Campus sees less crime this winter

The number of crimes reported between winter and spring breaks plummeted from 1998 to 1999.

By Laura McClure

Crime on and around campus is continuing to plummet, with major crimes dropping 13 percent over the period between winter and spring breaks between this year and last, according to statistics released by the University Police.

Since then, Public Safety officials have increased the number of police officers and detectives, which then moved the department into its new state-of-the-art headquarters last year.

The number of reported serious crimes — including assault, rape, robbery, burglary and theft — dropped 17 percent from last year to this year, according to statistics released by the University Police.

On March 2, the Faculty Club and the Inn at Penn will be announced as the University's new off-campus meets, the Faculty Club will be guaranteed control over its space as it chooses.

"We believe that it is no longer feasible for the University to operate its own hotels," said Francis J. N. White, the University Police Chief.

"We have been working with the University for several years, and we believe that it is time for the University to make a decision," said William J. N. White, the University Police Chief.

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Penn, area students to spin the 'Wheel of Fortune'

By Eric Teckler (Daily Pennsylvanian)

Solve the puzzle, spin the wheel, buy a vowel or choose a consonant.

These choices may not seem as significant as selecting classes or majoring in a certain field, but for some Penn students these decisions will have the opportunity to face these very same predicaments on national television.

Wheel of Fortune, the popular syndicated prime-time game show, will be on campus tomorrow. Conducted by rep- resentatives from WPTV7, the local ABC affiliate that broadcasts the game show, the auditions will begin at noon inside the University Museum at 33rd and Spruce streets.

The episode will be filmed in Philadelphia on April 17 and 14, so Penn students should have the opportunity to face these very same predicaments on national television.

Wheel of Fortune is the show which has news from the University of Pennsylvania.

The show is open to all students who want to represent the University.

The decision is unlikely to affect Penn athletic program or any other academic policies, according to Rebecca Campbell, chairman of the NCAA's Legislative Council.

The decision will make it difficult for students who want to go to the university of Delaware, since it has its own academic rules, adopt interim legislation, according to Rebecca Campbell, chairman of the NCAA's Legislative Council.

The decision will have a huge impact, though, on the rise of student-athlete salaries, according to Rebecca Campbell, chairman of the NCAA's Legislative Council.

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SWEATSHOPS from page 1

Seventeen schools "represent enough purchasing power to move the FLA," said another source at the meeting.

And University President Judith Rodin wrote through a letter to local colleges that she was pleased with Penn's decision to join the FLA as a way of working with other colleges and universities.

"Penn takes this task very seriously," a source that was not identified by name said. "It's been a very fruitful discussion, and we believe there is a lot of potential for collaboration among all our peer institutions," said the source. "The President and the Executive Affairs team are very committed to this effort."

National Labor Committee Executive Director Peter Crotty was less enthusiastic about the FLA and Associates program, expressing the concern that the FLA is not inclusive enough.

"The FLA's factory monitoring program is not even close to comprehensive," Crotty said. "It only covers a small portion of the apparel sector, leaving out many of the largest and most influential companies that have a significant presence in the industry."

Kerstopping of the NLC said that the FLA had not done enough to ensure that the "schools went behind the backs" of companies and that the FLA's system was "pretty much blamed" by more than one audience.

Most student activists at universities have been highly critical of the FLA's monitoring process, saying that it is not transparent enough.

Kerstopping said that the FLA's monitoring process is not transparent enough.

"The FLA's monitoring process is not transparent enough and many other problems with the FLA's monitoring process," Kerstopping said.

She added that the FLA's monitoring process has not done enough to address the "real issues" of sweatshops.

Kerstopping said that Penn's decision to join the FLA was a "very positive" step, but that the university needed to do more to address the issue of sweatshops.

"Penn's decision to join the FLA is a very positive step," Kerstopping said. "But we need to do more to address the issue of sweatshops and to ensure that the FLA is doing everything it can to eliminate these practices."
The powerful lawyer was convicted in January of murdering three people, including his wife, Anne Marie Fahey. He was convicted in January of murdering his wife, Anne Marie Fahey. He is one of the most notorious criminals in American history.

At least 14 killed, four others feared dead in Amtrak train derailment

Amtrak president George Warrington said the train was headed for Chicago and that there were no survivors. The train derailed near a bridge in Amtrak train derailment.

Del. judge sentences Capano to death

WILMINGTON, Del. — Thomas Capano, a wealthy lawyer and political advisor who moved among Delaware's elite circles, was convicted in January of murdering his wife, Anne Marie Fahey. He is one of the most notorious criminals in American history.

Serbs refuse to sign treaty on Kosovo peace

WILMINGTON, Del. — Thomas Capano, a wealthy lawyer and political advisor who moved among Delaware's elite circles, was convicted in January of murdering his wife, Anne Marie Fahey. He is one of the most notorious criminals in American history.

N. Korean allow U.S. to inspect weapons sites

WASHINGTON — North Korea will allow U.S. inspectors access to a suspected nuclear reactor after North Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Jong Il formally requested the inspection.

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Rebecca Blank

“Current Economy and Welfare Reform”

Thursday, March 18, 1999
4:30 - 6:00 PM
213 Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall

Reception to follow in the Stock Exchange located on the ground floor of Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall
saving the student-athlete

A court decision ending the NCAA's existing academic eligibility standard may do no more harm than good.

March Madness has taken on a whole new meaning for the National Collegiate Athletic Association — there are no longer any minimum academic requirements for athletic eligibility at any of its Division I and II schools.

Noting a federal court judge de- nied an NCAA request to stay the invalidation of the existing eligibility standard — on the grounds that it unily differentiated against minorities in its emphasis on SAT scores.

For the moment, Proposition 16 illegally discriminated against minorities by placing too great an emphasis on SAT scores. Also, accept that the day this law remains on the books represents a continued injustice.

The train of events was set in motion two weeks ago, when federal circuit Judge Ronald Buckwalter invalidated Proposition 16 — the NCAA's now-ex- pired eligibility standard — on the grounds that it unfairly discriminated against minorities in its emphasis on SAT scores.

The ruling set the stage for a fantastic job on Fling

The bands for Spring Fling 1999 were announced yesterday, with a top-notch line-up to shake up the presidency.

Yesterday, a federal court judge de- nied an NCAA request to stay the inval- idation of the existing eligibility standard — on the grounds that it unfairly discriminated against minorities in its emphasis on SAT scores.

He used the phrase "toward the supreme court." But to the

One man's stardom would become an
different generation, Sinatra was a dan- der to shake up the presidency.

The ruling set the stage for a spectacular job on Fling

Tupac, Frank, men in full

On the surface, Tupac Shakur and Frank Sinatra were as different as night and day. But when they both died, there was a sense of unfinished business.

Tupac Shakur was a hip-hop star whose music had a raw, honest feel to it. He was a man who spoke his mind and didn't give a damn about what anyone thought.

Frank Sinatra was a Rat Pack singer whose music was smooth and sophisticated. He was a man who could charm just about anyone he met.

Both were larger-than-life figures in their respective generations. To many, they were the embodiment of American masculinity.

Strangely, both men were alsoosexuals who made us question what it meant to be a man in America.

Tupac's music was a reflection of his life. He wrote songs about love, loss, and the streets he grew up in. He was a man who lived his life to the fullest, even if it meant taking risks.

Sinatra's music, on the other hand, was about love and loss. He was a man who could make a listener feel like they were part of something bigger than themselves.

But in the end, both men were artists who used their music to voice their feelings and express themselves.

Theirs is a story of how art can transcend the constraints of our society and give us a glimpse of what is possible.

Theirs is a story of how art can be a bridge between people, allowing us to connect with each other on a deeper level.

Their music is a testament to the power of art and its ability to bring people together.
One goal left for Caramanico: An Ivy title

W. BASKETBALL: from page 12

James finished up. "To be honest, if we hadn't beaten Princeton I don't think that I would have come our way."

Kirsten Brendel, who won the award in '91, is the only other Quaker to win Player of the Year. "Mandy wanted the ball in close games. She was the epitome of a team player."

She was the team's top scorer, twice earning her Ivy Player of the Week honor. "Mandy is one of the best guards I've seen in the Ivy League and definitely one of the best to play at Penn," Soriero said. "Without her above other guards to her consistent shooting, her speed and her ball handling." By the end of the season, West's perimeter shooting, her speed and her ability to make a three-pointer, slash to the basket, drain three pointers, slash to the basket, drive through defenders and hit a free throw with impressive accuracy. She was the epitome of a team player. Soriero said. "To put up a free throw percentage in the 80s in close games is really impressive. She is just a determination and to a series of opportunities to score," Minerley said. "I think Mandy proved to people that she deserved to be captain and that she was the epitome of a team player."

Despite her status as a transfer student, West was chosen captain of the '98-99 Quakers, who recorded a 12-14 overall record and an 8-6 Ivy mark to place third in the league. According to sophomore guard Erin Ladley, West had no trouble assimilating this leadership role. "She picked up where Colleen [Kellogg] and Michelle [Waldman] left off," Ladley said in reference to last year's senior captains. "She brought her competitiveness to the court and helped us. She fit in better and improved as the season progressed. And as she improved, we improved as a team." But according to Soriero, West made her presence known before she ever stepped on the court. "I think Mandy proved to people that she deserved to be captain during her first year when she sat out. She worked really hard and she never posted about the fact that she didn't do it. She was just a hard worker and a player." While this year's third-place finish may have disappointed some Quakers fans, the good news is that both West and Caramanico will be back in uniform next season. "I want to win the Ivy League," James said. "I want a banner in the Palestra that we didn't have this season."
Wrestling from page 12

The Penn women's tennis team were

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Nervous about your first interview? Just need to polish your skills? Why not attend this semester's LAST Interview/Workshop for CAS Students

Thursday, March 18
4:30 - 6:00
Room 410, McNeil Building
www.upenn.edu/careerservices

W. Squash lands four on All-American team after Individuals

By Rhonda Textor
The Daily Pennsylvanian

The 1998-99 squash season was a great season for the Quakers. Senior Matt Pagliasotti capped a great season with a dramatic 3-2 win over Penn's Kevin Bevan in the ECAC Championship match. The Quakers will travel to Villanova today for their second consecutive title.

Matt Pagliasotti said. "I think that there is something different about having their best team performances of their collegiate matchups. Beaver, the 1995-96 season, DiMauro might have taken herself during the outdoor sea- son, mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercibly ended with IC4As the son mercifully ended with IC4As the son mercifully 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CLASSIFIED LINE AD RATES

Regular line classified ads are priced by the number of words, 25c per word.

1-4 words: $1.05 5-9 words: $1.45 10-14 words: $1.85

**PLUS** is $1.05 per line (regardless of the number of words) for listing the ad on the DP Interactive web site at http://daily.pennlive.com/classified.html

**OPTIONAL EXTRA**
Large Headline: A big (18 point), bold, centered, capitalized headline, 32 points per line. Maximum 18 characters per line.
Jumbo Headline: A larger (24-point) headline is available for $3 per line per day. Maximum 12 characters per line.
Bold Text: Make individual words, or an entire ad, stand out. $2 per word per day, up to a $4 maximum per day.

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Classified lines appear on the DP Interactive Network web site at http://daily.pennlive.com/classified.html

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Classified Display (boxed) ads are priced by the size. Ad sizes are measured as the number of columns by the number of lines and are priced accordingly. Columns are approximately 1" wide. The minimum ad size is 2 columns x 2 lines (2" x 2") and costs $1.85 per line. Larger sizes are available, call for complete rates.

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Deadline for classified ads is Friday at 3 p.m., two business days preceding publication.

Display ads: 3 p.m., two business days preceding publication.

Fees

All classified ads must be paid in full at the time of placement. No refunds are given for cancelled classified ads. Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards are accepted.

maximum 18 characters per line.

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Check your ad the first day it runs; The Daily Pennsylvanian will not guarantee accuracy.


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PHOENIX — Los Angeles was awarded the NBA's 23rd franchise yesterday, and the Lakers' owners plan to come up with a viable inflatable place to play.

If not, Houston will get the franchise, which was in the league's expansion package.

The franchise was awarded to Los Angeles, partially because of the Lakers' high profile, as well as a bid from the Seattle area.

The league has not yet announced the location of the new franchise, but it is expected to be in a city that can support an NBA team.

The Lakers' owners plan to build an inflatable stadium in the city and hope to have it ready for the 2001-02 season.

The team announced that it had signed a lease agreement with a landlord in Los Angeles who would provide the team with space and funding.

The Lakers' owners believe that the inflatable stadium will be a viable option for the team, as it can be easily dismantled and moved to different locations depending on the season.

In the meantime, the Lakers plan to continue playing at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The NBA's announcement comes after a long process of expansion that began in the mid-1990s.

The league had announced plans to expand from 26 to 30 franchises, but that was never implemented.

The Lakers' owners said they were excited about the new franchise and looked forward to seeing it become a reality in the near future.

Los Angeles is the third-largest city in the United States and has a strong basketball following, with the Lakers being one of the most successful teams in the league.

With the addition of the new franchise, the NBA will have 30 teams, with 29 of them being located in the United States and one in Canada.
Caramanico named Ivy Player of the Year

By Jason Bodnar
WEST POINT, N.Y. — Penn's Jason Nagle, owner of a 13-12 record this season, entered the EIWAs as the No. 7 seed at 133 lbs. Adeniyi-Bada had posted this season, entered the EIWAs as the No. 7 seed at 133 lbs. Adeniyi-Bada had posted

The Penn softball team rebounded from a slow start to end 5-5 at the Rebel Games in Orlando.

By Jason Bodnar
Wednesday, March 17, 1999

The Penn softball team rebounded from a slow start to end 5-5 at the Rebel Games in Orlando.

The Penn team had gone 0-2 in its two opening games against the teams of Florida State and the University of Florida. However, the Quakers went on to win their next three games, including a 6-0 victory over Florida.

The Penn softball team rebounded from a slow start to end 5-5 at the Rebel Games in Orlando.

Wrestling overpowers competition at EIWAs

By Will Ulrich

The Quakers' performance was nothing short of outstanding. They set several new school records and won several matches by large margins.

The Penn softball team rebounded from a slow start to end 5-5 at the Rebel Games in Orlando.

Despite their strong performance, the Penn softball team lost to Florida State in the final game of the tournament. However, the Quakers' performance was nothing short of exceptional. They set several new school records and won several matches by large margins.

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Bisexual
Gay Lesbian
Transgender
Awareness Days

B·GLAD '99
University of Pennsylvania

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Welcome to B-GLAD!

Well, here we are. After months of planning, the end result of our hard work will be realized — Bisexual Gay Lesbian Transgender Awareness Days will begin. The B-GLAD planning committee put a lot of work into creating a great series of events, and we think you will be pleased.

The theme of this year’s B-GLAD is communities. Queer people are part of many communities and make up many communities in themselves. We hope that the activities over the next couple weeks will provide some insight into the many roles lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people play within their communities.

The planning committee has produced a fabulous calendar of events. We have scheduled several interesting speakers for the following week and a half. Felicia Park Rogers, one of our youngest speakers ever, will talk about her definition of family. Rebecca Walker, biracial and bisexual activist, will address her founding role in the third wave of feminism. Transgender activist Kate Bornstein and hir partner will present a performance piece on sex and gender. An evening of song, dance, and various other talents will entertain you at our Qabaret. You will see how religion, specifically the Christian and Jewish traditions, ties into sexual orientation at the Interfaith Celebration. And of course, we still have the standards, such as our dance (this year with a decades theme) and a rally on College Green.

We would like to thank all who have helped us plan and assemble such an exciting series of events. We certainly could not have done this without them. We hope that you enjoy reading this supplement and that you show your support by attending our events this year. You’re sure to learn a lot and have a great time!

1999 B-GLAD Planning Committee Co-Chairs,
Kurt Klinger and Alex Gino

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Visit PENN’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Center
3537 Locust Walk, 3rd floor
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215-898-5044

Explore our reading room, meet new people, & be yourself
http://dolphin.upenn.edu/center

Sexuality is not a choice; freedom is. — Brett Cavanagh
SINGLE?

by Kurt Klinger

When you are in a relationship with someone for whom you care deeply, for a considerable amount of time, it is only natural to experience a period of sadness and anger when that person chooses to end the relationship. You cry, you yell, and then you cry some more. Virtually all of us have been there, and those who have not, I imagine, could probably empathize. But did you ever feel empty and incomplete as the result of a breakup? Have you ever found yourself still feeling very much alone, even long after you have gotten over the other person? I would venture to guess that this is not as common.

On October 9th, 1998, I was not only upset because the person for whom I cared so much for so long did not want to be with me any longer, but also because I ceased to feel like a complete person. At this point, I realized that, for the previous ten months during which I had been in this relationship, I had never been my own person.

When I met him and we started seeing one another, I thought that he embodied perfection. He had such a friendly and outgoing personality and he and I had so much in common — all the way from a love of theater and musicals to sharing similar perspectives on a number of issues and wanting many of the same things out of life.

I did not realize at the time that I had begun to let myself fall into a very dangerous trap. He enthralled me so much that my individuality started to fade. I often found myself assimilating my life into his. I wanted to dress like him and frequently sought his approval of how I looked. Though due more to circumstances than anything else, we always drove around in his car and hung out in his town with his friends. At one point, I finally realized that I had let his life envelope mine, while mine did not quite do the same with his.

Now, I do not know how much of this stemmed from the rather impressionable personality I believe I possess and how much of it resulted from my historically low self-esteem, but I do know that my relationship with this person did indeed take away from my individuality. Additionally, while I was with him, my grades suffered dramatically (for which he was not the only cause) and my overall level of involvement in the Penn community became very low. I often just wanted to get away from Penn rather than take advantage of everything available to me, both on campus and in Philadelphia. My commitment to groups like the LGBA and the Glee Club dropped to a minimum.

So, when this relationship ended, I did not know who I was. Very little of me remained. Naturally, I felt devastated. Everyone around me knew how the breakup affected me. I do not ever remember feeling so sad or depressed in my life.

Instinctively, I immediately attempted to recapture with someone else the things my ex-boyfriend made me feel. Instead of that, however, I found myself going after guys that I would not normally date. I met someone new almost immediately. I got away from Penn rather than take advantage of everything available to me, both on campus and in Philadelphia. My commitment to groups like the LGBA and the Glee Club dropped to a minimum.

The only abnormality is the incapacity to love. – Anis Nin

FROM THE LGBA CHAIR

by Andrew Byala

I feel a little strange writing this article. It was only a year ago that I was awake at some godforsaken time of night, helping to finish that Supplement and trying to reflect on the year that had just finished. That was the beginning of my term being co-chair, and now I’m at the end.

I want to say that I am proud of everyone for what we have accomplished over the past year. We have built connections with the other Philadelphia-based schools by helping to start our monthly intercollegiate socials. We are spending more time downtown, meeting people and exploring the wonderful gayborhood that offers us so much. I am very grateful that we have continued to work with the William Way Community Center this year, offering volunteers and taking advantage of the services they offer us.

Even on our own campus, I can’t help but feel proud of us. In the beginning of the year, when we learned of the tragic death of Matthew Shepard, more than 200 people attended our vigil in his memory. And it wasn’t just gay people who showed up; our straight friends and teachers realized the horror that had happened and wanted to show they stood against such homophobia. For our B-GLAD celebration, we are working together with groups like the United Minority Council and Festival Latino. The recently-formed Allies group shows that heterosexual people care about us and our issues and that they want to be a part of our community.

It is that word, community, that is the theme of this year’s B-GLAD celebration. We have tried to schedule events and invite speakers who will appeal to members of all sorts of communities. And so I would like to make the same request that I made at last year’s B-GLAD rally: I invite everyone to come to at least one event this year. For any gay people who have not participated in the LGBA or other queer groups for one reason or another, come and see what we’re all about. For our straight friends, I encourage you to attend a program, support your queer friends, and perhaps learn something in the process.

Whoever you are and whatever community you are from, I welcome you into ours and hope you enjoy our B-GLAD celebration.
OUT IN THE CLOSET

by Andrew Byala

It took an evening with a bottle of YooHoo and a good friend to persuade me to tell them.

Just over a year ago, a few weeks before Thanksgiving, my friend and I were talking about our relationships with our parents. At the time, he was out to his parents but I wasn't out to mine. I had tried to tell them a hundred times that summer, but the words never made it out of my mouth. My friend, though, told me about how his parents were always available if he needed them and how much he loved them for it. That made me realize that I loved my parents as well, and although things might get uncomfortable for a little while, in the end I would be thankful for coming out to them. That night, I made a promise to myself. It wasn't one of those "gee, I sure hope I do this" promises; it was the kind that makes you feel as though you'd betrayed yourself if you didn't follow through. By the end of Thanksgiving break, I swore I would be out to them.

Thanksgiving Day came and went; Friday was just as uneventful. By Saturday morning, I realized that it was now or never. My dad was taking a nap downstairs and my mom was watching a movie. I asked her to come upstairs when a commercial came on, hoping I'd have another five or ten minutes to calm myself down. Not with my luck. She immediately shut off the TV and came right upstairs to see what was on my mind. Sitting next to her on the bed, five minutes passed. And then another five minutes. She knew exactly what was coming, but somehow she knew I had to say it myself. After an eternity, she spoke those two painful words and it immediately shut off the TV and came right upstairs to see who I am. I wanted to cry, asking ourselves painful questions, but the words never made it out of my mouth. My parents were the only people I trusted to understand.

It's a year-and-a-half later, and I'm still waiting. In a world filled with hatred and violence, you should be happy that I love, no matter who I love. — unknown

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In a world filled with hatred and violence, you should be happy that I love, no matter who I love. — unknown
February is one of the best months for seniors at Penn – the Feb Club starts every day and there are senior scramblers every few days. It was a few weeks ago that I was at the Blarney Stone, enjoying the company of good friends, not to mention good spirits, when I bumped into some of my fraternity brothers. We talked a bit and caught up, since I haven't been around the house too much this year. It was in this conversation, however, that my faith in humanity was severely shaken. They told me that our chapter advisor, Robert Drake, had been beaten up by some guys and that he was in the hospital. I just assumed it was because he's gay. It's weird, but it really didn't hit me at the time. Hey, give me a break; I was tired and really tired. I also didn't know how bad it was. It wasn't until the next day, when I got an e-mail, that I realized how bad it really was.

Robert Drake has been working in Ireland for the past year or so for his company, Knopf Publishing. He was apparently coming home one night when two men attacked him and tried to beat him to death – simply for being gay, simply for being different, simply for being who he is. It wasn't until the next morning that a neighbor found him, lying in his doorway, and called for medical attention. He's currently in a coma.

Sound familiar? It should because it happens all the time! That's right – ALL THE TIME! The only difference is that in the U.S. it gets more press coverage – sometimes. It happened in Wyoming of course, but unfortunately with a grimmer outcome. It happened in Alabama just a few weeks ago. Unless you follow the news closely, or read the HRC webpage or magazine with some frequency, I'm willing to bet that you heard nothing about a gay man beaten to death in Sylacauga, Alabama. In fact, when I heard about Robert, I scoured the website of The Irish Times looking for any mention of what had happened – I found nothing. Not a story, not an article, not a passage, not a mention, simply nothing. Are these incidents so commonplace in Ireland that they just ignore them? For God's sake, what happened to Robert got more press coverage in the States than in bloody Ireland (no offense to those of the Hibernian persuasion). Finally, after nearly giving up, I saw two articles last week. Unfortunately, they made me feel even worse. The charges against and the bail set for the miscreants seemed to be the bare minimum under Irish law – and Robert still sits in Dublin's Beaumont Hospital. No justice...

One of the questions I've gotten lately is, "do you know Robert well?" My answer is usually, "a bit." I can't say that I know him well at all, but I've seen some sides of him. As our chapter advisor, he put a lot of time and effort into helping our fraternity. I can't even count the number of times that I'd seen him over at our house helping with one thing or another. He was also good at mediating between our chapter and our fraternity's national office. As an intellectual, he had a keen mind. I remember a few times after chapter meetings we'd sit and discuss and evaluate different literary genres. He even gave me advance copies of books by some of my favorite contemporary authors. I also remember when I "came out" last year. He was in Ireland at the time, but he was one of the first people to e-mail me an offer words of encouragement. For this, I was truly thankful.

The only time I ever really got to talk with him, for more than a few minutes, was when we went out for a beer. I honestly don't remember what we talked about. Funny enough, the one thing I do remember is how much he liked Guinness and Irish pubs. That's the image that sticks in my mind when I think about him – sharing a good beer with a good person. So, until he gets better, every time I go out for a beer, I'm going to offer a toast to him. "A toast to Robert Drake." And I'm going to pray, real hard. I thought about looking in my Episcopal prayerbook for a prayer, but I think I'll make something up on my own. Here goes:

Lord – Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier – I pray to You for Robert Drake and all other victims and martyrs for the cause of justice in the world. Help us to learn from these horrid incidents that we are ALL children of God, and help them, those victims who have not been taken to Your Eternal Kingdom, to live, in the fullness of this life, as testament to Your love for ALL Your children. This we ask, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Any two people that live together and love each other are a real family. – Scott Valentine
WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

by Rudy Ramirez

It was the first day of my first vacation from the University of Pennsylvania. I had dozens of people to see and many things I needed to do, but that night, there was one and only one place I needed to be. I called Erin, my best friend, and said, "Girlfriend, take a shower and get over here because you know where we are going tonight!" After an hour spent waiting for Erin to finish one of her patented interminable showers, I met her at my door and we were off. I drove down a route I could have remembered in my sleep: left onto Callaghan, right onto I-10, left exit onto I-35, take the Broadway exit to 181, take the first exit onto Saint Mary's, hand a left and search desperately for a parking space. We pulled into an empty parking lot and jogged, (well, almost) across the street, past the bushes strung with Christmas lights to the door. I bounded up the stairs, reached for the handle, and felt my heart stop.

The sign on the door said, "21 AND OLDER ONLY! MUST SHOW ID!" At first we thought it was a joke, something an idiot had put on the door to confuse the patrons. But we looked inside and saw row upon row of wine bottles where coffee cups, picture frames and candelabra had once rested. It occupied by antique couches and armchairs, all old and falling apart at the seams. Throughout the coming year I would come to know the broken springs and terminally un-fluffed pillows that made each one unique. On one wall there was an aquarium filled with tropical fish. On another was a row of cakes of-dieting. Next to the cakes was a little dish filled with the most adorable edibles I had ever seen: little mice made out of dough wrapped around a cherry, with the stem sticking out as a tail and almonds for ears. Violet turned me around to the bar where I ordered a mango smoothie, the first of many.

We got our drinks and Violet said, "Let's sit outside." The outside of Candlelight was the only thing that could compare to the inside. It was a courtyard surrounded by statues, fountains, and birdcages housing doves and chirping finches. Everywhere the trees were strung with Christmas lights. In the center of the courtyard was a lily pond still sporting a single flower, a dazzling purple in color. Since this was a pond and this was Texas in August, every wrought iron table was equipped with a can of Off to persuade the mosquitoes to stay away (it never worked). I sipped my smoothie and Violet and I enjoyed a relaxing evening.

It wasn't until my third visit to Candlelight that I met Erin. She went to the same high school as Violet and another one of my friends, and Violet introduced us. We began talking and she asked me how I knew Andrew. Erin brightened at the mention of Andrew's name: they were friends. She said, "I think he mentioned you, but I'm not sure because he always described you as straight."

"Well," I said, "he only found out that I was recently gay."

She gave me an incredulous look, "You mean he couldn't tell?"

Only from such conversations can life-long friendships be formed.

continued on page 9

THAW

by c.f.

The cold bit at my fingers as we fought back tears. Freedom was only a few feet away. The rails, the rocking, and the constant motion of the box car would take me further and further away from my past. But until the engine's steam broke into the air, like my breath as it crystallizes as we try to talk, I was in pause.

She wanted to talk in the safety of the car, removed so as not to admit to the world who she was, who she was the mother to her daughter is. And as her tears fell with the snow, I realized that this conversation was inevitable, even if the other was not a woman. A woman, complex, beautiful, fierce. A woman that I love so intensely that the present I knew was shattered. And here I sat with the woman who used to be my world, realizing that it was time for her to take off those shoes. Admitting to me that taking off the shoes was the difficulty, not the owner on the other end.

I wanted to reach out and grab her hand, but the cold had left me numb. I wanted to scream, I love you and I thank you for laying the foundation of who I am, even if you hate what you see. Who I am, what I am today is a product of every yesterday. And in living those moments, there was great pain but, "from the pain come the vision, from the dream come the vision, from the vision come the people, and from the people come power, from this power come the change." The pain you gave inspired my growth, my change.

Thank you for the strength, for the passion. These words danced in my head but its as if the cold froze them there - unable to escape - to be heard, to live. So the tears fell instead. Icicles protecting the words that echoed in my mind. So she stored, through her own melting icicles. Our eyes met. Staring into the ember rays that welcomed me into the world, and seeing them again for the first time. She claims her daughter has died. Its not the first time it's been said. Much like a cock, I have many lives. Her daughter has been born, again. This time, she entered the world on her own - not kicking and screaming - standing and laughing through the tears.

* (Peter Gabriel, "14 Black Paintings")

What those of us with gay children have learned is that there's nothing wrong with our kids, but there's a lot of problems in the community out there. — Adele Starr
She's My Daughter

by Flo Cross

When Erin casually said, "Would you write something for B-GLAD?" I blanked.

After very little thought, I realized I did know about being the mother of a lesbian. Erin is my daughter. I love her. Lesbianism is a very small part of who she is. She is an interesting, intelligent, loving, nurturing person. She is someone I would choose for a friend.

It took me a while to get where I am. I have grieved the loss of the dream I had for my daughter... the dates, the wedding, and the grandchildren. I finally realized her happiness was my dream too. No matter what, she had become true to herself and unbelievably brave to set out on uncharted and possibly dangerous waters. She is still my child, the baby I bore and loved. Nothing has or will change that.

Her journey has taken her through much soul searching, grief, depression and pain. She has come out the other side as someone of whom I'm quite proud.

Isn't it written that we are all created in God's image?

What a multi-faceted image it must be.

My mother in Kentucky took me being gay really well. She can even have visitors now. Not everyday, but just a few at a time, the room is so small. – Barry Steiger

Queer Groups on PENN’s Campus

ALLIES – Contact Heather Lochridge at hel@sas.upenn.edu – serves as an action group for heterosexual supporters of PENN’s queer community. They meet every other Wednesday at the LGB Center to plan events and develop initiatives. One of the primary goals of ALLIES is to educate themselves and others in the heterosexual community about the lives, issues, and discrimination faced by the LGBT community.

Jewish Bisexuals Gays and Lesbians (J-BaGeL) – Contact Laurie Eichenbaum at lauriee@sas.upenn.edu – a safe social support group for Jewish bisexual, gay and lesbian undergraduates, grads, and allies. J-BaGeL is supported through PENN’s Hillel, though it has members from colleges and universities from all around Philadelphia.

Lambda Grads – Contact Brian Hannon at bhannon@seas.upenn.edu – serves graduate students from all of the graduate and professional schools to meet for socials and various educational programs. Lambda Grads meets regularly and co-sponsors events with other campus organizations, on campus, throughout the year.

Lambda Law – Contact Katherine Gomez at klgomez@dolphin.upenn.edu – serves the students, faculty, and staff of the Law School to get together through out the year, both on and off campus, for social events and educational programs. Lambda Law works to represent gay, lesbian, and bisexual concerns in curriculum and in the academic environment.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) – Contact Kurt Klinger at kurtk@sas.upenn.edu – the primary undergraduate queer organization providing a supportive social environment for those new to the PENN community. This group meets weekly and frequently sponsors a variety of educational and social events and dances. The LGBA is also the coordinator of the B-GLAD events. Look in the "Campus Events" Section of the Daily Pennsylvanian for more details about current programs and visit the website at http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~lgba, which is constantly updated, for programs and events.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual People in Medicine (LGBPM) – PENN Chapter – Contact David Dinan at ddinan@mail.med.upenn.edu – LGBPM is one of five Chapters in Philadelphia and provides resources and support for lesbian, gay, and bisexual medical students.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Social Workers at Penn – Contact Juan Perez at perezj@dolphin.upenn.edu – seeks to increase visibility for PENN’s lesbian, gay and bisexual Social Work students, educate the community in the School of Social Work about sexual minority issues, and provide emotional and social support for members. Meetings are held regularly and attendance is confidential.

OutEd – Contact Jason Klugman at jasonk@dolphin.upenn.edu – the Graduate School of Education’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight allies organization, which offers support and educational opportunities, regarding queer issues, for members in the Graduate School of Education.

Out 4 Business – Contact Andrew Fiala at fialaa@wharton.upenn.edu – Wharton’s undergraduate and graduate lesbian, gay, bisexual organization, for students, faculty, and staff to meet and discuss issues of interest and plan social and educational events.

PEARL (PENN’s Eagerly Awaited Radical Ladies) – Contact Hema Sarangapani at hemasara@sas.upenn.edu – supported by the PENN Women’s Center, this social organization for lesbian, bisexual and other aware women sponsors various social and educational events. PEARL is open to all women undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff. Also check the DP’s “Campus Events” section for upcoming events.

Penn Gay and Lesbian Alumni (PennGALA) – Contact Bob Schoenberg at bobs@pobox.upenn.edu – for lesbian, gay and bisexual alumni and current students. PennGALA maintains a confidential mailing list and published a periodic newsletter and Alumni Directory and holds events on Homecoming Weekend in October and Alumni Weekend in May.

My mother in Kentucky took me being gay really well. She can even have visitors now. Not everyday, but just a few at a time, the room is so small. – Barry Steiger

She's My Mom

by Erin Cross

I asked my mom to write something for B-GLAD without really thinking about what she would compose. I assumed that she would have something to say since she is rarely at a loss for words. I guess I was just not prepared for what she did write.

Being my parent has not been the easiest of tasks for my mother. I was the child who was almost thrown out of the gifted class for being incorrigible (she talked the teacher out of it); I was the child who played softball despite my mother’s warning about being hurt (I was, but she let me keep playing); and I was the child who protested about female students having to wear white graduation gowns in high school (she supported me despite the fact she taught in the same school district). Basically, my mom — and dad — put up with a lot.

Then I came out to her. Actually, she told me she knew a week before I had planned to tell her. Details aside, it was a rough period. Through it all, I knew my mother loved me. I never knew, however, that she realized the depth of my search for personal truth. She is an amazing woman.

And today, because of the growth we have both experienced I can honestly say that my mother is one of my closest friends in the world... it was worth the wait.
RAISING HELL: GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

by Kurt Conklin

Dear queer citizens of the new millennium: I have found the secret of eternal youth (always a concern in this community, you'll eventually notice). It's called getting arrested.

As a campus health educator, it's my job to model good, healthy behavior to the Penn community. Last Fall, a friend called me to say that a local TV news station was to air a story about public sex. Public sex can mean a lot of things, some consensual and some not, some of no risk to public health, and some with very real risks. My friend's understanding of this in the wake of Matthew Shepard's death was that the story would take hidden cameras into restrooms, andpropagate mostly by men who have sex with men (read: gay.)

We were angered that on the heels of a brutal killing of a gay college student, a TV news station would reinforce all the old predatory stereotypes about queer people simply to boost ratings. In short, in an era when we're the ones being hunted down and killed, "sweeps week" requires that we be portrayed as the hunters of straight people's children.

My friend proposed an impromptu demonstration at the news channel headquarters to end "toilet journalism" and to demand that real issues be covered in TV news. About 15 of us assembled in Center City on the night the story was to air with signs, a megaphone, and a few accessories appropriate to the theme of protest. (Thank God for our power to accessorize!) We piled into a van and headed for the deserted strip-mall suburb over the city line where a fair amount of city news is composed. It was 11pm and the vast parking lots and strip malls were almost entirely empty. How can you stage a protest in a desert where no one will see you? It's a bit like having a tree fall in the forest when no one is there to hear it.

Our ragtag band of protesters arrived on schedule, displayed our accessories, waved our signs, and used the megaphone to denounce sensationalistic "news" that places queers in danger then a video cameraman emerged at last! Proof that we existed! After we repeated our mantras for the cameras, fifteen police cars arrived from Lower Merion township and nine of us were taken away in handcuffs. After 90 minutes at the station, we were charged with disorderly conduct (making "noise which served no legitimate purpose") and released. Our court dates were set for the following month.

So what are the health benefits of an episode that held no legal or economic advantages for us? Personally, I did not intend to get arrested, and there was really no heroism in getting charged with disorderly conduct (I begged the officers to search me for contraband, but they were having none of it). And let's face it, defending public sex is not going to win you any friends or endear you to folks who have a respectable image to maintain (such as people at the University of Pennsylvania.) Nonetheless, I propose activism, troublemaking, hell-raising - call it what you will - as an antidote to the alienation and helplessness we sometimes feel in the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community. In my five years at Penn, I have heard numerous queer students lament the disconnection they sometimes feel in relation to our very own community. The dating

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WITH LONGING

by Michael J. Ernst

With longing I wait for his call. Oh God! I cannot stand it! How eagerly I look forward To the sweet sound of his voice, The gentle reassurances And the tender I love you's. We must be discreet, though. My family would not understand, But, oh, how I long to tell the world Of our love, of our feelings, And simply of us.

With longing I wait To embrace the man I love Once again. My eyes fill with thoughts - And tears - as I dream of him. Forbidden love, not star-crossed. Is what we share In a world that condemns us And does not yet understand. Tender kisses, strong embraces, Gentle words, firm grasps, The touch of a hand on mine. It's as simple as holding hands, As taking a moonlit stroll on the beach, As saying, "I Love You."
So What is All of This Transgender Stuff, Anyway?

This is an excerpt from a pamphlet of the same name that is available in the LGB Center.

The transgender, or trans, community is quickly rising in our cultures. Many people are unsure about what the trans community is. To begin, I’d like to mention that different people have different ideas about who is transgender and that since the community is just emerging now, there are few standards that everyone agrees upon.

Most people in the community consider anyone who does not fit society’s system of “born male, stay male” or “born female, stay female” to be transgender, though the ultimate decision of whether a person is trans lies with that individual. Transgender is an umbrella term which encompasses many forms of sex and gender variance. Note that this term is different from transsexual, which refers to people who wish to become members of the opposite gender and may undergo surgeries to do so.

Sexual Orientation vs. Sexual Identity – Sexual orientation involves the gender to which people are attracted. Sexual identity refers to what gender people find themselves to be. Not all transgender people (those with a socially variant sexual identity) are lesbian/gay/bisexual, and not all lesbian/gay/bisexual people (those with a socially variant sexual orientation) are transgender. However, as both groups face similar prejudices and question the idea of “male-female relationships only,” they have often found it advantageous to work together.

Sex vs. Gender – In our society, these concepts are often lumped together. Sex correlates to the biological organs, hormones, etc. which are parts of the body. Gender is everything else – the way society teaches people to behave based on their sex (what to wear, how to cut/shave hair, how to act, etc.) In our society, there are two genders, but this is not true for all cultures around the world. Some cultures distinguish five genders. Many Native American tribes recognize three genders. The Hira of India are not considered either male or female. Gender and sex may not be as closely correlated as Western culture tends to believe.

The number of transgender people in today’s society is difficult to determine. Surveys are not done, and if they were, many people might not acknowledge being transgender. However, regardless of the figures, all people in our society should be respected for who they are. Do not assume that everyone you meet in strictly male or female and do your best to accept and understand those who are transgender. Respect for all will make a better world!

It is not the homosexual who is perverse, but the society in which he lives. – Rosa Von Praunheim
REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW SHEPARD

by Mike LaMonaca

These are some excerpts from my journal, in which I write from time to time. The tragic beating and death of Matthew Shepard in October stirred sympathy and emotions from people around the world. These journal entries reflect my own thoughts as the events were unfolding.

Friday, October 9, 1998
It's a sad day in the gay world today.

On Wednesday, a cyclist in Montana saw what he thought was a scarecrow tied to a fence—it was a body—badly beaten, burned by applications of a lit cigarette, and left for dead. The guy is a 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming, and is in a coma. The two perpetrators were arrested—the TV showed their expressionless faces as they went into court for their arraignment. The two men pretended to be gay when they met the student at a nearby bar.

I saw an article on the Internet, then a report on NBC News. I thought the news report was compassionate, ending with the status of the hate crime bill for Wyoming, which was voted down because it would be "giving special treatment to homosexuals."

Recently, a black man in Texas was dragged to his death as a result of a hate crime. Considering the attention and outpouring of emotions associated with that incident, I wonder what the response will be to this beating. It has already received national attention by the media.

I can't say I usually get emotional from news stories, but seeing the victim's face during the news report just sent waves of compassion through me. My immediate thoughts label him as a martyr for the cause of gay civil rights. Undoubtedly, his name will be mentioned quite often by LGB speakers and organizations (especially this weekend during OutFest).

Did he want this attention, in such a way? I know I would love to be able to make a difference, but would I want to be a victim of a hate crime to fulfill that wish? Absolutely not.

But he had no choice.

Neither news report mentioned anything about his family. I wonder if they are close, and if they are supportive of him. And if he lives (or even dies), how this incident will change that relationship.

I feel bad about one thing—at the end of the news report, I made it a point to remember his name. An hour later, I realized that I had completely forgotten it.

Saturday, October 10, 1998

The incident with the University of Wyoming student has definitely attracted national attention. Another national news broadcast, showing an impromptu anti-hate march following the school's homecoming parade. The family has issued statements of appreciation, and are denying media requests for interviews. Human Rights Campaign seems to be spearheading the awareness and asking for help for the family, as well as tackling on their own lobby for hate crime bills.

His medical condition has not changed from yesterday.

Monday, October 12, 1998

Matthew Shepard died this morning.

It's been a long, emotional day.

Thursday, October 15, 1998

I can't even begin to describe what this week has been like. Matthew Shepard died early Monday morning. It was a gloomy day in Philly. Penn was (ironically) observing National Coming Out Day. Across from the LGB Center, Brother Stephen and his clan were preaching against homosexuality. And overshadowing the confused activity was the reality that a 21-year-old boy was dead because he was gay.

I could not concentrate on anything that night. Actually, I haven't slept well any night this week—I keep having nightmares.

Penn had a candlelight vigil on Tuesday. I had a feeling there would be a great turnout, and there was. The vigil was very emotional, and although I was surrounded by hundreds of people, at times I felt alone. I especially broke down when it was announced that Fred Phelps and his "church" would be protesting at Matthew's funeral. Yes, it will be a prime example of religious-based hatred, but Matthew's family does not deserve this.

Tomorrow is Matthew's funeral. I wonder what the coverage will be, and how Fred Phelps' group will be portrayed. And the gay response to him.

Although this incident has motivated me to act, I still feel very helpless. The incident has spurned a lot of other stories of hate and discrimination, and I find myself getting angry—yet helpless. I had earlier described a vision which had been stuck in my head, of Matthew tied to that fence, alone, not going to be found for hours. But in this image, the sun is rising, piercing the cold Wyoming morning with sudden light and warmth.

A ray of hope, ending the senseless pain. I often take living in a relatively gay-friendly city for granted. Maybe Matthew took sunrises for granted. Matthew will not be forgotten.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

by Mike Rogan

When you hear the word "homosexual," what do you imagine in your mind? Do you see glory holes, promiscuity, and AIDS? Leather dykes, fairies, drag queens, and fags? Do you see hell fire and damnation? Suicide, rejection, depression, and beatings? Do you see a break down in society and a loss of morality? Subversion, conversion, and perversion? Tell me, please, what do you see?

I saw a mouse, coming of age in a small town. Fear, shame, and isolation. I saw a deep depression and an utter rejection by family and friends. Pain, sickness, and suicide. I saw a loss of faith, an utter desire to find God, and the hope that Heaven was not closed to him. Then the scales fell from my eyes.

Now I see joy and peace of mind. Acceptance, pride, and love. I see family and friends smiling and supporting, bonding, openness, and caring. I see a continuous struggle to change society, to find true love and a monogamous bond. Hope, diversity, challenge, and faith.

So I ask again, when you hear the word "homosexual," what do you see?

It's astonishing how much energy some people waste worrying that someone else might be enjoying life in ways they don't approve of. - Kevin Michael Vail

I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints!
FOUR YEARS WITH THE LGBA

by Alex Gino

When I first got to Penn, I didn’t run right to the LGBA. It’s not that I was terrified of being labeled ‘queer.’ Rather, I was terrified that the entire queer community would already know each other and I’d be left in a corner. I was afraid that I would be the only new person there. As the year progressed, I became more convinced that everyone who was going to attend the LGBA had already gone and that it was too late for me. I was on the LGBA listserve and the people there sounded much too happy to be an insecure freshmen like me.

In early December, I started getting e-mails about a potluck being held in New Jersey by then LGBA co-chair Anthony Putz. For some reason, I decided that this relaxed setting would be perfect for me to acclimate and meet people. I e-mailed a woman named Vanessa Eismann and told her I would meet her and others in front of Upper Quad to take PATCO over.

There I was, at 37th and Spruce, looking for a group of LGBA people, whatever that meant. I waited for the elusive gaydar to suddenly kick in. It didn’t. I was getting cold and just about to give up when two women came up to me and asked, “Are you Alex?” I had met my first “real” gay people.

We got to Anthony’s party. And you know what? I was the only “new” person there. Know what else? It didn’t matter. I was somehow comfortable from the first minute. I had been craving the physical intimacy I had had with my friends at home since I got to Penn. Here, a simple hug was a big deal. At the party, there were about 6 of us lounging on Anthony’s bed; it was the freest I had felt in months. I found out later that many of the people there had only been involved with the organization for a few weeks or months. And, although the group felt incredibly tight knit, there were no barriers to joining.

Three months later, I was hosting the B-GLAD rally on the College Green. I had a wonderful time and it was great to see my new friends out there cheering me.

The LGBA has gone through many changes since that time. Early last year, I began to find myself as the “veteran” at many events. I was not necessarily the oldest around, but I had been around the longest. When I would mention the names of people like the ever-adorable Ricky Herran, people would say, “who is that?” I felt like an old geezer at twenty - it was ridiculous. By now, I’ve gotten used to it and I’m almost stunned when talking with people who’ve been around as long as, or even longer than, I.

I love the LGBA. It’s my baby. I’ve coddled it for over three years. I hate to say goodbye to it. Of course, it hasn’t all been chocolates and Saturday morning cartoons. It’s been more like 80’s music: a whole lot of fun, but if you listen to it long enough, you just want to hurt someone. The LGBA is the same great fun, but a lot of work.

Every year, about halfway into B-GLAD, I’m known to say, “That’s it: I’m not going to be gay anymore. It takes too much time. I will be straight this April.” Of course this is just a joke. Looking at the B-GLAD calendar, and knowing that I have been on the planning committee all four years, I think you see where it comes from. I spend a lot of my time working with the LGBA and B-GLAD, and though I love it, the work sometimes becomes overwhelming.

This year, as a senior, I fear that I really might become straight after B-GLAD. A few days after B-GLAD ends, I will finish out my last of three terms on the LGBA board. In the summer, I will move with my boyfriend: most likely in a new city. I shall take on a full time job teaching young children and will spend the rest of my time adjusting to “grown up life.”

I don’t want to be someone “who experimented in college.” I love my queerness. I embrace it. I don’t have any queer connections outside of Philadelphia and I’m terribly afraid that I won’t build any in my new home when I leave. I do my best to promise myself that it won’t happen, but it’s still scary.

So, what am I going to do? The best that I can. I will find the community center in my new city and try to attend transgender and other meetings regularly. With time, I hope to develop friendships and connections so that I can have as thriving of a queer life there as I have here. I want to say thanks to the queer community and Penn and everywhere.

Thanks to those who had a world here that they so generously offered me. Thanks to those of my “era” for putting up with me through all of my spells. Thanks to the people who have come in and promised to keep the torch going. I put my trust in you. Someday, you too will feel like you’ve always been part of the queer world at Penn and won’t know how to leave. But, time does move on, and there are futures for us all that we can’t possibly yet imagine.

Author’s note: I’m not usually all mushy like this, but I’m a senior. Cut me some slack. (And give the seniors you see a hug. Some of us are terrified and we would all appreciate to know that you care.)

WHAT THE HELL’S GOING ON HERE?

by Cindy Gino

As I read the paper today it occurred to me that an awful lot of violence in this world is due to people who cannot understand that all humans are born with fundamental rights. Take the recent widely publicized physical attacks on gays as an example. Someone, somewhere is reading a vastly different bible from the one I know. I distinctly remember phrases that advocate non-violence as a way of life. I also remember the idea that we should “judge not, lest ye shall be judged!”

There is a mistaken notion that all things are either right or wrong in this world. Most people would prefer to put each of us into neat little boxes that could be labeled appropriately as either good or bad. Unfortunately for them, life is filled with greys and various other shadings. Black and white issues are few. Where each of us stands on them cannot wholly explain who we are. It is in our stance on the greys that we truly reveal our inner selves.

Alternative lifestyles (in itself a misnomer) fall well within the area of grey! How and with whom people want to live should be entirely up to the people involved! Imagine if the entire world suddenly decided that newest form of mandatory birth control involved no cohabitation between people of opposite sexes. Would the vast majority go along with this outlandish regulation of their bedroom behavior? Most people would realize that this would be society overstepping its bounds.

Sadly, today the papers are filled with stories of gay bashings and killings that are celebrated by some religious zealots. These people cannot see that the real horrible sins visited upon this earth are the ones they are engaging in... hate mongering, murdering and even mutilating their fellow man. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transgender people do not threaten heterosexuals with their very existence. Rather, they enrich and empower all of us by their courage. It is not the easiest way to live. All people, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, height, weight, and tannability have to make peace with who they are. We all have to live with all the choices we make. Regrettably, too many LGBT people have died for making their choice.

If you can’t raise consciousness, at least raise hell. – Rita Mae Brown
by Stephanie Marrs

I am an open-minded person. I pride myself on this and always have. I expect the same of others and dislike hearing any group, no matter what it may be, spoken of disparagingly. So, imagine my surprise when someone I respect very much called to my attention my tendency to speak poorly about a group of people. As I thought back on my comments, I knew she was right. I made sweeping judgments. I spoke in a way that demeaned the group's intelligence. I joked about the group's inferiority. In short, I realized that I routinely behave in a way that under any other circumstance would make me incredibly angry and uncomfortable. In fact, such a realization has made me angry and uncomfortable with myself.

What comforts me is that I know these stereotypical comments are not the way I feel about individuals in this group. And what's more, I am sure that I can change. Now, in order to change a behavior, one must first acknowledge the problem and then get to the root of the problem realizing the motivation behind the thoughts and actions. OK, so now I am acknowledging that I am a man basher. It is easy for me to say "man-bash." I am a queer female. I am a queer female who believes very much that the longer society persists in a state dominated by the patriarchy, the worse for everyone.

Before we go any further, let's define terms as I mean them presently:

**Man:** An individual perceiving his gender identity in the traditional binary system as male or masculine.

**Man basher:** One whose comments or actions imply that men can be played with, treated with disrespect and generally lumped into a mass of sameness that is not up to par.

**Queer:** General term meaning not strictly heterosexual. Personally, I lean on the lesbian side of bisexual.

**Patriarchy:** Ruling class made up mostly of straight, white, Protestant, men over forty.

**All of us:** All citizens of the planet, including those fitting into the ruling class.

It is very easy for me to discount men. I am often in situations in which this is acceptable, even encouraged behavior. For instance, I am a nursing major. I have spent four years in classrooms filled with women. I see women as my primary dating pool, and I grew up in a family where women outnumber men 3 to 1. In my classes, much nursing literature intertwines with feminist theory. My father, in a house full of women, portrayed women as wonderful creatures and devalued men to the point of self-effacement. In the lesbian, gay, bisexual community at Penn, we women work hard to differentiate ourselves from the gay man's culture which threatens to overwhelm us with show tunes and glitter.

Some of my best friends are men. Some of the people I trust the most in my life are men/guys/boys - whatever you care to call them. Men have a valuable and unique perspective to add to fields such as nursing and teaching, just as women could improve the corporate world. Men can be, and are, fabulous parents, great listeners, caring confidants, and excellent advice-givers. I read in a textbook that men fall in love more quickly than women, and women fall out of love more quickly than men, which some would find surprising given common stereotypes of playboys and gigolos. Since I know all of the above and more, is it that I can present men so harshly to others?

I have mentioned above some fundamental premises that may help to explain my behavior, but these only explain my forums for discussion. More complex analysis follows. Feminism is very important to me. There is a part of me that identifies with the man-hating "femi-nazi" that is often alluded to by right wing extremists. In a society where women are traditionally part of the downtrodden, it is easy to lash out at the perceived enemy. It is easy to build up oneself by calling the enemy unimportant, trivial, and even ridiculous. Generally, in the binary system of sex, high levels of testosterone make males more aggressive, taller, and stronger than females. I have come to see women as victims more often and men as perpetrators more often. I get into a mindset: victim = good, perpetrator = bad.

Humans seem to have a tendency to take what they see and put it in boxes, the smaller the better. We take reality and stuff it in a shoebox that stacks neatly on top of the rest of our junk. I have a box labeled "Halloween," filled with orange streamers, pumpkins, pole sticks, and chilly nights. I have a box labeled bugs, filled with fuzzy

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by c.l.

It's dark in there. I don't want to go back in. I was in there for too long. And then, for certain visitors, I left it and played and laughed and sang in the open air in the light. For others, I closed the door and locked it from the inside. In two months, I'm going to have to lock the door, put some chairs in front of it, maybe even titanium. I can turn the light on inside - talk to myself - talk to her - talk to some of my friends. But I won't be talking to anyone new, nor will I be talking, more like whispering.

I really don't want to go back in there. The first time is hard enough. When I finally let my cat go outside, she never wanted to come back in. But eventually she had to, and she was miserable. If she had never gone outside, she wouldn't have known. But it's better to know.

Do you know what it's like to be in there? I know a lot of you who actually take the time to read this book, but some of you, who I hope are reading this, don't. Imagine this:

You are a young, rather attractive, out-going woman. You decide to go to a meeting one night, you're a bit nervous. Your roommates ask you where you are going. The library. It's a small lie. The first of many. Because you're scared. Your mother calls, asks what you did this weekend. You'd love to tell her about this person you met over coffee and how wonderful this person is and you just know they'd get along beautifully. Instead, you say, not much, went out to dinner with some friends. More lies. You're in love. Your brother asks if you're seeing anyone. No - no one special. You lie again, and deny this person that's the worst.

If women are going to be expected to carry condoms,

I expect to be able to borrow a tampon from a guy on the street. — Max Vasilatos

AFRAID OF THE DARK
Evolution of the Disco Ball:

1970:
1980:
1990:
Today:

Decades Dance

Saturday, March 27th
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

The Veranda
3615 Locust Walk

Zodiac DJ Entertainers

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the LGBA at Penn!

SAC Funded
Symbols of Pride

The Rainbow Flag. In 1978, Gilbert Baker of San Francisco designed and made a flag with six stripes representing the six colors of the rainbow as a symbol of gay and lesbian community pride. Slowly the flag took hold, offering a colorful and optimistic alternative to the more common pink triangle symbol. Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit.

Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag." Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag. The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route - three colors on one side of the street and three on the other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

In response to the AIDS crisis, a San Francisco group created the "Victory Over AIDS" flag—a Rainbow Flag with a black stripe at the bottom to signify mourning. When we have found a cure for AIDS, the plan is to remove the black stripes from all the flags and burn them in a national ceremony.

The Pink Triangle (Rosawinkel) was a badge designed by Nazi concentration camp officials to designate men incarcerated for their homosexuality. Part of an eight-color system that coded many marginalized groups, the pink triangle was chosen for male homosexuals as a sign of effeminacy. Lesbians, who were not singled out in the camps, were incarcerated and forced to wear the black triangle—the sign for prostitutes criminals, and social misfits. Lesbian and gay activists reclaimed the symbol in the 1970s. ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) increased the triangle's visibility after it adopted the symbol and the "Silence=Death" slogan in 1987.

The Lambda has signified queer activism since the 1970s. The symbol was developed by the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), one of the first post-Stonewall direct-action groups. The original connection between lambda and queer liberation remains obscure. Some have suggested that the lambda, as the eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet, stands for / as in liberation. Used by scientists to designate "wavelength," the lambda could also suggest that gays and lesbians are on a different wavelength than members of dominant society. In a physics and chemistry context, it also connotes energy and potential for change—viable meanings for queer activists.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Logo. The largest national gay and lesbian political organization in America, the HRC was founded in 1980. The primary functions of the HRC are to support lesbian- and gay-friendly Congressional candidates and to lobby the federal government on relevant gay and lesbian issues.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Logo. NGLTF is the second oldest national gay and lesbian political organization, founded in 1973. Modeled after the American Civil Liberties Union, NGLTF is committed to lesbian and gay civil rights advocacy.

The transgender community has adopted the astrological sign for Mercury. Another transender symbol, chosen by the International Foundation for Gender Education, combines the pink triangle with interlocking signs for male and female. This symbol recognizes the transgender person's purchase on a unique fusion of gender and sex differences.

**B-GLAD 1999 Calendar of Events**

**Wednesday, March 24**

**Rally**
12:30 – 1:30 PM on College Green.

**Business Diversity Panel**
4:30 – 6:00 PM in Steinberg-Dietrich 350, 3630 Locust Walk
Recruiters from companies join Out for Business, African American MBAs, Wharton Women in Business, and Wharton International Students.

**Gallery Dinner**
5:30 PM in the Hill House Gallery Room, 3333 Walnut Street
Dine over a discussion of race and sexual orientation.

**Rebecca Walker**
7:00 PM in David Rittenhouse Lab room A8, 209 S. 33rd Street
A biracial and bisexual feminist activist, Ms. Walker speaks about the intersection of communities. Co-sponsored by the GIC, Lambda Grads, the Women’s Studies Department, Dr. Ann Matter, & Dr. Demie Kurz.

**ResNet Movie: “Jeffrey”**
midnight

**Thursday, March 25**

**Jeff Nunokawa**
7:30 PM in Annenberg School Room 109, 3820 Walnut Street
Princeton English professor Nunokawa speaks on “Oscar Wilde and the Social Body Beautiful.” Presented by the LGAU.

**Friday, March 26**

**Celebration of Cultures**
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM in Hamilton Village (Superblock), 39th Street & Locust Walk
Sponsored by the United Minorities Council.

**Sex and God**
4:00 PM, LGB Center, 3537 Locust Walk, Third Floor
Reverend Dr. Beverly Dale leads a discussion about spirit and sexuality. Sponsored by the Christian Association.

**Lambda Grads Social**
5:30 PM, location TBA
Join graduate and professional students in celebrating B-GLAD with food, fun, and festivities.

**Qabaret**
7:30 PM in the Hamwell House Rathskellar (HRE Basement), 3820 Locust Walk
Wilkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome to an evening of talent on display! Donation of $2 suggested.

**ResNet Movie: “Go Fish”**
10:30 PM

**Saturday, March 27**

**Javarama, Allies Style**
5:00 – 7:00 PM in Writer’s House, 3805 Locust Walk
Enjoy free coffee & cookies provided by your hosts, the newest queer-positive student group on campus, Allies, the heterosexual supporters of the LGBT community at PENN. All are welcome.

**Decades Dance / LGBA Silver Anniversary Party**
9:00 PM – 1:00 AM in the Veranda, 3615 Locust Walk
Groove to music spanning the last three decades provided by Zodiac DJ Entertainers. $4 with student ID, $5 without.

**Sunday, March 28**

**Interfaith Celebration**
2:00 PM in the Christian Association, 3601 Locust Walk
An affirmation of spirit and sexuality in the Jewish and Christian traditions. Co-sponsored by the LGBA, Hillel, the LGB Center, the Christian Association, & the Office of the Chaplain.

**Movie Night**
7:00 PM in the Goldberg Lounge of the Quad, 3700 Spruce Street
“High Art” & “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert”

**ResNet Movie: “Torch Song Trilogy”**
midnight

**Monday, March 22**

**Kate Bornstein and Barbara Corellis**
8:00 PM in Stiteler Hall B-12, 208 S. 37th Street
A transgendered activist, Bornstein’s partner, Barbara Corellis, give a lecture/presentation entitled, “Too Tall Blondes Do Sex, Death, and Gender.” Co-sponsored by Connaissance.

midnight

**Tuesday, March 30**

**Felicia Park-Rogers**
8:00 PM in Steinberg-Dietrich 350, 3630 Locust Walk
The daughter of queer parents and identifying herself as queer, Ms. Park-Rogers talks about her definition of family. Co-sponsored by Connaissance.

The Rainbow Shield is a symbol of pride for Penn’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. It was the B-GLAD 1998 logo and has since been unofficially adopted by the LGBA. Pick up a button with this logo from the LGB Center and show your support.

1. LGB Center, 3537 Locust Walk
2. Old Bookstore Wall, 38th & Locust
3. Hill College House, 3333 Walnut
4. Writers’ House, 3895 Locust Walk
5. Women’s Center, 3643 Locust Walk
6. Greenfield Intercultural Center, 3708 Chestnut
7. The Quad, 37th & Spruce
8. Steinberg-Dietrich Hall, 3830 Locust Walk
10. Annenberg School, 3820 Walnut (enter via Locust Walk)
11. Hamwell College House (HRE), 3820 Locust Walk
12. The Veranda, 3615 Locust Walk
13. Christian Association, 3601 Locust Walk

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*The test of courage comes when we are in the minority; the test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.* – Ralph W. Stockman
Speaking out!

Rebecca Walker

Considered one of the most audible voices of the young women's movement and recently named by TIME Magazine as one of the future leaders of America, Rebecca Walker grew up in San Francisco and New York and graduated cum laude from Yale in 1992. Following graduation, Walker founded Third Wave Direct Action Corporation, which initiated an historic emergency youth drive to register over 20,000 voters in inner cities across the US.

Walker is also a writer and has been a contributing editor to Ms. since 1989. Her writing, which engages issues such as reproductive freedom, sexuality, and domestic violence have been published in numerous magazines and various women's and black studies anthologies. Most recently, she has edited To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism and is currently working on Morphology: Memoir of a Shifting Self and an anthology on bisexuality, Having Our Cake (both to be published by Riverhead Books). Walker has also delved into television by hosting a television forum on inner city youth issues and has produced segments for young adult programming. She recently made her motion picture debut acting in Primary Colors.

Among Walker's numerous awards are: Feminist of the Year from the Fund for Feminist Majority, the Vanguard Foundation's Paz Y Justica award, and the Champion of Choice Award from the California Abortion Rights Action League.

Bernardo Garcia

Garcia recently finished his dissertation entitled The Development of a Gay Latino Identity, which was published in book form by Garland Publishing in December 1998. He is a Philadelphia resident and an activist in the queer community.

Jeff Nunakawa

Nunokawa teaches English at Princeton University. He is the author of The Afterlife of Property and is currently completing a book about erotica and economics in the work of Oscar Wilde. He earned his Ph.D. from Cornell in 1989 and specializes in Victorian literature, history of sexuality, and social theory.

Robin Becker

Robin Becker is a Lambda Award winning poet for her collection entitled All-American Girl (1996). She has published three other well-received books of poetry — including Giacometti's Dog — and is a member of the Pennsylvania State University English Department faculty. Becker also currently serves as a member of the Commission for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Equity at Penn State. This academic year, however, she is a Visiting Scholar at The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at The City University of New York where she is concentrating on her work. Becker has also received numerous prizes and fellowships for her work.

Social

Academy Awards Party
3/21, 8:00 PM
Hill House TV Room

Gallery Dinner
Race and Sexual Orientation Discussion
3/24, 5:30 PM
Hill House Gallery Room

Lambda Grads Social
3/26, 5:30 PM
Location TBA

Movie Night
“High Art” and “The Adventures of Pricilla, Queen of the Desert”
3/28, 7:00 PM
Goldberg Lounge (Upper Quad)

Stuff

When my dad found out I was a lesbian, he thought I should try a man. I said I would think about it if he would. — Natasha
Kate Bornstein and Barbara Corellis
Kate Bornstein is one of the world's premier transgender activists. Usually labelled a male-to-female transexual, Kate considers herself to be whatever ze wants to be whenever ze wants to be. When asked whether or not people can change their gender, ze's most likely to answer, "How often?"

Kate is author of Gender Outlaw and My Gender Workbook, as well as an award-winning performance artist. Ze, along with zir partner Barbara Corellis, will give a lecture/presentation entitled, "Too Tall Blondes Do Sex, Death and Gender."

Felicia Park-Rogers
Felicia, 27, "walked" her first picket line when she was less than three weeks old. She grew up boycotting Nestle and grapes, and learned first hand about the feminist and gay liberation movements from her mom and dad who came out as bisexual and gay when she was three years old. Felicia worked in her first peer empowerment program for youth when she was 16, the model had a profound impact on her work.

After coming out herself as bisexual at 19, Felicia began organizing around queer youth issues. She worked for two years in the women's program at LYRIC, San Francisco's queer youth center, and then worked for three years with homeless youth in transitional living programs in San Francisco. Felicia was also a trainer and core trainer in the first two NGLTF National Queer Youth Leadership Institutes.

In August 1996, Felicia began to work at COLAGE (Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere), an international organization which works to support sons and daughters of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents as well as to fight the homophobia our families and communities face. Felicia became the Director in January 1997. Some people may recognize Felicia from the documentary The Castro which showed nationwide last year on PBS and featured Felicia, her dad, and her partner.

Interfaith Celebration:
Spirit & Sexuality in the Jewish & Christian Traditions

2:00 PM, Sunday, March 28
PENN's Christian Association
3601 Locust Walk

Rabbi Rebecca Alpert - Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale
Chaplain William Spence - Father Barry Steele
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Why can't they have gay people in the army? Personally, I think they are just afraid of a thousand gay guys with M16s going, "Who'd you call a faggot?" - John Stewart
I was reborn on March 10th, 1993. When most people thought I was out celebrating my 21st birthday and my newfound ability to legally consume alcohol, I was really only turning six. For six years ago, I came into the firm realization of my identity as a homosexual. Before that time I was somewhere between asexual and in a sort of world of denial. Since then it has been, "a long hard road out of Hell." And I now stand firmly on my two feet, with my eyes looking towards a brighter future.

It's been one strange journey. My parents have gone from telling me that I destroyed their lives to calling me up and giving me dating advice (in the hopes that someday I'll find a guy to date). I have gone from a world of religious condemnation to one where my mother advocates for change within the Catholic Church with whom she works. My friends have gone from turning their backs to giving me hugs. I left a town where to utter the word gay caused controversy. Now, however, students can come out under less fire than I received. It's a wonderful life, in a sense.

I sit back and see how much I have changed. And to simply say that my sexuality is but a small part of me is to deny its tremendous impact and to deceive society in some attempt to appear "just like everybody else." Straight and gay are not the same. As a homosexual, I am discriminated against. But unlike other minorities, I have the distinct advantage of hiding my status so that each time I "come out," it's like removing a mask and going through the process all over again. That kind of vicious cycle affects your growth, and to start dealing with it during puberty has had a dramatic affect on me as a person. I also came out alone in a small town. It was a long journey of self-discovery with very little guidance along the way. It also means that exploration of my sexual nature was highly limited until I reached college (not that there's been mass improvement).

So know that as a six year old, I am a lot further behind in my developmental growth, when it comes to relationships. I have yet to date, yet to experience my first kiss, yet to lose my virgin status, yet to have the joy of being loved back (excluding family and friends). So if I stumble and look a little foolish from time to time, commit some drastic faux pas here and there, hit a closet case that sets off my fantastic gaydar, or even some really hot straight guy, or somehow upset you by my pride and self-disclosure, please remember, I am only six years old and have had so little time to understand my identity.

For a moment, I step away from myself and observe my being. My own ignorance disgusts me. I am everything that I criticize. I am selfish, greedy, and, at many times, indifferent. I dream of being the activist who sacrifices her life for others. In my heart, I know that I'll be happy if I leave this world having given back to it just a fraction of what it has given to me. If anything will give me the opportunity to do this, it is college.

As a second semester freshman, I am still observing many things at PENN. A day does not go by where I learn something new that would never have occurred to me in high school. For most of my life I have lived in suburbia. Anyone familiar with American suburbs will, nine times out of ten, tell you that living in suburbia is living in a bubble where Mom and Dad take care of you and where the whole town knows your GPA. However, there is also a much more serious element of shame that comes with living in the suburb that I came from. People in my town were extremely close-minded with their ideas and views surrounding sexual orientation and sexual minorities. In high school, not one person I knew was openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). Coming out was unheard of because students feared being insulted, confronted and even rejected. Although I lived in this bubble, I was very lucky as I lived in a very accepting, supportive family that taught me that hatred of any kind was wrong. It was from this firm foundation that my views on many issues developed. Although I had never met an openly gay person, it was obvious in my mind that, except for their sexual orientation, gay people were no different from me. They were human beings also; thus, naturally, they deserved every right that I, a heterosexual human being, possessed.

During my first week at Penn I met two openly gay individuals. Since then, I have met at least twenty others. These people and others have opened my eyes; the more I observe my surroundings, the more I admire these individuals for their openness about their sexual orientation. How difficult it must be to be anything but straight on this campus! Queer people face so much discrimination, hatred, and rejection both within and outside the walls of the University of Pennsylvania. If they choose to keep their lifestyle silent, they might face unnatural personal restraint and constant fear of discovery. If they choose to be open, their sexuality becomes their primary feature and the rest of the world labels every part of their being. This constant level of consciousness LGBT individuals must exhibit about their sexual preference is enough proof of their disadvantage in today's society.

It is very easy for straight people to assume things without having our views challenged. We can get by because, "It doesn't affect us" or "why should we go out of our way to care about something that has so little influence on us?" If we close our eyes to homophobia, then it does not exist. However, this is not the right answer. Silence is not an acceptable option. Equality is a worldwide issue and, at PENN, minorities of all sorts experience discrimination and prejudice on a daily basis. Only by educating ourselves and opening our minds to new lifestyles and new views can we truly become the community of honor, equality, and kindness that every human being deserves to live in. I can say that as a result of my decision to ask questions and seek out answers, I have begun to think critically about my life and my views. That is what college is all about. So enjoy your years here at PENN and take advantage of the all the opportunities and resources that this school has to offer. Open your eyes. And open your minds. Equality is not out of our grasp - it just takes a lot of people to stand up and reach for it.

Jesus preached and talked against a whole gamut of sins.
He never mentioned homosexuality at all. – Jimmy Carter
RAISING HELL...

continued from page 8

scene can be intimidating (or sometimes nonexistent), the campus can seem dominated by heterosexist social groups, and future career prospects seem to demand a life in the closet. Even on this campus, with its model LGB center and dedicated queer student leaders, it is natural that we should all have moments when the joy and energy of being queer is lost on us.

When I arrived at Penn in December 1993, HIV and AIDS were still issues that merited a campus-wide task force; queer students knew what ACT-UP was, and people at Penn seemed more passionate about issues like campus ROTC discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Of course, these were not "the good old days" at Penn by any measure. Since that time Penn has extended many employee benefits to same-sex domestic partners, and our campus HIV test site recently celebrated its 5th birthday. Good things have happened and, in some cases, old issues have been resolved and no longer need active protest movements to move them forward. But new issues are evolving and one easy way to meet new people, make an impact, and feel a sense of connection is through "direct action" such as the protest I attended in the strip-mall deserts of Bala Cynwyd.

Did our arrests ensure that TV news will never again stereotype queer people? You know the answer as well as I do: we probably had no impact on the media at all. But it still mattered that we showed up and took a stand, even if only to remind ourselves that we are not helpless. We accessorized. We had fun. We showed a few suburban cops that queer men and women are everywhere! And the experience made us feel connected to one another, if nothing else.

Too many queer people still engage in risky sex and fail to see that sex can be political as well as pleasurable. I invite you to reassess the risks you accept in your life, and see what fun you can have when you challenge the political orthodoxies of our time. Reduce your sexual risks (remember the obvious things such as use condoms) and try some social and political risks: raise hell, get arrested if it serves a purpose (you have the intelligence to decide what is "legitimate"), and consider the health benefits of taking a stand for your community.

A vroom with a view!

a drop

a billion billion particles catching and throwing a billion times more particles of light and expressing a billion times more humanity and emotion welled up from within and stored to protect and to nourish.

the feeling only a byproduct of life lost, of love gained of happiness revealed and of sadness. billions of billions. so strange to express so complicated to fathom so infinite to understand. a universe all unto itself.

it moves.

drawn from what is an eternal spring for some, coming and going as it pleases, and for others dragged, kicking and screaming and wailing and wanting nothing more than to stay put. on instinct it glides further leaving a glistening trail of billions upon billions of hopes and dreams and loves. those behind it coax and coerce, themselves fueled by passion and unbidden like most others. even more follow those, billions and billions and billions of them. they meet and coalesce and form an unstoppable tear.

Men often say, “Women! Who could ever understand them?”

Don’t ask a lesbian for the answer. All you’ll get is a sympathetic nod. — Joanne Brigden
A Reflection on Identity

by Melissa Floody

There are times in my life when I get the chance to sit back and ponder just what it is that goes on in our society today. There are many questions of identity, and more specifically, there are questions of sexual identity. What does it mean to be heterosexual? Straight? What does it mean to be homosexual? Or gay? Or queer? What does it mean to be bisexual? There are these tags that we place on ourselves, they are our identities, in a society that makes us say who we are. Is this a self-righteous must

According to the rumor mill, Candlelight as a wine bar is not doing very well. It’s losing quite a bit of money. So every day I say a little prayer to God, that big black lesbian in the sky, asking her to restore my Candlelight. It’s not just that I want to go there myself. I can wait until I’m 21. But I want another gay teenager to be able to go to the same paradise I went to. I never said I was incapable of evil.

Now think about this situation with someone identified as “homosexual” in our society. When you think of them, do you first think, “Oh, he’s gay,” or “She’s lesbian”? Or do you think, “I know him. He’s a really sweet guy who loves music and is a good friend of mine.” Each scenario changes of course, but that main...
A DEDICATION TO A DEAR FRIEND ON HIS RECENT COMING OUT!

by Mark J. Christy

I want to dedicate this article to a good friend of mine... a friend who recently came out to me and shared with me his deepest, darkest secret: being gay. I also want to congratulate my buddy for making one of the most important steps of his life: coming out, realizing his sexuality, coming to grips with who he is and what he wants in life, and to finally stop living a repressed, self-alienating, self-hating life. Much progress has been made, much pressure has been relieved, and we have had much fun together, through this experience. At first, it was a little hard to talk about his being gay, but now my buddy frequently joins me in going out dancing, checking out guys, gossiping about people, etc. Like I said, at first, he was fairly apprehensive, awkward and scared to talk about guys, but he has certainly come a long way. From his first time going to Woody's, dancing and sitting with me out in the crowd, sharing a cigarette, talking about who he thinks is cute, and how to go about pursuing this interest, my buddy has changed much of his life.

In my opinion, coming out demonstrates maturity, independence, and strength. I have lived a large portion of my life in the closet, hiding who I was, trying to be somebody I wasn't. Throughout my high school years I tried to prove to myself, as well as other people, that I was really straight. If you would have known me in high school, you would never have really thought I was gay because I was always dating some girl, always hooking up with girls, and always being somewhat masculine... granted, though, my closest friends always seemed to know I was gay because they picked up on my effeminacy and my bitchiness. Most people, however, would never have suspected. On top of that, I always played sports and tried to be active in social life at school, which was a way of telling myself, as well as everyone around me, that I was a perfectly normal heterosexual high school boy.

Well, it did finally hit me that the life I was living was untrue and unfair, for me and for those who loved me. Although I may have appeared to be happy, trusting, and open to my friends and family, I was very unhappy, untrusting, and closed. I always knew I was gay, but I tried and tried, as hard as I possibly could, to deny my sexuality. It became so clear to me, after being in a relationship with a girl for ten months, and after having sex with her, that she was not what I wanted. In fact, I have to admit, while having sex with her, I was thinking about guys!

My girlfriend started college at the beginning of my junior year, leaving me behind to start a new life... it was a friendly, consensual end to our relationship. In that time, though, I knew I was not going to begin a relationship with another

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ROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Michael Hartwyk, Erin Cross, and Stimpy

ACROSS
1. B-GLAD '99 theme
9. determination and elegance
10. Hebrew a"dough"ration
11. not a room partition
15. Mr. Rogers does not live here
19. equal on blue
20. we wanted this legislation
21. VH-1 star who 'works it'
23. early Philly gay activist
25. wealth in words, not dollars
26. the other Clinton
27. an American in Paris
32. playwright 'in America'
35. bundle of sticks
36. we received this instead of #20 across
38. where our rights are constitutional
39. "do you really want to hurt him?"
40. early PENN gay activist

DOWN
2. out and up for an award
3. they believe 'Equality begins at Home'
4. his, her, __
5. 'pop' icon
6. leader of a queer island
7. he made Blanche go crazy
8. 'How I Learned to Drive' writer
12. where hate = death
13. 'History of Sexuality' writer
14. 'The Garden' auteur
16. women's group of the 1950's
17. played a writer, not quite Shakespeare
18. her mother speaks out, in possessive form
19. graffiti man
22. 1st in the US House of Representatives
24. the real 'Birdcage'
28. mock funerals 'r' us
29. palate of queer males
30. headpiece for a queen
31. who we are friends of
33. cocktail creator
34. controversial tennis pro
37. Olympic diver, for short

Answers on page 26

I've been perfectly happy the way I am. If my mother was responsible for it, I am grateful. - Christopher Isherwood
girl... I had other things on my mind. So, the fall semester of my junior year was pretty "blah" — sexually speaking. When my girlfriend came home for winter break though, we started back up with our sexual relationship. In fact, one day, she came over in the morning and I was sitting there cleaning my room, listening to the radio... only my brother was home (my mother was out). We cleaned a little and then, before I knew it, we were naked, in my bed, having sex. I heard a knock on the door and agitatedly walked over to answer the door to yell at my brother, but I opened the door to yell and my mouth dropped... it wasn't my brother, it was my mother. She was pissed, I was shocked, and my girlfriend almost passed out from embarrassment.

What? what an experience that was. Well, it just so happened that a week after that happened, I met this boy from a neighboring school district who I knew, was gay and we began to see each other regularly. After being in a relationship with him for a month, and after I was completely head-over-heels for him, I told my mother, on February 5, 1995, that I was gay. It was a Sunday afternoon, I was sitting in my bedroom trying to do homework. I was really preoccupied with my new found love and in order to clear my mind of keeping this new found happiness a secret, I went out to the living room where my mother was watching television. I said to her, "Mom, I have something to tell you." She asked me, half-paying attention to my serious tone of voice, marked with a touch of scared unknowingness, what I wanted. I said, "Mom... I am gay." She asked me what I said and I repeated, "Mom... I am gay." She looked at me, and said, "No you aren't... you are just trying to fit in with your friends... last month, I walked in on you having sex with your girlfriend! "Okay... first of all," I told her, "if there was any reason why I wanted to be, or was, gay, it wasn't because I wanted to fit in with my friends... I think it would be the exact opposite."

The idea of going home put me on the brink of a total breakdown at the end of the spring semester last year. With all the steps I had taken out of the closet, I was going to have to endure the darkness for three more months. Despite the extensive friendship base that I had made at Penn, I knew all of them to be straight and I could not explain my fear very well to any of them. They tried to comfort me, but I was beyond consolation. For one of the few times in my life, I wanted to die. I felt as bad as I did during my senior year of High School before I came out to my best friend.

I emerged from the three months of darkness to those same questions about joining the LGBA and getting involved. My friends were there again and they would not let me suffer as I had the year before. I went to my first LGBA meeting in September. I paced around outside before I even thought about going inside. As I stepped through the doorway, I walked out of my closet and into a room full of queer people. Boy, was I relieved. I had finally found what I had been looking for. Through all the encouragement from my friends and my own fear of living my life alone, I was able to take the chances that got me there. I hope more people are as lucky as I am.

You know me, Marge... I like my beer cold, my TV loud, and my homosexuals fa-laaaming! — Homer J. Simpson
WHEN PEOPLE OF FAITH CONDEMN:
A CHRISTIAN PASTOR Responds

by Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale

For some reason, it is probably far more psychological than religious, there are people of faith who feel compelled to tell gay, lesbian, and bisexual people they are wrong to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual. We have all heard the familiar lines: "I care about you; love you and I only tell you this so you will change your wicked ways before it is too late." Unfortunately this is usually accompanied by dire threats of eternal damnation and roasting in hell. Sometimes they add the hideous label of abomination to any gay man or lesbian. What is the best way to respond to this religious pressure to become straight or else?

Just Say No

If you do not have a relationship with these well-intentioned but misguided folks, then tell them to take their "loving concern" elsewhere. It is ludicrous to suggest that they can love or care about you when they know nothing else about your life or your ethics. Since Jesus said that no one knows the heart of another except God, it is the height of arrogance and self-righteousness to suggest they can know yours! Draw the boundaries as an act of courage for protection against such verbal and emotional abuse. Doing so reflects that you love and respect yourself. You do not have to listen to or tolerate the ramblings of people who are toxic for you, however religious they profess to be. Of course, if this person happens to be a long-time friend or a family member, it is not as easy as that.

What They Say Vs. What They Do

In this case it is important to compare their words and their deeds. There are religious people who may mouth the negative, condemning words they have been taught, but who actually show by their actions that they do love us. They will stand by us and will defend us at all costs. These are the teachable people of faith. I was in such a category myself.

One day a new and dear male friend confided in me. He said, "Beverly, I knew when I was five years old I was different. My first boyfriend was Superman." This intimate and personal revelation challenged my understanding of God in a very significant way. I was forced to grapple with the absurdity of a loving God who would create innocent gay- and lesbian-oriented children and then turn around and condemn them to hell when they were adults.

In psychological terms, his coming out caused me to experience cognitive dissonance. In religious terms, it created a spiritual crisis. The big issue now was the God question. Just what kind of God did I have anyway? I opted for the Creator God who, as evidenced by creation, obviously appreciates and celebrates diversity. I opted for a loving God who would create innocent gay- and lesbian-oriented children and then turn around and condemn them to hell when they were adults.

What Shall I Do if Social Science and the Bible Seem to Conflict?

Far from eroding my faith, raising these questions actually provided an important framework for beginning to understand what I believed. It forced me to read scholarship on the subject, both biblical and scientific. I am indebted to my friend and the risk he took in sharing his story with me and inadvertently helping me to grow spiritually. My religious understandings became more consistent with my instincts to love him dearly.

Growing A New Family

Too often we accept without qualification the Hallmark-induced, touchy-feely definitions of family when, in reality, our blood relatives are often the last people to understand or accept who we are. When Jesus faced the dilemma of his family not understanding him, he simply responded, "And who is my mother, my brothers, and sisters?" Contrary to those who are so fond of talking of family values today, this is clearly an example of Jesus redefining family. His new family included those who had the same values as he, those who understood what he was about. Because of Jesus' response I believe that wherever we experience a loving acceptance that affirms us, believes in us, and hopes for the best for us, we have indeed found our true spiritual home and our true family. In short, where we know love we will indeed know love.

I first learned this truth during the early part of the AIDS epidemic when I saw unrelated members of the gay community, some of whom were religious and some who were not, enfold one another, holding and caring for a sick friend. In stark contrast, too many religious people and family members simply chose to look away. Which group was the real family? Where was the love of God more obvious? While we rarely can jettison our family members, nor perhaps should we, we would do well to broaden our definition to include all those who love and support us. This serves as a counterbalance to those who just don't understand, and frankly, may never understand in this lifetime.

These are my strategies to survive condemnation: Love ourselves enough to read the line at inappropriate remarks and intrusive, judgmental statements. Share personal experiences with those who are teachable, those who love us but who may not yet understand. And, broaden our definitions of family to include all those who can verify by word and deed that we are made in God's image, and, as such, we're ok just the way we are.

OGONING EVENTS

QUEER Men's COFFEE Talk
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month
Talk among queer PENN men about key issues in the community.
LGB Center from 7:00-8:30 PM.

QUEER Women's Discussion Group
Tuesday Nights
Come chat with queer women about issues of importance to the community.
LGB Center from 6:30-8:00 PM.

ALLIES
Join ALLIES, PENN's group for better supporters of the LGBT community.
3/17, 3/31, 4/14
LGB Center at 6:00 PM.

LGBA MeETING
Wednesday Nights
Come meet other queer undergraduates for discussions and socials.
LGB Office at 7:30 PM.

The key to the success of the gay and lesbian rights movement has been its ability to be politically active and fun at the same time. - Naomi Wolfe
OPENING THE BOXES
<continued from page 12

caterpillars that lived in a tree in my backyard; cicadas that shed their skin so I can find the skins later, stuck to the underside of the porch; the bee I almost swallowed while drinking from a can of fruit punch in high school; huge cockroaches that could be found occasionally under my soap dish in a house we moved out of as soon as possible.

I have a box called "men." My man box includes my father, his father, and the older boys who used to tease me in Sunday school, all the scary criminals on the 6 o'clock news, President Clinton, my friends who let me cry on their shoulders when things were bad. Tom Hanks in "Big," and Martin Luther King, Jr. are in there too. Like a Boy Scout, humans tend to attach negative feelings to boxes so they can be prepared for the worst to come out of it. Now, my "Halloween box" always seems pretty nice, because nothing bad has ever happened to me concerning Halloween, but this is to be understood as a rare exception. Mystery can also lend a lot of negativity to a category. When we don't understand something, we often think there must be something terrible just under the surface.

So, to recap, glancing around my brain, I see a lot of boxes, but let's stick to men and women. My "woman" box seems sort of foreboding. It has a lot of women who yell at their children in it. The woman in the shoe department who ignored me when I wore ripped jeans to the mall is there. It has girls who broke the hearts of my friends in it. Girls who act silly, girls who are insincere, girls who are shallow. But I am in there too, along with most of the people I interact with on a daily basis. And I, being human, assume that everything in my box is related, somehow. In my daily life, this box is usually open, circulating all the different kinds of women, girls, and ladies. In fact, I like to play up the good things and ignore the bad, because it makes my state as a woman all the more comfy. In an effort to define who I am, I have alienated who I am not.

Since I am less in contact with men in general, I open that box less. So when in situations when I am joking about or discussing men, I glance at the box and what I see is this: men want what they want when they want it. Men get advantages. Men are to be suspected. Men are foolish. Men must be counteracted, lest they rule us.

I hope it is clear that I do not actually think only negative things about men. In fact, the gross generalizations that I make are often not at all what I actually think, but rather easier ways to explain something I don't understand. When it comes right down to it, I don't understand women as a group either, but it is easier for me to see that they are different from each other because I am different from everyone I know. It is easy for me to see that women have deep, true emotions, because I have deep, true emotions.

I have talked a lot about what is easy, but unfortunately, most things in life are not easy or simple. I truly think that this world is a place for everyone, and everyone deserves to be valued. When I accidentally "speak from my box" I perpetuate ideas that are harmful to the human race and my ideal vision of the world. What if people think that is really the way I feel about people? I don't want to be like that. No one deserves to be put in a box that negates his true worth.

So in order to stop misrepresenting myself, I have decided, starting now, to more accurately portray my attitudes about men. This means I have to challenge my assumptions, think before speaking, and, finally, help others to open up and air out their own boxes.

I am writing about this in this forum because gender is one of the frontiers that gays and lesbians tend to have trouble with. I think we enhance gender differences as a way of combatting stereotypes placed on us by the outside world. We tend to become clannish. Men stay with men, women with women. We protect ourselves as much as we can in a society that wishes we would go away. We want boundaries to be clear cut and easy to deal with. We even try to keep our "queerness" to a minimum by pushing out those whose gender boundaries are not so well defined. Any day now, we will all figure out that although for every "us" there is a "them," these overlap and get very, very messy.

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QABARET

Wilkommen!
Bienvenue!
Welcome!
a FABULOUS evening of performing arts

Friday, 3-26
7:30 PM
Rathskellar (HRE)

$2 donation requested

The radical right is so homophobic that they think global warming is caused by the AIDS quilt. – Dennis Miller
bear n. a hairy and often hefty man.
bisexual n. a person sexually responsive to both sexes.
bottom n. in bed, one who believes it is better to receive than to give.
breeder n. a heterosexual. ant. non-breeder.
butch adj. masculine.
camp n. exaggerated gestures, styles, and emotions that are humorous; adj. having camp characteristics, as in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show is so camp."
chicken n. a young, gay man, usu. slender and smooth.
chickenhawk n. an older gay man who prefers chickens.
come out v. 1. internally, to come to terms with and accept the fact that you’re gay; 2. externally, to stop hiding the fact that you’re gay, and live all aspects of your life openly, in the same way that straight people do.
cub n. a young male who is attracted to bears.
drag n. clothing, hair, and other affectations of a style that’s not really your own, usu. that of the opposite sex, but could also be biker drag, leather drag, cowboy drag, lawyer drag, etc.
drag king n. a male homosexual who dresses as a man usu. for entertainment purposes.
drag queen n. a female homosexual who dresses as a man usu. for entertainment purposes.
drama n. big, emotional personal turmoil, such as a relationship breaking up, a dinner party being crashed by a rude guest, and other travails; the making of good gossip.
drama queen n. a queen who loves to stir up the pot, who thrives on drama.
dyke n. another term for lesbian, it has been reclaimed by both radical lesbians of the seventies and the younger activist woman of the nineties.
fag bag n. a straight woman who spends a lot of time with gay men (often considered a derogative term by fag bags themselves).
family n. used as an adj. a gay person, as in “Is he family?”
femme or fem n. 1. a queer woman whose self-identity is that of “feminine” woman; n. 2. having qualities or characteristics traditionally ascribed to women, as sensitivity, delicacy, or prettiness.
flaming adj. flamboyantly effeminate, busy.
fruityy n. a fag bag.
gay adj. 1. homosexual; 2. of, relating to, or used by homosexuals, as in the gay rights movement, a gay bar.
gaydar n. the instinctual ability to ascertain that another person is gay, even in the absence of telltale signs.
gender n. the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.
granola n. a tree-hugging hippie lesbian characterized by Berkenstocks, hemp jewelry, and unshaved legs.
heterosexual privilege n. the right of non-gay persons to present an unedited version of their weekend activities to their co-workers and to place photos of their loved ones on their office desks without fear of repercussions.
homophobia n. irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals.
homosexual n. a person with a tendency to direct sexual desire toward another of the same sex.
lambda n. the Greek letter (λ) which has been a symbol of the Gay Rights movement since 1970: There are two explanations for its significance: first, it is the symbol for synergy, meaning that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; second, it is the Greek equivalent of the letter "L," standing for “liberation.”
lesbian n. a female homosexual, named for the Isle of Lesbos.
lipstick lesbian n. a lesbian, generally femme but not always, who wears lipstick and/or other makeup and has a certain flair for designer clothes and cosmetics.
pink triangle n. a symbol of the Gay Rights movement, always with point facing down, having originated in Nazi concentration camps as the symbol worn by those interred and killed for being gay.
queen n. 1. a flamboyant gay man; 2. any gay man.
queer adj. once a vulgar term, now used to describe all sexual minorities.
rainbow, rainbow flag n. Originally a symbol of the 1978 San Francisco Freedom Parade representing the diversity of the gay community, the rainbow and rainbow flag have been adopted as symbols of the entire gay movement.
riot grrrl n. a young feminist activist; may or may not be a lesbian.
sex n. the assignment of a person as male or female based on biological organs, hormones, etc.
sexual identity n. the gender a person finds him or herself to be.
sexual orientation n. used to describe the gender to which someone is attracted.
smooth adj. shaved of all or otherwise lacking body hair.
Straight n. the riot early in the morning of June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village where, after being the victims of numerous police raids, the men at this gay establishment finally fought back; the beginning of the modern Gay Rights movement.
straight queen n. those who are heterosexually inclined, but who live primarily in the queer sphere. Those who are confused by this, join the club.
straight acting adj. a term applying to gay men, where the man acts in such a way that his homosexuality is not evident.
top n. in bed, one who believes it is better to give than to receive.
transgender adj. exhibiting the appearance and behavioral characteristics of the opposite sex.
transsexual n. a person with a psychological urge to belong to the opposite sex that may be carried to the point of undergoing surgery to modify the sex organs to mimic the opposite sex.
troll n. an unattractive older man.
twink n. a young, thin man, usu. older than a chicken.

Many definitions taken from “The Unofficial Gay Manual” and “So You Want to Be a Lesbian?”

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Javarama:
Allies Style

FREE COFFEE & COOKIES!
Saturday, March 27
5:00-7:00 PM
Kelly Writers House
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I dream of a day when your sexuality doesn’t have to be your career. – Marga Gomez
DEDICATION...
Continued from page 22
the type of people who will live their lives always serving others, always weak, groveling, dishonest, and back-stabbing... the type of people that will, in the end, take orders from me... hahahaha! In short, I have never once had a person insult me to my face.

Because I came out I now live a happier, more fulfilling life...a life where I am not pretending to be somebody I am not, a life that I have friends who unconditionally accept me for who I am, and a life that is healthy emotionally, physically, and psychologically. It has been painful, and it has taken time, but I am happy now. I want to tell my buddy that I am happy for him because he will be happy also. If anyone else is thinking about coming out, take it slowly, test the waters, and make sure you have your friends there to support you. For those of you who do not come out, who continue to live a closeted, superficial, fake life, I hope you can be at peace with your soul and truly be happy; I hope that you really do have genuine friends that wouldn't reject you if they knew the truth; I hope that you don't get married to someone, have children, and decide to tell your spouse when your children are ten that you are gay; and I hope that you wouldn't take your own life and destroy those that love you because you are gay; and I hope that you wouldn't take your own life and destroy those that love you because you are gay.

Continued from page 20
idea is that sometimes people only look at that tag, that identity, of a person being homosexual or bisexual and will not look past that at the person before them. Some fear homosexuality as this "curse" and that if they get too close to a person that is gay, it might rub off on them. Or people fear what others will think, "If they see me walking down the street with him, will I then also be considered gay?" Many barriers of what is "accepted" in our society prevents us from really getting to know each other and to become intimate with others. When I say intimate, I could refer to two separate levels. The first is being intimate as in two people who are strongly drawn to each other in a relationship-type situation. There is also the intimacy of friendship, of sharing one's thoughts with another, or just sharing one's time with another. The experience of bonding with friends and learning more about each other through talking and having an open mind. When we put aside these thoughts of trying to identify a person and instead learn about that person, things truly change for the better.

When I first discovered Penn, I was struck by its great diversity; it was the thing that attracted me most about the school. It was a busy campus in the middle of a major city, the city where I was raised, and it was where I belonged. In the past year or so, I have found that it has also become a second home for me. I see friends who are finally accepted here for who they are, and I have friends here who truly accept me for who I am. I have many diverse friends that I feel so fortunate to know, to be exposed to so many different cultures, beliefs and lifestyles. It is as if I am a sponge here and I am just happily taking in all of the experiences to carry with me through life. Penn is also the place that has helped me to define exactly where I stand on sexual identity and my feelings on the entire matter.

While basking in this experience during my freshman year, I met Andy. Previously I had friends known good friends that were gay, and soon found that Andy was also. Andy is Andy, and he soon became of my best friends. He has always been here for me and I will always be there for him. Through this experience of growing with him, I have learned what identity means to me. When people ask me to describe him, I say lovable and sweet, very smart, loves to play in the Penn Band, and loves to nag me constantly to write an article for him. Through it all, he is my friend, and he is homosexual. Does that change anything? Of course not! I have learned in my young life one very important thing: not to judge others by labels, but to just love. It is important to get to know people for who they are. It is important not to let these labels hinder us from becoming part of friendships that could possibly be ones that last a lifetime. To love is to not discriminate, to open one's mind, to be open to new experiences, to be willing to take that chance. It is to be a friend and to always stand by that friend. To love is to learn and experience the beauty inside of another. When we all do this, these barriers will break down and we will be able to see what is important. Experience true friendship and love people for who they are. It is that which will help us overcome these barriers and challenges in our society.

__Crossword Puzzle Answers__

**ACROSS**

1. communities
9. Will and Grace
10. J-BaGeL
11. Stonewall
15. Gayborhood
19. HRC
20. ENDA
21. Ru Paul
23. William Way
25. Rich
26. Kate
27. Giovanni's Room
32. Kushner
35. faggot
36. DOMA
38. South Africa
39. George
40. Schoenberg

**DOWN**

2. McKellen
3. NGLTF
4. fir
5. Andy Warhol
6. Sappho
7. Tennessee
8. Haring
9. Laramie
12. Jarman
13. Foucault
14. James
15. Blits
17. Rupert
18. Degeneres
19. Haring
21. Baldwin
22. La Cage aux Faux
23. ACT-UP
24. MACT
25. bars
26. Dorothy
27. Ho
28. Renee
29. Greg

"Locks"
Kimani's hair
©1998 k'haria rai zen

It's not closeted gays you have to change; it's society. - Kevin Lydalt
SINGLE?

Continued from page 3

wonderful feelings, I instead felt even emptier.

I gradually realized what I was inflicting upon myself, so I finally began to take control. But it had occurred to me that I had already begun to take control much earlier. I had already started to make changes in my life and I made those changes for me, and not for anyone else.

I saw that I had started with superficial things. The first change was rather drastic for me: I had the cartilage in my left ear pierced in late October. I always had this urge to get my ear pierced, but I usually dismissed it as something that just did not fit my character and thus would never become a reality. One night, though, a friend of mine took me to a place off of South Street and I finally had it done. I can honestly say that I have not once regretted it to this day. Over Thanksgiving break, I got my hair cut rather short, and decided to do it a little differently later that day when I got out of the shower. Though it was just a little thing, it still made me feel good and I have been doing my hair that way ever since.

I did not limit the changes I made to superficial things. I found myself putting more time and effort into the Glee Club than ever before. I had more fun in the Fall Show of '98 than I ever had in a Glee Club performance before, even though I went through two nights of the performance with a terrible cold. I put even more effort into the LGBA by coordinating our very successful "Pretty in Pink 80s Dance" in December. And, my grades improved by the end of the semester. Basically, I rediscovered myself and my world.

When I came to Penn, I have to admit that I did not exactly plunge into college life. I tried to keep myself fairly removed from the college experience, thinking of it more as a nuisance than anything else. I am not one who deals well with being uprooted and plopped into a completely new environment with completely new people, while simultaneously losing the majority of the comforts of home. What can I say? It must be the introvert in me coming out.

What does this all mean? What exactly am I trying to say? I think what I have written says a few things. First of all, it says to be conscious of your individuality while in a relationship, no matter how happy you seem. It also says that you do not need someone else to make you complete. Though I still have a distance to go before I get there, I would say that I am well on my way to once again achieving completeness. I think the ultimate lesson in all of this is simple: you cannot find true happiness in anyone else. As cliché as it may be, no one else makes you happy; you make you happy.

At this point, I find it easy to lose sight of this as a gay man, but no one ever said life was easy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Although we are very proud of the work we have done in preparing this year's B-GLAD celebration, we recognize that it took many people to plan it all. We would like to take a moment now to thank everyone who helped to make this all possible. Your contribution of time and input are greatly appreciated, as it takes the work of an entire community to make this celebration special.

All participants in Qabaret
Adam Sherr
African American MBAs
Ashah Shahidah Simmons
Alex Gino
ALLIES
Andrew Fiola
Andy Byala
Dr. Ann Matter
Barbara Corellis
Barbara Settelen
Pastor Barry Harte
Ben Samson
Bernardo Garcia
Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale
Brennan Gerard
Brian Hannon
B-GLAD '99 Planning Committee
Chaz Howard
Chris Cook
Chris Nguyen
Christian Association
Cindy Gino
Connaissance
Daily Pennsylvanian
David and Vincent Goodhand
David Bloom
David Graham
David Hallowell
Dr. Demie Kurz
Dining Services
Drew Guenzler
Eduardo Placec
Erik Cross
Facilities Scheduling and Services
Felicia Park-Rogers
Festival Latino
FLASH
Flo Cross
Festival Latino
Flo Freeman
Fran Walker
G. Anthony Putz
Gary Brodbeck
Glee Club
Goldberg College House
Greenfield Intercultural Center
Heather Lochridge
Hema Sarangapani
Hill College House
Hillel
Hamwell College House
Ilana Tannenbaum
Inez Ramos
Jane Rogers
Jewish Bisexuals, Gays, & Lesbians
Father Jim Littrell
Dr. Jeff Nunokawa
Joe Cruz
Kate Bomstein
Kelly Writer's House
Kevin Chan
Kurt Conkin
Kurt Klinger
Lambda Grads
Lambda Law
Lelly Saadat-Lajevardi
Lesbian Gay Academic Union
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Center
Liz Galenski
Maria Arlotto
Mark J. Christy
Melissa Floody
Michael J. Ernst
Michael Hartwyk
Mickey Dobbs
Mike LaMonaca
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Nancy Wright
Office of the Chaplain
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Women's Alliance
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Zodiac DJ Entertainers

I think every straight guy should have another man's tongue
in his mouth at least once. — Madonna
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