

Last September I was in San Francisco to help document/videotape the Folsom Street Fair which is a one day street fair encompassing thirteen city blocks. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year this fair has taken place and I'm sure the things I witnessed on September 28<sup>th</sup> would never have been accepted the first few years the fair took place. How does one explain men walking down city streets totally nude, bare-breasted and bare-bottomed women, public whippings and sex acts? Nude men, walking from the public streets into the blockaded off fair area, walked past signs that said "Public Nudity is Illegal." One police officer we interviewed, when asked about this illegal activity replied, "You don't understand the political climate here." Granted Allegheny County is not San Francisco, California, but what will it be in 30 years. Will your upcoming decision about Ordinance 4201-08 open the door to an Allegheny County version of Folsom Street Fair?

For the last hour of the fair one of my partners in this venture interviewed Susan Wright, the founder of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom and the spokesperson for Folsom Street Fair. Ms. Wright made the claim that for those involved in BDSM (Bondage, Discipline, Sadomasochism) it **was their sexual orientation. In the future NCSF will work on getting BDSM added to sexual orientation laws.** Susan Wright views today's BDSM movement as where the so-called gay rights movement was twenty years ago. **She is predicting that in that time span Bondage, Discipline, Sado Masochism will become a civil right protected by law.** During the interview, she also said that any sexual activity should be allowable between consenting adults (review the list of sexual orientations!). Thus her group or any other group pushing for the other sexual orientations will be asking that the definition in sexual orientation laws be changed to include theirs. Adding 'sexual orientation' language opens Pandora's Box to allow these groups to do just that. Maybe not this year or next year, but it will happen. Do you want to open this door during 'your watch'? I have the video of this interview, if you'd like to watch it.

Many like Ms. Wright say this is a 'civil rights' issue. However, **historically civil rights protections have been extended to those with immutable or unchangeable characteristics like race and ethnicity, those who cannot make a livable wage, and those with political powerlessness.** Thousands of ex-gays testify to the fact that homosexuality is changeable, most who identify as homosexual have a higher income than the average American and political powerlessness does not describe the movement to normalize the homosexual lifestyle. Right here in Pennsylvania, openly homosexual Stephen Glassman is the chairman of the PA Human Relations Commission, Dan Miller is a Harrisburg City Council member, who plans to run for city controller and Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus are a few examples disproving the 'political powerlessness' component of the civil rights argument.

Martin Luther King's name is invoked many times during this debate, but there is no evidence that he equated civil rights with 'gay rights.' **One of his chief organizers was a black man who identified as homosexual, Bayard Rustin. In a spring 1987 interview with "Open Hands," a resource for ministries affirming the diversity of human sexuality, Rustin stated that he pushed King to speak up on his behalf, but King did not.** In a May 25, 2007 homosexual newspaper *Washington Blade* article entitled "King Family's Mixed Legacy," the author concludes, "While Coretta (King's wife) and Yolanda (King's daughter) have spoken out on gay civil rights, I am beginning to wonder now if MLK would have raised his voice on our behalf." **In January 2005, Newsweek asked Alveda King, MLK's niece, if Martin Luther King would be a champion for gay rights. "No, he would champion the word of God," she said. "If he would have championed gay rights today, he would have done it while he was here. There was ample opportunity for him to champion gay rights during his lifetime, and he did not do so."**

**Both Martin Luther King's youngest daughter Bernice and his niece Alveda recognize that homosexuals have never been refused the right to vote, have never been forced to sit in the back of the bus, have never been forced to attend segregated school and have never been forced to drink from 'gay only' water fountains. This IS NOT a civil rights issue and Martin Luther King knew it.**

**According to an August 2007 *Washington Blade* article entitled “Building the House From the Roof Down,” passage of ‘sexual orientation/gender identity’ laws is a stepping stone to same-sex marriage.** “The walls,’ if you will, in the ‘house being built’ by homosexual activists would be sexual orientation and gender identity laws. “THROUGH ALL OF this, marriage and civil unions should remain silent issues — at least silent to the straight public. Tactics and strategies can be formed behind closed doors, while focusing our primary efforts on the passable issues. When all the various issues have been resolved, think of all the money that would be freed up to focus on marriage. We can lobby the president and Congress on repealing DOMA, while targeting the weakest states to repeal their “one man, one woman” amendments.”

According to the *Pittsburgh City Paper*, Rev. Janet Edwards, who testified at the January 15<sup>th</sup> hearing, said during the January 10<sup>th</sup> rally in support of Ordinance 4201-08, "Marriage is important because it is the stamp of approval for relationships in our world. Our relationships will only begin to be accepted when we receive that stamp of approval upon us." **The county's anti-discrimination ordinance, Edwards added, will allow LGBT citizens to "get one step closer to the marriage rite which is our civil right."** It might also be noted here that Rev. Edwards was tried by a Presbyterian Church tribunal for performing a same-sex marriage ceremony.

While those pushing for this ordinance will admit it or not, same-sex marriage is their ultimate goal even as evidenced in the 2007 *Washington Blade* article. Again do you want to allow this to happen on your watch?

Also, enclosed with **the documentation is a page from the 2006 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Annual Report outlining the bias incidences in Pennsylvania from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.** As you see there were 273 reported bias-related incidences, of those 19 dealt with those who identify as lesbian/gay, bisexual or transgender.

The AFA of PA does not believe anyone should be fired or evicted from their residence because they identify as homosexual, bisexual or transgender, but **incidences around the country have shown that ordinances similar to Ordinance 4201-08 will trounce upon the First Amendment rights of those with deeply held religious beliefs that engaging in homosexual acts are sinful.** Additionally, affirming this lifestyle through the passage of this ordinance, you are paving the way for same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania.

We strongly urge you to consider the full ramifications of this ordinance which is designed not to protect the civil rights of those with unchangeable characteristics, but is designed to give special rights to a small percentage of people because of the behavior in which they engage. According to the Human Rights Campaign, the largest homosexual lobby organization in the country, 2.9% of Americans identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

This ordinance is not needed.

Sincerely,

Diane Gramley  
President