

Prime Times

A NEWSLETTER FOR MATURE GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN



PRIME TIMERS WORLD WIDE

APRIL 2017

SINCE 1987

THE DAILY NEWS

PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

MICHAEL STONE, PRESIDENT

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Fraud, Deceit and Being Scammed; A Few Words of Caution!



By Michael Stone, President

We all read about it constantly in newspapers and online. We've sadly become familiar with the words "Hackers", "Imposter Scams", "Fraud", and "ID Theft". We tend to be cautious in what we reply to and know when not to reply. Despite exercising caution, I'm sad to report to you that our organization was recently scammed. We have been awaiting the results of the six-week FBI investigation and police report. The first of those investigations has been reached with no results.

On January 31st, our board Treasurer received an email asking for a money

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FOUNDER FILOSOFY

BY WOODY BALDWIN, FOUNDER
 PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

I have always wondered when someone is being honored how he can say that the experience is humbling, but this anniversary year has taught me why they say that. The many recognitions that I have had this year have taught me why they say it. Part of this is, as I have said many times, that I consider myself to be merely the person who turned the key in the ignition. It is you and you and you and the soon-to-be 10,000 mem-

And, without it being our expressed intention, have shown younger gays that gay life does not end at an imaginary date but can be a happy lifetime situation.

bers who are responsible for the growth and prestige that Prime Timers enjoys today.

When I started our organization 30 years ago, it was designed to be, simply stated, a place where older gay and bisexual men could go and not feel intimidated or unwanted. With 75 chapters now and more in the womb, we have accomplished not only that; but, in our own quiet way, have elevated the status of older gay and bisexual men. We are no longer the pits of society but are proud to be up with the best. And, without it being our expressed intention,

have shown younger gays that gay life does not end at an imaginary date but can be a happy lifetime situation.

I hope you are proud of what we have achieved and will fight to see that we stick to our original, simple purpose and do not fall into the temptation to reach out to all gays, and in so doing make us an ordinary gay organization of which there are many. We are unique as the only worldwide organization that focuses on older gay men. With our phenomenal growth, we are suc-

cessful. I belong to the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" philosophy.

Thanks again to all those hard-working guys who have planned and executed the honors I have received this year. I am proud of our 30 years and hope there will be many more when I pass on. I feel that Prime Timers has capped off a wonderful life for me. Obviously, someone up there likes me despite the "sins" I have committed. I have been so fortunate. May you be so blessed.

Woody

Woody was not only our founder; he was our leader; he was our teacher; he was our mentor and without him this wonderful organization would have never come about. We agreed to choose appropriate articles from the past and put those in the newsletter. He called his columns 'Founder Filosofy' and I think you'll agree, the philosophy in 'Filosofy' is profound.

HUH? AM I READING THIS RIGHT?

Sign in library restroom: "Toilet out of order. Use floor below."

Sign in health food store window: "Closed due to illness."

In Safari Park: "Elephants — please stay in your car."

Repair shop door: "We repair anything. Please knock as bell is out of order."

Newspaper article heading: "Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers"

Local newsletter article heading: "Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges"

Second-hand store: "We exchange anything. Bring in your wife and get a wonderful bargain."

Neighborhood fixit shop: "The person taking the stepladder needs to return it or further steps will be taken."

ASHVILLE CHAPTER LAUNCHES ITS 5TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

BY DAVID BAILEY AND JERRY CONNER, ASHEVILLE PRIME TIMERS

With an abundance of interest groups geared towards its many LGBT populations, "Asheville May Be the Most LGBT-Friendly City in the U.S." (*Livability Magazine*), LGBT folks are well integrated into the fabric of Asheville. The abundance of specialized groups, including those for dancers, hikers, walkers, LGBT Elders, vegans, supper club participants, book

ers chapters, so we are constantly challenged to provide unique educational and social opportunities for our membership.

Our 5th Annual Membership Drive, held in late January, was a great example of our continuing effort to meet that challenge. Hosted at a local church, we invited existing members to a prepaid "all you can eat" Member Appreciation Pasta Dinner. We invited potential new members to join us, advertised in multiple places (even on Growlr!), and were pleased to meet and welcome a number of new faces to the group. The great food we provided was accompanied by an especially



Photo courtesy Jerry Conner

readers, bar-friendly folks, card players, and movie enthusiasts is wonderful. But that also makes establishing a niche for the Asheville Prime Timers somewhat difficult. The overall population of our region is among the smallest in the constellation of Prime Tim-

eat" Member Appreciation Pasta Dinner. We invited potential new members to join us, advertised in multiple places (even on Growlr!), and were pleased to meet and welcome a number of new faces to the group. The great food we provided was accompanied by an especially

entertaining preview of a new theatrical work-in-progress entitled "Pulse" by Asheville's foremost progressive theatre group, Anam Cara (also very gay friendly). Our 5th Annual Membership Drive was an absolute success, and a good time was had by all.

NOTE FROM PRIME TIMERS EAU CLAIRE

BY GEORGE STAMM, EAU CLAIRE PRESIDENT

We may be small but we are "where it's at" in Wisconsin (i.e. the only chapter in Wisconsin). Anyone reading this somewhere else in Wisconsin take note and look into starting your own chapter. We did that about five or six years ago.

Woody's comment about creating activities for gay men who might otherwise be sitting home alone has been a key thought in my mind and we have all tried to extend the hand of friendship to others. We currently have a First Thursday gathering at the Episcopal Church in Eau Claire for coffee, sometimes some wine, snacks, and dessert items. We

usually meet from about 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Third Thursdays are dinner out at a predetermined



Photo courtesy George Stamm

restaurant. We also have an annual Valentine's Day party, summer cookouts at members' homes, a Halloween party with costumes, and a Christmas party. Our latest party was Valentine's day; we had about ten fellows present.

FRAUD, DECEIT, AND BEING SCAMMED, CONT'D...

continued from cover

transfer in the amount of \$4,500 to be wired to a credit union in Canton, Michigan immediately. While the email at first looked legitimate, there were signs that it was not. We have never requested nor used a wire transfer and the recipient was someone we did not know. While it appeared the email came from me, the name on it was Kevin Clark. Our Treasurer went down to our bank and made the transfer. It was picked up in Canton within minutes.

On Sunday, February 5th, I telephoned our Treasurer, asking about another item. At that time, he asked me what the \$4,500 was for. I was baffled, confused, stunned, and in the dark. Eventually, he was able to forward the initial email request to me. As soon as I saw it, I realized we had been scammed. I scheduled an Executive Session board meeting for Monday night, February 6th.

At that meeting, a plan was formulated. First off, a plan was created to be included in our Policies and Procedures which included limiting use of wire transfers only with prior board approval and requiring checks for non-budgeted expenditures in excess of \$500 to require prior approval of at least two board

members with a reply confirmation. The next day, our Treasurer visited the Wells Fargo bank from which the wire transfer was made. They asked for six weeks to investigate. He then filed a FBI report. The FBI would not be able to secure the funds, but their investigation set-out to trace it down and find and possibly prosecute the scammers. There are no results with either investigation.

The second part of our investigation was the filing of a police report with the city of Canton, Michigan, which had to be done in-person. Our Secretary, Richard Tobiason, did this. The police findings will be reported to him at the end of March (the next week).

With the passing of the six-week investigation period, it is imperative that we share this event with you. Last week, one of our board members, A.J. Ratliff, made a personal donation of \$500 to help offset our loss. We all thank him for his generous contribution.

This needs to stand as a caution to all of our chapters to be careful and on the lookout for future attacks of this nature. Some years ago, one of our chapters was scammed \$500. Sadly, it's a reflection of our world; it could happen to you!



CHICAGO SELECTED FOR 2017 CONVENTION

BY MARVIN LEVIN, CHICAGO PRIME TIMERS

The Chicago Prime Timers chapter would like to thank Worldwide for selecting us to host the 2017 Worldwide Convention.

For more information, please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/2017ptconvention or email us at info@chicagoprimetimers.org



October 29 - November 2, 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

MEMORIAL TO GENE AUTRY

BY JACK NIMMO, CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENT CHAPTER

Gene Autry would say San Antonio Prime Timers is the best social value in town. He calculated our scheduled annual events divided by our \$26 annual dues, resulting in a seven cent cost per event and pitched that number in recruiting. He was an enthusiastic Prime Timers salesman.



Gene Autry, photo courtesy Jack Nimmo

In 2014, he began his presidency in San Antonio with 108 chapter members. Using his managerial skills from a career with Xerox, he led the Board and the chapter with enthusiasm, confidence, innovative activities, and a contagious smile. He always ended Board meetings with "how could we have conducted this meeting better" by gathering comments from each officer, rewarded with a smile and compliment on their performance. The chapter added new recurring activities like bowling, a flea market treasure hunt, dining events that accommodated working member schedules, day trips to area events, and much more. By December 2016, the chapter had grown to 201 members. Gene was ever-present at events and joked, "I went to 23 Prime Timer events this month and was chastised for missing the 24th!"

He was a dedicated Prime Timer.

Gene was diagnosed with cancer and came to our General Meeting to announce we would make it a learning experience as he fought the good fight. He encouraged our members to get frequent checkups and not to ignore a change in your normal health that you might pass off as nothing to worry about. Even as he fought cancer, he put priority on the health of his disabled daughter who had lived with him most of her life. He thought of others, too. Our doorbell rang one Saturday afternoon and there stood Gene. He had sensed by the tone of my voice in a conversation earlier in the day that I might be troubled by something. He said, "I just wanted to drop by to make sure you guys are okay." Typically, he put others first.

On a visit to Gene's home last December, Gene asked me to excuse him while got something. He returned with an old index card that was bent and faded with age. On it was a printed list. He explained that he wanted to live by certain principles and carried this card in his pocket to always remind him of them. He handed it to me, saying, "I want you to have this." A particularly nice compliment accompanied this gift.

The card read:

*Always look for the best in others
and recognize them for it.*

Make everyone I meet feel special.

*Leave every place I go better than
when I arrived.*

Gene Autry lived up to those principles very successfully. He left behind his two beloved daughters, a grandson, other family members, friends, and a better San Antonio Prime Timer chapter than when he became our president.

We would like to remember and honor those who have influenced their chapters and fellow Prime Timers. Please provide a written memorial and photo to webmaster@primetimersww.com. Thank you!

PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY

BY CHARLES HARSHBARGER, PTTB PRESIDENT

I am Charles Harshbarger, president of Prime Timers of Tampa Bay. We only have, at present, about 100 members, but our influence is felt in the entire Tampa Bay Metro Area. St. Petersburg, a part of our area, is host to the largest Pride parade and celebration in the state of Florida. This is an extremely “gay friendly” city. Perhaps it is because of the very large assembly of retired folks who come here. They are very tolerant of different lifestyles. For whatever reason, our Pride event drew a whopping 300,000 people this year. Last year, it was 250,000, so it is still growing.

Our chapter has been what I termed a “shadow chapter”. We did not seek publicity, we “did our thing”, largely ignored by the masses. It has been a successful strategy. However, with the legalization of same-sex marriage and the growth of our Pride parade, I felt as though it was time to do *something* to let folks know we exist.



Photo courtesy Charles Harshbarger



Photo courtesy Charles Harshbarger

Most of our members are older. It would be quite impossible for many of us to walk the parade route or even ride on a float.

One of our board suggested we rent the “Jolley Trolley”. I investigated it and we were able to get an air conditioned trolley and had a great time tossing beads out the windows, as well. We had some posters with our name emblazoned on them for the sides of the vehicle, too. In addition, a few of our more athletic guys jumped on and off the trolley, passing out beads and giving out rainbow wristbands with our website on them.

We went through 100 dozen beads (and could have used another 100 dozen, easily!) and passed out 2,000 wrist bands.

Next year, we plan on having a presence in the day-long fair held the day following the parade.

OF TREES AND MEN

BY MANUEL AVEZUELA, PRIME TIMERS INDEPENDENT CHAPTER

BECAUSE they're old,
 Because they are like trees,
 Because old trees should never be uprooted,
 Because their limbs are long and widespread,
 Because old trees are deep and well established,
 Because their sap is dense, sweet and pungent,

Because old trees remember.
 Because their wisdom gilds
 the sharpness of the seasons,
 Because their flighty memories perch in silvery lace,
 Because they're trees,
 Because they're old.

Because old trees are bound to die standing tall,
 Because they are entitled to reach out,
 Because they are supposed to mingle
 with each other,
 Because they bow their heads together high above,

Because they dream of worlds
 and forests beyond reach,
 Because their time is short and precious,
 Because they ought to enjoy an everlasting autumn,
 Because they hum the songs of hope and friendship,
 Because they're old,
 Because they are like trees.

HERE AND THERE

BY CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
ZACH MULLANEY AND RAY DARR, OKC PT

WICHITA, KANSAS: The guys had a large crowd for the February meeting. The Police Department has established two LGBT liaisons for working with the gay community in the city. The two, both a female and a male officer, were the speakers and shared their experience not only of working with the gay community, but of being “out” at work. How fortunate for the city of Wichita.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA: If your wanderings take you to Tulsa on the second Tuesday of the month, the Monthly Meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. at the Equality Center, their outstanding LGBT community center. Stop-by one of these times.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – 201 MEMBERS: The February General Meeting was the largest monthly meeting they’ve had with 78 attending. The speaker was the CEO of the city’s AIDS Foundation. Tons of questions and concerns, along with enlightenment. Also, the Care and Concern Committee is fervently assisting their chapter seniors that are unable to get around to their doctor appointments, the market, chapter socials, and the like. Good for you, guys.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA: This chapter’s monthly General Meeting is always the fourth Sunday of the month. The meetings are held at Trinity MCC, Lockwood Ridge, at 3:00 p.m. There will be Lazy Lobster afterwards. At the February meeting, the CEO of the Community Outreach spoke on the need for grieving resources for LGBT seniors. This sounds like a worthwhile discussion, for sure.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Many in the chapter are involved with a gay rapport group for seniors. They meet once a month and discuss a particular subject. This month’s topic is “Enduring Relationships as Gay Men”. Also, the monies raised at this month’s potluck will help support the Lambert House. It is good to read that many of our chapters have a face in the LGBT community supporting various causes.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – 189 members: The Phoenix Gay Pride takes place on April 2nd. The chapter will have a float in the parade. The chapter has many couples that have been together many years. These couples are asked to ride the float and each carry a sign stating their number of years together. What a great idea! After the parade, they’re scheduling some R&R at Los Diablos Bar on East Indian School Road.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: The guys are diligently getting together in the planning of our yearly Labor Day Getaway. The host hotel, the gay Habana Inn, started taking reservations on Monday, March

6th. The chapter’s weekly Tuesday Lunch is continuing to grow in attendance. It was great to have Nathan and Bill from the Central Iowa chapter in Des Moines visiting with us this week.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA: Here’s your chance to get back in the saddle again. For you bikers, a new activity is starting. The first Friday of the month, the gang will be peddling with short, easy rides to start-off with. Riders will meet at Sunset Beach parking lot at 9:30 a.m. (that parking lot can certainly be “scenic” without getting into the saddle!). Estimated duration of riding times will be two hours in the early stages of building up endurance.

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA – 787 members: The chapter is planning their yearly jaunt to Laughlin, Nevada. It will be for three nights, staying at the Riverside Resort Hotel. Included in the trip, beside the bus and gambling fun, is a day trip to the old ghost mining town of Oatman, Arizona to include a bank holdup on Main Street. Another day trip will be to the London Bridge in Lake Havasu City. Boy, this sounds like a good getaway. Does anyone remember the kid’s game called “London Bridge is Falling Down”?

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA: In February, 50 of the guys took their first cruise as a chapter group — on a ship, that is. The cruise was aboard the Caribbean Princess. They had their own lanyard with “Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers” on it. It was arranged to they could all sit together for meals, two cocktail parties, snacks, free drinks, and do-nothing times of sitting on the deck chatting with old and new friends. Sounds like this will become a yearly event.

TRI-STATE/CINCINNATI, OHIO – 115 members: February’s meeting had a speaker from “Vibrant Kin”, a group doing research on the history of L-G-B-T-Q-NS-X-Y-Z activism in the Cincinnati area. As many of our chapters certainly may have members that have knowledge of their own city’s gayness in decades of yore, for someone doing that type of research, speaking to our chapters can be a tremendous source of information. Plus, this can be interesting listening and learning for all of us about those days of yore.

DENVER, COLORADO – 182 members: Congrats to the chapter on their 30th Anniversary. Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., a group called the Wednesday Nooners meet for lunch at the Golden Corral. Just tell the greeter at the door you’re with the Prime Timers, and join ‘em. The lunch buffet is only \$9.02 (.02?). But hey, you can’t beat that price for all the food you can stuff yourself with. The Golden Corral is at 3677 Santa Fe Drive out in Sheridan.

CYCLING KINGSTON - CORNWALL BY PONY EXPRESS

BY ERIC WALBERG, PRIME TIMERS TORONTO

Okay, by “bicycle express”. But that was how I saw myself, galloping along the St Lawrence, a watchful eye out for the Yankees yonder across the mighty river. The dirt road is now a bicycle lane (sometimes more, sometimes less) that followed, by a stretch of the imagination, the 18th century trail that once bound Canada together.

I had just turned 65 the day before (June 22) and decided I should honor this life’s stepping stone with a grueling challenge. Was I up to it?

Mostly bike-friendly

Much of Highway 2 sports a modest bike lane, though at times, it is necessary to following religiously the white line separating the cyclist from the whizzing trucks and gravel shoulder. At times, a bit nerve racking, but an experienced cyclist knows that the great feature of highway cycling is that you must be “in the moment”. No heavy metal or Brahms blasting your eardrums. The old saw holds: if you are in the moment, God will be there with you.

Brockville has outdone the before and after Brockville parts of the trail, with a spectacular path which stretches untouched by inhuman wheels for miles, with the river, islands, and their sometimes comic castles or ghost mansions or just putzy cottages wedged impossibly on Petit Prince type universes.

Even where the paved shoulder peters out, the traffic is light from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. (make that 5:00 a.m., depending on your schedule for the day). You soon learn to cherish these early morning meditation sessions, when time seems to stop, until it kicks in at about 2:00 p.m., by which time you should be within sight of your destination.

Mostly people-friendly



Photo courtesy Eric Walberg



Photo courtesy Eric Walberg

Locals along the route are great. Yes, the Tim Hortons have put the local ma-and-pa’s out of business, but they are not drive-thru. As long as you spot a local, you can have a nice chat or get reliable directions.

The Goal

The journey is the goal. But also a pilgrimage. At the farthest reach of the 1,000 Islands is Ground Zero of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Long Sault Dam, on the western outskirts of Cornwall.

Cornwall’s glory days were two centuries ago, established in 1784 by United Empire Loyalist troops. It reached its zenith in the era of the railways and the canal system linking Ottawa and the St. Lawrence. It is a modest 50,000 population today, better known for its bridge to the U.S. and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

I was staying just short of Cornwall, near Morrisburg, a key location of 1812-13 war, which the locals are proud of and which has many commemorative plaques. Trying to educate the American visitors who are oblivious (“1812? Never heard of it.” At best, “Ya, the British burned down the White House.”)

High tech defense, high tech transport

The victory in what Canadians proudly call the War of 1812 prompted the Canadians and British to upgrade defenses, building the state-of-the-art Fort George in Kingston (1838). It, mercifully, never fired a shot, a bit like Reagan’s Star Wars, though the cost was not in vain. The fort’s impregnability surely helped deter the insatiable U.S. hunger for Canadian lands, making the budding empire-builders look elsewhere.

That’s probably why most Americans don’t even know Canada exists. If you can’t beat ’em, forget ’em. We are America’s best kept secret.

DO NOT TAKE YOUR LOVER FOR GRANTED



Artwork by Chuck Spady, www.oed-studios.com

**BY MANUEL AVEZUELA
PRIME TIMERS INDEPENDENT CHAPTER**

You must earn every day the love your lover gave you once. You must offer him the same reasons to love you that you gave him when your love affair started. Otherwise, he may stop loving you.

Why did he start loving you? What did he find in you that made him love you? Was the size of your genitals, your sexual prowess. Your good looks and physical appearance? Your “type”? Your voice? Your wittiness? Your gaiety? Your gayness? Your money? Your talents?

Of course, each and every one of those things, or the right combination of them, might have been enough to provoke some physical attraction, some sexual arousal, some sort of momentary passion or infatuation. But your lover's love was founded on

something deeper, longer lasting, more solid and compelling.

What made you “lovable” to him was your care, your sincerity, your generosity, your patience, your support, your consideration, your loyalty, your respect, your trust, your unconditional gift of yourself, your readiness to give and accept a heartfelt apology, your promptness to share your inner world — as well as your outer one — without any reservation, your tender solicitude for his wellbeing and happiness, the implicit knowledge of your loving him as much or more than you loved yourself. It was not precisely your sexual prowess, your physical appearance, your money or your mundane ways and words. You could have been “The Beast” and he still would have seen “The Beauty” in you. That was what he loved in you, your goodness as a whole human being.

The question is, can he still find “The Beauty” in you, or just “The Beast”? Can he still find in you all those human qualities, that goodness which made you lovable to him?

To correctly answer those questions, you must look at them from his point of view rather than from your own, for you could never be a good judge of yourself.

You may not be able to recover your initial physical and sexual appeal, but you can certainly improve your attitude and behavior. Furthermore, if you do so without waiting for your lover to correct whatever negative factors he might have contributed to the deterioration of your relationship, chances are very good that your improvements will elicit changes, in both of you, conducive to the recuperation and reinforcement of your mutual love.

And so, if you want to know whether your lover still loves you, you should ask yourself every day, “Do I still love my lover?”



**Las Vegas
Prime Timers**

presents

**9th Annual Western Regional Gathering
at**

The Stratosphere Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas

May 8 -11, 2017

For all details and a registration form, please visit our website at: www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Due to numerous requests, we are once again sponsoring the annual Western Regional Gathering in 2017 from May 8-11, 2017 at the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino on Las Vegas Boulevard.

We hope you can attend since we will have six seminars covering various topics. Will Damron, author of "Cop Out", will give a seminar discussing his career as an Oakland Police Officer. We will also have an outdoor private pool party on the 24th floor,

a dinner buffet on the 108th floor with great views of the valley, free continental breakfast, and a hospitality suite.

The hotel also offers a variety of entertainment and gives discounts to their shows for hotel guests. The registration forms and tentative agenda can be found in the 2017 Gathering section of our website at www.lasvegasprimetimers.com. We hope to see you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Western Regional Gathering, Las Vegas
May 8-11, 2017

A Celebration of Friends, Fort Lauderdale
July 20-23, 2017

Labor Day Get-A-Way Weekend, Oklahoma City
August 31 - September 4, 2017

Prime Timers Worldwide Convention, Chicago
October 29 - November 2, 2017

Family and Friends Winter Cruise
January 7-14, 2018



ORANGE DRINK

A song about intergenerational same-sex relationships

SLOUCH

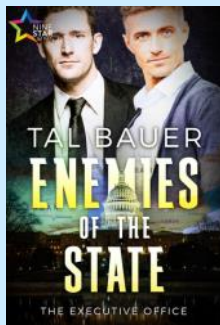
Listen now by visiting www.tinyurl.com/slouchalbum

BOOK REVIEWS

Enemies of the State

by Tal Bauer

The story is set in D.C. in the near future and has two major plots functioning simultaneously. One is the overthrow of the U.S. government as we now know it. The surging Islamic Caliphate is gaining strength in the Middle East and an unknown person in a high position in the administration of our own U.S. government is secretly feeding the Islamic leader pertinent information. The goal of this D.C. insider is to bring down the world powers and to take control. This person has several “inside operators” in the government working to feed that secret information to parties involved. It results in a near-tragedy for the President and for the Secret Service agents along with him to the African conference. The reader will be surprised who the evil “insiders” are, as the defeat draws near and a shootout takes place in the Oval Office.



The second plot involves the newly elected 45-year-old President Jack Spiers, a widower. He is a former Senator from the state of Texas. Secret Service Agent Ethan has been assigned as the agent to be with the President. Ethan expects another stuffed shirt, but is surprised at how open and friendly the new President happens to be. Also, being a widower, there is no wife or kids with whom to spend his off-time. The handsome President is bright, friendly, but lonely, and wants a friendly relationship with his Agent Ethan. But this is a no-no within the agency. An agent cannot become socially involved with the one they are assigned to protect. Ethan is 41 years old, single, and gay, but that fact is known only by a couple of his closest agent friends. He knows that Jack is a lonely man and Jack insists on a first-name basis for conversation in the mornings when jogging together, when working out together in the White House gym, when shooting pool, and the like. Ethan realizes his attraction to Jack, but knows he cannot cross over the line. Jack realizes he's attracted to Ethan also, but being confused by his new emotion to another man. The reader can see a beautiful scenario beginning to take place.

As their working relationship develops, there are trips to Camp David, the visiting of world leaders in the White House, and conferences in other parts of the world being attended. Just prior to an African conference, a major bomb explodes in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secret Service agents on the trip are trapped and presumed dead, Ethan among them. The President is immediately flown back to the States. The assisted es-

cape of the agents enabling them to get back to the States is excellent reading, and who the “secret insiders” are that have orchestrated the entrapment and assumed deaths may be a surprise to the reader – the proof taking place back in the Oval Office.

As the President becomes enamored of Ethan and begins to accept and enjoy the emotion he feels for him, Jack slowly starts to learn and experiment in the lifestyle. The love beginning to be shared by them is beautiful. Is there sex? Yup! But it is not written as porn at all. It is evolving as emotion between two men in their 40's that have fallen in love.

The named rooms in the White House, the stairwells and tunnels, are all accurate, as are the street names, neighborhoods, and place names. The story is a very well written, easy read and will suck the reader in and he will not want to put the book down.

*Reviewed by Stan Dupp
Central Oklahoma Prime Timers*

In the Flesh

by Ethan Stone

Christian Flesh is an out-and-proud gay cop who finds himself being framed for murder. He's quite the slut, preferring one night stands and quickies to having any real relationship with anyone. To protect himself in this, he has a set of rules he lives by such as “No kissing”. Along comes his new lawyer, Colby, who is a closeted gay man. Christian finds himself slowly breaking rule after rule. At first I didn't really like Christian, he was pretty self centered and pretty much admitted he enjoyed being a slut and was proud of this. As the relationship with Colby begins to get more intense, however, we find Christian slowly thawing out to the point where we start seeing his good side. Because of some past hurts, he has protected himself with his initial persona, but through Colby he begins to learn to trust and how to love. The big problem, however, is that he is the suspect in a murder case that stands between him and Colby's relationship. The other problem they must work to overcome is the fact that Colby is not ready to come out as gay which makes no sense to Christian. This was an enjoyable read. The characters are well developed and the plot held my attention throughout the entire book. I would rate it four out of five stars due to the fact that it took a while to warm-up to Christian.



*Reviewed by Steve Therrien
Prime Timers Central Iowa*

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Jan. 14	Fort Lauderdale		



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