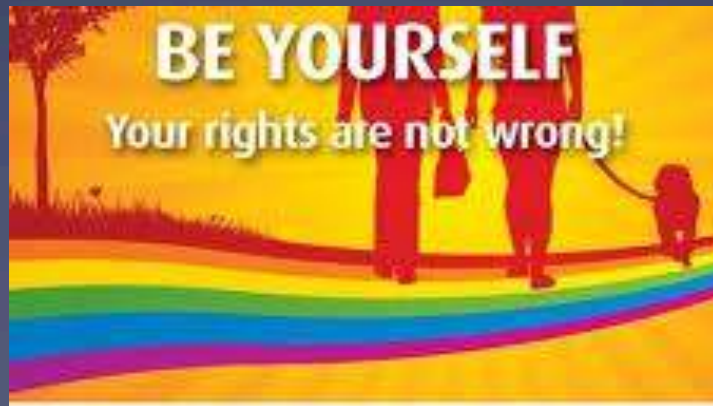
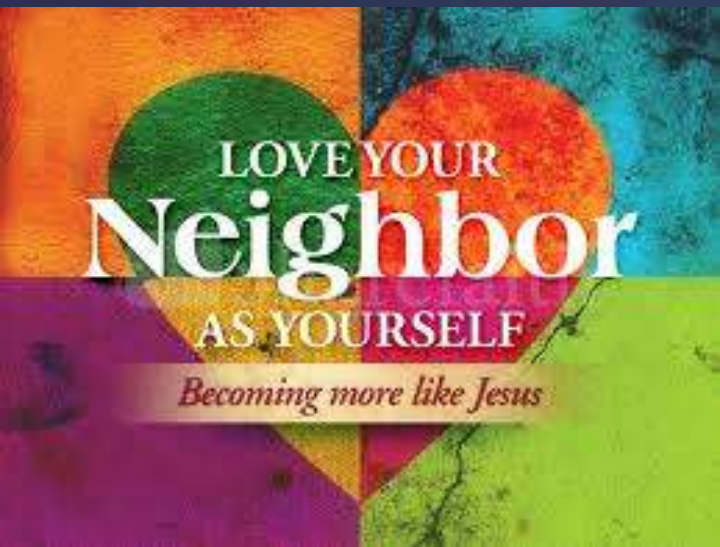


# The New Normal? Understanding Same Sex Attraction and Gender Fluidity



# Bird's Eye View

1. Recent cultural change
2. Science, Stats and SSA
3. What is gender fluidity?
4. Possible Causes of SSA
5. Which story do we live by? Biblical story?
6. Is there any evidence that change is possible?
7. What about gay marriage and gay rights?
8. What does redemption and reconciliation look like?







# Attitudes to Homosexuality

Hatred  
1998

OCTOBER 26, 1998 \$2.95

# TIME

THE NEW  
**VEGAS**  
STEVE WYNN'S  
\$1.6 BILLION PICASSO PALACE

## The War Over Gays

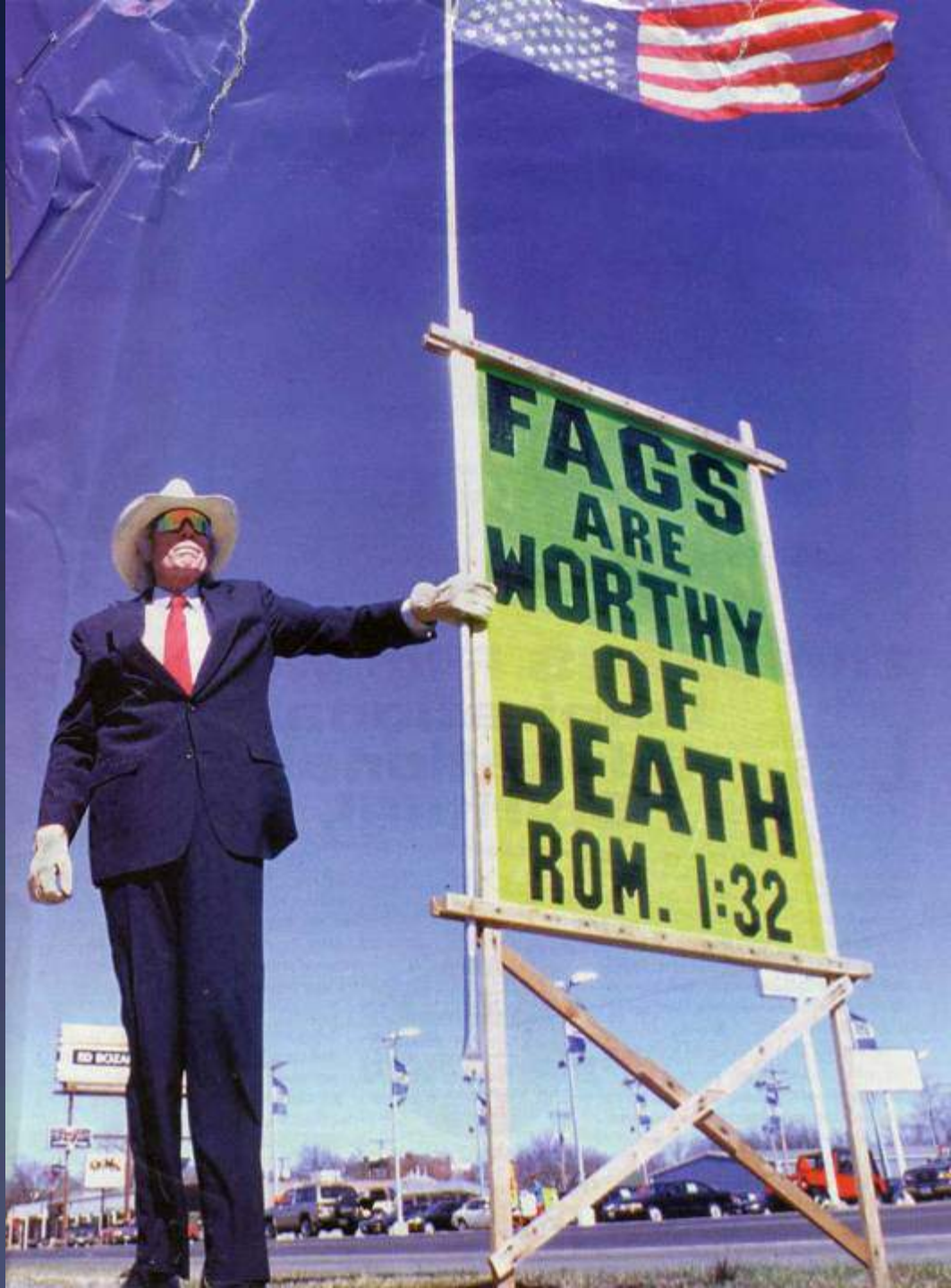


**MURDER IN LARAMIE**  
**CHANGING GAY POLITICS**  
**DO HATE-CRIME LAWS WORK?**  
**SHOWDOWN OVER  
GAY MARRIAGE**

Matthew Shepard and the deer fence  
where he was left to die

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# thrown out

## thrown out of home and school

Jeremy, 17  
Salt Lake City

section edited by  
Mike Glatze

**J**EREMY WASN'T HAVING a good time in school in Salt Lake City. Students called him names and teased him constantly. When he asked school administrators for help, their solution was to get rid of him, sending him to a different school.

When he told his parents he didn't want to change schools, they took the school's side and transferred him anyway. At his second school, Jeremy had an even tougher time. He'd go home sad and scared every day, telling his parents what happened to him during the day. So they sent him to a third school.

Two more schools later, his parents told him he had to stop being gay (impossible of course), or they'd kick him out. So, in effect, he was kicked out.

His voice gets shaky when he talks about his parents, but he

says he's not angry with them. "You can't be mad at someone for their opinions. They really tried. It just got to be so much that I stopped caring."

Jeremy moved into a place of his own, took his night classes, and started doing volunteer work at several community organizations: "I'll do anything I can to feel like I'm needed."

When he's not leading workshops at the Utahs Federation for Youth or hanging out with friends—Jeremy's not a big fan of raves or parties, he prefers coffee shop conversation—he's starting his modeling career. "I think it will really be good for my self-esteem," he says.

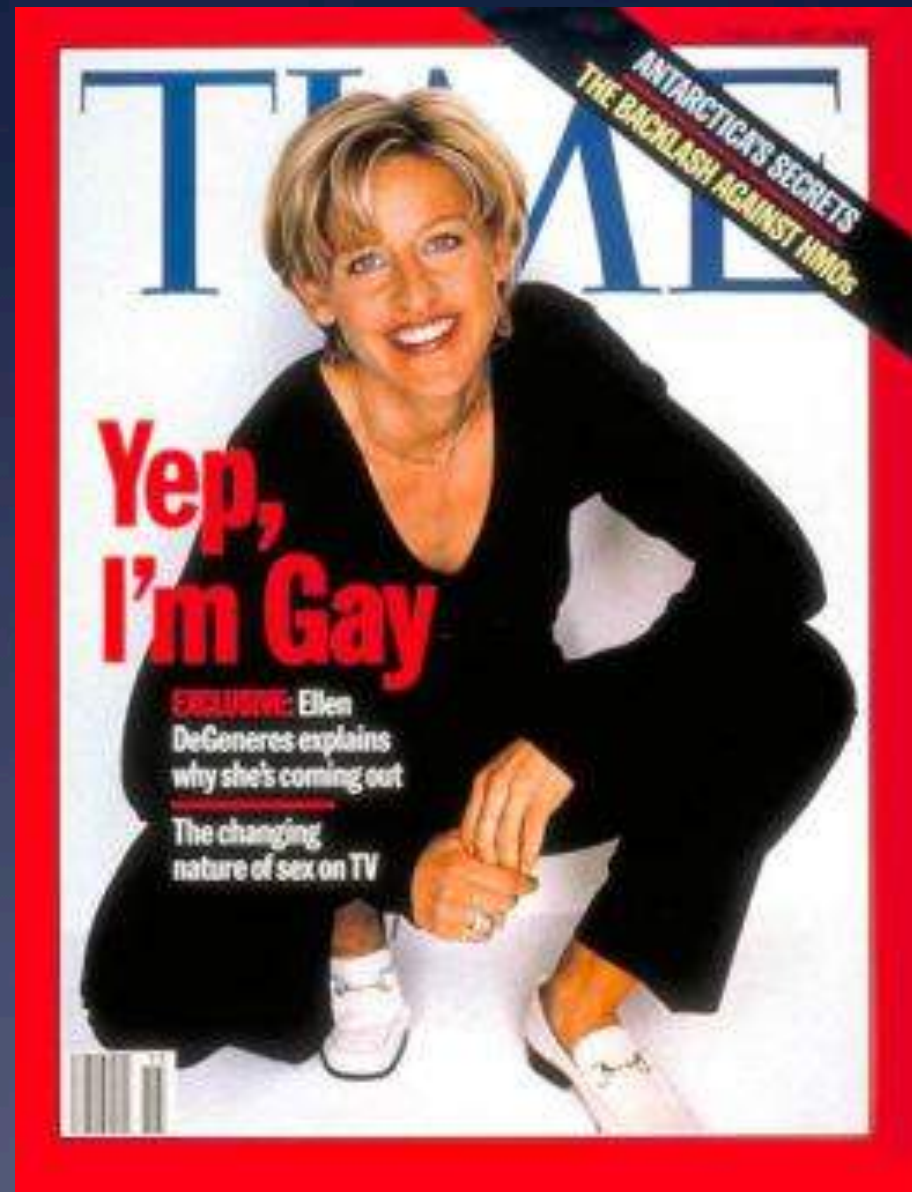
Despite what happened to him, he dreams of a world where everyone could accept themselves. "If I could have one goal in life, that would be it."







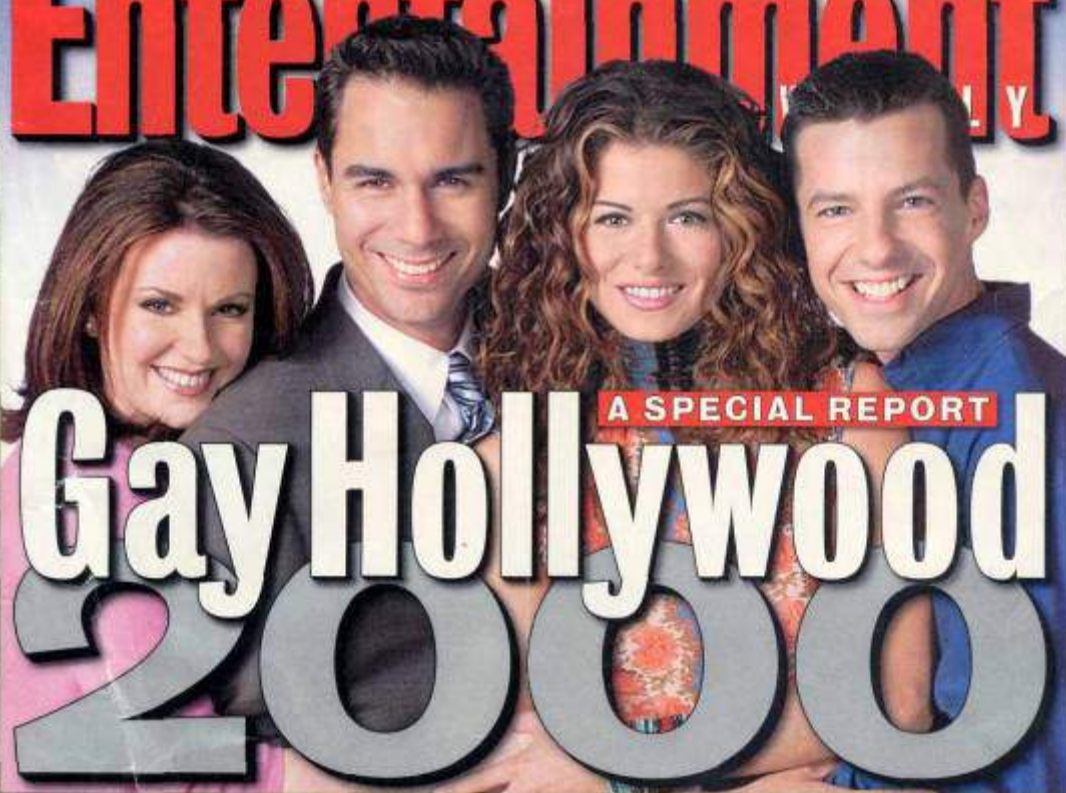
“Health”  
1997



DARK ANGEL | STEPHEN KING | MEET THE PARENTS

#562 • October 6, 2000

# Entertainment



A SPECIAL REPORT

# Gay Hollywood 2000

INSIDE THE GAY TV REVOLUTION HIP-HOP HOMOPHOBIA  
THE CELEBRITY CLOSET TV'S GAYEST SHOW EVER  
GAY FILMMAKERS SOUND OFF 101 MOVERS & SHAKERS



# TV'S COMING-OUT

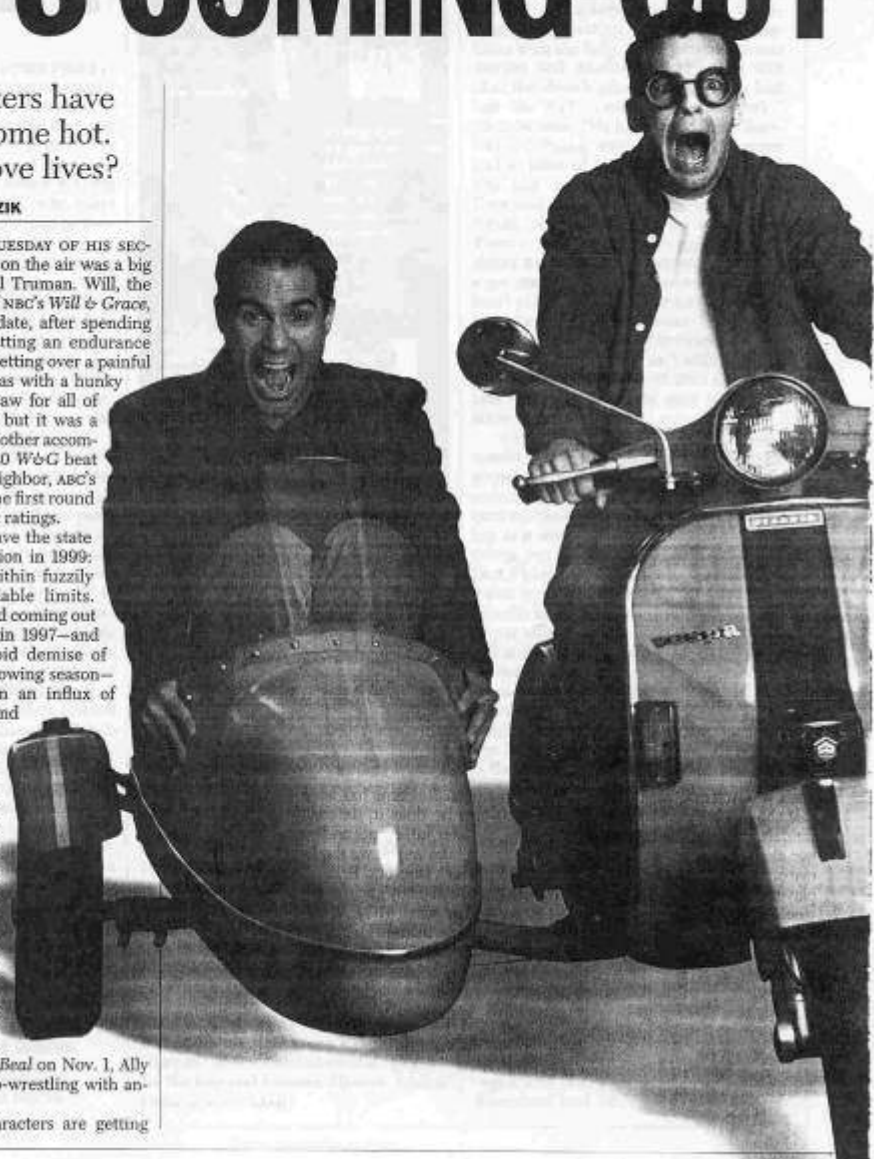
Gay characters have quietly become hot. Can their love lives?

By JAMES PONIEWOZIK

**T**HE FIRST TUESDAY OF HIS second season on the air was a big day for Will Truman. Will, the male half of NBC's *Will & Grace*, went on a date, after spending last year setting an endurance record for getting over a painful breakup. The date was with a hunky bookstore clerk we saw for all of five teasing seconds, but it was a date nonetheless. His other accomplishment: the Top-20 *W&G* beat its straight-couple neighbor, ABC's *Dharma & Greg*, in the first round of a pitched battle for ratings.

And there you have the state of gayness on television in 1999: TV has come out, within fuzzily defined but undeniable limits. Since the much touted coming out of Ellen DeGeneres in 1997—and the much noted rapid demise of her sitcom in the following season—prime time has seen an influx of popular, prominent and well-rounded gay characters without *Ellen*-esque audience or advertiser cavils. Indeed, there's so much cachet in being gay that even straight characters are trying it. On Fox's *Action*, scheming movie producer Peter Dinklage received oral sex from a star to whom he passed himself off as gay, and in what promises to be a head-turning second episode of Fox's *Ally McBeal* on Nov. 1, Ally engages in steamy lip-wrestling with another woman.

That straight characters are getting



BACK HOME WITH PVT. JESSICA LYNCH: EXCLUSIVE!

# VANITY FAIR

DECEMBER 2003

**HOW  
THE POOR  
LIVE NOW**

BY HOWARD DEAN

**INSIDE THE  
AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
RAPE SCANDAL**

BY CLARA BINGHAM

**A RUMOR OF  
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DEEP SOUTH**

BY NANCY JO SALES

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:  
ERIC HUDSON, SEAN PAVEL,  
MIRIAM MCELROY, CARSON KRESSLEY,  
GARE HARTLEY, AND DEBRA MESSING

**DON'T MISS  
DOMINICK  
DUNNE'S  
DIARY THIS  
MONTH!**



# COMING OUT

## IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

How 10-year-old kids are dealing with their sexual identity — and how others are dealing with them. BY DAVID LEVINE

WHY DO  
GIRLS WITH  
GREEN HAIR  
SEEM TO  
BE MORE  
DIFFERENT?

CAN THE RIGHT  
KINDS OF PLAY TEACH  
SELF-CONTROL?

By David Dough

THE  
INNER-CITY  
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WHEN YOUR DOGM  
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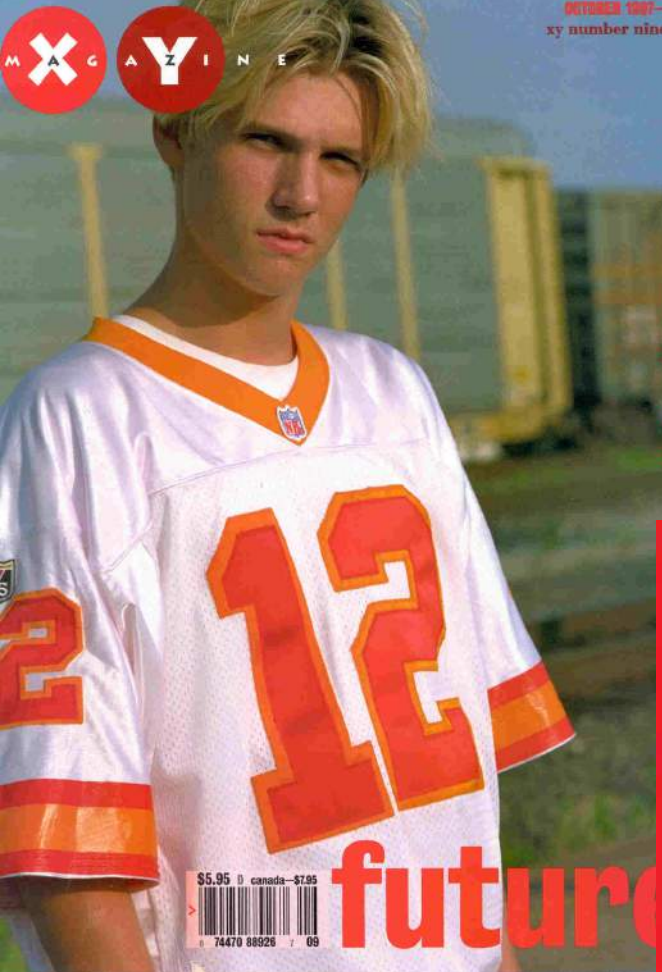


David  
Levine asks  
why a  
college degree  
is still  
worth it.



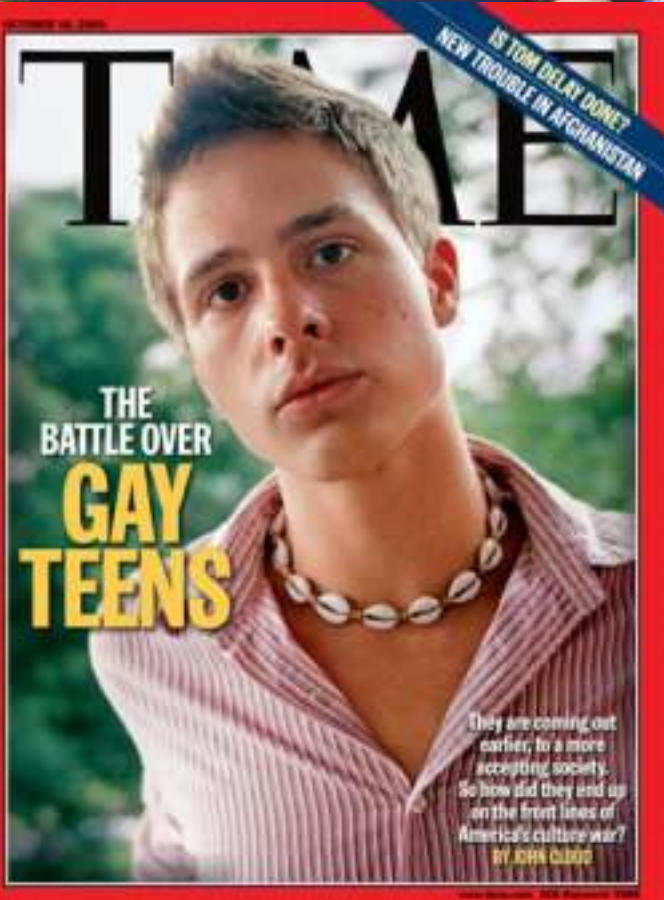


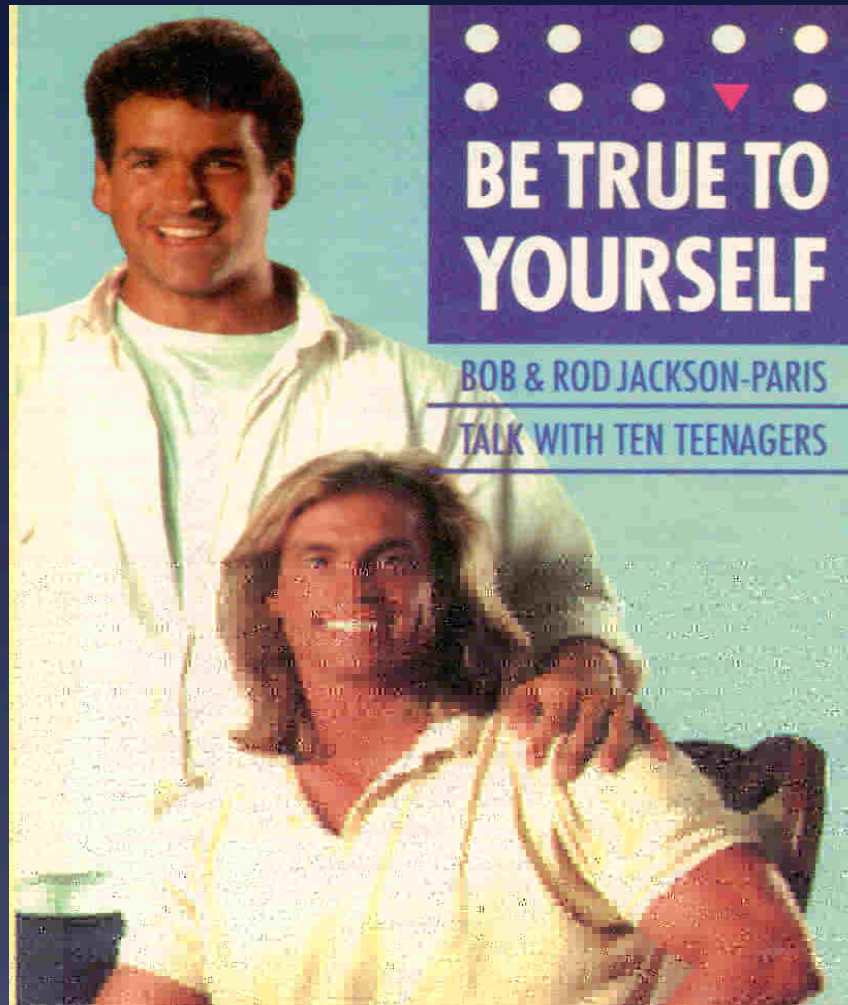
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men" —New York Times

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**With 36-page educational strategy & resource guide**

\*Discussion topics include self-esteem, sexual orientation, and homophobia.

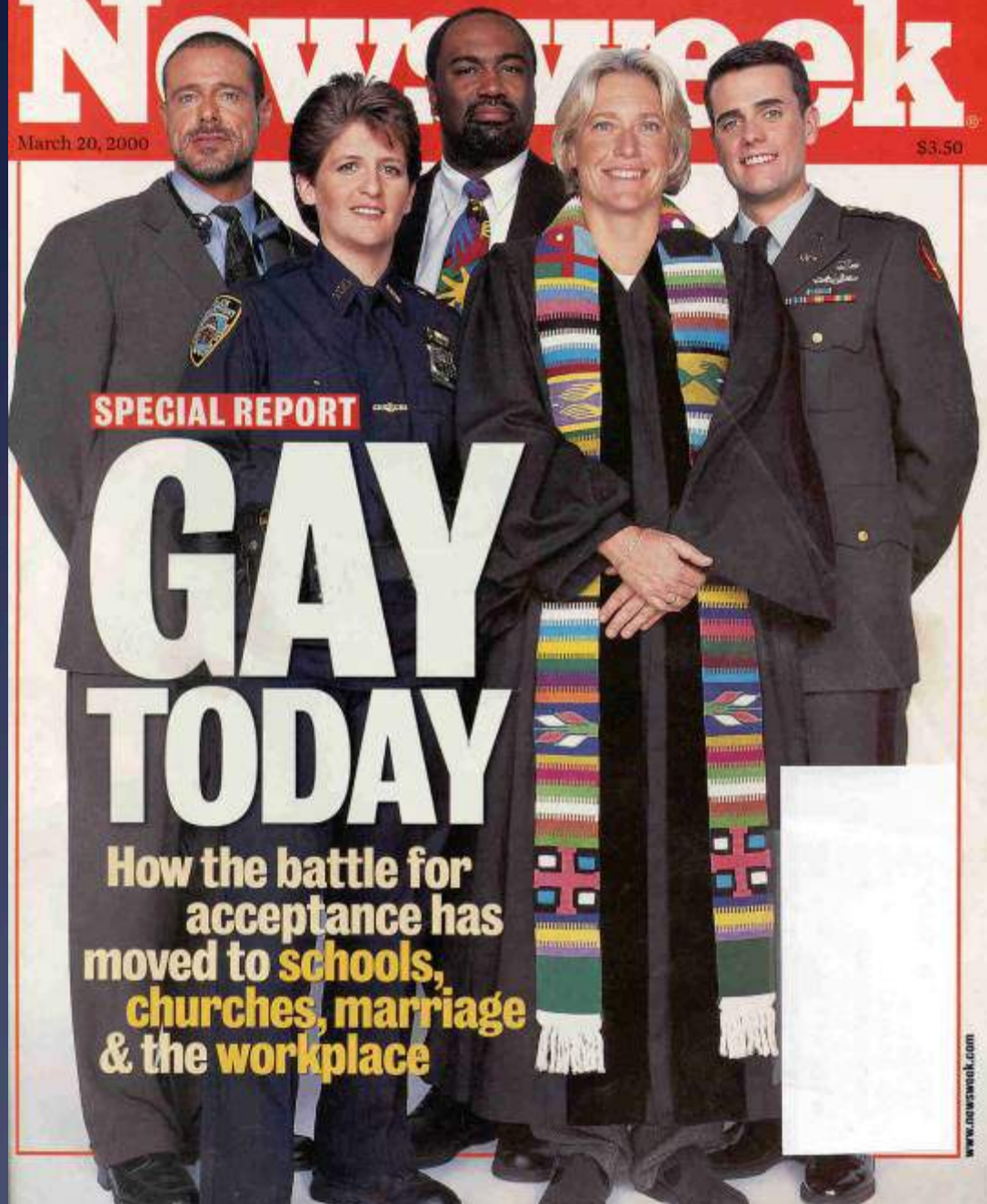
\*Resource materials by and for young people, parents, counselors, educators, and youth groups

**THE McCAIN VOTERS: WHERE WILL THEY GO NOW?**

# Newsweek

March 20, 2000

\$3.50



**SPECIAL REPORT**

# GAY TODAY

How the battle for acceptance has moved to schools, churches, marriage & the workplace

www.newsweek.com



Netherlands 2001

THE HUNT FOR SADDAM • SNOOP DOGG UNPLUGGED

# New Week

July 7, 2003 | \$3.95

[newweek.msnbc.com](http://newweek.msnbc.com)

## Is Gay Marriage Next?

Behind the  
Supreme Court's  
Privacy Ruling

The Fights Ahead—  
From Adoption  
To the Military



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Partners Dominic Pisciotta and Andrew Berg



Obama's Hawk Talk / The Unseen Earth

PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY GUY AROCH

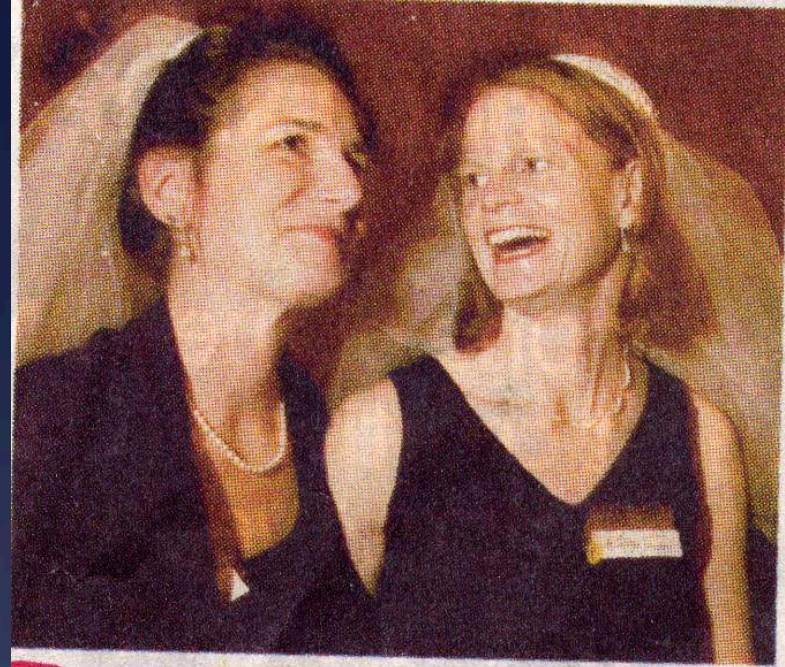
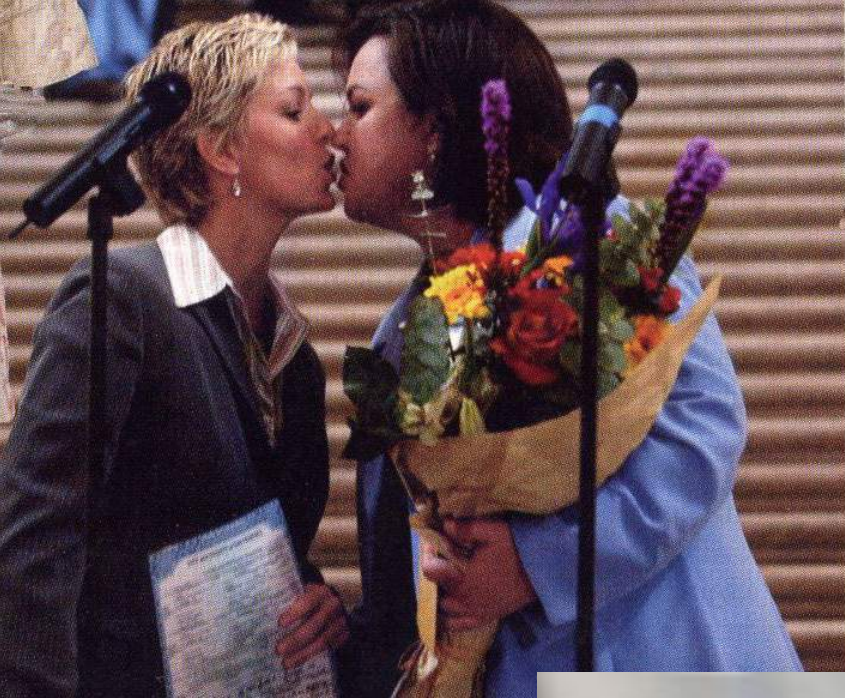
# TIME

## GAY MARRIAGE ALREADY WON.

THE SUPREME COURT  
HASN'T MADE UP  
ITS MIND—BUT  
AMERICA HAS

BY DAVID VOH DRECHT







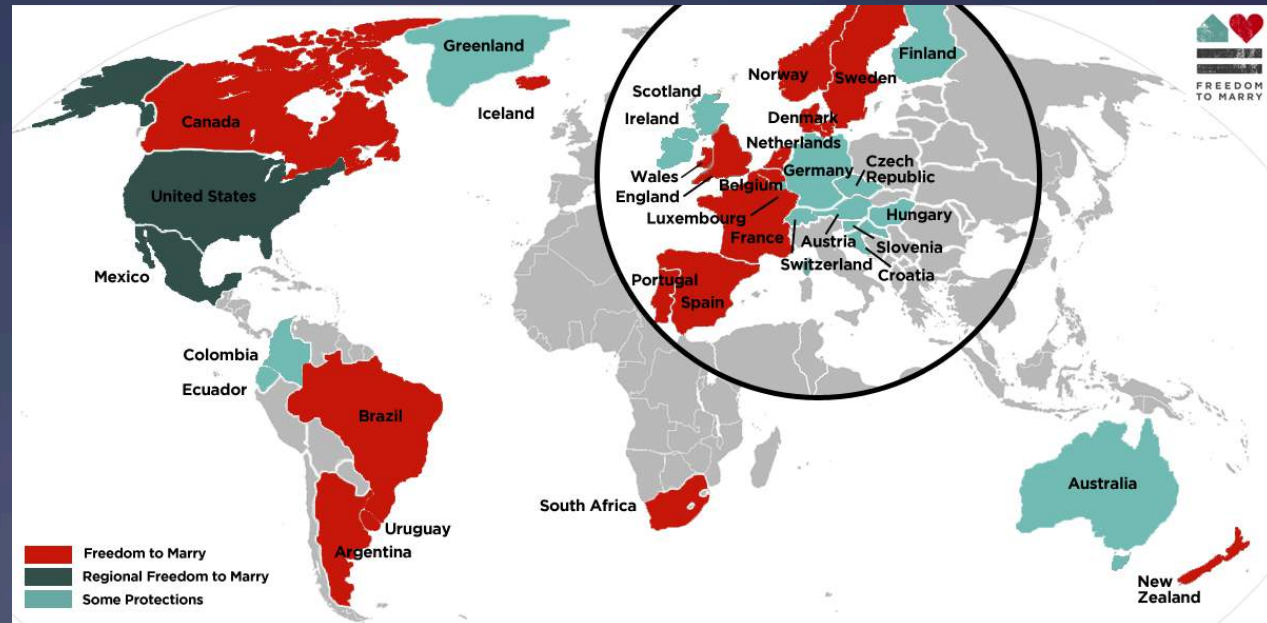


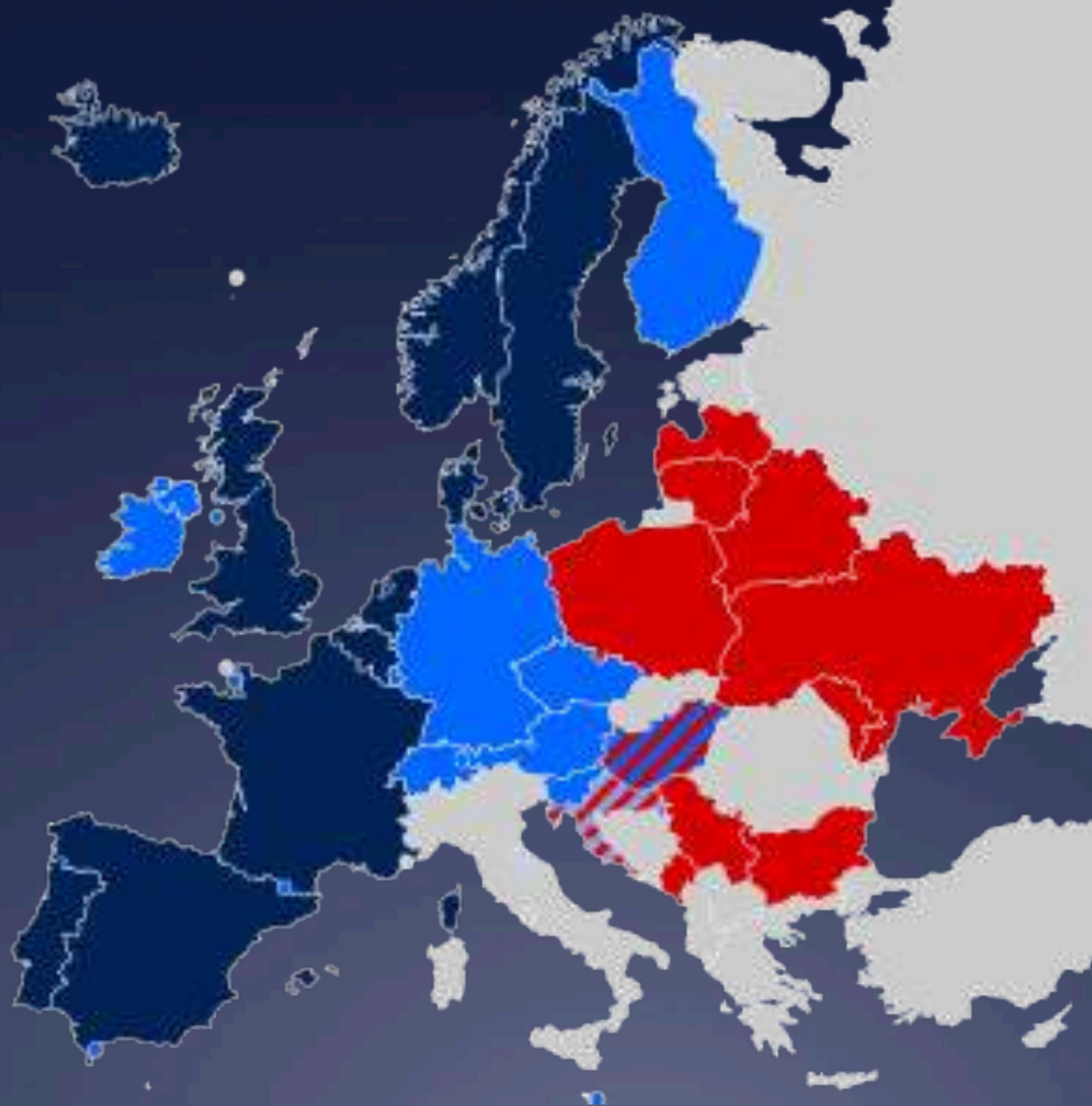
New York Times



# Gay Marriage legal

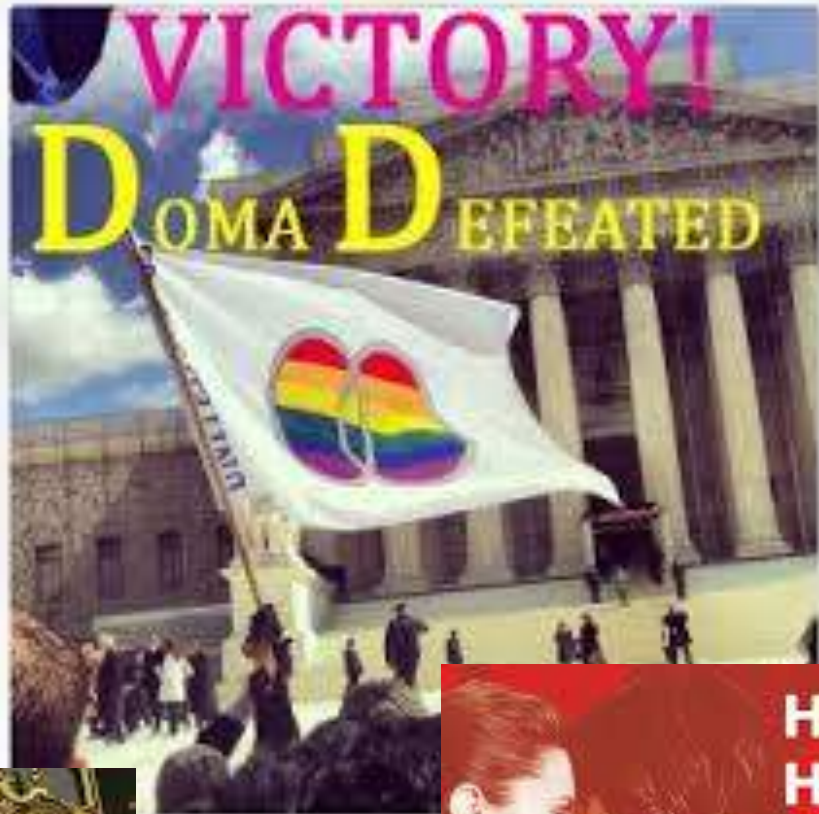
- \* 16 countries
- \* 18 states
- \* 34 states ban SSM
- \* Civil Unions







1996



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## Marriage, redefined

What the Supreme Court's  
historic decision  
will really mean

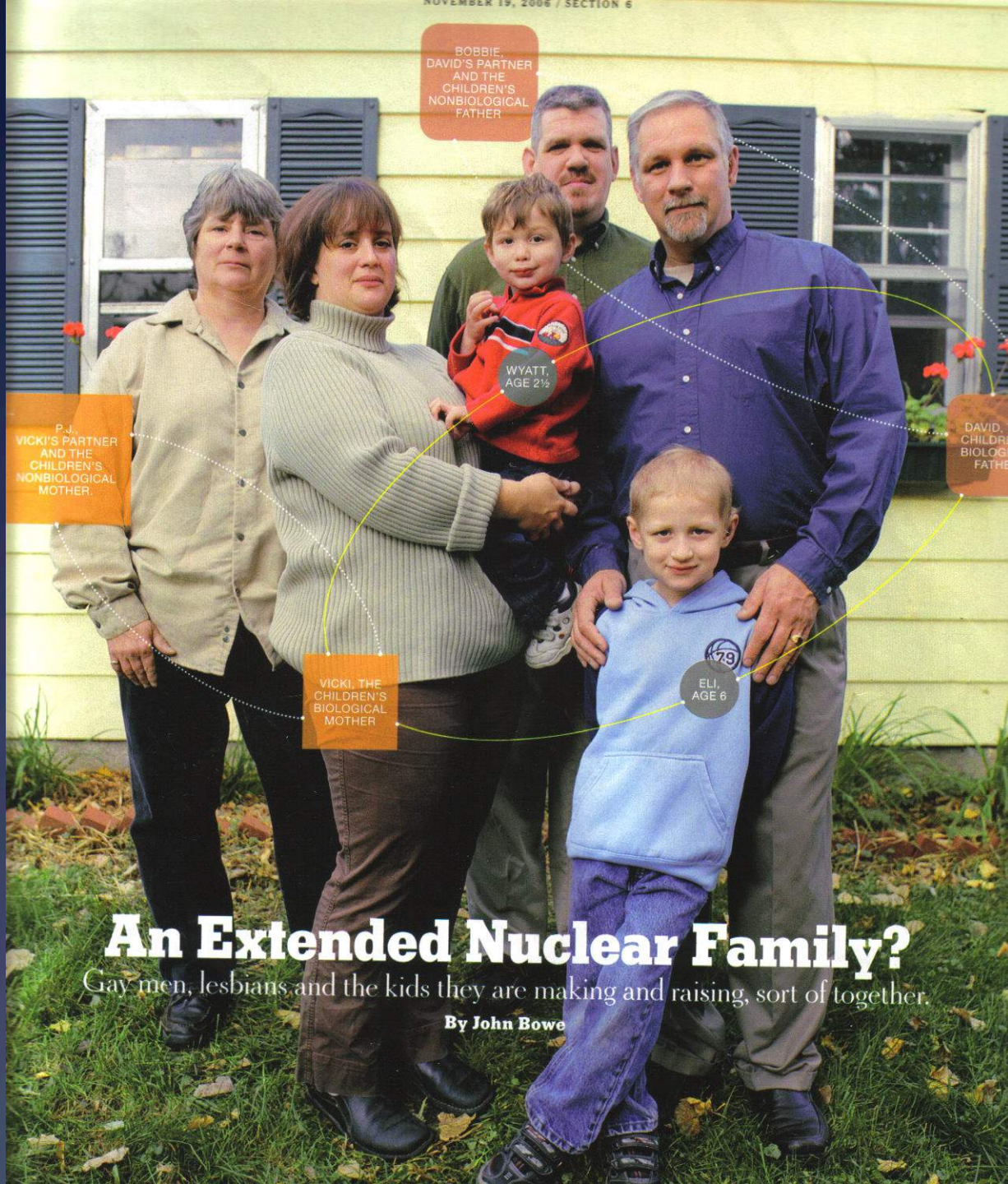
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BOBBIE,  
DAVID'S PARTNER  
AND THE  
CHILDREN'S  
NONBIOLOGICAL  
FATHER

P.J.,  
VICKI'S PARTNER  
AND THE  
CHILDREN'S  
NONBIOLOGICAL  
MOTHER

DAVID, THE  
CHILDREN'S  
BIOLOGICAL  
FATHER

WYATT,  
AGE 2½

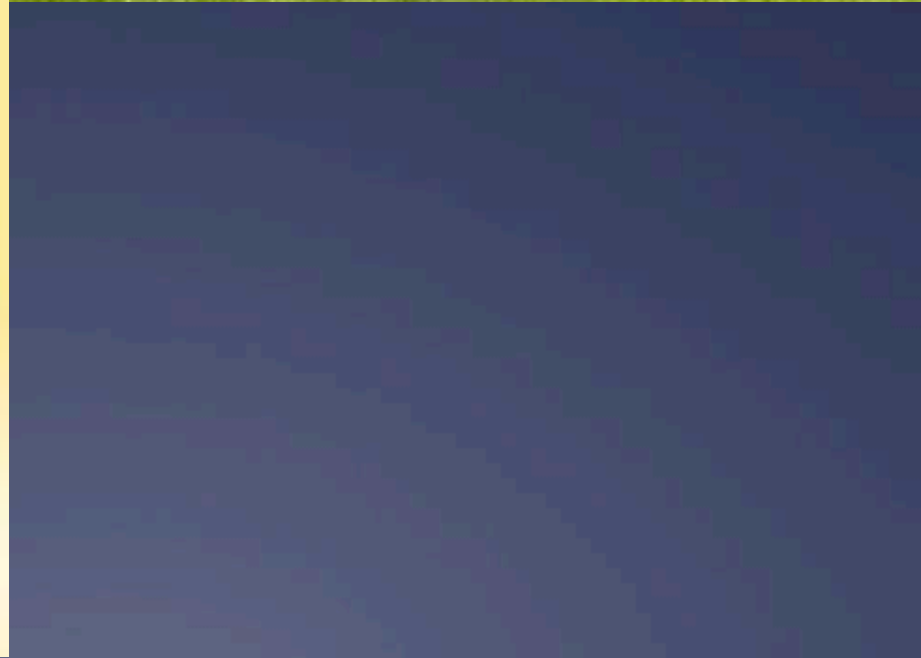
VICKI, THE  
CHILDREN'S  
BIOLOGICAL  
MOTHER

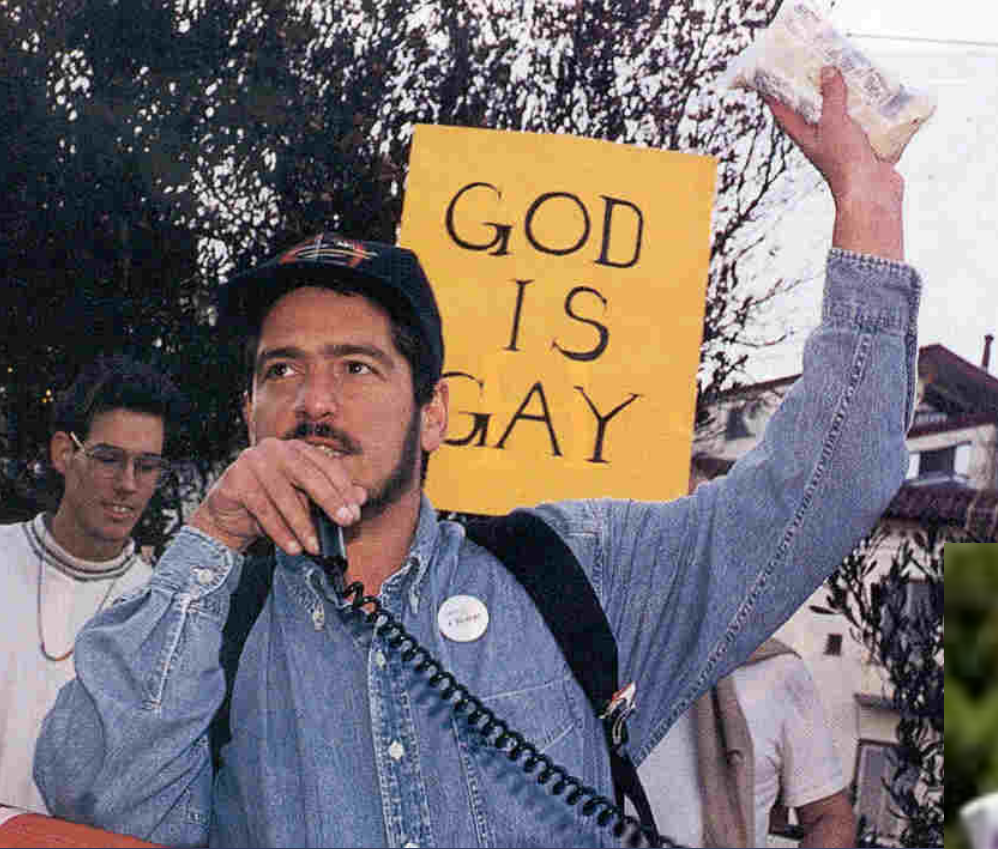
ELI,  
AGE 6

# An Extended Nuclear Family?

Gay men, lesbians and the kids they are making and raising, sort of together.

By John Rowe

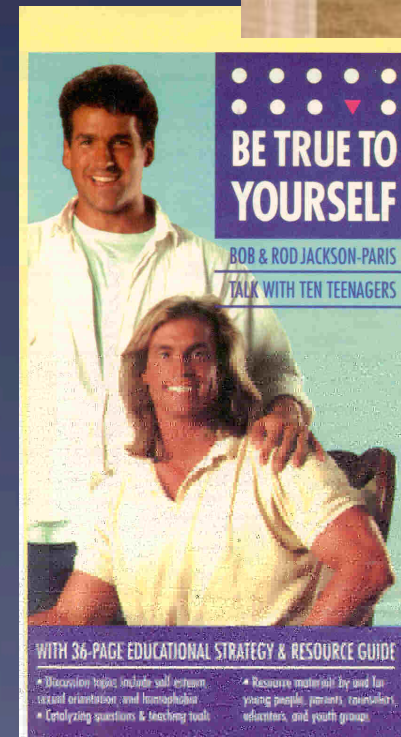
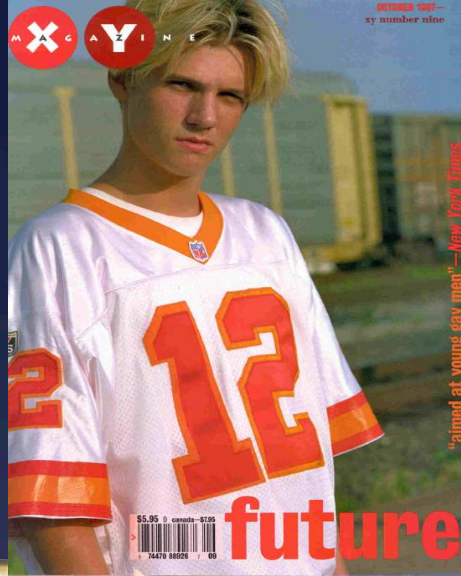




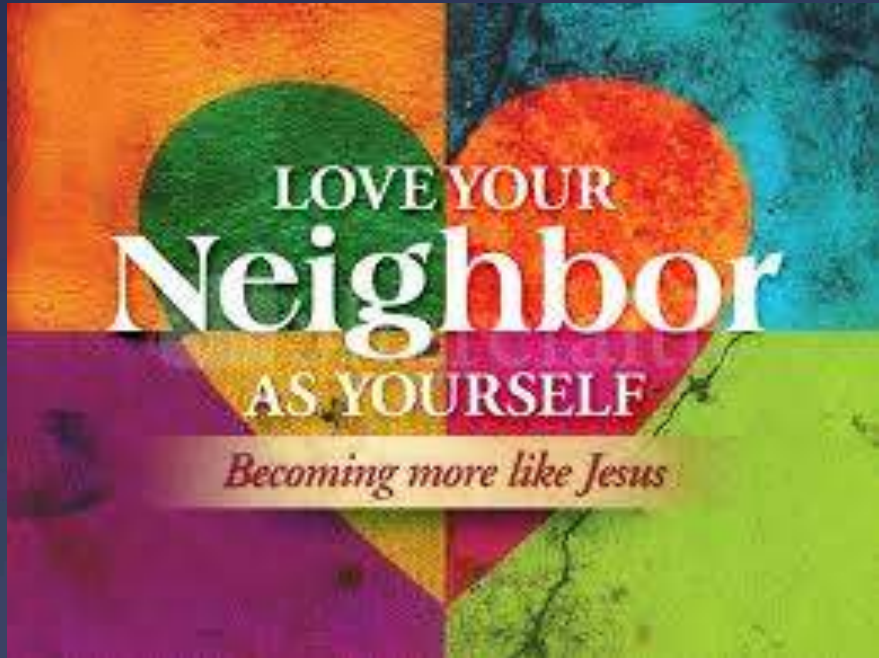


# “GLBTQIA”

Gay  
Lesbian  
Bisexual  
Transsexual  
Questioning  
“Queer”  
Intersexual  
Asexual



# Homosexuality: The Challenge of Love





# Science and Same Sex Attraction

\* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fpdsdk6J00E>

# Kinsey and 10%

1990s



**POLITICS**

## The Shrinking Ten Percent

**A new national survey claiming that only 1% of men are gay has put the movement off stride**

By PRISCILLA PAINTON

**E**VEN BY AMERICAN STANDARDS of interest-group celebrity, gay men have been large in the nation's consciousness, surfacing at Roseanne's side on prime time television, as superheroes in DC Comics and on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers fuss over showering habits in the barracks. But last week, as they prepared for the largest march on Washington in six years, gay men became the first put-upon minority in the country to have struggled toward a moment of national definition only to find themselves suddenly redefined. How? The word, due to all their hard work when

the President in the Oval Office, when a major national survey abruptly shrank their population to a tenth of what it was once touted to be.

The study, one of the most thorough reports on male sexual behavior ever, found that only 1% of the 3,521 men surveyed said they considered themselves exclusively homosexual. The survey, by researchers at the Battelle Human Affairs Research Centers in Seattle, was designed to study how many men engage in the kinds of sexual behavior that put them at greater risk of developing AIDS. But its reluctant verdict: men are still having too much unprotected sex, was overwhelmed by a political one. "It shows politicians

**Power beyond their numbers: gay pride marchers in San Francisco**

they don't need to be worried about 1% of the population," says conservative leader Phillip Schlafly, whose son confirmed last year that he is gay. Some gay activists are concerned that she might actually be right. "Bill Clinton and Jesse Helms worry about 10% of the population," says ACT UP co-founder Larry Kramer. "They don't worry about 1%. This will give Bill Clinton a chance to watch on promises."

In seeking to win political clout and public acceptance, gays and their leaders have long sought refuge in numbers—specifically in the 10% figure for homosexuality that Alfred Kinsey turned up in his 1958 study of human sexuality. Since then, the famous 10% has slipped into caricatures and talk shows, and not just because there were few other studies to refute it. It was also good propaganda. "It became part of our vocabulary," says Kramer. "Homosexuality is all about proving you have the numbers. The more numbers you can prove you have, the more likely you'll get your due."

That 10% has remained a political talisman for the gay community was clear last week when several leaders refused to give it up. The San Francisco-based magazine *The Advocate*, a national quarterly devoted to gay culture, made clear it had no intention of changing its name. "I'm not a statistarian," says editor Hank Bonat

# How Common? (US studies)

*	Males	Females
* Exclusively SSA	1-2.5%	0.3-1%
* Rep "Homosexual"	2-4%	1-2%
* Lifetime Occurrence (same gender sex)	5.2%	13%
* Some attraction	5-15%	15-25%
* National Health Statistics Report. US Department of Health & Human Services 2011		

# Recent studies in USA

*	Males	Females
* Reporting “Bisexual”	1-3%	2-5%
* At least one s.s.sex ptr in last year	4.9%	11.4%
* “Liquid” “Fluid” sexualities		
* National Health Statistics Report. US Department of Health & Human Services 2011		



# Kinsey's scale

Exclusively  
Heterosexual

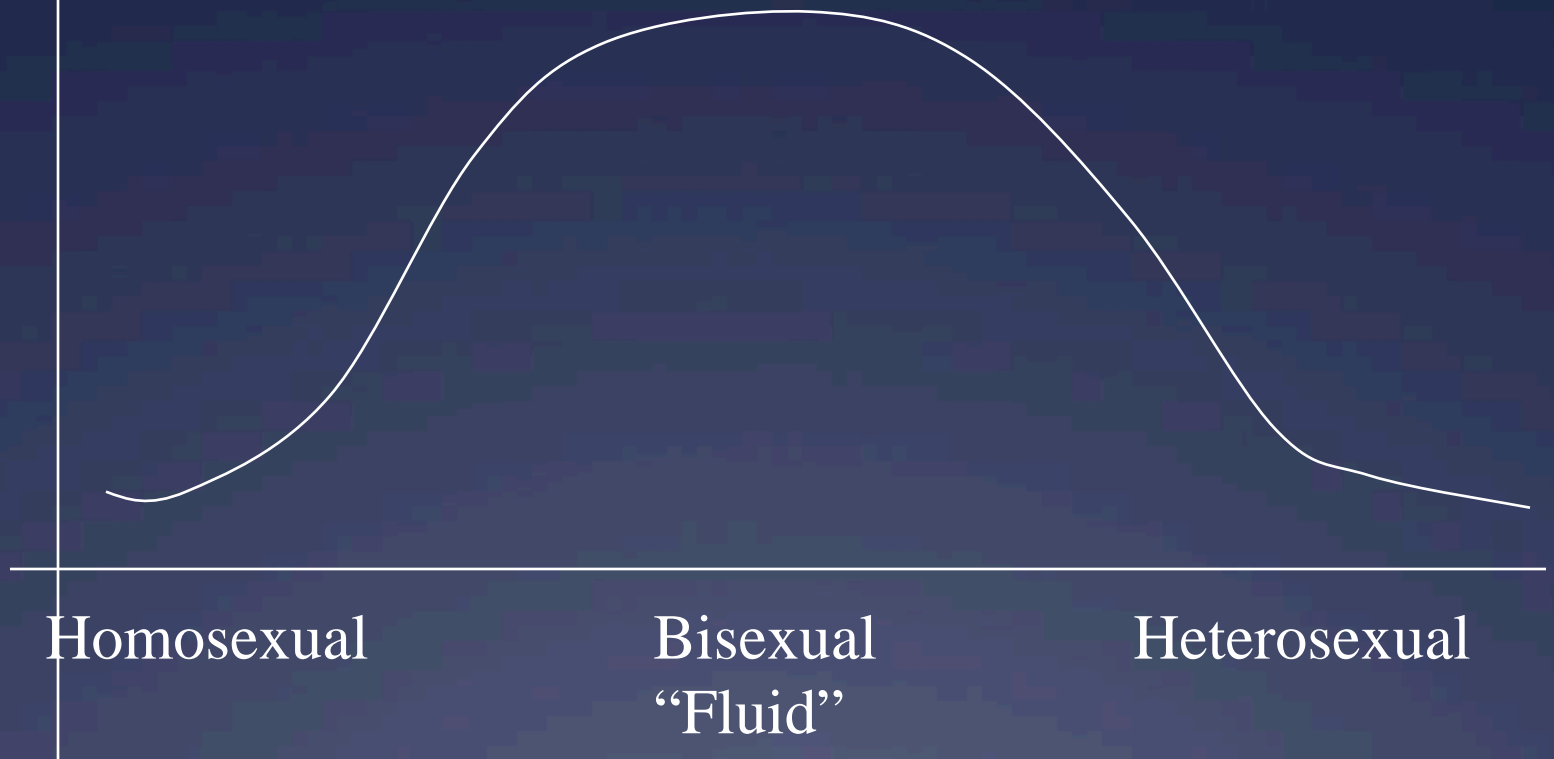
Exclusively  
Homosexual



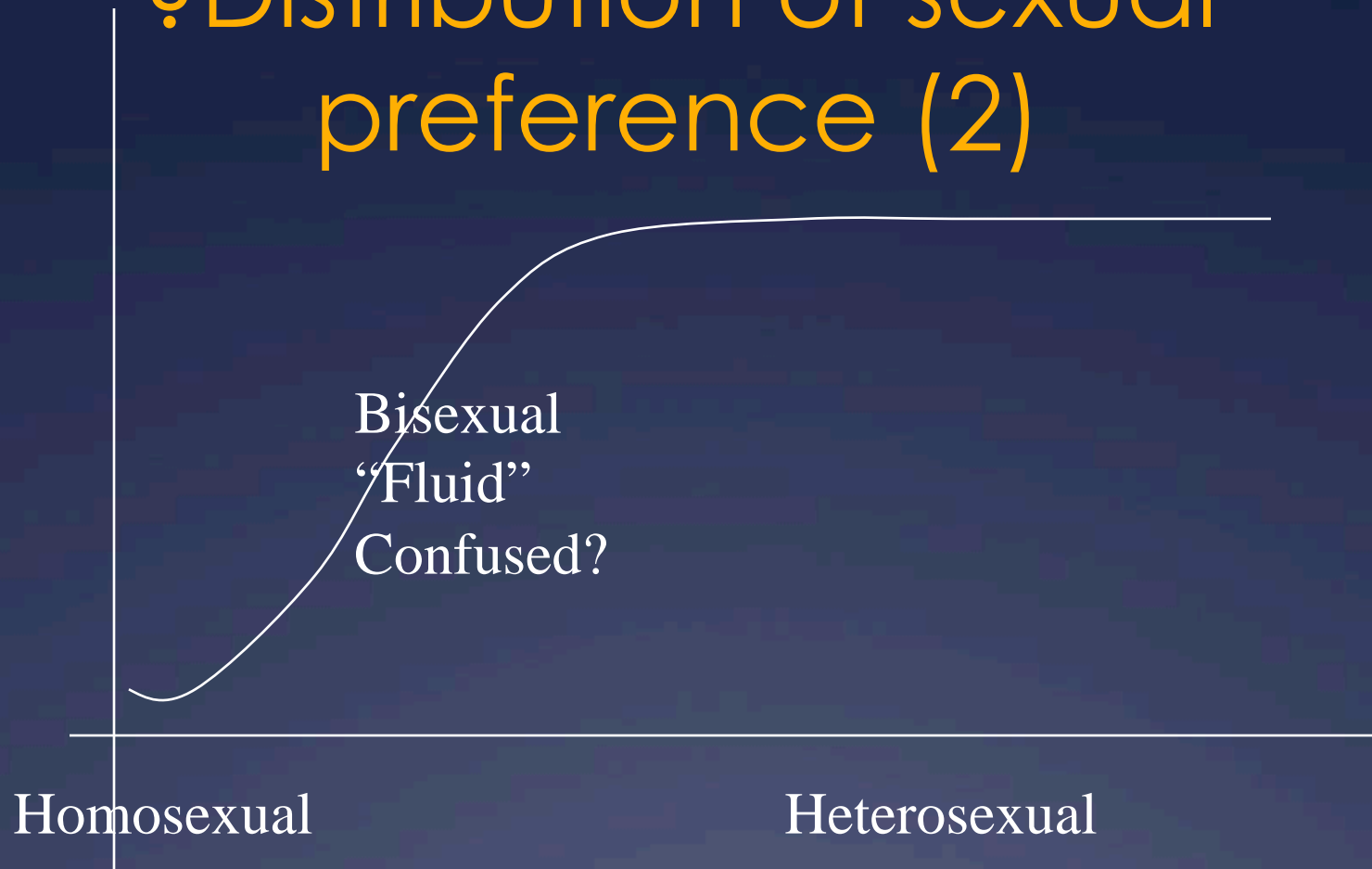
No homo dreams,  
fantasies, desires...

No hetero dreams,  
fantasies, desires...

# Beyond Gay and Straight



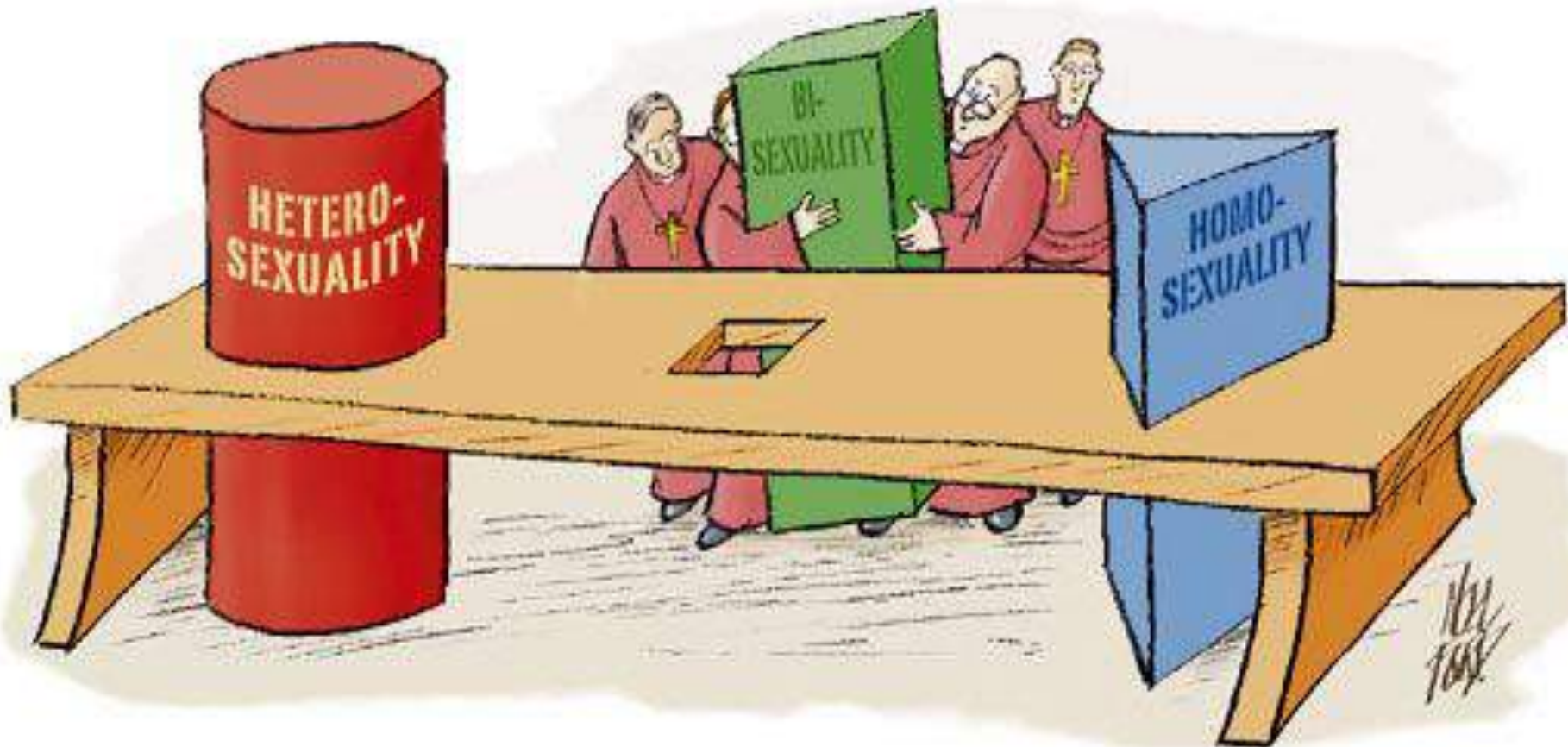
# ? Distribution of sexual preference (2)



Bisexual  
"Fluid"  
Confused?

Homosexual

Heterosexual



# Lisa Diamond U of Utah study

- \* 48% Lesbian Identified Women – some degree attraction to men in previous year
- \* 40% gay men - ...
- \* 26% LIW reported wanting sex with a man in previous year
- \* 20% gay men...
- \* 9% LIW did have sex with man
- \* 12% gay men...

# Gender identity??

- \* Transvestism
- \* Transsexual
- \* Intersexual
- \* Asexual



# TIME

## THE TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT

America's next  
civil rights frontier



Laverne Cox, a star of *Orange Is the New Black*, is one of an estimated 1.5 million Americans who identify as transgender







# The world of Trans-

- \* Transgender studies 1990s
- \* Normalization against heteronormative culture
- \* Trans culture
- \* Hardship and suffering
  - \* Identity struggles
  - \* Discrimination, rejection and violence

# Transgender umbrella

- \* Includes transsexuals, transvestites or cross dressers, gender fluid and anyone transitioning
- \* Trans man: Female to male (F2M)
- \* Trans woman: Male to female (M2F)
- \* Sexual orientation separate but related
  - \* Androphilic (attracted to men)
  - \* Gynephilic (attracted to women)

# Gender Identity Disorder

- Only if being transgender causes distress or disability (gender dysphoria)
- Believe they are one sex even though all the physical evidence suggests that they are the other
- Wrong bodies or wrong beliefs?
- A few intersex people where there is genuine confusion (chromosomes, hormones...)

# Transsexual/transgender

1. causes: much speculation –
  - \* Hormones, genes, family, culture
  - \* Similar to same sex attraction
  - \* Some evidence of brain differences claimed
2. Psychological treatment
3. Hormones
4. Major surgical reconstruction

# Other cultures



- \* Thailand and Laos: kathoey – male to female transgender and effeminate gay men
- \* India: hijra – a third identity
- \* Many other Asian countries identify transgender people



# Transvestites

- \* Cross dressing for various reasons
- \* Most heterosexual
- \* Drag king or queen
- \* Fetishism



# Chromosomes

- \* XYY – taller, more muscular, more impulsive, higher activity, more criminal convictions
- \* XXY – shorter, less muscular, less secondary sexual characteristics. More timid and passive
- \* XO – Shorter, abnormal ovaries, no menstruation, lack of secondary sexual characteristics

# Hormones - intersex

- \* Hermaphroditism – full or partial genital or reproductive organs of both sexes – usually genetically female (xx)
- \* Pseudohermaphroditism – gonads match sex chromosomes but external genitalia resemble opposite sex.
- \* Adrenogenital syndrome – genetically female but raised as males because external genitalia look male
- \* Testicular feminization syndrome – lack of male genitals in individuals who are genetically male



# Gender ambiguity

- \* Gender fluidity/gender non-conforming
- \* Gender a spectrum – not two opposing categories
- \* 2-7% of boys under 12 display cross-gender behaviors
- \* By age 10 most drop cross-gender
- \* 60-80% become gay, rest male or want to become women

- \* Wait – relate to children as intersexuals until gender more clear
- \* Controversy over how active to be in shaping behavior
- \* Some to Gender reassignment surgery



# Deconstruction of Heteronormative Culture

# Gay Identity

- \* Attraction
- \* Orientation
- \* Identity





# Between Two Worlds

- \* Modern or Postmodern
- \* Essentialist or Social Constructionist
- \* Constitution or Choice?

# *Genetic Factors*

## Twin research



# Genetics?

- \* 1991 (M) & 1993 (F) Bailey and Pillard
  - \* ID twins 52% male/48% female
  - \* NID twins 22% male/16% female
- \* Bailey Australian Twins Study 2000
  - \* ID twins 20% male/24% female
  - \* NID twins 0% male/10% female



# Genetics?

- \* Sample bias
- \* Statistical errors
- \* Actual concordance in first study for male ID twins 34% (52) and in second study 11% (20)
- \* Bailey: This (2000) study “*did not provide statistically significant support for the importance of genetic factors.*”

# Swedish Twin Study (2008)

- \* *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Niklas Langstrom, June 2008
- \* 43,808 twin pairs (1959-1985)
- \* 3826 pairs, 2320 ID, 1506 Fraternal (12%)
- \* 5% male, 8% female one same sex partner any time
- \* 35% male - 18% female genetic influence

# Genetics?

- \* ? A Gay Gene
- \* Dean Hamer, 1993
- \* Region of X chromosome in small group of gay men Xq28
- \* Not replicated



# Genetic factor?

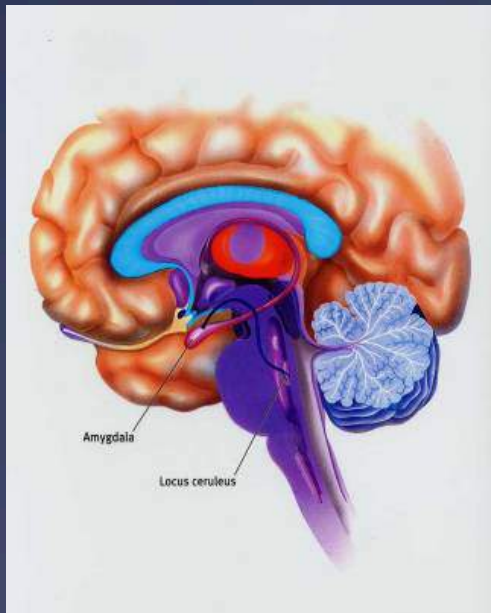
- \* Epigenetics
- \* Possibly some influence in some people
  - \* ?Temperament
  - \* ?Hormones
  - \* ?Neurochemistry
- \* What is – not necessarily what ought to be!
- \* Created or “Fallen”

# Gender non-conformity?

- \* “Effeminate” males and “masculine” females more likely to become homosexual
- \* “Sissy” “Tomboy” “Feeling different”
- \* “71% gay men and 70% lesbian women among 1500 people in SF felt different from same sex peers in childhood compared with 38% heterosexual men and 51% women.”
- \* “Sensitivity” (strong creative drive, keen aesthetic sense)

# Gay Sheep?

- \* 8% rams mount only other rams and not ewes
- \* Hypothalamus female-like size
- \* ? Abnormalities of hormones in pregnancy



# Psychological Factors?

- \* Research mostly on homosexual men
- \* Mothers - over-involved, dominant and strong
- \* Fathers – quiet, distant, unexpressive, sometimes absent and/or hostile
- \* Poor communication between parents



# Women

- \* Parents – critical, domineering and/or detached, weak and passive
- \* Often poor relationship between parents



# Both men and women

- \* Deficit in relationship with parent of same sex.  
Real or perceived?
- \* Early attachment problems in relation to mother (detached or over involved)
- \* And... always exceptions!

# Psychological Factors?

- \* Deficit in relationship with parent of same sex (real or perceived)
- \* Often lonely and feeling inadequate
- \* Women familiar
- \* Men mysterious and therefore attractive
- \* Envy and eroticizes desired qualities

- \* Attempts repair of childhood hurts through relationship - sex
- \* Sexual compulsion
- \* Gives up hope of true intimacy
- \* Cycles of infatuation and disillusionment
- \* Little sexual fidelity in men

# Sexual Abuse

- \* Several studies with variable results
- \* Overall much greater history of childhood sexual abuse in those with SSA than OSA

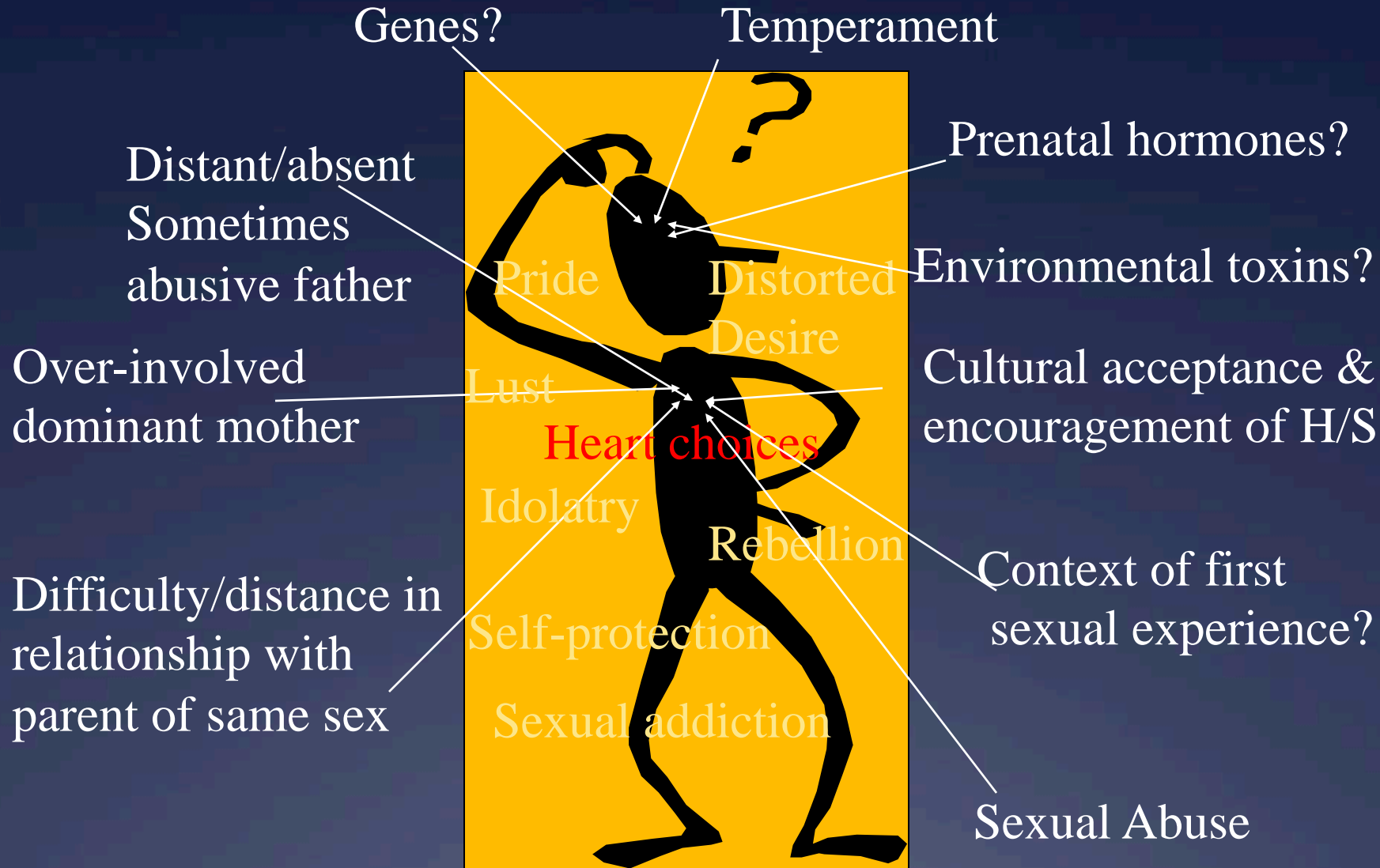
# Sociological/Cultural Factors?

- \* Relativism

- \* Tolerance

- \* Cultural acceptance of homosexuality

# INTERACTIONAL MODEL



# Starting Points/Assumptions

- \* Pragmatic Materialism
- \* Humanism/Existentialism



# Carl Rogers – Self Actualization

- \* “Experience is for me the highest authority... It is to experience that I must return again and again to discover a closer approximation to the truth as it is becoming in me. Neither the Bible nor the prophets, neither Freud nor research, neither the revelations of God or man, can take precedence over my own direct experience.”





\*Self actualization

\*Social construction

Gay

?

Swinging

Transvestite

Metrosexual

Pornography

Bisexual

Sex with animals

Casual sex

# Anything Goes

Hookup

Queer

Straight

Transsexual

Lesbian

Oral sex

?

Premarital sex

?

Pedophilia

Homosexuality

Anal sex

Group sex

Fetishism

Questioning

Bondage

?

# Another Story:

Creation - Fall - Redemption - Restoration



David Arms

# Creation

- \* So God created man in his own image... male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27)
- \* A man shall leave his mother and father and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. (Gen 2:24)
- \* SEX: Procreation, companionship, and declaration (of something beyond itself)

# Marriage

- \* Complementarity of sexes
- \* in exclusive covenantal bond for life
- \* with expectation of children and
- \* creating secure environment for birth and nurture of children
- \* for the good of wider society



# Rebellion & Fall





# Need for Fences: Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13

- ✱ If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination.
- ✱ With prohibitions of child sacrifice, incest, adultery and bestiality. All accepted as wrong today.

# Just exploitative or idolatrous sex condemned?

- \* Male - not cult prostitute, boy or youth.
- \* Applies to Israelites and non-Israelites (Lev 18:26)
- \* Both parties penalized (Lev 20:13)
- \* Not just part of idol/temple worship

# Just part of the purity laws?

- ✱ As eating blood, bodily discharges, purity of priests
- ✱ But
- ✱ Basic categories of sexual immorality remain the same in NT (1 Cor 5-7)
- ✱ 1 Cor 6:9-10 Paul's word arsenokoitai = "men who lie with males" from Lev 18 & 20

# Romans 1: 18-32

- \* Turned away from God
- \* Darkened understanding
- \* Dishonorable passions
- \* Exchanged God for idols
- \* Exchanged Truth for lie
- \* Exchanged natural for unnatural
- \* Insensitive consciences

# Echoes of Eden (Genesis 1-2)

- \* Ever since the creation of the world (Rom 1:20)
- \* The Creator (Rom 1:25)
- \* Male and female he made them (Gen 1:27, Rom 1:26-27)
- \* Complementarity of sexes “very good” (Gen 1:31)

# 1 Corinthians 5-6

- \* Condemnation of incest and other forms of sexual immorality (visiting prostitutes) (1 Cor 5-6)
- \* Appeals to Genesis (1 Cor 6:16)
- \* Serial, unrepentant sexual immorality (of all forms) could lead to exclusion from the kingdom of God. (1 Cor 6:9-10)
- \* Not worst of sins (1 Cor 6:9-10) // theft, greed...
- \* Danger of pride (Rom 1-2) “you have no excuse...”

# Liberal critics

- \* Not unnatural for those who have only known SSA!
- \* Only refers to fertility cults or married men having sex with youths
- \* Not wrong if loving and consensual. Constitutional SSA not known to Paul
- \* Progressive liberation from:
  - \* Racism
  - \* Sexism and misogyny
  - \* Heterosexism

# Other biblical themes

- ✱ Narratives, laws, proverbs, commands... all assume heterosexuality as the norm
- ✱ No regulation of different types of same sex relationships
- ✱ Relationship between God and Israel, Christ and the church always heterosexual imagery



# Christian responses through history

- \* 1. Homosexuality the worst of sins
- \* 2. Homosexual relations non-ideal but lesser of evils
- \* 3. Homosexual relations God-given

# Creation – Fall perspective

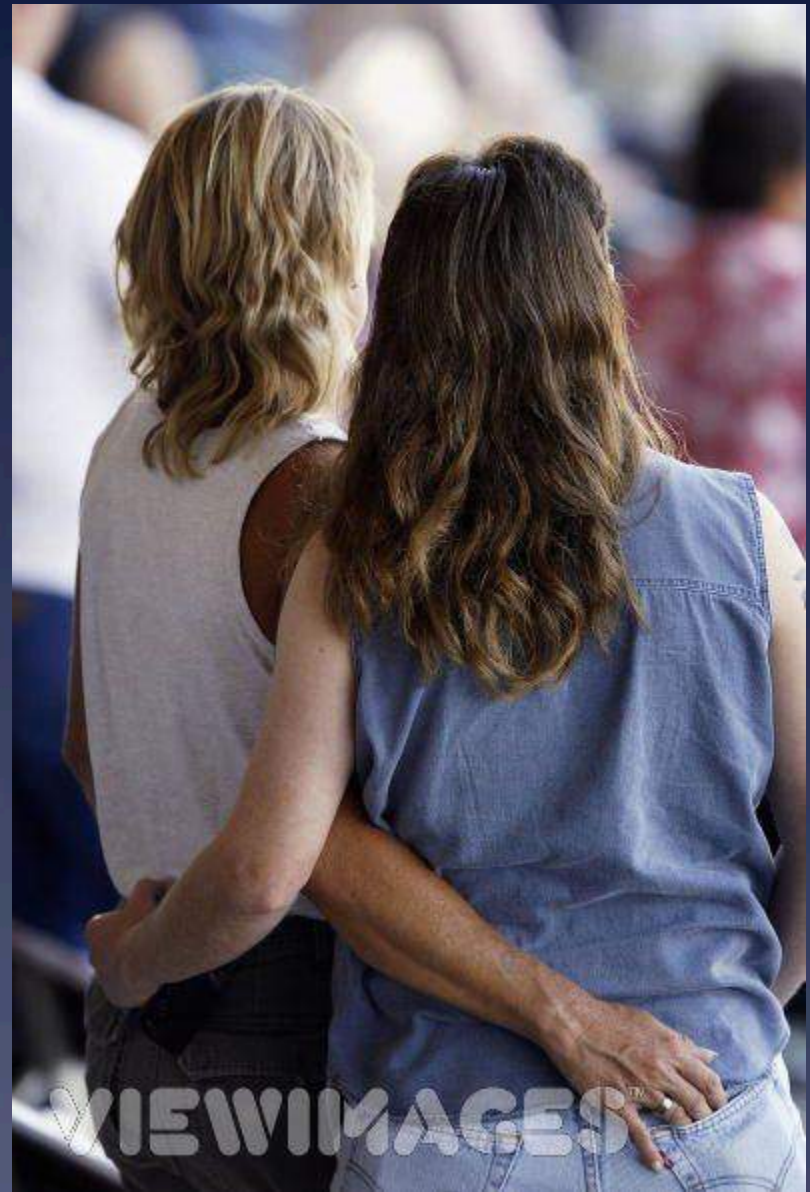
- \* 4. Homosexual desire a distortion of God's good creation as a result of the fall
- \* Homosexual orientation the result of being part of broken world where all of our sexuality is fallen
- \* SSA not chosen (sinful/fallen nature)
- \* The *ongoing practice* (in thought or action) is not the creator's intention and is therefore "sinful"
- \* Difference between temptation and sin
- \* Part of the struggle between sinful nature and new creation in Christ

CAN

MALE

HOMOSEXUALS

BE HELPED  
TO CHANGE?



# Is Change Possible?

## \* APA and ACA

- \* Moves to have “conversion therapy” banned as unethical, unenlightened, ineffective, prejudiced and homophobic.
- \* Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill threatens to remove from the register anyone who is involved with “gay to straight therapy”
- \* Gay affirmative therapy encouraged

# Psychoanalytical, Behavioral, Cognitive and Group Therapies – pre 1973

- \* Many studies of change
- \* Average significant positive outcome across these studies is 33%
- \* Some change is possible

# Kinsey's scale

Exclusively  
Heterosexual

Exclusively  
Homosexual



No homo dreams,  
fantasies, desires...

No hetero dreams,  
fantasies, desires...

# Religiously oriented approaches

- \* Pastoral counselors and support groups  
(Exodus International – Chambers)
- \* Sexual Identity Therapy  
(Throckmorton and Yarhouse)  
[sexualidentityinstitute.org](http://sexualidentityinstitute.org)
- \* Reparative Therapy  
(Nicolosi and NARTH ) [narth.com](http://narth.com)

# Reparative Therapy (males)

## Nicolosi

- \* Gender identity shame and defensive detachment
- \* Early attachment problems with father
- \* 2-3 years of weekly intensive sessions
- \* Work with grief, affect regulation, attachment, helping to relate to other men



# Nicolosi '98 (Reorientation thpy)

- \* 882 “religious” people who were seeking change or who had experienced change.
- \* 78% men, 22% women
- \* Average age awareness of homosexual tendencies: 12.4 years
- \* 726 (82%) therapy from professional therapist or pastoral counselor.
- \* 156 (18%) support from friends, family, ex-gay ministry

# Nicolosi (882 “religious people”)

- \* 68% exclusively or almost exclusively homosexual at one time in their lives
- \* Only 13% perceived themselves in this manner after therapy (55% change)
- \* 35% unsuccessful in making change
- \* Av age entering therapy 29.9 years
- \* Av length of therapy 3.4 years

- \* Decrease in homosexual thoughts, fantasies, masturbation and overt homosexual behavior
- \* Improvement in overall psychological health
- \* 99% believed homosexual orientation can be changed

# Newsweek

August 17, 1998 : \$2.95

## Gay for Life?

Going Straight: The Uproar Over Sexual 'Conversion'

PLUS

**TERROR**

THE U.S. EMBASSY  
BOMBINGS

**MONICA  
TESTIFIES**

**STOCKS**

WHAT TO DO NOW

BY JANE BRYANT QUINN



Married couple  
John and Anne Paulk  
are ex-gays



# Robert Spitzer

- \* 1973 APA vote to remove homosexuality from list of disorders in DSM



# Spitzer study (2001)

- \* 143 men, 57 women in 5 years sustained effort to change. 45 minute telephone interview
- \* 66% men and 44% women who had rarely or never felt any opposite sex attraction now had good heterosexual function. Spectrum of change.

# Spitzer study (2001/3)

- \* *“Contrary to conventional wisdom, some highly motivated individuals, using a variety of change efforts, can make substantial change in multiple indicators of sexual orientation, and achieve good hetero-sexual functioning.”*

# Spitzer

- \* *“The mental health professionals should stop moving in the direction of banning therapy that has, as a goal, a change in sexual orientation....”*
- \* *2011 Public retraction*



# Jones and Yarhouse (2007/9)

*Ex-Gays: a longitudinal study of religious mediated change in sexual orientation (IVP)*

- \* 98 subjects. Prospective study and follow up 7 years later
- \* 23% reported “conversion” to predominant heterosexuality
- \* 30% reported “chastity” + reduction in SSA
- \* 29% continuing change but uncertain success
- \* 15+% no change
- \* Change on continuum

# Conclusion of studies

- \* Changes away from SSA and towards heterosexual functioning in some dimensions: 45-65%
- \* Majority do not experience complete change of orientation
  - \* Changes on all dimensions:
    - \* Males 10 - 15%
    - \* Females 30%
- \* Change is slow and difficult

# APA report 2009 - abstract and summary

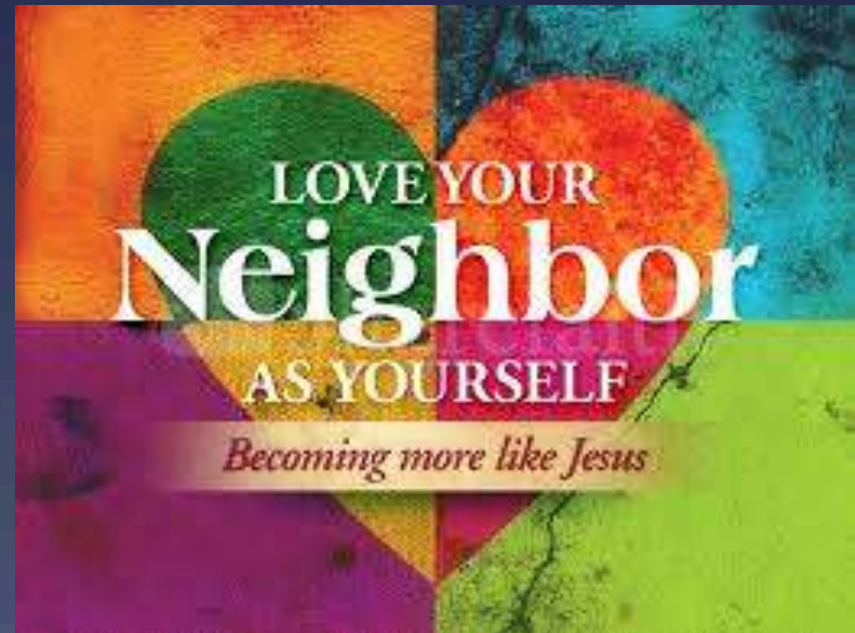
- \* “conducted a systematic review... and concluded that efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful.”
- \* “Thus the results of scientifically valid research indicate that it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other sex attractions through Sexual Orientation Change Effort (SOCE).”

How can we be agents of

Redemption

and

Reconciliation?

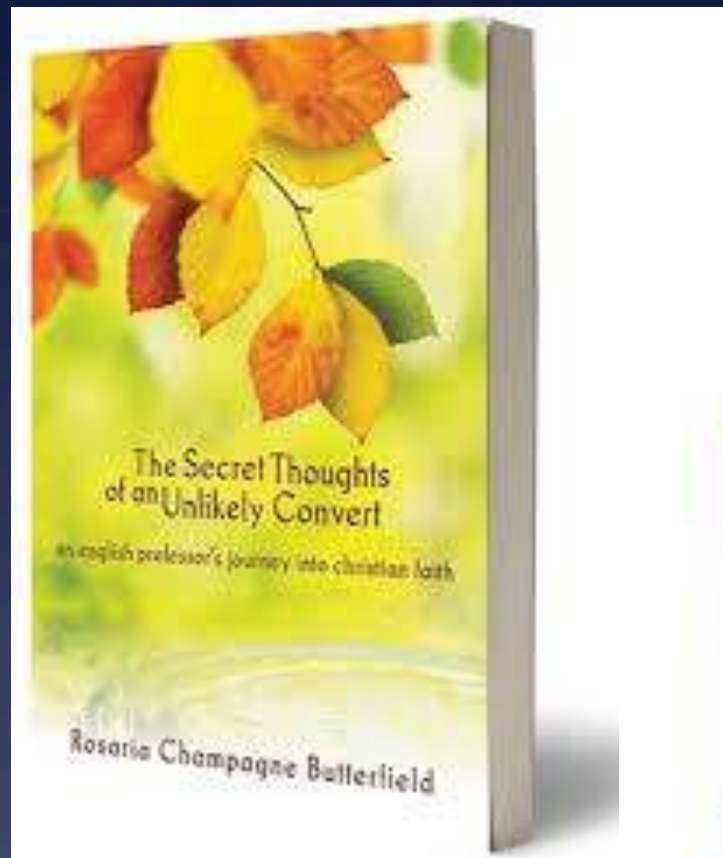


# How do we love?

- \* Build friendships
- \* Champion respect, dignity and love of neighbor for people of any sexual orientation



via ShaneWindmeyer on Twitter



<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/my-train-wreck-conversion.htm>

# How do we love?

- \* Build friendships.
- \* Champion respect, dignity and love of neighbor for people of any sexual orientation
- \* Welcome into our homes and churches as fellow image bearers and sinners like us.
- \* Share the gospel of God's love and grace and forgiveness – that we all need – when time is right
- \* Give time for it to sink in - expect slow change/ little change/no change (cf. materialism...)



- \* Friendships, families, and community
- \* Teaching, prayer and counseling
- \* If Church is a hospital, some intensive care counseling may be needed.
- \* Support groups
- \* [Firstlightstlouis.org](http://Firstlightstlouis.org) and [Harvestusa.org](http://Harvestusa.org)

# Gay Christians - Side A and B

- \* A - God blesses same sex marriages – (faithful monogamy)
- \* B - God calls to lifelong celibacy or perhaps mixed orientation marriage
- \* <http://www.gaychristian.net/greatdebate.php>

# SSA Christian – Side B

- \* Moving away from “gay identity”
- \* View same sex attractions as temptations and strive to live celibate lives.
- \* Wesley Hill “*Washed and Waiting*”
- \* Not either/or... Gay/Straight.
- \* Sexual Human becoming

- \* “Post-gay” not “ex-gay” – directional
- \* Recognize tendency for “wrongly centered self”
- \* Need to be centered in Identity in Christ
- \* Some possibility of change - but realism necessary

- \* Difference between attraction, orientation and identity
- \* Call to stewardship of sexuality
- \* “God allowed me to struggle in this way but did not create this orientation”
- \* Finding calling and vocation in singleness
- \* Need for supportive community
- \* [www.spiritualfriendship.org](http://www.spiritualfriendship.org)

\* *“Church was a place of nurture and unconditional acceptance, but at the same time the teaching was clear that I shouldn’t act on those sexual desires. In an environment where young people were being encouraged to experiment, I was really grateful that I had been kept from acting on my feelings.” Sean Doherty*

\* [www.livingout.org](http://www.livingout.org)

\* “One of the most surprising discoveries I made... is that the New Testament views the church – rather than marriage – as the primary place where love is best expressed and experienced.” .

Wesley Hill *“Washed and Waiting”*

\* Huge challenge to the church

What about Gay Marriage  
(and Side A)?



# Gay Christians - Side A

- \* Believe that Scriptural texts support faithful and loving same sex relationships
- \* How could a loving God condemn us to the loneliness of celibacy?
- \* *"I now believe that homosexual behavior is appropriate within the confines of a committed, loving, monogamous, lifelong, Christ centered relationship."* Justin Lee "Torn"
- \* <http://www.acceptingevangelicals.org/>
- \* <https://www.gaychristian.net/>

# Revisionist view of Marriage

\* *Homosexuality, at its core, is about the emotional, (financial and psychological) connection between two adult human beings. And what public institution is more central—more definitive—of that connection than marriage? The denial of marriage to gay people is therefore not a minor issue. It is the entire issue.*

*Andrew Sullivan, The New Republic, May 6, 1996*

\* Civil Unions discriminatory

EQUALLOVE.ORG.UK



EQUAL  
LOVE



A change of direction



# Moving marriage forward

- \* *“When talking about freedom to marry, share the truth: gay couples want to join marriage precisely because they respect the institution and what it means in our society...”*
- \* *But... Masha Gessen – lesbian journalist:” It is a not brainer that homosexuals should have a right to marry, but I also think it is a no brainer that the institution of marriage should not exist...”*

# Revisionist view of Marriage and Family

- \* Why limit to two people or even man/man, woman/woman?
- \* Any partnership where there is love and affection and companionship

# Gay Marriage

- \* Another major social experiment
  - \* Soviets 1917-1923
  - \* Divorce
  - \* Gay Marriage
  - \* First society in history to have gay marriage
- \* Breakdown of heterosexual marriage
- \* Is it in the best interests of children, family and society?
- \* Marriage rates of gays and lesbians after new law
- \* Sweden: Divorce rate
- \* Need for two parents of different sexes

\* “To pursue gay equality is noble and right. But to pursue it by undermining heterosexual institutions is deeply damaging to both hetero- and homosexual persons alike. For heterosexuals need an institution that shapes them for the consequences of opposite sex union – without that, it is disaster and despair for children, burden and poverty for women, and dislocation and atomisation of society.”  
Roger Scruton and Phillip Blond. *Marriage Equality or the destruction of difference.*

# Some consequences of change of definition

- \* Discrimination
- \* Schools, churches, adoption and fostering agencies, government jobs
- \* Litmus test for ordination
- \* Accusations of hate speech
- \* Loss of accreditation and federal loans for seminaries
- \* Changing definitions of parenthood and gender



# Following Christ

- \* Persecuted minority
- \* Live the gospel
- \* Point to the one who brings redemption and ultimate reconciliation.

# Helpful Books & Article

- \* *Homosexuality and the Christian: A guide for parents, pastors and Friends.* Mark Yarhouse M (2010) Bethany House Publishing
- \* *Washed and Waiting,* Wesley Hill, (2010)
- \* *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views,* Robert Gagnon, (2009)
- \* *Marriage Equality or the destruction of difference?* Roger Scruton and Phillip Blond ABC Religion and Ethics 4 Feb 2013