejudice against gays by libertarians in some areas like the south, he is also quick to mention that seven of the Libertarian state presidents are gay.

Satan on Earth?

Within the Republican party, acceptance of gays is not that simple. Reception within the party varies from person to person, according to Tafel. "There are some people who will say 'you're gay? I don't care, it doesn't matter.' There are others who will say 'You're gay? This is Satan on Earth!'"

This of course brings in the question of religion, and how Republicans and Libertarians view its relation to homosexuality. Tafel, who graduated from the Harvard Divinity School and was ordained as a Baptist minister, believes the two do not contradict.

"I am very much a Christian. Gays don't just give up their faith because their church hasn't come around." Many churches—known as "open and accepting churches"—accept homosexuals, including many in the Ann Arbor area, such as the non-denominational Huron Valley Community Church, as well as Episcopalian, Unitarian, and Lutheran churches.

There are also special groups within these churches for gays, including Dignity for Roman Catholics, Integrity for Episcopalians, as well as groups for everything from Jewish people to Mormons.

The question of religion, morality, and homosexuality does present a problem for many Christians, Tafel says. "Unfortunately, right-wing churches have given license to a lot of gay bashing and homophobia. Even a lot of non-religious people will look to churches as a moral barometer — if they say gay bashing is OK, it must be OK."

"Bigoted people have been using scripture for years. They said the same things about women and the same things about blacks." Likewise, Tafel sees the future of such church discrimination against gays no differently than that against these previous two groups. "100 years from now, I think people are going to look back and see these religious folks as not that religious."

And while Tafel sees the recently passed gay ordinance law in Ann Arbor as progress, what he really desires is the same rights as any other taxpayer, including state recognized marriage.

"I look forward to the day when gay groups can celebrate under the auspices of the church."

While some libertarians are religious like Dave Edmondson, who belongs to the Huron Valley Church, Hudler admits religion is less of a problem for libertarians than it is for Republicans.

"I would say that a majority of libertarians are non-religious. That's probably what keeps a lot of gay Republicans from coming out."

Just how many is a lot? While the Log Cabin Federation, which includes 19 individual clubs in nine states, has over 4500 people on its mailing list. Tafel believes there are many, many gay Republicans in society.

A Second Closet?

"I contend that the gay community is actually a pretty conservative community. There are a lot of gay Republicans, but they not only have to fear homophobia, but the gay community. You have to come out of a second closet."

How oppressive is this second closet? For all their differences, Libertarian and Republican gays are united in one thing—the battle for equal rights, as well as against the ideologies of leftist gays, an ideology against views of the left, which in some case hurt the movement for equal rights for gays more than it helps. The problem is that militant national groups like Aids Coalition to Unleash Power and Queer Nation demand more than equal rights, and therefore alienate what might be an otherwise sympathetic populace.

"I see it from both sides," Tafel says of the militant groups. "We as a community are tired of being kicked around. In that respect, I can understand militancy." Things like "zaps" — wherein a group targets an individual for harassment through either phone calls, shouting down, or attacks in the gay press — are counter-productive, according to Tafel, who has been a victim of such zaps.

"I don't want that to be the image of my group. These groups simply do not represent anybody in the community."

Tafel says he does not hesitate to give interviews with newspapers like the *Review*, even though he is discouraged to do so by other gays. "I

(Continued from page 7) have been treated much more fairly in the conservative press than in the gay press. I am much more maligned in the gay press."

Examples of this can be as simple as being maligned for opposing affirmative action, or as complex as being criticized for supporting the Persian Gulf War because the money could have been spent to fight AIDS.

"My rights, your obligations"

Hudler views the leftist gay community similarly, especially on the topic of health care.

"There are some things they've done that I agree with, but the vast majority I disagree with. One argument that needs to be made — and I admit it is an unpopular view — is that I don't see why the majority of the heterosexual population should have to pay for AIDS care. I think it's really wrong to do that. It's immoral for them to ask for other people to pay for their health care."

As far as demands for other "rights" — including those on the U-M campus like the "right" to have gay lounges or other exclusionary places, Edmondson disagrees.

"The philosophies of most gay rights groups can be summed up in four words: 'my rights, your obligations.' I don't think that it would be appropriate for universities to set aside areas for members of student groups; I think it's counterproductive. As a gay person, I know I can't run and hide from mainstream society forever, nor do I have any intentions of doing so."

Another controversial tactic of such groups is the practice known as "outing" — revealing to the public the fact that someone is a closet gay.

"I don't like it — that's not the popular opinion, but I don't like it. The enemy is not each other, but society," says Tafel. One of the main reasons he is opposed to the practice of outing is the arbitrariness with which it is done. For example, says Tafel, the gay community knew that Rep. Barney Frank was gay long before the rest of the country did. It was only when the leaders of these national groups decided to out him that the rest of the country learned of his homosexuality. Tafel says he does not trust the people who are making these decisions.

Orientation or Preference?

There are some issues on which nearly the entire gay community agrees of course. One of these is the issue of whether or not homosexuality is a question of orientation or preference.

"My personal opinion is that it is not a preference. I feel very strongly that it is orientation," says Tafel. "I look at myself as a case study. h all of With all of the hatred out there, I can't see why 10 percent of the population would choose to be gay."

Edmondson agrees, stressing that from a personal freedom standpoint it shouldn't really matter, although he admits it does. "Personally, I believe it is orientation. From a philosophical standpoint, it's irrelevant. But if you are going to argue before the courts, you have to argue orientation," he says.

"When somebody mentions the belief that being gay is a preference, most people I know would greet that with derisive laughter. As if we would really choose to be pariahs."

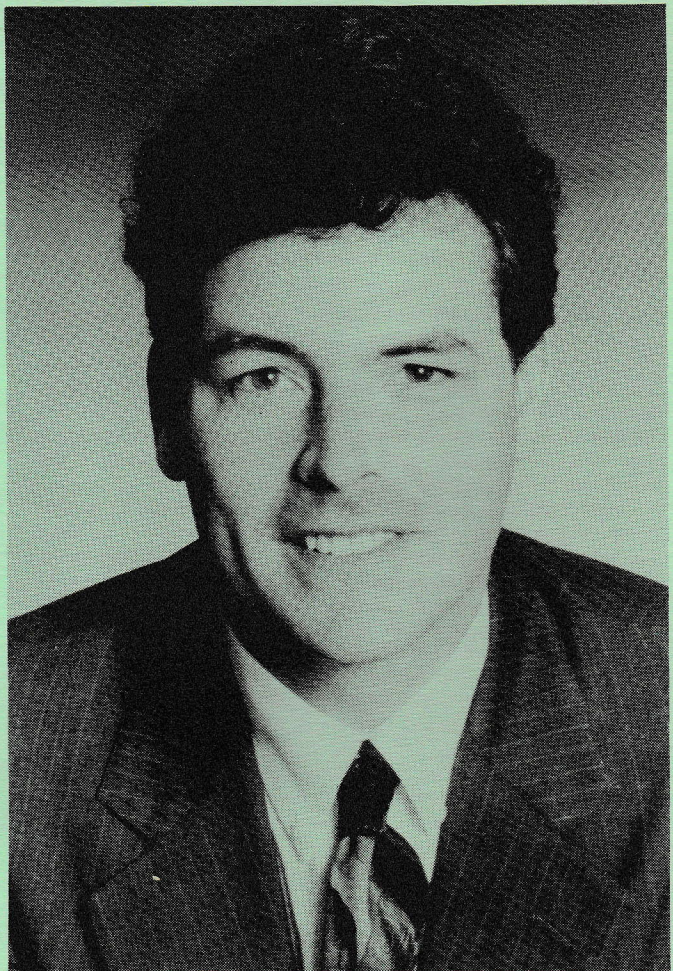
The Future

So what of the future for gay Republicans and Libertarians? In addition to LGLC and the Log Cabin Federation, nontraditional gay groups are growing in strength and numbers. Some groups include the "Liberty Belles," a Libertarian group based in Philadelphia, and "Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty," a Washington DC. groups that includes many prominent members of the Cato Institute. Locally the campus contingent of openly gay students is growing as well.

"I think that there are a fair number of conservative and Libertarian gay people on campus," says Edmondson. "I have noticed a number of people say 'Yes, I am gay, but I don't buy into the PC orthodoxy' and instead lean toward libertarian or conservative politics."

"People are coming to the realization that there are gay people everywhere," says Tafel. Part of what prevents the number of nontraditional gays from coming out is the relationship between the gay community and the right, according to Tafel.

Although he encounters a lot of anger from the leftist gay community for his political beliefs, he also has problems with the right. "Because I am a moderate and don't toe the line, the leftist gay community is offended. However, there are also a lot of right-wing bigots in the Republican party. There is a lot of hatred on the right, which I find equally disgusting. In a lot of ways, the ultra-conservatives and leftist gay groups have created each other." □



Mark Valverde, an LGLC member and San Francisco activist running for the California state Assembly. See story on page 4.

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