

**Subject: Update**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2006 10:41 PM

**From:** Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

**To:** "CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com" <CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com>

**Conversation:** Update

**NEW ARTICLE - "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING OR CEASE PRAYING?" - by Nick Gholson**

Excerpts:

I don't believe in Santa Claus, but I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December.

I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game.

So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game.

*To read this excellent article, please go to <http://christiangays.com/articles/gholson.shtml>*

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**EXCELLENT ARTICLE - "SUPPORTING BOYS OR GIRLS WHEN THE LINE ISN'T CLEAR" - by Patricia Leigh Brown**

Excerpt:

Until recently, many children who did not conform to gender norms in their clothing or behavior and identified intensely with the opposite sex were steered to psychoanalysis or behavior modification.

Dr. Kenneth Zucker, a psychologist at the Center for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, encourages children to be content with their gender.

But as advocates gain ground for what they call gender-identity rights, evidenced most recently by New York City's decision to let people alter the sex listed on their birth certificates, a major change is taking place among schools and families. Children as young as 5 who display predispositions to dress like the opposite sex are being supported by a growing number of young parents, educators and mental health professionals.

*This is a long article, but well worth the read. Find it at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/02/us/02child.html?n=Top%2fReference%2fTimes%20Topics%2fPeople%2fB%2fBrown%2c%20Patricia%20Leigh>*

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**CHRISTIANGAYS.COM RETREAT – Place: "SW Michigan" - Date(s): to be determined by you.**

Would you like to meet some of the folks on ChristianGays.com? Well Scott is trying to set something up and he has posted the following on the **Message Boards** under **"Upcoming Events" -> "CG.com Retreat"**.

I am looking into the possibility of having a CG.com spiritual retreat. It would give us an opportunity to meet face to face, worship, and fellowship. I am looking at holding this in Saugatuck, MI. <http://www.saugatuck.com/>

Saugatuck is a beautiful resort town located in South West Michigan, right on Lake Michigan. Saugatuck is known for Art, Culture, and its large LGBT community. <http://www.gaysaugatuckdouglas.com/>

There are no set accommodations, schedule, or theme. I just want to get a rough idea of who would be interested AND think they would attend. Please send me an email directly to **ahmonkie@yahoo.com** to express your interest. Because I receive other mail in this box please mark the subject line as **"CG.com retreat"**.

If there are enough people who are interested and think that they would attend (not just want to), I will proceed with getting more information and setting up a date. If you would be interested in being on a planning committee let me know at the above address when you respond.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Scott (monkie)

*If you need to refer to this message again, go to the **Message Boards** at <http://christiangays.com/smf/index.php?topic=82.msg219#msg219>*

*(Thanks Scott!)*

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## **FORMATION OF WORSHIP/BIBLE STUDY NIGHT IN HAMPTON ROADS, VA**

Stan writes:

God is leading me to start a weekly Worship/Bible Study night in or near Newport News, Virginia. If you live locally and would like to participate, please contact me at **[christianfirst82@yahoo.com](mailto:christianfirst82@yahoo.com)**.

Right now I am looking for people to join and also a place to hold it. If you would like to host us at your home weekly or on a rotating basis, that would be great.

We will have a time for praise and worship through music, prayer and Bible study.

I look forward to hearing from you as we pray and get this off the ground!

*If you need to refer to this message again, go to the **Message Boards** at <http://christiangays.com/smf/index.php?topic=84.new#new>*

*(Thanks Stan!)*

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## **ARTICLE – “EXCHANGE SEASONAL CHEER FOR A BOX OF HOLIDAY FEAR” - by Wayne Besen, Nov 16, 2006**

Excerpts:

Leave it to the Religious Right to turn Santa Claus into a wedge issue and exchange the gift of seasonal cheer for a box of holiday fear.

Thanks to their histrionic “War on Christmas” campaign, major retailers — including Wal-Mart and Walgreen Co. - are now dumping “Happy Holidays” for “Merry Christmas”

and piping in religious Christmas carols.

. . . . .

But you know what, if Jesus were a greeter at Wal-Mart, I bet he'd welcome customers with the more inclusive "Happy Holidays."

Jesus was about humility and respecting other people, while this phony "War on Christmas" is about humiliation and disrespecting the views of others. This is a muscular version of religion that seeks to overpower and stomp on diversity.

The reason that retail stores began to say "Happy Holidays" was a recognition that many of their shoppers were not Christians. It was not a war on anyone or anything, but a matter of courtesy, good manners and common decency.

*Read the whole Article by Wayne at <http://www.dallasvoice.com/artman/exec/view.cgi/47/3918>*

*Wayne has followed this article with another called "A Religious Test" that you can read on his website at <http://waynebesen.com/>*

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## **GAY SYMBOLS**

### **Lambda**



The lowercase of the 11th letter of the Greek alphabet carries several meanings. First of all, it represents scales, and thus balance.

The Greeks considered balance to be the constant adjustment necessary to keep opposing forces from overcoming each other. The hook at the bottom of the right leg of the lambda represents the action required to reach and maintain a balance.

To the Spartans, the lambda meant unity. They felt that society should never infringe on anyone's individuality and freedom.

The Romans adopted the letter to represent "the light of knowledge shed into the darkness of ignorance."

Finally, in physics the symbol designates an energy change.

Thus the lambda, with all its meanings, is an especially apt symbol for the gay liberation movement, which energetically seeks a balance in society and which strives through enlightenment to secure equal rights for homosexual people.

It was chosen as the symbol of gay liberation by the Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) of New York in 1970 after the Stonewall Riots.

In 1974 lambda was adopted as the international symbol for lesbian and gay rights by the International Gay Rights Congress meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Because of its militant associations, the lambda symbol has spread throughout the world. It sometimes appears in the form of an amulet hung round the neck as a subtle sign of recognition which can pass among unknowing heterosexuals as a mere ornament. Such emblems may reflect a tendency among homosexuals toward tribalization as a distinct segment of society, one conceived as a quasi-ethnic group.

## The Pink Triangle



The pink triangle, now a gay pride and gay rights symbol, was originally used to denote homosexual men as a Nazi concentration camp badge.

The pink triangle, (German: Rosa Winkel), was sewn onto the clothes by the Nazis before and during World War II (1939-45) to identify male prisoners in concentration camps who were sent there because of their homosexuality. Every prisoner had to wear a triangle on his or her jacket, the color of which was to categorize him or her according "to his kind." Jews had to wear the yellow badge, and "anti-social individuals" (which included vagrants, "work shy" individuals and often, but not exclusively, lesbians), the black triangle.

The prisoners with a pink triangle identified themselves as gay (sometimes they were married to women, and engaged in very few, if any, homosexual acts). Not everyone convicted under Paragraph 175 was sent to a concentration camp; in fact, most were sent to ordinary jails. Most gay men who suffered and died in Nazi concentration camps actually wore the yellow star (because they were both Gay and Jewish). As such, it is difficult to construct a coherent gay victim group and count its numbers.

While the number of homosexuals in concentration camps is hard to estimate, Richard Plant gives a rough estimate of the number of men convicted for homosexuality "between 1933 to 1944 at between 50,000 and 63,000."

The pink triangle was first used as a symbol of resistance and solidarity in the early 1970's. In 1975 it became the emblem of the Coalition of Conscience study group of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Starting in 1986, HIV-AIDS activists captioned the triangle with the words "Silence = Death." In 1987, the radical HIV-AIDS campaigning group ACTUP adopted the slogan, but inverted the triangle so that it pointed upward.

The inverted pink triangle has become an international symbol of gay pride and the gay rights movement, and is second in popularity only to the rainbow flag.

## Freedom Flag



The symbol of unity in diversity was first waved at San Francisco's 1978 Freedom Day parade. The original flag had eight colors: red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, indigo, violet, and pink. Replica flags have six to eight stripes chosen from the following colors: red (life), orange (healing), yellow (sun), green (nature), blue (art), violet (spirit), indigo (harmony), and pink (sexuality).

For a complete history of the flag, please go to <http://www.christiangays.com/articles/flag.shtml>

## **"MAKE A RAINBOW FOR YOURSELF" by Patience Strong**

If your world looks gloomy and you're feeling grim and glum  
Make a rainbow for yourself, don't wait for one to come.  
Don't sit watching at the window for the clouds to part.  
There'll soon be a rainbow if you start one in your heart.

Take some lovely thought out of a poem or a prayer.  
Turn it over in your mind and let it linger there.  
Keep out every memory that dims the light within,  
And hold on to the magic word that lets the brightness in.

Work your own small miracle and make the dull days glow.  
Put some sunshine into life and let the glory show.  
Make a rainbow for yourself with colors brave and gay,  
And underneath its golden arch your cares will fade away.

*(Thanks Jack!)*

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## **1906 - WHAT A DIFFERENCE A CENTURY MAKES**

My father was born in 1905 and my mother was born in 1907, so just about a century ago. I remember my mother passing a corner in Toronto and telling me what used to be there before this big building went up. She would do that often. As a kid, I didn't really care and couldn't understand why she seemed so astonished by it. Now that I am past the age she was when she was telling me those things, and I have seen so many new things in my own lifetime, I am astonished, and totally understand what she was talking about.

My kids still tease me about how excited I am about the invention of plastic when all we had when I was a kid was rubber, metal or glass. What a revolution plastic has brought to the toy industry, not to mention storage solutions. I LOVE plastic! Oh I know about the environmental concerns about it never breaking down, and I am concerned, but I still LOVE plastic!

### **Here are some of the U.S. statistics for the Year 1906 :**

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.

With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at HOME.

Ninety percent of all U.S. doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza

2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.!

*(Thanks Sherry!)*

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## **PRAYER**

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be,

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you....

May you be content knowing you are a child of God...

Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

*(Thank you Dennis!)*

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God bless,  
Mary

**Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!**

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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**Gay by God. Proud by choice!**

If you have any questions or concerns, please write to [mary@christiangays.com](mailto:mary@christiangays.com)

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