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Do you believe anti-gay
sentiment is growing
in this country?

. Yes . No

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What's up with the Dalai Lama?

Spiritual leader admits he has no
knowledge of Buddha commenting
on same-sex activity

by Steve Peskind
and Donald Miller

He's one of the most revered spiritual leaders in the world and the recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize. He's the author of such inspiring words of wisdom as "The Art of Happiness" and "Imagine All the People." He's addressed heads of state worldwide and continues to seek justice for the people of his native Tibet.

But, despite all his wisdom and compassion, the Dalai Lama apparently cannot imagine gays and lesbians leading fulfilling, happy and ethical lives.

Although he says that no real love between people can be condemned and that any discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation must end, the Dalai Lama nevertheless persists in considering the natural expressions of gay and lesbian sexual orientation as "wrong," "unwholesome," a "bad action" and as "vices."

In an interview with the French magazine *Dimanche*, the Dalai Lama says of gay and lesbian sexuality:

"It's part of what we Buddhists call "bad sexual conduct. Sexual organs were created for reproduction between the male element

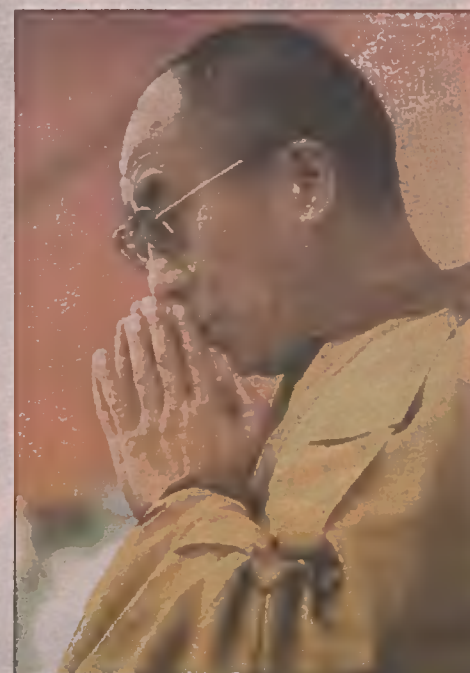
and the female element — and everything that deviates from that is not acceptable from a Buddhist point of view."

In the same interview, he specifically said he was "for" (heterosexual) sex with condoms or the pill. That is, it's fine for heterosexuals to have non-procreative, recreational sex — as long as it doesn't involve foreplay with other areas of the body.

A *Newsweek* article on the Dalai Lama entitled "Lama to the Globe" stated that, "Although he has affirmed the dignity and rights of gays and lesbians, he has condemned homosexual acts as contrary to Buddhist ethics."

In the past decade he has repeatedly stated in publications, in public talks and in international press interviews that non-vaginal sex is "wrong and against Buddhist ethics" for any human being "of good faith," not just gay and lesbian Buddhists.

While the Dalai Lama is not a Buddhist version of the Pope and makes no claims of infallibility, he cannot speak authoritatively for other Buddhist teaching lineages, such as Theravada and Zen. Nevertheless, he is perhaps the most well-known Buddhist in the world and he may well be the most prolific Buddhist author, given the number of publications issued yearly under his name. He frequently comments internationally on world issues from the perspective of Buddhist teachings, unfortunately sometimes with no



When asked if the Buddha gave teachings prohibiting same-sex partners, the Dalai Lama replied, "I don't know."

historical qualifications for the Tibetan Buddhist or Indian cultural context of his remarks.

He often speaks "for himself beyond tra-

see DALAI on 18

Charlotte man raises profile of AIDS organization

Rodney Tucker impacts Charlotte in more ways than one

by Donald Miller



Rodney Tucker on Take Over Fridays: 'We're just about having fun and helping to build alternative activities for gays and lesbians in Charlotte.'

Rodney Tucker says he's a boomeranger. That means — according to a recent survey by the *Charlotte Observer* — he grew up here, moved away and then came back.

After spending four years in D.C., Tucker, 37, now calls the gay-popular Sedgefield neighborhood home. Since returning he eventually picked up the reins at Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) as director of development and communications.

"RAIN is a faith-based AIDS service provider that offers assistance and help for individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS," explains Tucker. "Our services are offered through care teams that come from churches, syna- see TUCKER on 4

Mary Cheney to pen memoir

Vice President's lesbian daughter previously mum on personal life

by Mårk Smith

After five years of silence regarding her personal life, her relationship with her partner Mary Poe and her thoughts about the Republican Party, Vice President Dick Cheney's daughter Mary has signed on to publish a memoir for a new "conservative division" of Simon & Schuster.

According to a press release from Threshold/Simon & Schuster, the book is Mary Cheney's first opportunity to address the issues that she has so clearly dodged during her father's terms of office.

Mary Matalin, a Republican political strategist and the head of the Simon &



Mary Cheney signed with Simon & Schuster's new "conservative division."

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