

Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988  
Box 66684  
Houston, TX 77266-6684  
713-529-1223

JANUARY 1988

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Calendar of Events

Tuesday.. January 12, 9:00 PM

Wilde n' Stein Radio--Debate GLPC Presidential Candidates

90.1 FM

A discussion of the two candidates for GLPC President--Paul Simmons and David Flower

Sunday... January 17, 6:00 PM

Gay Pride Week Committee--Organizational Meeting

Dignity Center 3217 Fannin at Elgin

Second meeting for 1988 agenda items include setting calendar, publicity and theme. Community input is encouraged and needed.

Wednesday January 20, 7:30 PM

Gay Lesbian Political Caucus--Elections

Viscount Hotel, 2828 Southwest Freeway

Election includes all officers and many board seats.

Tuesday.. January 19, 8:00 PM

Wilde n' Stein Radio--Marathon

KPFT 90.1 FM

A special two hour show that will look back at 1987 and look forward to 1988. This is where we ask our listeners to help support radio that supports the community.

Saturday. January 30, all day

Sunday... January 31, morning

Texas Leadership Conference

University of Houston, Entrance # 1

It is Houston's turn to host this state leadership conference

Monday... February 8, 8:00 PM

Phantom of the Opera--Benefit performance

Majestic Theater, 247 West 44th Street, New York

A special performance for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund tickets start at \$100.

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Agenda 01/17/88

- I. Discussion and Approval of Minutes of 11/29/87
- II. Logo design & marketing
- III. Events Calendar
- IV. Parade Discussion-Gay Fest 88 Event
- V. Election of co-chairs and committee chairs
- VI. Additions to the agenda

We would like to encourage design of the 1988 Lesbian Gay Pride logos to be used for t-shirts, billboards and buttons. The theme chosen is "Rightfully Proud", this is the theme selected by the International Gay Lesbian Coordinating Committee and used last year by the city of Toronto.

This year we are trying to move up many of these factors so that we can do the work of publicizing the Pride events.

# Momentum picks up for Boston les/gay center

*After board shake-up, organizers renew attempts to find and fund a community space*

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — A handful of people continue their dogged efforts to launch a community center here for lesbians and gay men. Using as models the highly-touted centers in Los Angeles and New York, Boston organizers hope to procure a building to function as a multi-purpose meeting space and a symbolic focus of strength for the lesbian and gay community.

Queried Laurie Huber, vice-president of the proposed center's board of directors, "Is there one place you can enter and feel a sense of belonging, a sense of community? There isn't, but there will be. A center will formalize our community within the society at large."

Despite the expressed good intentions of organizers, progress on a community space — dubbed the Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men — has been stymied recently by internal turmoil among the board of directors. The forced removal last month of board president Dennis Esposito highlighted disagreements about basic organizational strategy. Most board members said they were left with a sense that they were starting from scratch. A non-profit corporation in the works for almost two years, the center is still struggling to raise start-up funds and establish community support.

Huber, new board president John C. Graves and six other directors meet biweekly to discuss the project. Monthly membership meetings draw few community participants. Attendance has dwindled greatly since last spring when enthusiasm for the center drew up to 100 people to the open planning meetings. Board members expressed deter-

mination to reverse this decline through increased outreach. They say they hope to begin sponsoring events to draw the lesbian/gay community together.

"We're looking for people who like to party-hearty," said Dean Lamsa, board clerk. "We want to have a good time. We'll never attract people to dry meetings like these."

"I'll teach the Texas two-step!" offered board treasurer Eric Kristensen.

"We want this to be beneficial to Boston in the long-run," Graves added, with a touch of solemnity. Paraphrasing, he continued, "Ask not what the center can do for you, but what you can do for the center."

This distinction may shed light on the rift which developed between the board and Esposito, who had headed the organization since its beginning. A real estate developer by profession, Esposito brought an entrepreneurial approach to his plans for the center. He hoped to procure prior financial commitments from lesbian and gay groups interested in renting space from the project. According to Graves, the rest of the board preferred to work cooperatively instead of with "that very narrow landlord/tenant perspective."

Graves stated, "Dennis Esposito is very good at jobs that are linear and focused, but unfortunately, trying to build a community center is not that kind of job. He didn't know much about the nature of the gay community...he alienated many members."

Esposito said he was unaware that people were dissatisfied with his leadership. "I felt

Continued on page 6



## Center

Continued from page 3

we were progressing," he stated. "The idea here is to get a community center together and people have to be convinced that you mean business. That's my background."

He said he has no malice toward the organization and appreciated the attempt by all parties to keep conflicts from degenerating to personality fights. However, he stated his impression that he was voted out arbitrarily without the input of the broader membership that elected him in the first place. "In a voluntary organization," Esposito said, "there is a wide range of standards used to remove people. In the beginning, sometimes those standards drop and human emotion prevails. To remove a community leader, reasons should be right on the mark...deliberate obstruction should be shown."

"All I wanted to do was get an idea of how much money we had to work with," he continued, "I'm a landlord myself. You need tenants before you can ascertain what the mortgage will be."

Esposito was referring to a letter he drafted soliciting a contingent of financial support from lesbian/gay community groups. According to Graves, the letter was sent out under Graves' name without the consultation of other board members. The board members were angered by Esposito's action, which they allege violates the group's by-laws and undermines the center's goals. Lamsa explained that the board envisions the center as an open meeting space to serve the community and promote coalition-building, not as a business prospect. Graves sent a follow-up letter to groups the board feared would be confused by Esposito's solicitation, apologized and stressed that sliding scale rental space will be available in the future, following extensive fundraising by the center.

"We're trying to pull ourselves back together after a difficult period," Graves said. "The board saw a stalemate with Dennis Esposito and we didn't know what to do. Besides the general dissatisfaction with his leadership, when he took a specific act that violated the center, it gave us a smoking gun and a reason for impeachment. Now we have to rebuild internally...make bridges with the community."

Graves, who has been involved with the local gay community for over 15 years, met

with various spokespersons from lesbian and gay groups in Boston to promote favorable publicity about the center. He recently approached City Councillor David Scodras to encourage municipal support for the project; former Boston mayoral liaison Ann Maguire has also helped the center attempt to garner city funds. Graves said he is aware that some community groups may perceive the center as prohibitively mainstream due to these civic ties and a board membership that remains all-white and primarily middle-class. He stated that one of the board's priorities is to insure that the center emerges as a place of equal attractiveness to men and women of all colors, ages and income levels.

Graves said, "Honestly, at this point there's no reason that people of color should believe our intentions. But we want people to talk with us, let us know how we can be a center for the entire community. We want to do everything possible to keep it from being a place for only white, middle-class men."

Graves also stressed the board's desire to keep internal politics out of the center so that all people will envision it as a neutral, welcoming space. The board could not yet project a specific site or opening date for the center.

Graves mentioned familiarity with the controversy at New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center over its ongoing exclusion of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA). Graves offered no clear idea of what would happen if a similar situation ensued at the Boston center. He reiterated hope that the center would remain an open space reflecting the goal, as stated in the by-laws, of "assisting in the provision of health, education, social, cultural, and recreational services to Boston's lesbian and gay community."

*General membership meetings of the Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men are held monthly and open to all interested people. Call John Graves at 266-2069 for further information. □*

THROUGH NOVEMBER 25, 1987

# NEWSFRONT

## NEW REPORT ON HATE CRIMES

BY PETER FREIBERG

A federally commissioned report has concluded that "[h]omosexuals are probably the most frequent victims" of hate-motivated violence and are targeted for assault, verbal intimidation, and vandalism more often than are blacks, Hispanics, Southeast Asians, and Jews.

The study, which deals with bias crimes against minority groups and the response of the criminal justice system, was prepared by Abt Associates, a private consulting firm, for the National Institute of

The Response  
Of The  
Criminal  
Justice System  
To Bias Crime:  
An Exploratory  
Review

Peter Finn  
Taylor McNeil  
October 7, 1987



NCLIF's Kevin Heston hopes for government follow-up to study.

Justice (NIJ), a division of the Department of Justice. It amounts to the first confirmation in federal government literature of what gay organizations have been saying for several years: that violence against lesbians and gay men is a serious—and growing—national problem.

"I take it as an enormous affirmation of the value of the work we [in the gay community] have been doing," commented David Wertheimer, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. "It's a confirmation that the problem we've been talking about is as real as we've been saying it is, and finally people outside the gay community are admitting it. One of the most respected...

think tanks in the nation has stated that addressing antigay and antilebian violence should be a national priority. That's exciting."

Echoing gay community criticisms, the study declares that the vast majority of police departments and district attorney's offices around the country have failed to address the problem of hate-motivated violence. And in a key recommendation, the report suggests that excluding homosexuals from protection under bias crime legislation—as has occurred in many states—"either condones bias crimes against gays and lesbians or suggests it does not exist."

"Strategies are needed," the report



asserts, "that will encourage states to include gays and lesbians in their statutes."

The NJ could now decide to follow up on the study, formally called an "evaluatory review," with a more detailed investigation, known as an "issues and practices report." Some gay activists are concerned that the NJ may decide against commissioning a follow-up because of political pressure from right-wing officials in the Justice Department.

An NJ spokesperson would say only, "The report we have been given is under review, and we don't know what we will do about it in the future." He declared that the NJ, which was created to undertake research in the criminal justice field, "has no political orientation of any kind."

Kevin Berrill, Anti-Violence Project coordinator for the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), remarked, "I'm going to be optimistic.... I'm just hoping that now that they've determined there's an important problem, they're going to do the right things [and follow up]."

It was NGLTF that led the fight to convince the NJ to do the bias crime study in the first place. Berrill first met with NJ officials in June 1985 and subsequently asked various supportive members of Congress to write the NJ urging them to commission a study of antigay violence.

The agency's decision last spring to authorize a broad study of hate-motivated violence—including attacks on gays—is another indication that government is beginning to take hate crimes seriously and that antigay violence is starting to be seen as an integral part of the problem—two developments that the NJ report is likely to reinforce.

Recent government actions in the area of antigay violence include the following:

- In October, gays won a striking victory when the House Judiciary Committee rejected 22-11 an amendment to remove sexual orientation from a bill mandating the Justice Department to collect statistics on hate crimes based on race, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

The panel acted despite the contention of Rep. Patrick Swindell (R-Ga.) that including sexual orientation was "a subtle but significant step toward normalizing homosexuality." Oppenly, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), a member of the committee, called the vote on sexual orientation "encouraging" but asserted that the bill "is in trouble" in the full House for other reasons.

NGLTF, the American Psychological Assn., the American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups lobbied strong-

ly in favor of the bill, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and approved to a 21-13 vote.

- Also this fall, Gov. George Deukmejian (R-Calif.) signed legislation initiated by state Attorney General John Van de Kamp that raises penalties for crimes motivated by prejudice, including homophobia, and makes them felonies punishable by up to three years in prison.

The law also creates a new misdemeanor category prohibiting the use of force or threats to interfere with a person's constitutional right because of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, or sexual orientation. And it seeks to deter hate crimes by empowering prosecutors to seek temporary restraining orders when such actions are threatened.

- The Michigan state House voted overwhelmingly in October to approve a bill providing for longer prison sentences and larger damage awards in hate-motivated crimes, including attacks sparked by homophobia.

Initially the bill was introduced by Rep. David Honigsmann (D-West Bloomfield) without including sexual orientation, but he readily agreed to a request by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, a gay group, to add gays to the list of categories.

- Connecticut enacted a law this year requiring the state police to monitor, record, and classify all bias crimes. Police subsequently agreed to include sexual orientation when they start collecting statistics, making Connecticut the first state where gay-related hate crime statistics will be recorded by police.

Nevertheless, while more than a dozen states have some sort of hate crime legislation on the books, only California specifically includes sexual orientation in the wording of its statute.

In New York last summer, a bill similar to California's died when the leadership of the Republican-controlled state Senate refused to approve the inclusion of sexual orientation. In Maine, state legislators similarly opposed to putting sexual orientation in a hate crimes bill forced the removal of all stated categories (which, ironically, will give gays protection along with other minority groups). The Abt Associates report notes that attempts to enact bias crime laws that also cover gays have been defeated in Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington.

The report, which has not been formally released, also observes that bias crimes may be turning more violent, and it cites the "visibility of gay men" as one possi-



David Williams

ble reason for the increasing proportion of personal attacks as opposed to vandalism.

Only a handful of police and sheriff's departments make bias crime a priority. Boston and New York have bias units that expanded their jurisdiction to include antigay violence; San Francisco, meanwhile, makes "a concerted effort to address violence against gays" through the Mission District police station. Even fewer district attorney's offices, the report declared, are targeting bias crime.

The report states that there is a lack of accurate data about bias crimes and that most law enforcement agencies do not keep separate records of such offenses. It also notes that definitions of hate crimes vary widely. Peter Finn, who with Taylor McNeil wrote the report for Abt Associates, said the study's statement that gay men and lesbians are probably the most

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)



## HATE CRIMES

it CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

frequent victims of hate violence is based not on any scientific surveys—there are none—but on interviews with law enforcement officials, gay groups, and other organizations.

The report, however, reiterates the contention of gay organizations that bias crimes are underreported. "Many victims of bias crimes do not report incidents because they distrust the police, feel that the incident is too minor or that the police cannot do anything about it, have a language barrier, fear retaliation by the offender, or—in the case of gays and lesbians—fear public exposure," the report declares.

The document urges special training for police and prosecutors in handling cases of hate-motivated violence. The authors note, for example, that prosecutors must "learn how to deal with the 'homosexual panic' or 'gay advance' defense," in which defendants claim self-defense or temporary insanity in response to a sexual advance to win lenient sentences or acquittals when charged with assaulting or murdering gay men.

Whether the NIJ will move quickly to undertake a more in-depth investigation of the criminal justice system's response to hate crimes should be known within the next few weeks. In the meantime, the issue continues to be placed on various agendas.

In Wisconsin, state Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), speaker pro tem of the Assembly, recently introduced legislation to increase penalties for gay bashing and other crimes motivated by bigotry. New York's Anti-Violence Project, San Francisco's Community United Against Violence, and the Fenway Community Health Center's Gay and Lesbian Victim Recovery Program in Boston now receive government funding. And lobbying by NGLTF's Berrill and others has persuaded victim assistance organizations to include antigay violence in their work, which may make it more difficult for legislatures and law enforcement agencies to ignore the problem in the future.

"This is not just gay community propaganda," Berrill observed. "The fact is it is a problem, and to have that confirmation and validation [in the Abt Associates report] is indeed a victory. We really think that the NIJ deserves a lot of credit for taking this step... but... we hope and expect that they will not stop here." ■

## THE PINK TRIANGLE

During the horrors of the Holocaust scores of thousands of gays and lesbians perished as victims of the "final solution." Their sexual orientation was sufficient justification for their victimization. The pink triangle has taken on the meaning of their designated badge of shame. Today, as people of conscience struggle to restore the basic dignity of all persons, the pink triangle has taken on the meaning of determined remembrance. We must celebrate the joys of this holiday and dispel a new cloud of hysteria and fear over the gay community. Quarantine again is discussed. Let us celebrate a determination that all people have a world of peace, love, and freedom free of fear, poverty and discrimination.



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## '87 HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK FINAL REPORT

*Floats Okayed for Next  
Year's People Parade;*

*Houston May Adopt National  
Theme: Rightfully Proud.*

*HOBO Report Shows No  
Misallocation of Funds.*

HOUSTON — When Gay Pride Week '87 held its final meeting of the year last month, the hot topic was the treasurer's report. Was there money missing? Why hadn't HGLPC received its 10% of the profits?

Those were questions posed by Steve Shimer at a recent HGLPC meeting. The answers were provided by Jay Allen, president of the Houston Organization of Bar Owners (HOBO).

"There has been no misallocation of funds on the part of HOBO," said Allen. "In fact, HOBO lost \$26.04 on Gay Fest," his budget report showed.

Since there were no profits, there was obviously no 10% of profits to give to HGLPC, he explained.

Regarding the controversial subject of alleged missing money, the HOBO budget report showed that a \$3,500 donation from Budweiser was deposited to the Montrose Activity Center (MAC) account but never transferred to HOBO.

Ray Hill, chair of last summer's pride week event, explained that the reason the money was never transferred from MAC to HOBO was because it was all spent on parade permits, insurance, advertising, T-shirts, buttons and other expenses.

"We probably have only \$400 left in the MAC account after everything has been paid," stated Hill.

In response to a question posed by TWT NEWS concerning the status of the Marion Pantzer Reward Fund, Allen explained that all monies in that account, under the care of HOBO, have been recovered and that it is gaining interest in a certificate of deposit. "With interest, it's now worth about \$5,264," said Allen.

With last summer's budget report finalized, thoughts quickly turned to next summer's event. Members tentatively accepted the theme, "Rightfully Proud," proposed by co-chair Deborah Bell.


"Rightfully Proud" is the universal theme selected from a list of 35 proposals by all cities at the recent international pride conference in Canada, she explained.

Members also agreed that this year's pride parade would be held on the last Sunday in June and that floats would be welcomed in next year's People Parade.

But the float proposal carries three guidelines: 1) An entry fee will be charged float entrants, 2) No trophies will be awarded to winners since there will be no winners, and 3) No professionally-built floats will be allowed.

"We don't want float-building companies making money off of our parade," stated Bell. And by having no awards, all competition will be eliminated, thus eliminating the idea that businesses and clubs would be obligated to build homemade floats.

With the huge success of last year's People Parade, it was hoped that the same format would continue this year, allowing for a mix of some floats in the People Parade menu of entries.

Never before has Houston's pride week been so organized so far in advance as it appears to be for 1988. The next pride week meeting will be on the third Sunday in January. It's open to the public. 



JANUARY 1988

1987

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

PHOTO BY AP/WIDE WORLD



Terry Dolan: A leader of the New Right succumbs.

DECEMBER 1986

Todd Shuttleworth, a Florida man with AIDS who was fired from his job as a budget analyst by Broward County, accepts a settlement. National Gay Rights Advocates and Pacific Legal Foundation reach an agreement on the largest single financial settlement in the history of gay rights litigation: Pacific Bell agrees to pay \$3 million to settle the claims of individuals discriminated against solely because of their sexual orientation. The New Orleans City Council rejects an antidiscrimination measure. Plans to turn the Old West town of Rhyolite, Nevada, into a thriving gay city vanish after promoters of the project, led by the leadership of Fred Schoonmaker — are able to raise only \$2.25 million needed to purchase the site. New Right leader Terry Dolan, 36, dies of AIDS.

JANUARY 1987

In the wake of Vatican pronouncements against gay and lesbian churches of Dignity, the gay Catholic group, are evicted from their facilities. *The Body Politic*, a Canadian gay magazine, celebrates its 15 years of publication. Having abandoned his plans to turn the dusty ghost town of Rhyolite, Nevada, into a gay mecca, Fred Schoonmaker shifts his hopes to an abandoned ranch near the town of Winnemucca. San Francisco gay rights programming on PBS station KQED, call for a boycott of the station, a gay group files a \$7.5-million discrimination suit against the station newspaper for refusing to run its ad. Setting aside long self-imposed prohibitions, more than a dozen local television stations agree to accept condom ads.

FEBRUARY

Openly gay San Francisco supervisor Harry Britt launches a campaign to fill the congressional seat made vacant by the death of Burton. Mobilization Against AIDS calls off a threatened nationwide boycott of Delta Airlines after the carrier agrees to end discrimination against passengers with AIDS. A report prepared for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, New Jersey, proposes that the church develop liturgies "which recognize and bless" gay couples. Discredited Nebraska psychologist and noted homophobe Cameron asserts that producers of sexually explicit magazines should be required to pay a "genital photograph federal stamp tax." He also proposes a \$1,000 "homosexual nude activity tax."

## MARCH

More than 1,000 activists attend the 1987 National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Los Angeles; gay leaders express concern over the "mainstreaming" of AIDS service groups. Two days after Dignity/New York is evicted from Manhattan's St. Patrick's Cathedral, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the group may demonstrate outside the church during the annual gay pride parade. The White House admits that it discriminated against a gay employee, Killian Swift, who was fired from his job. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) forms in New York City; in its first major action, 17 protesters demanding the release of experimental AIDS drugs are arrested.

## APRIL

Openly gay San Francisco supervisor Harry Britt, running for Congress, narrowly loses to Democratic Party activist Nancy Pelosi. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo visits the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, where he proposes state regulation barring use of an HIV antibody test for health insurance. Dallas Gay Alliance president Bill Nelson finishes second in a three-man race for a city council seat. A Minnesota legislative committee rejects a bill to repeal the state's sodomy law. The Federal Communications Commission recommends criminal prosecution of Los Angeles radio station KPFK for "indecentcy" in airing excerpts from the gay play *Jerker*.

## MAY

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) comes out as gay. The Connecticut House of Representatives, in a tie vote, defeats a state gay rights bill. While President Reagan addresses an AIDS fund-raiser in Washington, D.C., several hundred people hold a vigil outside to protest his record on AIDS. Houston gay activists demand that the city's health commissioner make AIDS a top priority or resign. New Hampshire becomes the first state in the nation to prohibit gays from becoming foster or adoptive parents. San Francisco's last-remaining gay bathhouse, the 21st Street Baths, closes. The Danish Parliament votes to ban discrimination against homosexuals.

## JUNE

Sixty-four people are arrested at a civil disobedience sit-in on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., to protest federal inaction on AIDS. United Methodists set a trial for Rev. Rose Mary Demman for violating church laws prohibiting "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from the ministry. *The New York Times* agrees to use the word *gay*. Nearly 300 lawyers and law school academics sign a full-page ad in *The New York Times* deploring the 1986 U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding sodomy laws. A Cincinnati restaurant chain bars job discrimination against gays after a two-month boycott by a gay group. A federal appeals court rules that the FBI can reject gay job applicants.

## JULY

President Reagan appoints a national AIDS commission that includes one gay man — Dr. Frank Lilly — and several members who are homophobes. Gay businessman Ed Buck launches a recall campaign against right-wing, antigay Arizona governor Evan Mecham. The New York Senate kills a hate-crimes bill because it includes attacks based on sexual orientation. More than 600 people demonstrate in Philadelphia during the Constitution's bicentennial to call for a gay bill of rights. Long Beach, California, bans job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Fairness Fund, a national gay organization, initiates a campaign to encourage gay constituents to send Mailgrams to their congressional representatives by calling a toll-free 800 number.

## AUGUST

National Institutes of Health officials announce that the first experimental AIDS vaccine is ready for tests on humans. Northwest Airlines adopts a policy of refusing to transport people with AIDS, including an American with the disease who became ill while visiting China. After two AIDS activists challenge the rule, the airline withdraws its policy.



## SEPTEMBER

Pope John Paul II, during a visit to the United States, encounters vocal protests from gays criticizing the Catholic Church's stand on homosexuality. Contentious gays disrupt the first meeting of the President's commission on AIDS, protesting what they say is a panel stacked with antigay conservatives who have no experience on health issues.

## OCTOBER

The largest gathering of gays ever descends on the nation's capital to protest antigay discrimination and to demand increased funding to fight AIDS. Democratic presidential candidate Rev. Jesse Jackson addresses the crowd, which was estimated at between 200,000 and 650,000. A huge quilt memorializing nearly 2,000 people who died of AIDS is unveiled near the march site. Two days later more than 600 gays protesting the Supreme Court's decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which upheld state sodomy laws, are arrested on the steps of the Supreme Court building. The mass arrest is the largest since anti-Vietnam War protests in the '60s. Three days later the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives jolt gay rights lobbyists by overwhelmingly approving legislation to deny money for any AIDS education information that "promotes or encourages directly or indirectly" homosexual activity. The chairman and vice-chairman of the President's commission on AIDS resign, citing lack of support for the commission on the part of the White House.

## NOVEMBER

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals rules that Georgetown University, a Roman Catholic institution, must provide gay student groups with facilities and privileges equal to those given other campus organizations. An openly gay man, Cal Anderson, is appointed to fill a vacant seat in the Washington state legislature. A San Diego judge awards custody of 16-year-old Brian Batey to his late father's gay lover, Craig Corbett, even though the youngster's mother had also petitioned for custody. (Frank Batey, Brian's father, had died of AIDS in June.) The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which had been mired in a debt of more than \$100,000 only three years ago, announces that it has doubled its membership in the past year and proposes a record \$1.5-million budget for fiscal 1988.

# Rightf

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# LESBIAN AND GAY

SUNDAY, JUNE  
CAWTHRA SQUARE · 5  
PARADE · STREET DANCE · AUCTION

TORONTO MEN'S CHORUS · COL  
ARLENE MANTLE & THE SOCIAL LI  
DEMI/MONDE · THE CLICHE  
PETER McGEEREE · FIL

signed for the heart

You tuned to 90.1 and heard "ssssssssss":

KPFT — off the air since Wednesday!

Lightning struck and damaged the KPFT antenna (\$7,500 repairs), weakened components in the transmitter and caused it to set itself on fire Wednesday morning. TRANSMITTER IS BEING REPLACED (\$50,000). KPFT borrowed money (\$32,000) for a down payment on a new transmitter, but needs your help (\$\$\$\$). We should be back on-air with a new transmitter by the time you receive this. Please send \$ to:

KPFT Transmitter Fund

419 Lovett Blvd.

Houston, TX 77006

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
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This newsletter cost money to put together. Most of the materials are donated. If you would like to contribute to continue this letter or if you would like to be included on our mailing list or if your address is incorrect, fill out and return.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Call 713-529-1223 or  
return to following address:

Lesblan Gay Pride Week 1988  
c/o Montrose Activity Center  
Box 66684  
Houston, TX 77266-6684



next meeting for  
LESBAIN/GAY PRIDE 1988  
February 21, 1988  
6:00 PM, Dignity Center  
3217 Fannin

Lesbian/Gay Pride 1988 Agenda

- I. Discussion and Approval of Minutes of 01/17/88
- II. Logo design and marketing
- III. The Guide
- IV. Events Calendar
- V. Parade Discussion-Gay Fest 88 event
- VI. Additions to the agenda.

We need your input for this years event. How should this year differ from last year? How can we get more people and more organizations involved? If you cannot be there then write us or call us. This is not the committee event this is the community event and for us to do what the community want we need your input.

You can contact us at  
the following location:

To change your address or  
delete it from our file:

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week  
Box 66684  
Houston, TX 77266-6684  
713-529-1223

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## GLPW 1987

Friday	19	<u>Womynspace Dance</u>
Saturday	20	<u>GLSwitchboard</u>
Sunday	21	<u>Dignity Concert: Romanovsky and Phillips</u>
Monday	22	<u>Art Alliance</u>
Tuesday	23	<u>G&amp;L Film Festival\G&amp;L Prom</u>
Wednesday	24	<u>G&amp;L Film Festival</u>
Thursday	25	<u>Interfaith Alliance</u>
Friday	26	<u>Theater Night</u>
Saturday	27	<u>Gay/Lesbians Hispanics Unidos\Band Concert</u>
Sunday	28	<u>Gay Festival/PARADE</u>

## LGPW 1988

Friday	17	
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## A PIECE OF MY

## MIND

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GAY MOVEMENT (AND HOW TO FIX IT)

by LARS EIGNER



■ First, too many of us are too nice.

The theory of the current gay movement seems to be to present articulate, reasonable, and well-scrubbed men and women to the American public. Miss Manners tactics will give us the moral high ground and shame the majority into being kinder to us. Public indignation will rescue us.

Does anybody believe claptrap like that? Evidently so. That is exactly the basis of four of six points in "Waging Peace," a supposed battle plan for the gay movement (Marshall K. Kirk and Erastes Pill, *Christopher Street*, Issue 95).

History seems to suggest the nice-person approach can work. That is an illusion. When the oppressor must negotiate, he chooses to negotiate with the nice people, and the nice people get the Nobel prizes. But nice people win only when there are less-nice people on the scene.

Dr. King succeeded only because there were also a Huey Newton, a Black Panther Party, and a hell of a lot of angry people in the streets with torches. The British were impressed by Gandhi's humility only because otherwise they would have had to deal with far-less-humble people.

That is to take nothing away from Dr. King and Gandhi. A movement needs both carrots and sticks. We have plenty of carrots. We need more sticks.

Second, whales do not vote.

Gay people are in the minority. That is a fact. One way of achieving political results when you are in the minority is to form coalitions with other minorities. That is political reality.

*Lars Eigner is the author of Bayou Boy and Lavender Blue: How to Write and Sell Gay Men's Erotica. He lives in Austin, Texas.*

But coalitions are supposed to be two-way streets. The object is not to be on the good side of every good issue. The object is to secure gay rights.

The fallacy in a Gays to Save the Whales movement is that whales do not vote. You see plenty of Gays to Save the Whales banners at pro-whale rallies. You never see Whale Lovers to Save the Gays at pro-gay demonstrations.

It is the same story of no quid pro quo with the antinuke movement, the safe contraception movement, the pro-Sandinista movement (doesn't anyone remember what happened to gays under Castro?), and the holistic health movement (which seems to doubt that gay sex is organic). And, unfortunately, the same one-way street too often characterizes our relations with the black movement and the women's movement.

As individuals, gay people should support good things. But the organizational resources of the gay movement should be reserved for gay issues and for principled, two-way alliances. We must always ask, What is in it for gay people?

• Third, litigation is not a strategy.

When there is sufficient pro-gay sentiment, litigation can quickly wipe out old antigay laws that remain on the books only because of legislative inertia. But where antigay sentiment is strong and widespread, litigation is of little use. The result may even be bad, with rusty, old, unenforceable antigay laws being replaced by shiny, new, efficient ones.

Gay rights will be won only when expression of antigay sentiment by anyone, right or left, Republican or Democrat, is political suicide. Litigation cannot achieve that. Only nitty-gritty political work can.

• Fourth, AIDS is not a strategic issue.

I know it is hard to hear that message when so many of our best and brightest have been taken away from us by AIDS. But it is the truth, and it needs to be said.

If AIDS disappeared tomorrow, some of the new homophobic rhetoric would soften, but the centuries-old underlying homophobia of American institutions and culture would remain. Nothing in a cure for AIDS would lead to the extinction of homophobia.

But if homophobia disappeared tomorrow, the resources to care for PWAs and to prevent and cure AIDS would be promptly forthcoming.

The surgeon general is not our buddy. Neither are the state health departments nor the Centers for Disease Control. All such people are paid agents of the straight state. We absolutely must oppose all efforts of the state to gather information on the gay community and to provide for the incarceration of gay people under the guise of disease control, and we must make every effort to interfere with contact tracing and the apprehension of particular gay persons.

Did we learn nothing from the Nazi era? Did the gays who were killed in the Holocaust die in vain?

Certainly we must continue to try to care for PWAs and to urge the allocation of resources to find an AIDS vaccine. But we must always put our efforts in the principled context. Did promiscuity give AIDS a head start in the gay community? Well, then, what alternative to promiscuity did straight society provide? Isn't it homophobia that prevents wider dissemination of safe sex information? Then we ought to say so.

Finally, we must demolish the image of the gay victim.

Too often the message of the gay movement seems to be a variation on "hire the handicapped." When gays lobby their churches, "Gay is good" has often been replaced by "We can't help being gay."

In fact, no one knows why gay people are gay. No one can be certain that sexuality is beyond the reach of free will. When churches reply that celibacy is possible, the stupidity of the helplessly gay argument is revealed.

Whether people do choose to be gay or not, they ought to have the right to choose. The correct line is "Gay is good." Anything else is a cop-out.



## Editor's Notebook

## In Conclusion...

## At the Milliners

We're a strange community, aren't we? While our numbers are generally cited at 10 percent of the population—some remain in the closet, some spread themselves too thin, some come out socially but not politically—which produces a real "working body" of considerably less than 24 million gays and lesbians.

An interesting phenomenon has developed where conflicts of interest sometimes really mean differences of opinion. Some would like the world to be a nice simple place where people do specific things for example some do charity work and others do political work.

It is surprisingly naive to believe that the gay and lesbian nation will have roles that are that clear cut. Some of us choose, for noble and ignoble reasons, to be involved in several diverse causes, and that choice does create some problems.

It is sometimes called wearing different hats.

I have had several during the past two years and some people don't particularly care for the way I made my selections at the Millinery Shop I frequent. I am president of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association, news editor of this paper, and was on the executive committee of the LIFE lobby. The first two don't seem to present much of a conflict—they are both press related.

However, there are times when my publisher and I disagree on an issue. Fortunately, since he also wears more than one hat, we simply distinguish which hat it is that needs to be worn at a particular time. We then agree to disagree and get on with our work.

Another prime example. The publisher of the *San Francisco Sentinel* decided that the paper was going to endorse John Molinari for Mayor. His news editor favored Art Agnos. Oops! To Tom Golovich's credit, side-by-side endorsements appeared on the *Sentinel*'s pages each for a different candidate.

Wearing multiple hats is a necessity in our community. Since not all 24 million gays and lesbians participate actively in our struggle, those who have the time, energy, and wherewithal are needed to perform more than one task.

It becomes a question of talent and resources: We cannot afford to mis-use, dis-use or abuse those things that are becoming limited commodities within our nation. We must make the best use of every available resource if we are to survive until the 21st Century.

Everyone must make choices. And everyone should make carefully considered decisions about the work they do within the community. And the community should make thoughtful decisions about what it does before proceeding on a certain course of action.

Some people may not want to go to the hat shop at all, and that's fine. A few may choose only one millinery selection, and that's all right too. A very few will be real "shopaholics" and buy out the store. And that's ok.

But as individuals, let's not forget to respect one another's millinery.

Don L. Volk  
News Editor

Are You Abusing  
Your Child Without  
Knowing It?

1 in 10 sons is gay.

If he lets it show, he'll be humiliated, excluded, even attacked by his friends, maybe his family.

He did not choose the way he feels, but some will say he is "anti-family." Nobody will let him be himself.

So he will have to hide, from his friends, his family.

If you are teaching your children to hate Gays, you might be teaching one of them to hate himself.

That isn't right.

That's a form of emotional child abuse.

Alexandria Gay Community Association

People Helping Instead of Hating

Followed by the Association  
I want to help AGCA. A very real understanding about  
homosexuality and help you for the ad.  
11 \$25 12 \$40 13 \$100 14 \$200 15 \$400  
16 \$800 17 \$1600 18 \$3200 19 \$6400 20 \$12800

AGCA  
P.O. Box 10000 Alexandria, VA 22300

The Alexandria (Va.) Gay Community Association has contracted with *The Washington Post* for three quarter-page advertisements promoting the acceptance of gays. The first ad, shown above, ran in the paper's Dec. 14 edition. A future ad will criticize sodomy laws, and another will theorize on the discrimination poet Walt Whitman might face if he were alive today and his homosexuality were known. The ads cost about \$15,000 and were paid for with grant proceeds and private donations. Jay Clark, the group's president, said he hopes the ads will prompt people to think about the issue and encourage them to discard their prejudices about gays.



## A Message From the President

## PRO BONO: THE LAWYER'S RESPONSE TO A PUBLIC CALLING



John H. Bayly Jr., (left) president of the Legal Services Corporation, and President MacCrate at LSC headquarters, discussing legal services for the poor and LSC support for private bar pro bono efforts.

BY ROBERT MacCRATE

Nowhere do lawyers more clearly acknowledge that theirs is a "public calling" than in the volunteer work of the almost 100,000 lawyers who participate each year in some 500 organized pro bono programs for the poor in this country.

The willingness of offices funded by the federal Legal Services Corporation to share their expertise in poverty law with programs and volunteers of the private bar has been vital to the lawyers' pro bono movement. Included in this sharing has been the ABA's Private Bar Involvement Project which has assisted 180 bar associations to develop pro bono programs and to recruit and train volunteer lawyers.

Even so, it has been estimated that as much as 80 percent of the needs of the poor for civil legal services is still not being met.

In 1987 we face at least four areas in which the needs for legal services threaten to overwhelm existing pro bono programs.

### THE NEW IMMIGRATION LAW

The Immigration Reform and Control Act passed by Congress last year made possible a once-in-a-life-

time opportunity to obtain lawful residence for the almost 4 million individuals who came to the United States in search of a better life. The continuing prohibition on Legal Services Corporation assistance to most of these applicants has prompted various state and local bar associations to offer pro bono legal assistance. The ABA has created an Immigration Law Implementation Project to provide technical assistance and training materials to private bar programs and members willing to offer this vital assistance.

Yet, the vast majority of applicants have been without legal guidance and it is estimated that at least 70,000 of them will need legal assistance to file appeals when their applications are rejected. The door to this opportunity for lawful residence closes forever on May 4, 1988.

### INDIGENTS ON DEATH ROW

There is also a life-or-death need for legal services among indigent prisoners on death row. By statute, they too are denied assistance from LSC-funded programs. Most states have no system to assure access by the accused on death row to competent counsel in post-conviction hearings. The ABA's Post-Conviction Death Penalty Representation Proj-

ect is seeking urgently to recruit 200 additional volunteer attorneys. Without these volunteers, many will not have counsel. Approximately 330 death row inmates will be eligible to file federal habeas corpus petitions in the coming year, and a significant number also will be entering state court post-conviction proceedings.

### THE HOMELESS

There are an estimated 3 million impoverished souls today whose homes are the streets of America. Their numbers grow daily. Administrative benefits, public housing and social services on the federal, state and local level are available, but access almost invariably requires legal assistance. The ABA's Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section works with the National Coalition for the Homeless, striving to make legal services available—however, the need for pro bono volunteers in this area is acute and constantly growing.

### AIDS

The legal consequences of AIDS, a disease which most often strikes at those least equipped to deal with those consequences, are staggering. They reach into every aspect of the individual's life upon which law may touch. In August the ABA Board of Governors set a critical priority on the Association's AIDS Coordination Project. The need for volunteers is substantial and unmet.

These are four discrete areas in which the need for pro bono legal services is critical. There are many more. One element is common to each: a legal solution is required, and the service of a lawyer is vital to a just resolution. Lawyers occupy a special relationship to the public. They are in a real sense public servants and their profession a public calling. We cannot in America have laws which apply only to those who can afford a legal fee. In return for our special status at the bar, we owe a duty to see that the legal system functions for the common good. It fails, unless it provides justice for all.



THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

# Homosexuals Finding New Empathy

By JANE GROSS

Amid a tide of discrimination against homosexuals caused by the AIDS epidemic, gay men in New York City are beginning to discern a countervailing attitude — a new sense of openness and understanding on the part of some heterosexuals.

This backlash within a backlash, they say, seems to come largely from one stratum of society — well-educated, middle-class professionals. And it is encountered mainly in New York and San Francisco, the two large cities that have been a magnet for gay men and women for the last two decades.

In some areas of the country and among many groups, public fear over the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome has led to increased discrimination and even violence against homosexuals, according to various rights groups.

## Overtures of Friendliness

Nonetheless, in more than three dozen interviews here, gay men said they had detected new overtures of friendliness and hoped that the attitude could be the forerunner of a trend. Some saw it as a significant advance in the long march for equality that began with resistance to police raids upon gay bars in Greenwich Village two decades ago and the growth of the so-called gay liberation movement.

"I see a profound effort on the part of most straight people to understand us, to avoid offending us and to be fair," said one 39-year-old Greenwich Village man.

The attitude is hard to define, they say. It is not a matter of total acceptance — many heterosexuals are far from treating homosexuals as social equals. Instead, it seems to amount to a new sensitivity and attempts to be less discriminatory in behavior, if not always in attitude.

It is manifest in a variety of small ways. One gay man told of attending a reunion where a high school friend, until now silent on the subject, assured him that his homosexuality was no bar to their friendship. Another described dinners with a male heterosexual colleague, who no longer expressed nervousness that others in the restaurant might think him gay. A third man said he recently returned to the Lutheran Church, persuaded for the first time

since childhood that he would not be scorned.

Gay men speculate that the change has been caused by the extensive newspaper and television coverage of their lives because of the AIDS epidemic. The coverage has spread information about homosexuality in general and has also unveiled a terrible suffering that heterosexuals can empathize with.

At the same time, according to those interviewed, the epidemic has prompted a far wider range of people to stand up and be counted as homosexuals, many of them gray-flannel types who do not conform to the flamboyant stereotype and are therefore less alien to heterosexuals.

"Now to be gay is unusual, but it's not to be a freak," said Thomas B. Stoddard, the executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education

## The change is mainly among middle-class professionals.

Fund, the nation's largest group working for the civil rights of homosexuals.

Officials of groups that monitor human rights, confirming the anecdotal impression of gay men, noted that visibility often reduces broad-based prejudice against minority groups at the same time that it exaggerates extreme discrimination.

"One of the characteristics of oppression is that it is fueled by ignorance," said Katy Taylor, an official with the New York City Human Rights Commission. "People who are receptive to new information make changes. But there's also a set of people who feel more threatened."

According to Norman Dorsen, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union, most heterosexuals who become more familiar with homosexuals realize that the two groups share many traits and attitudes.

"Once we see that they are not 'other' in the fundamental sense," Mr. Dorsen said, "it becomes harder —

though not impossible — to discriminate against them."

In interviews, a number of heterosexual men and women here confirmed that they were reaching out to their gay colleagues, neighbors and friends, although most attributed it less to tolerance than to a willing sympathy for people staggered by disease and death.

"This is a community at real risk, in life and death terms," said Arthur Eisenberg, a lawyer. "That makes them more sympathetic."

Based on data from the Kinsey Institute, there are about 20 million homosexuals in the United States, with men outnumbering women, 3 to 1. About 750,000 gay men and women are thought to live in New York City, by far the largest gay population in the nation.

Not all the gay men interviewed welcomed the new warmth from heterosexuals, with some saying they felt pitied, not accepted. "It disturbs me to be so associated with disease," said one man.

Others who described themselves as radical called the change in attitude offensive, because it came only after gay men had transformed their once flamboyant lives into a replica of conventional heterosexuality, forgoing bars, bathhouses and multiple sex partners for monogamous couplings.

"The cost could be our soul and part of our heritage," said Martin Duberman, a 57-year-old professor of history at Lehman College. "I read that our community has 'matured' and I want to vomit. Under the leash of necessity we have curtailed our sexual conduct. But it is quite another thing to recede our history and declare it a mistake."

## In Social Life, Some Barriers Remain

Interviews with heterosexuals seem to bear out Mr. Duberman's belief that gay men have become more sympathetic because they are perceived to have toned down their sexual behavior. "In the days of the leather clubs," said one heterosexual man, there was the perception that all gay men were promiscuous. But now, he continued, "the focus is on human relationships and that's more like us."

Whether welcome or offensive, the more benign attitude has its limits, and



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Martin Duberman, left, a professor of history at Lehman College. Thomas B. Stoddard, right, director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

gay men and women still lead largely segregated social lives. Public displays of affection between same-sex couples are virtually unheard of except in certain corners of the city. And conversations between heterosexuals and homosexuals often have as many ellipses as words.

Mr. Stoddard said he is hesitant to walk hand in hand with a lover because of "fear of disapproval." This uneasiness is shared by a 36-year-old social worker who said he had difficulty going beyond "broad outlines" in talking with his heterosexual friends. "There's a fluidity, an ease in talking about your

social life and sex life that's part of heterosexual privilege," he said.

Heterosexual New Yorkers also spoke of this social separation and of their discomfort when the barrier is breached. A woman said she was embarrassed to be with a gay friend when he flirted with other men. A man said he felt similar twinges when he visited the apartment of gay neighbors and saw their double bed. Several people noted that they had many gay friends whom they spent time with one on one, but never in couples.

In all-gay settings, there is a different freedom. At a recent Carnegie Hall concert of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, for instance, men comfortably held hands or draped arms over each other's shoulders.

At the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a man described coming to work at the social service agency after a career in the school system. In this environment, he said, his lover's picture sits on his desk and public displays of affection are "accepted without a blink."

## Change Or Just

The sense of foreboding, which has been years of gradually increasing uneasiness — dis-  
New York of a gay ri-  
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would not let a gay man try on a pair of slacks; a gay marching band pelted with eggs; a young man roller skating on the Christopher Street pier whose skull was crushed by an assailant wielding a golf club.

But, many gay men perceive such behavior as the exception, not the rule. "There may be a few more intense incidents," said one 44-year-old who is involved in government. "But I'll bet my bottom dollar there are fewer kids from New Jersey driving around the Village in beat-up jalopies throwing beer cans and yelling 'Faggot.' Now the vast majority understands that to shun gay people is wrong."

Some of the gay people interviewed conceded that the shift may be more a matter of good manners than changed hearts and minds, but accepted that as a necessary first step. "It's better than antipathy," Mr. Stoddard said.

The change, those interviewed agree, has come with visibility. Hardly a day passes now without some mention of homosexuality in the press, and gay spokesmen regularly appear on popular television programs. "And they're not everybody's typical stereotype," said a gay marketing executive. "They don't talk in an affected manner or have limp wrists. They dress like quote-unquote normal people."

In addition, in an effort to clarify the methods of AIDS transmission, the vocabulary for discussing gay sexual practices has changed dramatically, with squeamish circumlocutions like "the exchange of bodily fluids" giving way to direct references to anal intercourse. "If you can't, or won't imagine such things, it puts gay people beyond the pale," Mr. Stoddard said. "It makes them ultimately unacceptable in the universe you inhabit."

### BLOOM COUNTY/by Berke Breathed



### BLOOM COUNTY/by Berke Breathed





in 10 some is gay.

he lets it show, he'll be  
humiliated, excluded, even attacked  
by his friends, maybe his family.

He did not choose the way he feels,  
but some will say he is "anti-  
family." Nobody will let him be  
himself.

So he will have to hide.  
From his friends, his family.

If you are teaching your children to  
hate Gays, you might be teaching  
one of them to hate himself.

That isn't right.

That's a form of emotional  
child abuse.

Alexandria Gay Community  
Association

*People Helping Instead of Hating*

Refused to say organization  
could no longer help AIDS. It was never understanding about  
commitment and help was not able to

1 825 11 510 11 1140 11 3210 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Tell me how I can help

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
111 Box 19004 Alexandria, VA 22110

Community Associa-  
The Washington Post  
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The first ad, shown  
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s about gays.

# AIDS, Marriage and Folly in Illinois

The Illinois Legislature and Gov. James Thompson have set an inglorious example of what not to do about AIDS. Ignoring the advice of their own and other public health authorities, they enacted a law last year that compels everyone getting married in Illinois to be tested for the AIDS virus. The classic results of this stubborn folly would be ludicrous were it not for the nuisance and dismay inflicted on so many people.

Since Jan. 1, when the law came into effect, the number of marriage applications in Cook County has plummeted 60 percent. The waiting time and cost of the tests — up to \$300 — have prompted hundreds of Illinois couples to get married in other states or not to marry at all.

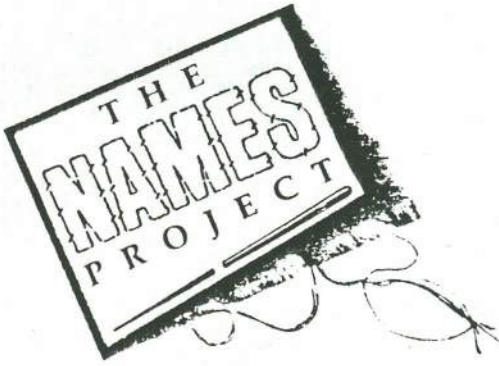
"If we find just 100 people that could have possibly infected another 100 people, it will have been worth it," says State Senator Beverly Fawell, sponsor of the Illinois bill. So far not a single applicant has tested positive for the AIDS virus.

That's no surprise. People getting married, who are unlikely to be homosexual or particularly prone to drug abuse, are among the least likely to be infected. In addition, screening a population at low

risk for a disease, even with a highly accurate test, produces an unacceptable share of false positives. If Illinois should ever find 100 marriages in which one partner who test positive by both AIDS tests, only one-third of them would have been falsely diagnosed.

Dr. Bernard Turnock, Mr. Thompson's health chief, said last year that the law was ineffective and would rob funds from more effective programs. Dr. Renslow Sherer, chairman of the state's advisory committee on AIDS, warned that the law would cause needless anxiety and fear among people wrongly diagnosed. Of the fall in marriages, Dr. Sherer now notes that "one way to limit AIDS is faithful monogamy. We have a system that discourages that."

Health officials seeking to control the disease have made their practical needs clear: universal voluntary testing of people at high risk, and politicians impose mandatory testing of people at risk? Perhaps because they think it is too bold. Instead, the Illinois experience suggests Governor Thompson look rash. For his remedy is to admit error and lead the charge for repeal. Other governors can learn from his



A National  
AIDS Memorial

Post Office Box 14573  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 863-5511

Cleve Jones  
Executive Director

Michael Smith  
General Manager

Dallas		May 3	May 6
Houston		May 6	May 10
New Orleans		May 10	May 16

# Survey Finds Wide AIDS Ignorance

ATLANTA, Jan. 29 (AP) — A new survey has found widespread misinformation about AIDS, with 26 percent of the respondents thinking they would probably get the disease from giving blood and 36 percent believing they could get AIDS by eating at a restaurant where the cook has it.

"There continues to be a great deal of uncertainty about the causes of AIDS," the National Center for Health Statistics said in a report distributed this week by its parent agency, the Centers for Disease Control here.

Some of the misinformation may be because the public has not been given enough detailed information to be convincing. If we want people to believe they can't be infected by casual contact "we have to start giving them some technical information about why it can't happen," said Dr. Deborah Dawson, a researcher who worked on the survey report.

Other researchers said, "For the

most part, the lowest levels of general knowledge are found among adults 50 years of age and over."

This confirms the self-assessment of that age group, 54 percent of whom said they knew little or nothing about the deadly disease. Over all, 63 percent said they knew "some" or "a lot."

The report describes responses to a survey conducted September among a random sample of 3,097 Americans over the age of 18. The survey has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus two percentage points.

More than 99 percent knew of the existence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Still some respondents said they had never heard of the disease that has struck more than 51,000 Americans and killed more than 28,000.

Eighty-six percent of the respondents knew that there was no known cure for AIDS, 78 percent knew anyone with the virus could transmit it through sexual intercourse and 73 percent knew

that an infected pregnant woman could infect her baby.

Each of those responses was three to four percentage points higher than a survey conducted in August.

## Signs of Increased Knowledge

"There are signs that the U.S. public's knowledge about AIDS increased slightly," the National Center for Health Statistics said. "There were small but significant increases in the proportions of adults answering correctly."

Ninety-four percent of the respondents said it was "very likely" that a person would get AIDS through sexual intercourse with an infected person, and 93 percent said it was "very likely" that a person would get it through sharing drug needles with an infected person. Those are the two chief modes of transmission.

But the center reported that the level of misinformation about other modes of transmission, particularly from casual contact, "continues to be high."

Twenty-six percent said it was somewhat or very likely that someone would contract AIDS from donating blood. That is a misconception the American Red Cross and other agencies have fought hard to defeat, pointing out that sterile equipment is used in blood donations and that a donor comes in contact only with his own blood.

## Misconceptions on Transmission

Thirty-six percent thought it very likely or somewhat likely that a person would get AIDS from eating at a restaurant where the cook had AIDS. 18 percent believed working near an AIDS patient was a threat and 69 percent said kissing with saliva exchanged was likely to transmit the disease.

AIDS experts say the disease was not spread through casual contact, and while transmission by exchange of saliva in kissing was theoretically possible, it had never been reported.

Thirty-five percent in the survey said the disease was likely to be transmitted by mosquitoes or other insects, another assertion that experts dispute.

In a more personal question, 7 percent said they had known a person with AIDS.

The C.D.C. estimates that 1 million to 1.5 million Americans have been infected with the AIDS virus, and of that total, 20 percent to 30 percent will develop AIDS by the end of 1991.

The disease, caused by a virus that destroys the immune system, has struck most often among homosexual men and injectable drug abusers.





# Ladyslipper Catalog

◆ and Resource Guide ◆

## 1988

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by  
Women

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FOR 1988 LESBIAN GAY PRIDE WEEK



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