



Hugs - Hope * Understanding * Giving * Support
To the Gay & Lesbian Community of Lake, Geauga, and Ash-
tabula Counties.

all of us. And we have to get to a time in America where we can see beneath skin color, eye shape, or sexual orientation, to the individual because that is when we are going to be able to achieve the dignity that I think America stands for." A roar of applause followed his response.

Then it was the turn of Nancy Hayes Kilgore of Plainfield to question Gore. She said, "I liked Senator Bradley's answer. And I know that you have also been an advocate for human rights. Many of us here in New Hampshire care deeply about the rights and the dignity of gay and lesbian people. And recently, across the river, our neighbors in Vermont have been discussing legalizing same-sex marriage. I'm wondering what your thoughts and feelings are about the legalizing of same-sex marriage?"

Gore responded, "Bill and I have the same position on that. I'm for domestic partnerships having legal protections, but not the same sacrament, not the same name, because I favor protecting the institution of marriage as it has been understood between a man and a woman. But I think that a partner should have legal protection and contractual rights and health care and the rest."

"Now, I also want to pull back and address the broader question, because I thought Bill was very eloquent on that. I think that the story of our country is in part an unfolding of the American dream with a deeper meaning in each generation. It's a mystery how Thomas Jefferson could write the words of our Declaration and own slaves. It's a mystery how the founders in Philadelphia could write our Constitution and not allow women to vote. But we have taken the inner meaning and power of our founding documents and the spirit of America and breathe new life into them in each new generation. And the time has come for gays and lesbians to be recognized within the circle of human dignity."

"Now, this is an issue that is a moral issue. I feel very strongly about it, and I will fight for advances in this area. I have supported the [Employment] Non-Discrimination Act [ENDA] in the Congress. And frankly, you know, most gay and lesbian leaders, and certainly most civil rights groups leaders, have argued against opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

Civil rights leaders have indeed opposed trying to open up the 1964 Civil Rights Act, on the grounds that the current Congress is more likely to cut it back rather than add

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Election 2000 Update

Democratic Presidential hopefuls Vice President Al Gore and former U.S. Senator from New Jersey Bill Bradley made a televised appearance together on October 27 in New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary election will be held in February. It was inevitable that gay and lesbian civil rights would be among the many issues discussed, but perhaps surprising that Bradley's response drew what may have been the most enthusiastic audience reaction of the evening.

The event was billed as a town hall meeting rather than a debate because the format did not involve the candidates responding directly to each other, but instead responding to questions from the audience. The audience of 300 were chosen by lot, and the questions they posed to the candidates had been approved in advance by the local television station. It was widely viewed as a dignified and thoughtful session in which the candidates attacked the problems rather than each other.

The civil rights question was raised by Ingrid Bailey of Hanover, who posed it to Bradley saying, "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness have not been fully extended to gays and lesbians in this country. Social justice for these citizens is long overdue. Can't we do better than the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell?" What leadership will you offer to move our national conversation and policies forward?"

Bradley thanked her for the question and said, "This is an issue for all of us to think about. I support gays being able to serve openly in the military. If a gay American can serve openly in the White House, in Congress, in the courts, in the Treasury Department, in the attorney general's office, why can't they serve openly in the U.S. military? Doesn't make sense. If a gay American can be a bricklayer, a doctor, an athlete a lawyer, a painter, why can't a gay American be a sergeant and a lieutenant colonel? It does not make sense to me."

"I am against all discrimination. I am against discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation. And the place to deal with that is the 1964 Civil Rights Act, adding sexual orientation to the list of protected classes."

"I also think that it's important that we can talk about gay Americans and realize that they are our neighbors, they're our bosses. They're no different in many ways than

Contacting Hugs East

HUGS EAST
P.O. Box 253
Mentor, OH 44061-0253
(440) 974-8909
[HTTP://HUGSEAST.HOMEPAGE.COM](http://HUGSEAST.HOMEPAGE.COM)

E-mail your questions or comments to:

HUGSEAST@HOTMAIL.COM

Calendar of Events

January, 2000

- 01/06 Business Meeting and Elections. — Mary
Bring in your left over holiday food.
- 01/13 Y2K events. Did anything happen? — Terry
- 01/20 Movie "Wilde". —Terry
The story of Oscar Wilde.
- 01/27 Gay and Lesbian movies of the 1990's. — Mark

February, 2000

- 02/03 Tattooing. — Blanche
- 02/10 Planning Meeting & Valentine Stories. — Terry
- 02/17 Movie "Opposite of Sex". — Mark
- 02/24 Spirituality. — Terry

Hugs Social Activities for January & February

- 01/22 6:00 PM Dinner at Casa D' Angelo
9385 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH
- 02/05 6 PM - 9 PM Valentines Dance & Hugs Fund
raiser. For more information about the location
please call Laura at (440) 255-2615

Other Activities for January & February

- 02/11 Fund raiser for the North Coast Men's Chorus. Cost
is \$75.00. Includes dinner and dancing.
- 02/19 25th Annual Womyn's Variety Show and Party,
7:30 pm, The Civic, 3130 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland
Heights; 216-321-7799 (Women only)

For more details regarding any social event or meeting topic
please call the information line at (440) 974-8909.

The Thursday evening meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is lo-
cated at: 8521 East Ave., Mentor, OH 44060

NEWS

During the last business meeting the treasurer reported that
HUGS East is spending more than it is receiving. To re-
verse this trend it was proposed that HUGS East setup a
booth , this spring, at the flea market located at the Lake
County Fairgrounds. Between now and this spring, please
give some thought to an item or items that you can donate.

There will be more information available, as spring ap-
proaches.

Any suggestions, that you may have, for a fund raiser would
be appreciated. Mail, E-mail, or phone in your suggestions.

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to it. Bradley has been criticized for speaking out for that
approach before consulting with community leaders. Yet
more than two decades ago, gay and lesbian activists and
their allies were seeking to do exactly what Bradley said
(and has said previously). The much more limited ENDA,
which Gore has consistently supported, was developed as
the bill that seemed winnable, since polls show a large ma-
jority of people in the U.S. supporting employment rights.
Even so, it has only once made it to a floor vote, in the Sen-
ate in 1996 in tandem with the so-called Defense of Mar-
riage Act, and failed there by a single vote.

It will be noted that Gore did not respond to the
military service issue. In other settings, he has affirmed the
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, although he has suggested
that it could be carried with more compassion.

Gore did correctly note that he and Bradley are
largely in agreement on the status of gay and lesbian cou-
ples. On October 22, Bradley's wife Ernestine visited Con-
necticut's New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center.
She was pressed there for Bradley's position on equal treat-
ment of same-gender couples, and responded that, "He is
very much in support of spousal rights. Marriage he is not in
favor of."

Some have complained that there is little to distin-
guish these two Democrats from each other, on many more
fronts that lesbian and gay civil rights. But on October 28,
Republican Presidential hopefuls Gary Bauer (until begin-
ning his campaign, executive director of the anti-gay Family
Research Council), Steve Forbes (running an anti-gay cam-
paign with the money he inherited from his gay father),
Utah's U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (who proposed his own ver-
sion of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act that would not have
added sexual orientation as a protected category to federal
hate crimes law), Alan Keyes (conservative African Ameri-
can radio talk show host who also ran in the last presidential
election), and Arizona's U.S. Senator John McCain (the fa-
vorite of a straw poll by the gay and lesbian Log Cabin Re-
publicans) will be appearing in a similar question-and-
answer session. If the same questions are raised there, you
can be sure the answers will be different from Gore's and
Bradley's; McCain is the only one who did not sign on in
Iowa to the religious right's "presidential pledge" to actively
oppose gay and lesbian interests on a range of issues includ-
ing civil rights protections, school curricula, marriage, and
domestic partnerships.

NewsPlanet Staff, "Gore & Bradley at NH Town Hall."
PlanetOut News. 28 Oct. 1999: Online. Available: <http://www.planetout.com/pno/news/?1999/10/28/3>. 27 Dec. 1999

3 Countries in Which Same-Sex Marriages are Legally Recognized

- 1) Denmark 2) Norway 3) Sweden

Rutledge, J. (1996). The new gay book of lists. Los Ange-
les: Alyson Publications Inc.

~ POETRY PAGE ~

My Ovaries Are Over

The doctor just told me my eggs have expired;
My menses has paused, and its leaving me tired.
My bones are more brittle, my tummy's more vast;
My estrogen levels are sinking so fast!

Will I have more visits from my "monthly friend"?
Are loads of hot flashes around the next bend?

When buying my groceries each month, could it be
From Kotex and Tampons and Light Days, I'm free?

Will my vagina dry up like a prune?
I think middle age is arriving too soon;
I feel like I'm twenty, (perhaps twenty-21),
Except that I'm wiser, and having more fun.

By Terry V.

HET TOFO! (THE FOOT)

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Snorc | 38. Put Your Foot In Your Mouth |
| 2. Lylems | 37. Get Your Foot In The Door |
| 3. Rowarn | 36. Footloose And Fancy Free |
| 4. Sufung | 35. Be My Tootsie Wootsie |
| 5. Sloucal | 34. Standing Toe To Toe |
| 6. Ote Maj | 33. On Your Tippy Toes |
| 7. Delhoot | 32. Light On Your Feet |
| 8. Fosotest | 31. Kick Up Your Heels |
| 9. Eto Grin | 30. Something's Afoot |
| 10. Laffotot | 29. This Little Piggy |
| 11. Drupicee | 28. Footlong Hot Dog |
| 12. Gib Toof | 27. He's A Real Heel |
| 13. Fototone | 26. Wiggle Your Toes |
| 14. Lehe Surp | 25. Playing Footsie |
| 15. Tofo Drowpe | 24. Head Over Heels |
| 16. Gopeni-Dote | 23. Crack Your Toes |
| 17. Char Prusport | 22. Ingrown Toenail |
| 18. Cedramp Tofo | 21. Toenail Polish |
| 19. Wot Felt Efet | 20. Athlete's Foot |
| 20. 'Sheelatt Ooft | 19. Two Left Feet |
| 21. Elinota Loship | 18. Cramped Foot |
| 22. Worning Owntail | 17. Arch Support |
| 23. Kracc Royu Seto | 16. Pigeon-toed |
| 24. Ahed Rove Sheel | 15. Foot Powder |
| 25. Glapiny Ofitose | 14. Heel Spur |
| 26. Legwig Ruyo Stoe | 13. Footnote |
| 27. 'She a Lear Lehe | 12. Big Foot |
| 28. Goofnolt Tho Dog | 11. Pedicure |
| 29. Stih Letlit Gigpy | 10. Flatfoot |
| 30. 'Stogenhims Fotoa | 9. Toe Ring |
| 31. Cikk Up Royu Sheel | 8. Footstep |
| 32. Gilth No Yoru Efet | 7. Toehold |
| 33. On Royu Pitpy Sote | 6. Toe Jam |
| 34. Dantings Ote To Ote | 5. Callous |
| 35. Be My Sootite Isotowe | 4. Fungus |
| 36. Toolfoose Dan Nyfca Reef | 3. Narrow |
| 37. Teg Royu Tofo In Het Rood | 2. Smelly |
| 38. Upt Uroy Foto In Ruy Hotum | 1. Corns |

By Terry V.

Be a part of HUGS EAST

BE A PART OF HUGS EAST

Due to the increased cost of the mailing of our newsletter we can no longer afford to continue our current mailing to non-paying members. This will be the last to those not currently with paid dues or who do not mail their dues prior to the next newsletter mailing in March.

Please send your dues to Hugs East P.O. Box 253, Mentor, Ohio 44060. If your not currently paid and would like to remain on the mailing list, please submit your dues by the next scheduled newsletter. Current newsletters will still be available on Thursday nights at the Mentor site for those who are not on the mailing list.

2000 HUGS EAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____	<u>Membership</u>	
ADDRESS: _____	Individual:	\$8.00
CITY & STATE _____	Student:	\$5.00
ZIP CODE: _____	Household:	\$10.00
PHONE #(optional) _____	Supporter:	\$25.00
	Contributor:	\$50.00
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____	Benefactor:	\$100.00

*Dues run from January thru December.

To update our membership list we ask that you complete the above information. Even if you were a current member, we would like to update our records to show current information. This will ensure your copy of the newsletter. Membership dues are suggested amounts. Please feel free to pay more if you can, less if you cannot. All members share the same privileges. Make check or money order payable to: HUGS EAST P.O. Box 253 Mentor, Ohio 44061-0253, or bring to the Mentor site any Thursday evening (7pm to 9pm).

_____ Do not send HUGS EAST newsletter to my home.

**\$8.00-\$10.00 dues are not tax deductible; amounts paid over said dues are considered contributions and are tax deductible.