

Subject: Update

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TRANS NEWS – CHASTITY, 'GOOD LUCK, BROTHER!'

Excerpt:

By 1988, when I began my transition (just before my 40th birthday), there was scarcely more information about female-to-male transsexualism available than there was in 1949. Even in the early 1990s, doctors told transsexual people that we should not socialize together, because people might notice there were things about us that were different from "normal" people.

Many transsexual women were tall and some had broad shoulders, large hands and feet. Most transsexual men were on the short side, and had small hands and feet. It's one thing if you mix in with other people where there is a lot of physical diversity, but if you congregate with others like you, you may risk discovery.

Read the whole article at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/06/12/chastity.bono/index.html>

SHORT VIDEO - MASTERS & JOHNSON'S NOTORIOUS "EX-GAY" STUDY DEBUNKED – by Wayne Besen

Wayne (from "TWO" – Truth Wins Out) is hard at work, as usual, and has posted a short one minute video that everyone should

watch. Please check it out on the **Ex Ex Gay Support** page at <http://christiangays.com/exgay.shtml>

There is also a link to Wayne's website for LOTS more information about the Ex-Gay Myth!

(Thanks Wayne!)

NEWS – LOVING GAY PENGUIN PARENTS

BERLIN (AP) - A German zoo says a pair of gay male penguins are raising a chick from an egg abandoned by its parents.

Bremerhaven zoo veterinarian Joachim Schoene says the egg was placed in the male penguins' nest after its parents rejected it in late April. The males incubated it for some 30 days before it hatched and have continued to care for it. The chick's gender is not yet known.

Schoene said the male birds, named Z and Vielpunkt, are one of three same-sex pairs among the zoo's 20 Humboldt penguins that have attempted to mate.

Homosexual behavior has been documented in many animal species.

The zoo said in a statement on its Web site Thursday that "sex and coupling in our world don't always have something to do with reproduction."

(Thanks Sean!)

GOOD NEWS - SHANGHAI TO SHOW PRIDE WITH GAY FESTIVAL

Chris Hogg BBC News, Shanghai

No parade will be staged, to avoid provoking Shanghai's authorities. A week-long gay pride festival gets under way in Shanghai this weekend, the first time the city has held an event like it.

There will not be a parade. The organisers took legal advice which suggested that might get them into trouble with the authorities. Instead, there will be film screenings, talks, an art exhibition and a large, all-day party at a privately-owned venue.

Gay sex was decriminalised in 1997 in China. Before that, people used to be prosecuted under "hooliganism" laws.

Homosexuality was described officially as a mental illness in China until 2001.

Although China is a very conservative society, surveys suggest the majority of the population are reasonably tolerant of gay people. However, there is intense pressure on young Chinese to get married, so it can be difficult for gay Chinese to be open about their sexuality.

The state-run English newspaper, the China Daily, has in the past

suggested that official statistics estimate the number of gay men and women in mainland China to be around 30 million, or just under 3% of the population. It admitted though that few are willing to acknowledge their sexuality.

Official suspicions

The two women who head up the team organising Shanghai Pride are both Americans who live have lived in the city for a few years. The fact that they are both foreigners is perhaps no surprise. The Chinese government is often suspicious of any large public event, especially anything that might look like a protest or a demand for greater rights.

The organisers hope to raise awareness in Shanghai of gay issues. "That's why we're not doing a parade," says co-organiser Tiffany Lemay. "There are special considerations when you organise an event like this in China," she explains. "No marching. We're holding all the events at private establishments." They feel though that as foreigners it is perhaps easier for them than their Chinese colleagues to promote the event.

"We can get away with more," says Hannah Miller, the other co-organiser. They have tried to do all they can to avoid getting closed down, before the event has even begun. "Our lawyer suggested we publish all our promotional literature only in English," Hannah says. "The advantage of that is that it doesn't draw so much attention, or make it sound like we are trying to get people involved in gay rights or in any sort of protest." "Basically we were told that if we framed it as a party for foreigners, as entertainment, then we would have more chance of success."

Despite this, the two women are hoping they will attract a crowd of up to 2,000 people, both foreigners and Chinese, for the party to mark the end of the week's events.

'Alternative'

Sociology lecturer Yu Hai from Shanghai's Fudan University thinks it is unlikely the authorities will try to stop it. "Ordinary people won't be surprised, or shocked about this," he says. "There's enough space in Shanghai to hold a gay event." And yet a few gay venues in Shanghai are not taking part because they do not want to draw too much attention to themselves as gay businesses, Pride's organisers say.

"In the past homosexuals were regarded as bad people," says the lecturer. "Nowadays no-one thinks they are bad, but they are still considered to be 'alternative'. What's changed is that people think they are alternative, but they believe they should have their own rights, be able to make their own choices."

The two women hope the week-long festival will offer Shanghai's gay population the chance to be a little more visible. "I'd like people in the city to understand more about gay people," Tiffany says. "That they do exist, that they're welcomed and accepted here."

"A few years ago Shanghai wouldn't have been ready for an event like this," Hannah explains. "But now," she says with a broad smile, "we feel it's the right time."

(Thanks Darren!)

SURVEY – RAINBOW HEALTH ONTARIO

Have you contributed to LGBT COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH?

Rainbow Health Ontario wants to hear from YOU!

Rainbow Health Ontario, a new province wide program designed to improve access to services and to promote the health of Ontario's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered, two-spirit, intersex and/or queer (herein referred to as LGBT) communities, invites you to participate in an initiative to assess how to support and increase capacity for LGBT community based research (CBR) in Ontario. For the purpose of this survey, we are defining CBR as research that is "conducted by, for or with the participation of community members... Community-based research aims not merely to advance understanding, but also to ensure that knowledge contributes to making a concrete and constructive difference in the world." (Loka Institute Website, June 2001).

This survey asks questions about LGBT CBR activities conducted by a diverse range of individuals and organizations across Ontario, including but not limited to LGBT organizations, other organizations who work with LGBT communities, and LGBT community members and/or allies who have contributed to LGBT CBR. The survey questions will help to illustrate the range of LGBT CBR initiatives across Ontario, and highlight the existing capacity of our communities to engage in meaningful research to improve health and wellness. This survey will also ask questions regarding the barriers to LGBT CBR, and attempt to identify ways in which RHO can support and improve the capacity for LGBT CBR in Ontario. It should take you approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

Please note that this survey is not intended for university-based researchers. If you are interested in leaning more about Rainbow Health Ontario's network of university-based researchers, please contact Lorelee Gillis at lgillis@rainbowhealthontario.ca

Please also note that the deadline for this survey is Wednesday July 8th, 2009. For more information please contact Kira Abelsohn at kabelsohn@rainbowhealthontario.ca.

To access the survey, please follow this link:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?
sm=UQ9krJ3lfhWeMYZ_2bUeZVHw_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UQ9krJ3lfhWeMYZ_2bUeZVHw_3d_3d)

Thank-you!

BANNER AD – BOOK - "CALLING THE RAINBOW NATION HOME"

Calling the Rainbow Nation Home profiles one woman's spiritual journey to acceptance and affirmation and helps gay Christians around the world find strength and assurance in their own spiritual pilgrimages.

Know folks that are struggling to reconcile their faith with their sexual orientation? Do you need an excellent resource material to give to friends and family of gay (GLBT) Christians? This book answers many of the questions so common to the coming out process for a gay Christian. Is homosexuality a sin? Should I remain celibate my entire life? What does the Bible have to say about this issue? These are only some of the topics discussed. This book will bless you!

*Visit the banner ads under the navigation links on the website <http://christiangays.com/> and click on the ad for "**Calling The Rainbow Nation Home**" by Rev Elaine Sundby.*

*Note from Mary: Rev Sundby is the person who has compiled, and continues to update the **Directory of Welcoming Christian Churches** which can be found on our **Gay Links** page <http://christiangays.com/links.shtml>*

SOME INSPIRATION

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today.

His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

"I love it", he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it.

It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a

choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away just for this time in my life."

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!

Thank you for your part in filling my Memory Bank. I am still depositing.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

(Thanks Dorothy!)

LIFE LESSON – LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me and what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.'

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at home or on the streets. The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so... Love the people who treat you right. Ignore the ones who don't.

Life is ten percent what you make it, and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a garbage-free day!

(Thanks Jack!)

WISDOM - SPOTTING QUALITIES IN PEOPLE

A compassionate person develops an eye for spotting the qualities that make each person special. Even when others are at their

lowest ebb, it is possible to help them restore their self-belief by keeping a firm, clear vision of their goodness and specialties. Taking a gentle, encouraging approach, I must never give up on anyone!!!

(Thanks Allen!)

CHURCH SIGN



God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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If you have any questions or concerns, please write to mary@christiangays.com

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