

New Study . . .

Shows Homosexual Relationships Tend To Be Short, Violent

By PAUL LIKOUDIS

As the issue of "same-sex marriage" distracts the nation from the crucial problems it should be facing, and as gay activists flout laws as they grab their marriage licenses from silly public officials, a new sociological study of gay relationships shows they are often short and violent.

The average length of a relationship for a typical urban homosexual, according to sociologist Edward Laumann, is six months, and the rate of domestic violence in same-sex households exceeds that of married heterosexuals.

Laumann's research was extensively covered in the March 2 edition of *The Washington Blade*, a homosexual newspaper in the nation's capital. *The Washington Blade's* Adrian Brune reviewed the book.

Laumann is the George Herbert Mead Distinguished Service professor of sociology at the University of Chicago and a coauthor of a new book, *The Sexual Organization of the City* (University of Chicago Press, February 2004), which develops the notion that cities are "sexual marketplaces" where individuals' sexual choices are limited by their neighborhoods.

The head of the sociology department at the University of Chicago, Laumann told the *Blade* that the "gay scene is a fairly volatile scene without much nominal guidance from family and long-term friends, which tend to help with bumps in the road. When you're in that single scene, these partnerships aren't one-night stands, but they usually have a life of about six months."

He studied four gay neighborhoods in Chicago, one predominantly black, one Mexican, one Puerto

Rican, and one was the upscale area known as Boys Town. He found there was little interaction among homosexuals from the different neighborhoods; and, more important, he also found there was little respect shown to "committed" homosexual partnerships by "cruisers" in the gay bar scene.

"Laumann's research also concluded," continued Brune, "that there are few, if any, resources or refuges for gay male and female victims of domestic violence.

"Some in the gay health field acknowledge that Laumann's research could prove important in advocating for resources to benefit gays. . . .

"In metropolitan areas, the study found that domestic violence rates were comparable among gays and straights.

"Same-sex domestic violence rates among men are actually as high

or higher than in man-woman relationships, but men have nowhere to go when battered,' said Michael Relf, a same-sex domestic violence expert at Georgetown School of Nursing & Health Studies. 'As younger men come out and move to urban areas where they aren't so isolated, it's natural for them to explore their sexuality.'

"They enter into more transactional relationships, which are less stable and prone to violence'

"What's going on now is making the sexual revolution of the '60s and '70s pale in comparison,' said Eli Coleman, director of the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota. 'Laumann's work is the most comprehensive since that of acclaimed researcher Alfred Kinsey, who surveyed people about sex in the 1940s'."