

Gay marriages and adoption

Editor's note: This is part three of an interview with Kyira Brooke, president of USC's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Student Association. The interview is meant to broaden the public's understanding and acceptance of homosexuality. Part one was printed March 4. Part two was printed March 25.

By SHANNON BAYNHAM
Staff Writer

Do you feel that gays rear their children not to be gay?

I think most gays understand that you don't raise a kid to be a certain sexuality. A kid will come to a sexuality, and I think gay parents would be much more supportive of a lot of children's choices than homophobic parents would be, and some heterosexuals are homophobic, definitely.

What's the biggest problem facing the gay community, today?

Recognition and protection for legal protection under the law.

Does the gay community perceive itself as a separate entity of society?

Yes, because we are not mainstream. There are gays of mainstream, but we are a subculture of heterosexual society, although that doesn't mean that everybody in society is heterosexual. The overwhelming feeling is that our American culture is heterosexual, and we're a subculture of that. We're not heterosexual, but we live within this culture; so we're still Americans, we just have one very important difference.

You've talked about gay marriages and adoption. A lot of times relationships among male homosexuals are not monogamous...

I wouldn't say are not monogamous. It's really hard to say what is a typical gay relationship. We live in a culture that says women want to get married, straight or gay. Women want to get married and settle down. Women are not "hot to trot." Men are ruled by their hormones. These are just a few of the things we hear all the time.

I think those are really deeply socialized. So think — you get two people together who don't really understand the amount of choices they have in their own personal behavior, who still feel subconsciously controlled by those.

If you've got two guys together who've been raised to believe that men cannot form long-term communicative relationships, they won't. If you've got two women together who think they are supposed to get married, they marry. Which is true. A lot of women have been raised to think sex is something that is only for marriage, so lesbians "get married." We have a year or two-year or four-year relationships based on sexual attraction.

But I wouldn't say that's because we're gay. It's because we live in a world that is not very supportive of other options of behavior. I know more long term — longer than 10-year gay couples

— who are still happy than I do straight couples.

Q: Do you know the ones who are doing this, the ones who are beating you up, are not abiding by the true laws of the Bible like they are supposed to, even if they call themselves "Christian?"

A: Oh, but there are so many interpretations of Christianity. I don't care whether other Christians are wrong. They think they're Christian, and they're right, and still the Baptist majority in the South is highly homophobic. The fundamentalists are openly homophobic, also openly biased and racist in my opinion.

Q: Which is what?

A: If a religion is supported by some kind of bigotry, perhaps the religion is not based on as much love and understanding as they once thought they were. I see lovers kept apart from each other. I see children taken away from parents. I see people beaten up by "born agains" or by whatever radical Islamic factions, which are highly homophobic. Orthodox Jews are highly homophobic. The fundamentalist Baptist groups, Mormons, the Roman Catholic Church — I see all these religions destroying people's lives, invading their privacy.

Tragedies of college drinking

The following are incidents at college campuses across the nation involving drinking. All of the events occurred before January 1992.

- A 20-year-old Sigma Nu sophomore at the University of Missouri-Rolla was killed in a head-on car crash when driving while intoxicated.
- At Oklahoma State University, the student health center treats an average of 10 cases of severe alcohol poisoning per semester, up from six a decade ago.
- A 20-year-old Herkimer County (NY) Community College student died of massive head injuries after his speeding pick-up truck rolled over and skidded 400 feet. Police believe he was intoxicated.
- A 19-year-old University of Kansas student entered a guilty plea in an incident in which his two-person jet ski rammed into another watercraft and fatally struck a 19-year-old Mesa (Ariz.) Community College woman when he was intoxicated.
- Virginia Tech's vice president for student affairs maintains that "more students are drinking abusively" on campus. "I've never seen it like I've seen it in the last 10 years, with the last five years worse than the first five."
- A former Mankato State (Minn.) University 19-year-old pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide and DWI after a drunk friend from MSU fell off the hood of his moving car and died of injuries.
- A Fresno (Calif.) State football player was drunk and had been smoking marijuana when he was shot to death with his 19-year-old girlfriend two days before he was scheduled to leave for the Hula Bowl all-star game in Honolulu.
- Rape charges were dismissed against a 20-year-old SUNY-Plattsburg student when his girlfriend refused to have him tried as an adult for felony but insisted on charging him with a misdemeanor of sexual conduct. The judge indicated that alcohol abuse was involved in the incident.
- The University of Iowa's medical center reports that it now treats 10 students each week for alcohol poisoning, double the number treated 10 years ago.
- An Alfred University freshman was ordered to guzzle a fifth of liquor plus seven beers while locked in the trunk of a car, as part of a fraternity hazing incident. He went into a coma and died.



Source: USC Department of Student Life

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Graham visits Korea

By The Associated Press

Evangelist Billy Graham arrived Tuesday in North Korea, the nation's official news agency reported.

The Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, gave no details about whom Graham

would meet in the hard-line Communist nation, which keeps tight reins on religion.

The news agency identified Graham as "a religious leader of the United States," and said he was met at the airport by "officials concerned."

Actor makes pit stop, visits first car, BMW

By The Associated Press

Sean Patrick Flanery, star of "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" ABC-TV series, made a pit stop to visit his 1973 BMW 2002 at the Korman Autoworks, where the sportscar is getting a \$30,000 overhaul.

The 26-year-old actor grinned Monday at the sight of his beloved car.

"Oh," he sighed walking under the lift. "Look at those shocks."

Now that Flanery is making

pile of money, he can afford fixing up his first car, purchased for \$2,600 when he was a student at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

A longtime car enthusiast, Flanery raced and attended race driving schools when he wasn't acting in Houston theater productions. Three years ago, he moved to Los Angeles and acted in a few Disney films before producer George Lucas tapped him to play the fictional adventurer.

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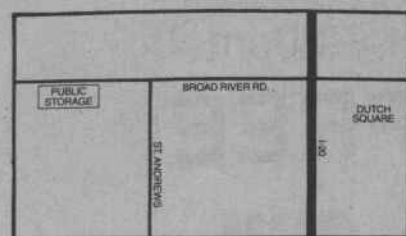


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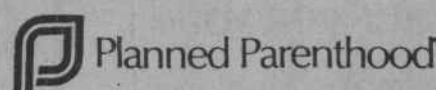
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