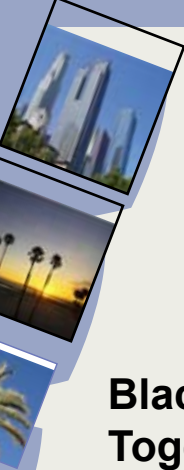


PUBLISHED  
QUARTERLY

SUMMER  
2010



# The LOWDOWN



**Black and White Men  
Together of Southern  
California**

Join us every  
Wednesday at 7pm  
at Hot Java's in  
Long Beach



<http://bwmtsc.org>  FACEBOOK.COM/BWMTSC

BWMTSC...BRINGING MEN OF ALL CULTURES AND COLOR TOGETHER.  
REACHING OUT TO THE COUNTIES OF LOS ANGELES, ORANGE AND SAN DIEGO

## **HOLLYWOOD LEGEND AND BWMT ICON PAUL CLOUTIER - IN OBVIOUS NEED OF CELEBRITY REHAB**

Surrounded by many life-long adoring friends at his palatial Hollywood estate recently, rumors have surrounded for some time now, and kept in deep whisper, finally reached the ears of the inquiring reporters at *The Low Down* who managed to snap this shocking photo confirming the worst the public has feared that long time Hollywood Legend and BWMT Icon, Paul Cloutier, 36, a former National Co-Chair, has obviously developed a serious drinking problem which no one can ignore any longer and as undeniably pictured above. "I won't be a silent collaborator to this insanity any longer." Said one weeping guest, wishing that her drag name not be used. "He [Paul] took several bad falls while we were trying to get the picture taken today, we're all so scared for him." said another very concerned and equally well hung male attendee, "He had been out in the west garden throwing back Margaritas with Lindsay Lohan and Oprah most of the morning and you know how those two bitches are. All that most of us could do was just weep and hope that Paul would go back to Betty Ford again." We, at *The Low Down* do hope that Paul gets the help he needs so that we don't lose him to history in the same way we lost Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe.





# Black, Gay, and a Parent

By Mack Scott

Did you know that according to researchers at the National

Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Black gay couples are more likely to raise children, more likely to hold jobs in the public sector and more likely to struggle economically than their white gay counterparts?

Data from the 2010 census, describes a study as one of the first detailed demographic to accurately portray this profile of black same-sex couples, a group that they say has often been overlooked. They study highlights the negative impact that federal and state efforts to ban gay marriage might have on the black couples and to counter critics who have sharply criticized some gay rights advocates for comparing the modern-day struggles for gay rights with the civil rights movement in the 1960's and 1970's.

Some conservatives working to rally black opposition to gay marriage have argued that such comparisons belittle the struggles of blacks against racial discrimination. A new report titles, "Black Same-Sex Households in the United States," argues that federal and state efforts to bar gay marriage would disproportionately harm black same-sex couples that are more likely to be raising children and working in the public sector than white gay couples. "They need the protection and peace of mind of family recognition more than white same-sex couples," Sean Cahill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

Efforts to ban gay marriage and civil unions should not be viewed solely as gay rights issues. They represent an issue of racial and economic justice. They study found that 14 percent of all same-sex couples were black, or a total estimated to be at around 85,000 couples. It is reported that black gay couples differed in some significant respects from their white gay counterparts. The study found that black female couples were raising children at nearly twice the rate reported by white female couples, with 61 percent of black lesbian households raising children versus 38 percent of white lesbian couples. The study identified a similar trend among black male gay couples.

**Some interesting statistics:**  
In more than 10 percent of same-sex couples, one partner is at least 65 years old, and in nearly 10 percent of gay couples both adults are over 65. However, senior gay couples earn incomes 4.3 percent less in combined retirement income than married heterosexual couple counterparts.

# Angry Zebra's Rant Billboard

As an angry interracially coupled white man who loves my strong and supportive black man, I keep wondering when the hell Sarah Palin and those like her are finally going to go away. Why I must come home every night, turn on the nightly news and be assaulted by the nauseating sound of her horrific northern accent when I thought President Obama's election's end would mean this would be the last of the bitch like a shot of penicillin to a bad case of advanced Syphilis, spouting her Nazi and neo-conservative right wing poison that she has been paid so well to spout to the highest bidder.



She reminds me of so many others like her, black and white alike, who always marry their own mirror image and feel that they have the right to judge and even say something about my choices in who I have chosen to love to me, probably because I'm a basic white man, thereby passive, not permitted to have an opinion in society in the first place and allegedly afraid of my own shadow. Don't underestimate me. To Sarah Palin and the other non-interracially married who feel they have something "to say" to me so freely, please, by all means, share freely what it is you feel about my gorgeous boyfriend and me, because no one can stop this white man from loving his black man and I, as that non-threatening white man, will have no problem unbuckling my trousers, pulling my pants down around my ankles and bending over as far as possible so you can kiss my ass.

**Anonymous**



**GUESS WHO?**

David King, or Mack Scott Baron, or Rick Creque?

(Answer on Last Page)



## I'm not racist, I'm in BWMT

By Paul Cloutier *Printed in April, 1987 and September, 1991 BWMT/LA Newsletters, and in NABWMT 25th Anniversary Journal*

So often we whites in Black and White Men Together think subconsciously that simply because we are members of BWMT, a multiracial organization formed to combat racism, we are ourselves totally free of it. I have been associated with BWMT/LA since 1982 and a member since 1984. I feel I have learned much. I am often asked why I am attracted to Black men and I never really have an answer. I no more know why I am attracted to Black men than why I am attracted to men in general – it is simply a fact. Undoubtedly there is a certain amount of guilt involved, guilt not only for what my race has done and is doing to the Black race, but also for the racism I discover within myself. Guilt is a negative and worthless feeling; however, awareness of and admitting to remnants of racism are essential to the elimination of it. It is virtually impossible to grow up in America totally free of racism. We are all still racist to one degree or another and until we begin to admit that we will not change.

When I joined BWMT I took but a first step toward eliminating the racism deeply rooted within my psyche. My first 15 or 20 years of racist cultural upbringing are not automatically vomited up and discarded when I pay the membership dues. Eliminating my own racism is a long and painful process. There are many perks to being “superior” and I subconsciously hold on to them. I see BWMT as a valuable tool too to eliminate the racism within me much more than in the world at large. I am committed to trying.



## Johnny begins volunteer service at the ZOO

After successfully completing a 23-week training project, Johnny Grady became a volunteer docent at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Garden earlier this month. As a docent he gives informal programs to zoo visitors, interpret exhibits and biofacts, lead tours, and work with school groups. So why volunteer at the zoo? Johnny’s response “I’ve always been fascinated by wildlife and like to get others to think more deeply about animals and our ecosystems”. Volunteering two weekends a month, Johnny plays an integral role in communicating the conservation and education goals of the zoo. Johnny holds multiple degrees in wildlife biology and works as a wildlife biologist for a major utility company.

## Founders’ Forum



We have been cloistered around our TV set watching the World Cup football matches.

What a sight for sore eyes. Be it the gorgeous Greeks or the “Bufana-Bufana” ebony gods from South Africa, there is multicultural eye candy for all.

265 million people play football in the world and 90% are male. If McKinsey was right and 10% of these are gay (a low estimate) we have 24 million gay players of the game.

Now there is a fantasy we can all enjoy!

# Human thinking humanly

By DAN LAVENTURE AND HABBEH RASHEED WHO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR OVER 20 YEARS

For a moment I felt ironic that someone would ask me to write an aritical for black and white men



together. I get it I am in a black and white relationship. All is well and has trended well and better for many years now. I have also been an active member. However I have never considered my self an advocat, for interacial dating however I do affirm the belief that love simply sees no color.

Both myself and my partner regulary are attracted to members of our on ethos if we practiced a prejudice it would more likely be socioeconomic-reference group, mabey body tone and age. Race hs never been a factor in either of our dating or attractions. This is part of why writting that at times stresses race felt a bit ironic. I have heard it said BWMT was started by whites men seeking black men. I have heard and seen at times this take the form of older white more affluent white guys seeking younger, less afluent Blacks. However it does take two to tango part of the equasion is often a black man who for what ever reasone is not in a position to see beauty in folks that look like him.

When this comes together bad things can happen. It is my job to affirm my brothers regarless of where there state is. I aslo have the double duty of not being confused with this mind set. Of course I see the beauty, in black men. I think of things this way, how much more expensive and difficut would telecommuications be if there were no market for guys wacking off online. This demand has made web cams, and the softeware that runs them cheaper for us all. What if some horny explotive white guys started things up with this group if you see beauty in yourself you will survive this.

I have met people from both "sides of the isle" that I am confident will be life long friends, mentors, and peers. As a couple we have consistently been welcomed and well affirmed every year and at every

potluck, pool party , and back yard barbeque that we have attended.

So I invite you fence siters to try out one fo the many gaterings bwme has Mabey you are exploring a case of the jungle fever, mabey you are just curios about what that might look like for you. With a few pot loucs and a few parties you will likely know. Even if you don't. You will likely meet some really great people. Eventually race will make no difference at all. BWMT in my view is just a step in that direction.

As gay men we should affirm that sometimes our small heads can lead in a good direction

## David King's Sausage & Shrimp Gumbo (SERVES 8)

6 ounces hot sausage links, removed from casings  
2 teaspoons canola oil  
1 large onion, diced  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon Cajun or Creole seasoning  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
4 cups chopped tomatoes  
4 cups chicken broth  
2 1/2 cups frozen chopped okra (fully thawed)  
1 cup cooked white rice  
1 bunch green onions (chopped)  
1/2 pound of frozen cooked jumbo shrimp (fully thawed, peeled, and deveined)



### DIRECTIONS:

Cook sausage in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat, breaking it up into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until cooked through, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a medium bowl lined with paper towels. Return the pan to medium-high heat and add oil. Add onion and cook, stirring often, until translucent, about 2 minutes. Add garlic and Cajun or Creole seasoning and cook, stirring often, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add flour and cook, stirring to coat the vegetables, until the flour browns, about 1 minute. Add tomatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until they begin to release their juices, about 2 minutes. Stir in broth, cover, increase heat to high and bring to a boil. Return the sausage to the pan, along with okra, rice, shrimp; reduce the heat to a simmer. Cook until the okra and shrimp is heated through, about 10 minutes. Serve sprinkled with the chopped green onions.

# A Bit of Our History By Douglas Noble

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I joined the former BWMT/LA Chapter in May of 1983. By that time the chapter was nearly three years old, having been one of the earlier BWMT chapters and having had a number of its members participating in the first national BWMT convention in 1981 in San Francisco. In fact, Charles Stewart of BWMT/LA was the first black Co-Chair of what was then called the International Association of BWMT (later changed to the National Association).

The centerpiece of the LA Chapter was its Saturday night raps, held virtually every Saturday of the year at the old Gay and Lesbian Services Center at Lexington and Highland in Hollywood. Sometimes with as many as 40 participants, the rap often divided into two groups, in two different rooms with often different topics. Regular facilitators presided.

After the rap, we would go out to a local café such as Theodore's, The Yukon Mining Company or perhaps Sizzler. Once each month after a rap, we held a Zodiac party, at which all people born under that period's sign would get in free while the rest would pay. Also, each month on a Saturday afternoon, we had a parlor games/potluck held in the homes of different members. Sometimes, after the raps on Saturday evenings, "Snack n' Chats" (a "bring your own refreshments" party) were often held in members' homes.

One of our members with a secluded pool in the Hollywood Hills occasionally hosted pool parties. We generally had excellent turn-outs at our social events and at our peak had as many as 140 paying members. We even had an office in the attic of an old frame house rented by two of our members in an area of Echo Park which we called "BWMT Hill", because there was also an apartment building next door where several more of our members lived. We had monthly Steering Committee meetings in the office (which housed our Gay & Lesbian Library) and we put out an 8 to 10 page newsletter every month. Dan Duncan and I jointly edited that newsletter for over ten years.

At various times, usually depending upon the energy of just one or two of our leaders, we took on political/educational issues. We had representation on a police advisory force. We were instrumental in getting the City of West Hollywood to adopt an anti-carding ordinance designed to prevent bars from excluding black patrons by requiring them to present multiple ID's. We also became involved early in AIDS education work under Jon Peterson; and later, when Phill Wilson and I were chapter Co-Chairs, Phill initiated the Hot, Horny and Healthy seminars that became one of the centerpieces of the National Association's Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

Our chapter was also one of the two co-sponsors of the first National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference, also initiated by Phill Wilson.

Our chapter hosted the 1985 National BWMT Convention, with one of the best series of substantive workshops ever offered at any of our annual conventions.

Our chapter maintained a consistent schedule of weekly raps, monthly social events and informative newsletters over most of its 15 years of existence and did so largely without the internal divisions and personality conflicts that periodically beset many of the other BWMT and MACT chapters nationwide. But gradually, in the early 1990's, due to a staggering number of deaths of many chapter members to the AIDS pandemic and to other social factors, chapter membership and leadership began to decline. AIDS deaths, the rise of alternative black gay organizations, the ebbing of some of the initial high energy that brought us together, the change in our Saturday rap location due to relocation of the Gay & Lesbian Center itself, and perhaps even a somewhat lessened need for our organization to serve as a meeting place to cultivate interracial friendships and relationships (even before the Internet) ALL contributed to the eventual decline.

By 1995, our rap location had changed several times and attendance was way down. Moreover, despite some effort, the Steering Committee had not attracted new members with new energy and ideas, and was a more of a shell of its former self. We had even changed our name to MACT/LA in hopes of rejuvenating the organization, but then changed it back to BWMT as the other name option proved ineffective.

Finally, those few of us who were left on the Steering Committee decided to finally end the chapter. It was sad, but seemingly an inevitable day.

Most of us remained convinced however, that there was still some need and demand for a BWMT chapter, especially as a beacon to combat racism in the LGBT Community and also to serve as a social meeting function. Therefore, I was and continue to be heartened by the rise and success of BWMTSC in Long Beach, and, I am proud to be a member.

# INTRODUCING ANTHONY CARTER



I am in love/loving a white guy. I am a gorgeous, talented, brilliant black man. To many folks that poses a problem. Many folks don't give a shit. It is true that people come together for a number of reasons: financial, convenience, religious. Sometimes people come together because of a shared interest in a particular subject. Let's be real, without a mutual attraction, nothing gets started. We first are attracted to someone before any additional steps are made to further our interaction.

Doubt this theory? I challenge you to go out and find someone you have absolutely no attraction to and try to build a relationship with that person or at the very least start a conversation. Attraction is attraction is attraction.

While I believed it is learned and culturally influenced, it can and does lead to other life changing and mind altering circumstances. Many folk confuse attraction with its close relative, fetish. While attraction can change both its owner and the recipient, fetish remains one dimensional and does not allow for change. As a black male who is 41 but often mistaken for 28, I understand the concept of fetishization quite well. On more than one occasion, I have had men express an interest in me then revoke and squash the interest once they discover I am not pre 30 but post 40.

Between our worship and cannibalization of youth and a belief that black and male equals sexual prowess (big dicked stud ready to serve any and all sexual tastes) I am pretty clear on how I am viewed by gay male society. This presents a very serious set of opportunities. Do I not date? Do I date only black men? Do I assume every gay white male only sees an always available and willing sex partner? Should I do the unthinkable and become a Monk there by decreasing my options and allowing a life where none of these issues have to be worked through? I am not fond of any of the aforementioned options. Instead, through a great deal of experimentation, I have determined that what's required is not the death of attraction but an ongoing construction of tools that allow the full humanity of everyone I date and or partner with. It is impossible

to live up to a fantasy which is why porn does little to engender true intimacy. While porn can be fun, titillating and entertaining, it is also cheap, predictable and easy. We all know the outcome before we download or hit the play button.

Real life with real people is unpredictable, messy and in constant flux. This is why tools for navigating the interaction between two males is a necessity and always evolving. Where do we start? We start by wanting two very complimentary and wonderful things to occur simultaneously. We start by bringing the best of ourselves to the relationship and demanding that the other person do the same. We have got to discuss more than HIV status, cock size and whether someone is a top or bottom. I have dated white and black men. While each group gets handed the same load of crap (pain, disappointment, loss, death) that every human has to handle, the resources available for each group is vastly different. Anything that draws us closer and allows us to truly "see" each other is a great thing. Anything that forces separation (ageism, body fascism) has got to go. Instead of automatically discounting the new cute white/black guy in the office, talk him up. Find out what he likes, what he fears, what's his socioeconomic background, what he dreams about and what type of life he wants for himself and those that he cares about.



## **GAY VISIBILITY**

**by Dan LaVenture**

We saw Eric McCormack a few weeks back on a hike in Runyon Canyon. Remember him as Will, from 'Will and Grace'?

As popular as that show was, I can't say I ever knew someone like him or Jack. That's not the case these days... Finally, we are getting realistic portrayals of gays and lesbians on scripted shows. Plus we are all over reality TV these days too. ABC seems to be the leader as far as I am concerned. Gay characters are featured on "Desperate Housewives", "Grey's Anatomy", and "Ugly Betty". MTV brings us "The Real World D.C." with Mike, a bisexual Christian who shares with us his journey of accepting his sexuality (he realizes he's more gay).

On NBC, we have Oscar on "The Office". On CBS, "The Amazing Race" has always cast gays and lesbians over the years, this season features a lesbian couple plus a gay brother competing with his straight brother. Over on cable, there is a little show called "Greek" on ABC Family that recently had a story line involved a gay interracial relationship among 2 college frat boys. And how about Ellen on "American Idol"? I loved how she joked about "girls like me" when talking about sexy contestant Casey (who is male). My how times have changed since the non-kiss with the gay character Matt on the original Melrose Place back in the 90's. It is refreshing to see gay and lesbians portrayed as real people and not stereotypes, people who are fine with who they are and don't have a disease. I can sure relate...

# BWMTSC GABFEST

4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT 6<sup>PM</sup>

RAP SESSION | MOVIES | GOSSIP | CHAT | ADVICE

## New Series

The Board of Directors of BWMTSC is proud to present a new series of gatherings to watch movies followed by a discussion

Topics include:

Black History

Interracial Issues

Gay Marriage

Comedy

and many more...

**JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME!**

Location:

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Long Beach  
5450 Atherton Street.

(Within walking distance of  
the California State Univer-  
sity of Long Beach).

# Events

(No Coffee night on July 28, 2010, no Gabfest on July 24th.)

July 26 - July 31  
National Convention in Ft. Lauderdale

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August, 7th 12p  
Beach bike Ride and lunch at The Lapalapa  
Del Mar Restaurant

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday August 21, 6pm  
Long Beach

Our potluck series continues to roll on. All of the potluck invitations are emailed through Evite because we don't put members' addresses online.

Want your own evite? Email Ken Baron at [kbaron@bwmtsc.org](mailto:kbaron@bwmtsc.org) to be put our list to receive your own special Evite.

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday, August 28th, 6pm  
August GabFest

Unitarian Univeraslist Church of Long Beach.  
Room 2/3  
5450 Atherton  
Long Beach, 90815

Topic: Gay Parenting  
Jeff Horton, facilitating.

Sunday September 5th, 12pm  
Labor Day Picnic

Bixby Park  
130 Cherry Ave  
Long Beach, 90802 contact:  
David King at [itsdk3@yahoo.com](mailto:itsdk3@yahoo.com)

\*\*\*\*

Saturday, September 11th, 4pm  
Membership appreciation BBQ/movie  
Long Beach

Membership does have its privileges.  
All Paid members are invited to a special BBQ in Long Beach free of charge.

\*\*\*\*

September 25th, 3pm  
Board meeting before Gabfest, (see below) we'll be planning events for October, November and December

\*\*\*\*

Saturday, September 25, 6pm  
September GabFest

Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach.  
Room 2/3  
5450 Atherton  
Long Beach, 90815

Topic: To be announced

**BWMTSC  
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Event Planning**

(Answer from Page 2:  
Rick Creque Age 2)