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From:

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Sent:

Monday, May 11, 2009 5:44 PM

Subject:

NEWS -- Family group urges Michigan House to defeat "hate crime" bill



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 11, 2009 CONTACT: Gary Glenn, President 989-835-7978 American Family Association of Michigan

Homosexual activists seek criminal prosecution of pastors, others who publicly oppose homosexual political agenda

Family group urges defeat of "hate crime" bill

Judges endorsed by homosexual activist groups may agree with strategy to treat religious speech as "abetting" violence



Gary Glenn

LANSING, Mich. -- With the state House of Representatives set to vote on the issue as early as Wednesday, a statewide family values group and its national affiliate Monday urged tens of thousands of Michigan residents to contact lawmakers in opposition to a bill that would create special "protected class" status for individuals who engage in homosexual behavior or cross-dressing and special enhanced prison sentences for crimes committed against them.

House Bill 4836, introduced by Rep. Robert Jones, D-Kalamazoo, is scheduled for a public hearing and vote Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., with a vote by the full House possible any time thereafter.

The American Family Association in an e-mail alert Monday said the legislation violates "the principle of equal justice under law...and would mean that a criminal who attacks a senior citizen, pregnant mom, or small child would be punished *less* severely -- with a *shorter* prison sentence -- than someone who attacks a grown man, if that grown man is involved in homosexual behavior or cross-dressing. The notion that some victims are worthy of greater protection than others, especially if it's based on their choice of sexual behavior, is simply outrageous."

(See full copy of AFA Action Alert below)

Gary Glenn, Midland, president of the American Family Association of Michigan, also said HB 4836 poses a serious threat to religious free speech rights, citing the use of such "hate crime" laws in Europe, Canada, and the U.S. to prosecute Christians merely for speaking out against homosexual activists' political agenda.

"In Michigan, homosexual activists openly admit they want to see pastors and others who speak out against the homosexual agenda criminally prosecuted as 'accessories' any time a violent crime is committed against an individual who's involved in homosexual behavior or cross-dressing," the AFA e-mail alert said.

Glenn cited a Saginaw News report of its interview with prominent homosexual activist

Jeffrey Montgomery, former executive director of the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based homosexual lobby:

"Jeffrey Montgomery is calling out the political extremists and religious fundamentalists whose rhetoric, he says, has fueled a steady rise in hate crimes against gays and lesbians. We've seen an increase in vitriolic, vociferous, vehement, demonizing rhetoric against gays and lesbians,' said Montgomery... 'The vocal anti-gay activists should be held accountable as accessories to these crimes because, many times, it is their rhetoric that led the perpetrators to believe that their crimes are OK.'If a criminal borrows a gun and then uses it to kill someone, the law considers the gun owner an accessory to the crime. So, too, are the people who own the words that incite violence, Montgomery said." ("Triangle exec decries violence" by Lania Coleman, p. 4A, *The Saginaw News*, April 27, 2005)

He also cited a report by *State News*, the Michigan State University student newspaper, which quoted another prominent homosexual activist -- former Triangle Foundation director of policy Sean Kosofsky -- as saying: "We personally believe that the AFA may support the murder of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people." http://www.statenews.com/article.phtml?pk=6737

Glenn also cited a news release issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2007 which accused him and Cardinal Maida of Detroit -- merely by having publicly disagreed with homosexual activists' political agenda on marriage and other issues -- of being responsible for inciting the alleged beating death of a homosexual senior citizen in Detroit. http://thetaskforce.org/press/releases/prMF 022307

"It is appalling hypocrisy for (Glenn and Maida) to pretend that their venomous words and organizing have no connection to the plague of hate violence against gay people, including the murder of Mr. Anthos," the NGLTF statement said.

Glenn said homosexual activists and their political allies -- including Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who condemned the purported "hate crime" on the U.S. Senate floor -- were later embarrassed when Detroit police announced they had found no evidence of any assault and the Wayne County Medical Examiner ruled Anthos suffered a blow to the head after falling due to arthritic paralysis of his neck. (See Associated Press, March 28, 2007: http://www.randythomas.org/blog/2007/03/hate-crime-or-arthritis.html)

The statements by Montgomery, Kosofsky, and NGLTF "make clear that homosexual activists hope to sell society and the courts on their repressive view that anyone who dares publicly disagree with their political agenda should face the threat of being criminally prosecuted, and they're not beyond fabricating false 'hate crime' claims to do it," Glenn said.

According to the AFA e-mail alert, a provision of already existing state law could be used by homosexual activists and their allies in the judiciary to justify such prosecutions.

Michigan Code Section 767.39 states: "Every person concerned in the commission of an offense, whether he directly commits the act constituting the offense or procures, <u>counsels</u>, aids, or <u>abets</u> in its commission may hereafter be prosecuted, indicted, tried and on conviction shall be punished as if he had directly committed such offense."

The word "abet" means "to encourage." http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/abet

"If HB 4836 becomes law," Glenn said, "we have no doubt that there are openly homosexual or sympathetic judges in Michigan who agree with the Triangle Foundation's propaganda strategy of accusing anyone who speaks out against their political agenda of being guilty of 'encouraging' criminal activity any time a crime is actually committed or falsely alleged to have been committed against an individual involved in homosexual behavior or cross-dressing."

Glenn cited as examples of judges likely to share the Triangle Foundation's legal strategy:

* Openly homosexual 36th District Judge Rudy Serra, Wayne County, a former member of

the Triangle Foundation's board of trustees, and 57th District Judge William Baillargeon, Allegan County, a former member of the Triangle Foundation board of advisors.

- Serra: http://www.vendio.com/mesg/read.html?num=286thread=223286

The second second

- Baillargeon: http://web.archive.org/web/2002/029/15642/www.tri.org/advisors.html
- * Triangle Pride PAC, the Triangle Foundations' affiliated political action committee, also endorsed the following sitting judges in the 2008 election: 15th District Judge Chris Easthope, Washtenaw County; 46th District Judge William Richards, Oakland County; 91st District Judge Elizabeth Church, Chippewa County; Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan, Wayne County Circuit Judges Connie Kelley and Lynne Pierce, and Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper. http://www.pride.pec.org/guide/showall.php
- * Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway "supports (homosexual and crossdressing) rights and issues and was strongly endorsed by" Between the Lines, a homosexual activist newsmagazine in Detroit. Circuit Court Judges Christopher Yates and Donald Shelton were also endorsed by Between the Lines in 2008, as were District Court Judges Bill Richards and Elizabeth Church. http://www.pridesource.com/article.shtml?article=3/2861
- * Ingham County Circuit Judge Joyce Dragunchuk -- whose 2005 ruling in support of homosexual activists' lawsuit against the state Marriage Protection Amendment was overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals -- was endorsed by both Triangle Pride PAC and another homosexual activist group, the Lansing Association for Human Rights.

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Section 767.39



THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (EXCERPT) Act 175 of 1927

767.39 Abolition of distinction between accessory and principal.

Sec. 39.

Every person concerned in the commission of an offense, whether he directly commits the act constituting the offense or procures, counsels, aids, or abets in its commission may hereafter be prosecuted, indicted, tried and on conviction shall be punished as if he had directly committed such offense.

History: 1927, Act 175, Eff. Sept. 5, 1927 ;-- CL 1929, 17253 ;-- CL 1948, 767.39

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Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Word: counsel Function: verb 1. to advise

Word: abet

Function: transitive verb

1. to actively second and *encourage* (as an activity or plan)

---- Original Message -----

From: NewsBank -- service provider for Saginaw News Archives

To: afam@chartermi.net

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:47 PM

Subject: Saginaw News Document

THE SAGINAW NEWS

April 27, 2005 Page: 4A

Triangle exec decries violence

by LaNia Coleman, The Saginaw News

Jeffrey Montgomery is calling out the political extremists and religious fundamentalists whose rhetoric, he says, has fueled a steady rise in hate crimes against gays and lesbians.

"We've seen an increase in vitriolic, vociferous, vehement, demonizing rhetoric against gays and lesbians," said Montgomery, executive director of the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based advocacy group.

"The vocal anti-gay activists should be held accountable as accessories to these crimes because, many times, it is their rhetoric that led the perpetrators to believe that their crimes are OK."

Montgomery is one of the authors of the Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Violence report released Tuesday by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

After a day filled with news conferences in Detroit, Montgomery made an appearance at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church of Midland, 6220 Jefferson.

The report showed 4 percent increases, both statewide and nationally, in crimes against members of the gay community in 2003 and 2004. The numbers were drawn from incidents of anti-gay crimes reported to 11 advocacy groups in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Colorado, Texas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and California. There were 2,130 reported victims last year, the report showed.

"These are people who found themselves in harm's way because of a known or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity," Montgomery said.

Positive images of gays on television shows such as "Will and Grace" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," coupled with raging political controversies over issues such as gay marriage and civil rights, have many extremists and fundamentalists all worked up, he said.

"The combination of all the cultural, political and legal boosts to the acceptance of gays got a lot of other people upset and afraid," he said.

If a criminal borrows a gun and then uses it to kill someone, the law considers the gun owner an accessory to the crime. So, too, are the people who own the words that incite violence, Montgomery said.

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statenews.com

Gay-rights group fights AFA with Web site

By Camille Spencer
The State News

Published: November 1, 2001

The Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based gay rights advocacy organization, has unveiled a controversial Web site targeted against the American Family Association.

The group unveiled the Web site, www.AFAexposed.com, Wednesday after a twoyear investigation of the American Family Association. The foundation says the association, which is an organization that promotes Christian and family values, is anti-gay and promotes legislation designed to oppress lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered people.

The site also includes information about the Michigan chapter of the association, which is based in Midland. The site presents research conducted by the association, which foundation officials say are biased and untrue.

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Sean Kosofsky, director of policy and victim services for the Triangle Foundation, said the site was created as a resource to educate people about the association.

Kosofsky said the research used by the American Family Association to promote its arguments is propaganda.

"We personally believe that the AFA may support the murder of gay, lesbian and bisexual people," he said. "We are also fairly certain the AFA wants all homosexuals locked up on sodomy charges and put in jail."

Kosofsky said the response from the LBGT community has been positive.

"Most people have responded with absolute positivity," he said. "The national gay community is starting to pay attention to the site. We have gotten a lot of hits."

The site also features a picture of Gary Glenn, state director of the Michigan chapter of the American Family Association, next to links explaining Triangle Foundation's perspective of the association's agenda.

But Glenn said the association will defend its purpose to defend family values, despite the foundation's views.

"I think the Triangle Foundation could not have paid us a greater compliment," he said. "It's a tribute to our effectiveness.



Task Force mourns death of elderly Detroit man viciously beaten in hate-laced attack

February 23, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT: Roberta Sklar, Director of Communications media@theTaskForce.org 646.358.1465

> "The hatred and loathing that led to the vicious murder of Andrew Anthos only because he was gay is not innate. Instead it is being taught every day by leaders of the so-called Christian right and their political allies."

- Matt Foreman, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — A 72-year-old Detroit man who was attacked Feb. 13 and left paralyzed from the neck down died today in what his family is calling a hate crime. Andrew Anthos, who was known in Michigan for his longtime campaign to illuminate the dome of the state capitol for one night each year in red, white and blue lights, was on a city bus when a man reportedly approached him and asked him if he was gay. The man continued to harass Anthos, followed him off the bus at the stop in front of his building and then viciously beat Anthos with a metal pipe, striking him from behind. Anthos, who family members said was gay, was in a coma in the days immediately preceding his death.

Statement by Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"The hatred and loathing that led to the vicious murder of Andrew Anthos only because he was gay is not innate. Instead it is being taught every day by leaders of the so-called Christian right and their political allies who use their vast resources, media networks and affiliated pulpits to blame lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people for all the ills of society. They disguise their bigotry as 'deeply-held religious beliefs.' They cloak themselves in 'family values.'

"For years, Michigan has been subjected to the homophobic rants of Gary Glenn of the American Family Association of Michigan, while so many otherwise good and decent people have been silent. Just two years ago, the state endured an ugly campaign, led by Cardinal Adam Maida, to 'protect marriage' by writing anti-gay discrimination into its constitution. Based on that amendment, a three-judge panel of Michigan's court of appeals voted last month to terminate medical insurance coverage for families of LGBT government workers throughout the state.

"It is appalling hypocrisy for these forces to pretend that their venomous words and organizing have no connection to the plague of hate violence against gay people, including the murder of Mr. Anthos.

"Our hearts and sympathies go out to the members of Mr. Anthos' family and to our colleagues at the Triangle Foundation who have been at his bedside and with his family for the last two weeks. As a small token of the condolences of our national community feels, we will be covering funeral costs."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit, Michigan March 28, 2007

Police, coroner: Detroit gay man died naturally, not from beating

DETROIT (AP) - Police said Wednesday that an elderly gay man whose death became a national focus for gay rights advocates based on reports he had been fatally attacked because of his sexual orientation actually died of natural causes.

"There's no evidence that an assault occurred," police spokesman James Tate said Wednesday.

The death of Andrew Anthos, 72, last month drew wide attention, and was cited on the floor of Congress by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., as evidence of the need to extend hate crime legislation to gays.

But the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office concluded that Anthos fell because he had an arthritic neck, and detectives were unable to find witnesses to a beating, police said.

"They determined that he died of natural causes," Tate told *The Detroit News.*

"So the case will be closed," homicide unit supervisor Lt. Linda Vertin told the Detroit Free Press.

A cousin of Anthos said she was shocked at the closing of the case and angry that police didn't tell her before making it public. "I'm just livid about this," said Athena Fedenis of St. Clair Shores. "Andrew didn't have any reason to make this up."

The Associated Press left a message Wednesday night seeking comment from police.

According to Fedenis and other family members, Anthos said he was riding a city bus home from the library on Feb. 13 when a young man asked him if he was gay and called him a "faggot."

Anthos said the man followed him off the bus, confronting him again. Anthos said he told the man he was gay as he went to help a friend whose wheelchair was stuck in a snow bank, according to Fedenis. Anthos said the attacker struck him in the back of the head with a pipe and ran off after the friend yelled for him to stop. Anthos died Feb 23.

Medical Examiner Dr. Carl Schmidt said evidence did not support the report of an attack on Anthos and said a head injury likely came from falling.

Anthos probably flexed his neck, which caused arthritic spurs to compress his spinal cord enough to paralyze his legs, Schmidt said.

"I won't let this rest," Fedenis said. "I can't let this tarnish him. I don't want anyone to think it wasn't a hate crime."

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MailOnline

New law means anti-gay comments could lead to seven years in jail

By STEVE DOUGHTY and JAMES SLACK

Last updated at 22:18 08 October 2007

Stirring up hatred against homosexuals is to become a serious crime punishable with a seven-year jail sentence under a law announced last night.

The legislation - similar to laws already in force outlawing persecution on religious or racial grounds - will make criminals of those who express their views in ways that could lead to the bullying or harassment of gays.

The maximum sentence is longer than the average of around five years handed to rapists.

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Jim Davidson was axed from Celebrity Hell's Kitchen for branding Brian Dowling a 'shirt-lifter'

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- Jim Davidson axed from Hell's Kitchen after calling gay Brian a 'shirt-lifter'
- Firemen demoted and fined for shining torch on gay foursome in the bushes

The announcement widened the rift between opposing supporters of freedom of speech and gay rights.

Christian groups condemned it as "a law to allow Christiansto be locked up for what they believe".

Manchester Evening News

You are here: Home | News | Police to quiz gay row bishop New to the site? Sign Up | Sign In

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ROW: Bishop of Chester Dr Peter Forster

Police to quiz gay row bishop

Nicola Dowling

November 10, 2003

THE Bishop of Chester is to be interviewed by police after he said gay people should seek medical help.

Dr Peter Forster, one of the most senior bishops in the country whose diocese stretches as far as Stockport and Dukinfield, said some gays should "reorientate" themselves with the help of the medical profession.

He is one of 23 senior bishops. He is a member of the House of Lords and is well known for his conservative views.

At the weekend a complaint was made to police that his remarks - made to his local newspaper and reported by the Manchester Evening News on Saturday - had caused offence and could allegedly be described as "hate crime".

Today a police spokesman said: "We have received a complaint. We will examine the issues raised in the complaint and speak to the reporter and the bishop before considering any further action."

At the weekend gay activists branded his words dangerous and offensive.

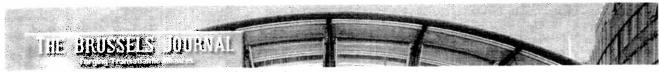
The row comes soon after the consecration of the Anglican Church's first openly-gay bishop, Gene Robinson, in the United States.

The American bishop - who is in a long-term gay relationship - took up his new job at the beginning of this month.

The appointment - and that of Dr Jeffrey John, a celibate homosexual who was proposed as Bishop of Reading but who later resigned - threatens to split the church.

The Bishop of Chester said: "Some people who are primarily homosexual can reorientate themselves.

"I would encourage them to consider that as an option but I would not set myself up as a specialist on the subject - that's in the area of psychiatric health."



Published on The Brussels Journal (http://www.brusselsjournal.com)

Conservative MP Fined for Homophobia

By Paul Belien Created 2006-01-27 17:04

Stating that "homosexual behaviour endangers the survival of humanity" and that "heterosexuality is morally superior to homosexuality" can cost you dearly in France. Exactly these opinions, expressed by the French politician Christian Vanneste last year, led to him being sentenced on Tuesday to payment of a heavy fine.

A court in Lille [Rijsel in Dutch], in the French northern province of Flanders (adjacent to the Belgian Dutch-speaking region of Flanders), ruled that Mr Vanneste has to pay a fine of 3,000 euro plus 3,000 euro in damages to each of the three gay organisations that had taken him to court. The politician, a member of the French National Assembly for the governing UMP, also has to pay for the verdict to be published in the leftist Parisian newspaper Le Monde, the regional Lille daily La Voix du Nord, and the weekly magazine L'Express.

Les Flamands Roses (The Pink Flemings), a gay activist group from the North of France, applauded the verdict, saying that freedom of speech does not allow "incitement to homophobic hatred." Mr Vanneste had been taken to court because of what he had said in a recorded discussion with activists of the 'Pink Flemings.'

Tuesday's verdict is the first conviction on the basis of the French anti-homophobia bill of 30 December 2004, one of France's draconian laws prohibiting so-called "hate crimes." According to the 'Pink Flemings' Mr Vanneste abuses freedom of expression "in order to insult and discriminate gay men and women." He is, they say,

"a typical representative of the Sarkozy Right, the extreme right and all sorts of integrists. This truly reactionary lobby, of which Christian Vanneste wants to be the spokesman, is in favour of the death penalty. Moreover, it denies women the right to dispose over their own bodies and sexuality. It wants to propagate the 'positive results' of colonisation and even of a society based on 'merits,' where people's rights are attributed in function of their origin and social behaviour."

Act Up-Paris, one of the three gay organisations Mr Vanneste has to pay damages to, is demanding that Nicolas Sarkozy, the French interior minister and leader of the UMP, outs Vanneste from his party:

"The UMP and the entire political class have to take up their responsibility. This judicial verdict is the first encouraging sign that society is no longer willing to tolerate the intolerable, especially when the homophobia emanates from an elected politician."

If Mr. Sarkozy does not throw Mr Vanneste out of the party this means, according to Act Up-Paris, that he considers homophobia to be acceptable. Act Up-Paris also says that it will no longer tolerate politicians who speak out against gay marriage and the adoption of children by homosexuals:

"Is it normal that MPs and mayors say that we are 'dangerous' for the children we raise? Is it normal that, while the judiciary begins to recognize the harm homophobia does to society, elected politicians say these things? Do we systematically have to go to court in order to make these people realize how their words affect our lives?"

According to Act Up-Paris Mr Sarkozy, who met the organisation in his office last year, had promised them to publicly condemn homophobia and exclude Mr Vanneste from the party if he should relapse.

Christian Vanneste announced that he would appeal the verdict. He said the Lille judges, in convicting him for expressing his opinions on homosexuality "have breached the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislative because, as an MP, I had said in public what I had previously said in Parliament."

There is little doubt that the governing politicians of Eastern European countries <u>such as Poland</u>, as well as the <u>Pope</u>, would be convicted in contemporary France for voicing their "homophobic" opinions. Perhaps Mr Vanneste should consider asking for political asylum in the United States, where freedom of speech is guaranteed in the <u>first</u> amendment.

More on this topic:

Conscience, How Dost Thou Afflict Me! 7 January 2006

Source URL:

http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/724



Coming to America? Canadian bishop investigated for 'gay marriage' comments

By Michael Foust May 3, 2005

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada (BP)--A Catholic bishop in Canada is under investigation by a government agency for condemning "gay marriage," and American conservatives say such infringements on religious freedom could be headed to the U.S.

The bishop, Fred Henry of Calgary, is being investigated by the Alberta Human Rights Commission for comments he made about homosexuality in both a letter to parishioners and a Calgary Sun newspaper column. Two homosexuals filed the complaints.

In the newspaper column, which stated basic Christian doctrine, Henry wrote, among other things, "Since homosexuality, adultery, prostitution and pornography undermine the foundations of the family, the basis of society, then the State must use its coercive power to proscribe or curtail them in the interests of the common good." He also argued that behind the push for "gay marriage" is a desire to have society accept homosexuality.

If found guilty, Henry could be fined -- and religious expression will have taken a big hit.

"Gay marriage" is legal in seven of 10 Canadian provinces and one of three territories. While Alberta has yet to legalize "gay marriage," provincial law nonetheless bans discrimination based on "sexual orientation." That includes public statements and publications. The Human Rights Commission is the government body that investigates complaints.

Bruce Clemenger, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, said that even if the complaint is dismissed, homosexual activists will have won a small victory.

"Even the launching of a complaint itself raises deep concerns," Clemenger told Baptist Press. "It sets a troubling and a dangerous precedent. Will people of faith be able to express religious views on sexual morality without the threat of legal sanction? Even having a complaint filed means [the bishop] needs to bring in lawyers, begin preparing response. It's in some ways an attempt to intimidate or silence him, when in fact what he was doing is expressing some of the basic teaching of the Catholic catechism."

Henry vowed to fight the complaint.

"Those that support same-sex marriage want to shut the churches out of this important debate," he said at a press conference in late March, according to Canadian Press. "Those who favor same-sex marriage have been given a full opportunity to state their views on the issue. But now they are saying anyone who speaks out against same-sex marriage is discriminating against homosexuals."

Close Print

HOME

Philly Five Freed from Undue Charges

Thu, Feb. 17, 2005 Posted: 07:32 PM EST

A Philadelphia judge on Thursday dismissed all criminal charges against the four Christians arrested for quoting Bible verses during a homosexual fair last October, prompting praise from Christian rights advocates across the nation.

"Justice finally has been done, but the city should be held accountable," said Robert Knight, director of Concerned Women for America's Culture & Family Institute. "These ludicrous charges were hanging over their heads for months. We're confident that city officials who authorized this persecution will be facing a lawsuit."

The four Christians, all from a conservative Christian group called "Repent America", were arrested alongside a 17-year-old minor for "preaching the word of God" during the Outfest homosexual street fair on Oct. 10, 2004. Together known as the "Philly five," the Christian protestors, who were arrested after a scuffle with a gay-activist group called "Pink Angels", each faced 47 years of prison prior to today's ruling.

After a preliminary hearing in December, Judge William Austin Meehan ordered four of the Christians to stand trial on three felony and five misdemeanor charges - ethnic intimidation, riot, criminal conspiracy, reckless endangerment, possessing an instrument of crime, highway obstruction, failure to disperse, and disorderly conduct.

The three felony charges against the Christian protestors stemmed from Pennsylvania's Ethnic Intimidation Law, which adds penalties to criminal acts deemed a "hate crime".

However, Judge Pamela Dembe of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas dismissed the charges today, saying the First Amendment protects unpopular speech as much as popular speech.

"We are one of the very few countries that protects unpopular speech," Dembe said after viewing a videotape of the arrests. "And that means that Nazis can March in Skokie, Ill. ... That means that the Ku Klux Klan can march where they wish to. We cannot stifle speech because we don't want to hear it, or we don't want to hear it now."

Joe Infranco, Senior Counsel of the Alliance Defense Fund, whose group represented the protestors in the criminal case, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Marcavage, Diener, Cruse and Green, said the ruling was the "right response" to a case that shouldn't have been.

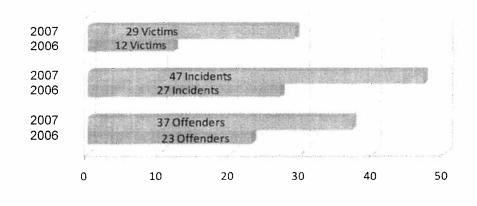
"The judge saw this case for what it is. This was the right response to an outrageous abuse of power to silence speech that some people didn't like," said Infranco.

"What took place here was a government crackdown on disfavored speech," Infranco added. "The Outfest participants staged a national coming-out day on a public street using public funds, and then they tried to say it's a private event. That didn't make any sense, and neither did the actions of the police who arrested our clients."

"The Pennsylvania Constitution holds the inalienable right to speak your conscience. It says that free speech is an invaluable right of man," said Infranco. "Clearly, these protestors had a right to peacefully walk a public street and express their views, and the judge saw that."

of beginning work with law enforcement and the judicial system to treat LGBT bias crime victims sensitively and with respect.

Kansas City Victims, Incidents, and Offenders



MICHIGAN

Triangle Foundation is the sole reporting agency of anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and HIV-positive bias crimes in the state of Michigan. According to recent estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan's population was down 30,500 residents from 2006 to 10,071,822 in 2007.

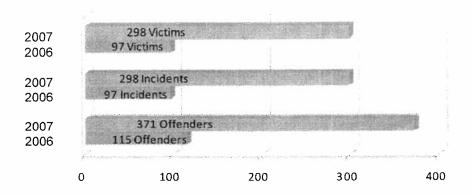
Despite the decrease in residents, there has been a significant increase in anti-LGBT incidents from 97 reported incidents in 2006 to 298 incidents reported in 2007. There are several considerations in analyzing the significance of this data: increased advertising of the Department of Victim Services; increased staffing in the Department of Victim Services; and the opening of a second office in West Michigan. In addition, 2007 marks the first year that Triangle collected statistics on incidents involving discrimination only. However, even with removing the incidents involving discrimination only, the total number of incidents in 2007 at 226 is still more than double the number of 97 incidents in 2006. This is an increase of 133%.

Of the 226 incidents discussed above, incidents involving intimidation and harassment rose from 44 to 101. Another significant increase was in the area of vandalism with incidents up from ten in 2006 to 21 in 2007. While there were two murders in 2007 that have anti-LGBT elements, readers will note that death is listed in three cases. The reason for this is that a transgender youth committed suicide after years of unending, relentless bullying ranging from emotional to psychological to physical abuse. The suicide of this young person demonstrates the irreversible impact hatred can have.

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National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

Michigan Victims, Incidents, and Offenders



A likely contributing factor for the increase in anti-LGBT incidents in Michigan is the impact of the constitutional amendment passed in 2004 that bans gay marriage. This amendment provides that "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose." The Attorney General attacked domestic partnership benefits immediately after the passage of this amendment. In February of 2007, the Michigan Court of Appeals overturned the trial court's holding that public employers may offer domestic partnership benefits. The result may be the loss of benefits, such as health insurance, for thousands of Michigan men, women and children. Equally important is that this decision has sent a message to all Michigan residents that it is acceptable to discriminate against LGBT persons. While the intention may not have been to facilitate hate against the LGBT community, the constitutional amendment, Attorney General opinion, and Court of Appeals decision have institutionalized prejudice in Michigan.

MINNESOTA

OutFront Minnesota is the state's leading advocacy organization for the GLBT communities throughout Minnesota. One part of the larger organization is the Anti-Violence Program. Currently, our services include a 24 hour crisis line, short-term crisis counseling, support group services for both survivors of violence as well as specialized programming for friends, families and other concerned persons who have survivors of violence in their lives. In addition to

Police found the body of a local high school teacher Charles Gibson, 54, in his north side condo. A friend of Gibson called police to check on him, when the door was opened, police found Gibson lying naked in the hallway. County officials stated Gibson died of multiple stab wounds. Police recovered a seven-inch knife at the scene. Police have since arrested Ollie Rockman, 49 in the murder of Gibson. A week prior to the murder, Rockman and Gibson were seen leaving a local bar together and went to Gibson's condo. The night prior to the discovery of Gibson's murder, witnesses said they saw Rockman at the condo building looking for Gibson. Police determined that the attacker had suffered a cut during the murder and left evidence in the apartment. A police detective identified Rockman three weeks later, and witnesses from Gibson's building and the local bar the two had been seen at, identified Rockman in a photo lineup. (Chicago)

Claudia, a bisexual Latina student a local university was sitting outside her dorm talking with friends when she was approached by a White male student who called her a fucking dyke. The male student carried on about Claudia and her friends having no place at the school, and that if he were to see her again, he would kick her ass. After that incident, Claudia was walking outside of her dorm when the same male student walked up to her and began to beat her up in the alley. Claudia was punched and kicked repeatedly in the stomach. (Chicago)

Other Crimes and Offenses

NCAVP documents a wide range of other crimes and offenses committed in association with each specific incident reported to it. As noted earlier, the total number of these crimes and offenses (for which NCAVP uses general rather than jurisdictional definitions) increased 7%, growing from 3,432 in 2003 to 3,666 in 2004.

Among specific crime and offense categories not already discussed, declines were charted in six of twelve classifications: abduction or kidnapping (80%, from 15 to 3), police entrapment5 (77%, from 70 to 16), police Raid (63%, from 8 to 3), unjustified arrest (56%, from 64 to 28), and robbery (11, from 84 to 75).

The classifications that showed increases were, arson (200%, from 4 to 12), bomb threats or bombing (100%, from 1 to 2), vandalism (50%, from 114 to 171), discrimination (28%, from 319 to 407)⁷, and illegal eviction (18%, from 17 to 20).

As noted previously, murders rose 11%, from eighteen in 2003 to twenty in 2004; assaults declined 8% from 669 to 618, and harassment rose 13% from 1900 in 2003 to 2154 in 2004.

There are three offenses tracked by NCAVP, which by definition are perpetrated by law enforcement: police entrapment, unjustified arrest and police raid. NCAVP classifies incidents under one or more of these categories when they do not appear to be motivated by any legitimate law enforcement purpose, but rather unfairly target the LGBT community, most often under cover of so-called "quality of life" or vice law enforcement campaigns. Transgender individuals in particular are apt to be victimized by police in this way.

[&]quot;NCAVP considers robbery a bias crime when its perpetrator clearly targets LGBT individuals, or uses anti-LGBT slurs while committing the crime. Many career criminals prey on LGBT individuals, often in or near LGBT bars and in outdoor cruising areas, because they believe their victims won't "fight back" or will be hesitant to contact police. Even when victims report their experiences, one of the difficulties in combating this particular form of bias violence is that police rarely are willing to classify it as such.

Discrimination is automatically included in incidents where the perpetrator is a landlord, employer, police officer, business or service provider, or some other individual bound by law or common accepted standards to practice nondiscrimination. In many of NCAVP's reporting regions, however, discrimination against LGBT individuals is still not an actual crime or violation...

Section 4

Law Enforcment Response

It would be an understatement to suggest that the relationship between the LGBT community and the police is often strained. Historically, police were agents of the most brutal repression experienced by LGBT individuals and communities. More recently, while police action overtly targeting the LGBT community has receded in many areas of the country, it still frequently arises, usually under cover of vice law enforcement and "quality of life" campaigns. These especially seem to target those whose modes of LGBT self-expression do not fit within an amorphous set of perceived "acceptable" norms.

NCAVP's bias incident data collection procedures reflect this continuing legacy in at least one important way: NCAVP classifies as acts of police misconduct certain activities that are otherwise fully sanctioned by law enforcement. These include selective or discriminatory raids of LGBT businesses; entrapment of LGBT individuals on charges of public lewdness, gross indecency, sodomy, etc.; and the harassment, detention or arrest of LGBT people (usually on the catchall charge of disorderly conduct) for "crimes" that include public displays of affection, having nonstandard dress or appearance, etc.

On the other hand, NCAVP does not classify all unpleasant encounters between LGBT individuals and the police as bias-motivated incidents. So long as police act in professional ways and with respect for the civil, legal and human rights of the persons they accuse, the NCAVP is more apt to applaud their activities than condemn them. In fact, a large number of NCAVP member agencies have periodically assisted police in addressing troublesome law enforcement problems in the LGBT community, and occasionally even in apprehending LGBT and non-LGBT offenders.

This dual function of LGBT anti-violence programs - to improve cooperative relationships between the LGBT community and police and to solidify their own roles as advocates for those who become victims of police misconduct - is sometimes difficult for NCAVP's member agencies negotiate. It is not uncommon for NCAVP's members to be working closely with police to resolve one or more cases of anti-LGBT violence even as they condemn police activities in other respects.

