

## Barry University professor says gays help perpetuate human race

## Financial Aid denied to drug offenders

by Steve Rothaus  
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Psychologist Frank Muscarella, an associate professor at Barry University, has come to a conclusion that at first seems to be a contradiction: Homosexuality helps perpetuate the human race and other species.

"The theory holds that homosexual individuals in early human societies may have helped close family members, either directly or indirectly, to reproduce more successfully," Muscarella, 41, writes in a study to be published by the *Journal of Homosexuality*. "Thus, genes for homosexuality would have been passed on indirectly through relatives."

Muscarella, who also wrote a recently published professional study called *The Homoerotic Behavior That Never Evolved*, acknowledges his theory "lies in the face of all contemporary thinking," but gives several examples in humans and baboons.

In early times, young men and women would leave home and form alliances with others. These bonds often were with people of the same gender and would include sexual relations. Through these alliances, they would protect each other from enemies and help each other survive through adulthood, Muscarella said.

"The individuals survived long enough to ultimately reproduce," Muscarella said.

He cites an example from Greek

literature, the relationship of Achilles and Patroclus, "which was commonly understood as being sexual in nature."

Patroclus, "a low-status male ... enters into a high level of the social hierarchy as a result of his

"When the males reach puberty, they leave their mothers" and go out on their own, Muscarella said. "They find friendships (usually male) and those friendships include sex."

"Sometimes, the animals will continue to have same-sex

or indirectly, to survival and reproduction.

"He says his theory "lends itself perfectly to an evolutionary analysis."

"How can a behavior that doesn't lead to reproduction contribute to it?" he asks rhetorically. South Florida psychologist Larry Harmon, whose practice specializes in sexuality issues, says he has trepidation about Muscarella's theory.

"The concern I have is that people will interpret homosexuality as a stage that one goes through rather than as a legitimate sexual orientation," Harmon said. "The implication is that homosexuality is O.K. because it helps someone mature and marry and be 'normal,'" Harmon said.

"It dilutes the nature of sexual orientation — that it's transient instead of permanent and definite." Muscarella, who lives with a longtime male partner in Miami Shores, believes that we are all predisposed toward one sexual orientation or another, but that under the right circumstances, anyone can be sexually attracted to anyone else.

"What I would argue is that all human beings have the potential to engage in homosexual behavior if the circumstances allow," Muscarella said. For example, "people in prison," Muscarella hopes his study fosters greater understanding of gays, lesbians and bisexuals. "It breaks down stereotypes and creates new thinking about homosexuality," he said.



Psychologist Frank Muscarella teaches a class on evolutionary psychology. He believes that homosexuality helps perpetuate the human race and other species.

relationship with Achilles, one of the dominant males of the society. Secondly, Patroclus has a large number of reproductive opportunities because Achilles gives him access to many of the female captives he himself is accorded due to his high social status," Muscarella writes.

Similar situations occur today in some species of baboons, he said.

interactions even though the opposite sex is available," he said.

"But in no species, except humans, have we found that individuals prefer members of the same sex."

Muscarella's theory is based upon the "emerging field of evolutionary psychology," which, he writes, "examines human behavior in terms of its adaptive value — that is, its ability to contribute, either directly

conviction was reversed or set aside, and can also be restored.

This new provision will not become effective until July 1, 2000. Since 70 percent of Tarleton students are on financial aid, they may need to keep their ear to the ground to see what happens.

"Professionally, Tarleton will follow the rules stipulated by the Federal Government as we always have," said Skip Landis, Director of Financial Aid. "This new law will probably receive vigorous discussion

by Ricky Coppedge  
The J-1ac  
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Drug offenders, watch out. The U.S. Department of Education proposed a new rule on July 16 that will affect drug offenders. The new law would require financial aid applicants to self-certify whether or not they have ever been convicted of a drug offense.

The rule of denying Federal Financial Aid to drug offenders was approved last year and added to the

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Higher Education Act of 1965.

With the addition of this new provision, it will be up to contractors who process the financial aid applications to decide whether or not applicants should receive aid.

There are rules to this provision on how long you can be denied financial aid. Under this new proposal, a student may lose financial aid up to one year for a first offense, two years for a second offense, and indefinitely for a third offense.

However, a student caught selling drugs is different. For their first offense they will lose financial aid for two years and indefinitely for a second. If the convicted student completes rehabilitation before his/her term is over, they may go ahead and have financial aid restored. At the

until it passes into law."

Since its proposal, members of Congress have heavily debated the bill. Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts has proposed to repeal the entire provision against drug offenders introduced last year. Students across twelve different college campuses have endorsed a resolution to overturn the provision. The primary sponsor of this bill has been Representative Mark Souder of Indiana. If the law is passed, students will find out around February 1. The only big flaw in the rule is that students could still lie on their applications to try to receive financial aid. Members of Congress have agreed to do what they can about this problem, with a background check being one of the solutions.

## Buying pot online: Illegal connections on the web

by Todd McFliker  
The Central Florida Future  
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The package was delivered in a brown paper bag from the U.S. Postal Service. The parcel contained two different types of high-grade marijuana weighing a quarter ounce. There was nothing fancy about the package. The marijuana was placed inside small plastic zipper bags and concealed inside a padded envelope.

It was delivered to downtown Orlando after being ordered off the Internet. The Web site is from Amsterdam and has the appearance of a Dutch coffee shop menu. A customer can take his pick from two types of pot and five varieties of hash. Pictures are supplied on the menu, along with an order form specifying how many grams the buyers wants. The purchaser then receives an email with an address to send cash to. There's always the danger that the currency will be lost in the mail system. This time, however, it paid off. The twenty-something UCF student obtained an abundance of weed for \$93, including delivery.

Marijuana is the most commonly found illegal drug in the U.S. mail system.

Last year, 11,000 pounds of the drug were seized in mail shipments from California to the East Coast, as well as more than 650 arrests for marijuana-related crimes via the U.S. Postal Service.

Yes, purchasing pot over the Internet is illegal; however, it is not easy for police departments to enforce marijuana prohibition. After all, sellers usually live in countries such as the Netherlands, which do not have harsh drug laws. "If you're talking about the Internet," said Sgt. Tom Gorbas of UCF's Crime Prevention Unit, "you're talking about a big world of problems." Marijuana has been an illegal drug in the United States since 1914. However, more than 40 million Americans are occasional users of pot. Not only that, many are easing suffering from aches in the stomach or the head, cancer, AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis and other ailments, even athlete's foot. Users claim marijuana has tremendous medical value.

For years, the Internet has been making U.S. border laws increasingly powerless. The marijuana trade is thriving not only for recreational users who can make a convenient buy, but also for medical users in places without a local dispensary.

With just a click, a person may regularly find marijuana deals online. Buyers tend to feel safe making their purchases in just minutes over the computer.

Because of this, the Internet is assisting in forcing a reconsideration of domestic marijuana policy. The power of the net will be evident in future drug laws according to one UCF employee. "Sales over the Internet could possibly lead to the decriminalization of marijuana because there's no real way to enforce law differences of countries that are blurring and melting together," said Sharon Winters, a UCF computer science adjunct professor.

The sale of marijuana online is one of several businesses on the Internet that is making national laws harder to enforce. Although these are well documented, the government has already been having a tough time with the wide distribution of prescription drugs sold online. Internet doctors have been willing to write virtual prescriptions for drug buyers after they complete a brief questionnaire.

Gambling is another activity that thrives online. A United States congressional commission recently recommended a ban on all Internet gambling. However, the proposal failed because they could not come up with reasonable way to enforce the laws.

Authorities are having the same types of problems with the Internet drug market. Drug Web sites in Amsterdam have been shut down in the past, mostly from foreign governments putting pressure on Dutch police.

Buyers in the United States are subject to our drug laws.

However, recipients of the packages do not necessarily face stiffer penalties than a possession charge, despite the offense being a federal crime.

"You have to be careful because one doesn't know who he is talking to online," Gorbas said.

"You may think you know, but you might be chatting with the cops." Officials from both the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Postal Inspection Service, which governs the mail, claim they know nothing about drug sales over the Internet. This proves just how a dealer can avoid being noticed. But even if the DEA caught the dealer, they have no jurisdiction outside of the United States.

If U.S. Customs fails to seize the packages, then the postal inspectors might. Inspectors will take the goods and may not prosecute the buyer. It depends on the judge and jurisdiction.

Sometimes the DEA will prosecute if the U.S. Attorney's Office decides not to. The DEA will press charges depending on the quantity of the package and the receiver's criminal record.

The Postal Inspection Service will rarely prosecute minor buyers fully under the law. The agency is primarily concerned with catching drug dealers sending big packages to each other. Not only do they have no jurisdiction for Web sites in Amsterdam, but many buyers have a medical excuse.

The fact that federal prosecutors may or may not catch buyers isn't always good news for them. One dealer in Virginia received probation from the federal government, but the local District Attorney's Office successfully convicted his buyer to six years in prison.

Regardless of the threat of prosecution, Joey, a 35-year-old man from Amsterdam isn't too concerned with legal problems. People around the globe have been ordering seeds from his website for years. He says he is not doing anything wrong or illegal. Joey feels he is doing humanitarian work, as he himself is currently suffering from liver cancer. He says marijuana helps ease the pain of diseases.

Joey's business once flourished. At one point, he would mail more than 1,000 parcels of marijuana a week. However, now that Joey's cancer has progressed, he only has time to mail roughly 25 packages a week. He says finding customers is not a problem, and that over 90 percent of his packages arrive safely to the buyers.

When making a purchase online, buyers are vulnerable to being scammed. Unlike the drug market on the street, the Internet has users sharing advice on the trade game.

There's a guide for seed banks, and banks are even rated for their reliability. Buyers are warned against Web sites with bad reputations for not delivering the goods. Buyers protect themselves by exchanging information online; however, these chats don't always do the trick. There have been numerous buyers who have been ripped off by not receiving what they paid for in the mail.

The sale of seeds is much more popular in the online trading world. The seed trade has flourished online during the last two years because seeds are usually undetectable by the U.S. Department of Customs' canines because they are minute and have no odor.

"Marijuana users are given so much flack about the drug when it has been proved to help people with minimum risks," said Erica Cherry, an organizational communications major. "We should be able to receive seeds over the Internet. The whole process is easy and it doesn't harm anyone unless he gets caught. At least a person knows that he's buying quality and it's keeping the pushers off of the streets." Tom Knobl, a UCF finance major, disagrees with Cherry.

"Internet sales of marijuana seeds is just a different way of buying drugs," he said. "It should not be legalized. People are going to buy pot regardless of the views of the law. The Internet just serves as another loop-hole to get illegal activity done."

The seeds are worth a lot of money to growers on the street. Of course, one has to know exactly how to farm the seeds. The prices of high quality seeds generally range from \$50 to \$75 for a package of 10. A buyer may purchase seeds by simply sending an international money order or certified check in U.S. dollars to a company either in the Netherlands or Canada. Dozens of these seed banks can be found online. Therefore, the seed trade is much more reliable and profitable than selling the pot itself.

Many people view these drug sales not only as criminal, but as a danger to the youth of our country. Internet sales have a lot of students concerned.

"As a non-user of drugs, I feel that selling pot online is no worse than it being sold on the streets," said Tara Parsons, a 19-year-old health services administration major. "The problem is that the Internet provides an easier way for young children to get educated and involved with drugs at a much younger age. Children do not need to be exposed to such a popular and demanding drug."

"This is the Internet being used for its intended purpose: free trade, as well as the free flow of information on a global scale," said Brian Weber, a 23-year-old organizational behavior major. "These sales can only be seen as a world-wide positive."

Although opinions vary on the subject, students agreed that it's time to crack down on these problems or decriminalize the drug. Most are aware that such a process will not be easy, but they realize that they will have to crawl before they walk. As long as buyers are willing to risk sending their money to another country through the mail system, marijuana sales online will continue to grow.

## Tallahassee Man arrested in FAMU bombings

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TALLAHASSEE — A local resident was arrested early Friday on federal charges in the recent bombings at Florida A&M University, the FBI announced.

Lawrence Michael Lombardi, 41, of Tallahassee, was arrested at about 4:30 a.m., said FBI agent Tom Kneir. Lombardi was initially charged with a single count of manufacturing a bomb, said Kneir, senior agent in charge of the FBI's north Florida office.

No other information was immediately made available on Lombardi.

Lombardi was held for several hours at Florida Department of Law Enforcement headquarters in Tallahassee, then moved to an undisclosed location in town.

FAMU Police Chief John Earst arrived at FDLE headquarters early in the day. He had no immediate comment on the arrest, but said "it's a very pleasant morning."

Two small explosions have gone off at the predominantly black campus since Aug. 31.

No one was injured in either blast, but student racist telephone calls accompanied each incident, spreading fear on the 12,000-student campus.

The caller also warned of future attacks. The FBI said this week that one call said another incident would happen Friday.

Campus police said every building at the school was being searched every morning.

Local, state and federal investigators descended en masse on the hilltop campus in Tallahassee after the first blast.

The FBI released a surveillance camera photo Thursday of a man they said has information about the case, but said the man wasn't a suspect.

The man was photographed buying

something at a local Lowe's home

store, the day before the first blast. The first blast was on a Tuesday morning, of a small device in a men's room at an administration building 10 minutes after a warning was called in. Damage was very minor.

The second, larger than the first, was on Sept. 22, a Wednesday. It was in the first-floor restroom of Perry Paige Hall, which has four floors of

*"It was more like a 'poof'."*

-Frederick Humphries,  
FAMU President

laboratories, offices, classrooms and the Navy ROTC office. Again, damage was minor.

Several campus buildings were evacuated after each blast.

The first blast was accompanied by a warning called into a television station that it was "just the beginning, brother."

FAMU President Frederick Humphries, whose office is on Lee Hall's fourth floor, was in the building when the device went off.

"It was more like a 'poof,'" he said later that day.

After the second call, the television station, received a longer diatribe.

"FAMU has seen the beginning of this ... they got no business having a college where there ain't nobody ... smart enough to get a degree.... This is just the beginning, brother," the caller said.