

Of the Klan and Spokane.

Gays and lesbians in Tennessee were part of an impromptu demonstration against the Ku Klux Klan last month. The protest was fueled by an interview in Nashville's daily newspaper, the *Tennessean*, which quoted a Klan leader as saying that "AIDS was a miracle from God." The gay protestors were part of a larger demonstration against the Klan, but local leaders said the gay presence was the first public protest by gays and lesbians in the Nashville area, according to the *Sentinel*.

Protests against the Klan may become necessary in the Northwest, as Klan leaders move west. Illinois Klan leader Kim Bodynsi has moved to Spokane, where he is presently recruiting members for a white supremacist group. Aryan supremacist Richard Butler has announced plans to relocate to the Oregon coast.

A June police raid on a public restroom



between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene has generated controversy in the area's gay community, and has provoked strong reactions from the public.

According to the *Seattle Gay News*, area gay activists have largely sought to distance themselves from the eleven men arrested at the rest area, by making a distinction between men who engage in public sex with other men and gay people. Most of the men arrested, including the superintendent of a local school district, are married and have families. "Those people [the men arrested] are sexual deviants, and we can't afford to have them in the community," a gay leader stated to the *Spokesman Review/Spokane Chronicle*.

Despite the fact that most of the men arrested were family men, the incident has led to increased gay phobia.

"Crimes of hate" investigator urged

A Los Angeles City Councilmember has called for a full-time city attorney to investigate and prosecute "crimes of hate." According to a statement issued by Councilman Michael Woo, \$44,787 should be allocated to fund the position, the sole responsibility of which would be to investigate crimes committed due to hatred or prejudice based on race, creed, national origin, sex, or sexual orientation. The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission has reported a 346 percent increase of "hate crimes" in the past year, according to *Frontiers*.

The best revenge may be Pope soap-on-a-rope

Pope John Paul II will spend four days in California this month on an official pastoral visit. His welcome will be somewhat short of unanimous, since a consortium of feminists,



Jews, gay activists, union organizers, and alternative spiritualists are preparing to protest his presence. The Pope has reaffirmed traditional Catholic positions against abortion, women's rights, contraception, divorce, gays, and has spoken for the political status quo. Last year the Pope issued a position paper on homosexuality that identified gay love as an "intrinsic evil" and an "objective disorder."

Religious and political groups are staging major protests for the Pope's visits to Los Angeles and San Francisco. However, organized protests are not the only form of response to the Pope's visit. American capitalism may demean and cheapen the visit more successfully than any political action. A columnist for the *Miami Herald* reports on the burgeoning business in Pope-mania: in Detroit, the faithful can buy a Pope water sprinkler called "Let us spray"; in California, post cards are available with a picture of the Pope and Clint Eastwood, with the caption, "Thou hast made my day"; Marvel Comics is issuing a 64-page comic book on the life of John-Paul.

The degree of present antipathy to the Pope was apparent in recent correspondence to the *Village Voice* regarding the Pope's meeting with Kurt Waldheim, alleged former Nazi and present Austrian president. According to one correspondent, the issue is not simply the Pope meeting with a Nazi. Rather, "considering this Pope's reactionary policies in the 1980s (his opposition to women's rights, gay rights, divorce, etc.), I object to Waldheim meeting the Pope."

In passing

Arthur Bressan, a filmmaker and gay activist, died recently in New York of complications associated with AIDS. *Buddies*, Bressan's 1985 film about a PWA and a volunteer "buddy," was screened at last year's Gay/Lesbian Film Festival at the Northwest Film and Video Center. Bressan had produced 25 films, including *Thank You, Mr. President*, for which he received a Peabody Award. Bressan was 44.

Dr. Thomas Waddell, athlete and physician, in July died of AIDS complications in San Francisco. Waddell was the founder of the Gay Games, and had been an Olympic decathlon athlete in 1968. Just before Waddell's death, the US Supreme Court ruled that the International Olympic Committee could bar organizers from using the term "Gay Olympics," the name Waddell originally used in promoting the Gay Games. Waddell was 49.

Eagle Forum helps boot women

Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum was instrumental in the ouster of five female professors and one staff woman in the Women's Studies department at University of California, Long Beach. Action against the women was prompted by investigations into academic content of courses offered by the department, and into the lives of the women, by the Eagle Forum and a local evangelical church. The attorney for the women claims that the faculty was being "purged" of suspected "radical feminists," by which the religious groups meant lesbians. The director of the University's women's center was also fired when she refused to allow distribution of anti-ERA and anti-abortion materials, according to the *Gay Community News*.

Schlafly recently issued a position piece on

AIDS in Eagle Forum's July newsletter. Called "AIDS: the Challenge and a Plan of Action," it demands mandatory testing and reporting of test results, criminal penalties for anyone transmitting the disease, and the instituting of "value-driven" sex education in public schools. Schlafly claims that the Eagle Forum has "achieved most of our goals in the Illinois legislature" (the Eagle Forum is based in Illinois). Her letter ends with an appeal for money, according to the *Windy City Times*.

Neighbors force closure of D.C. AIDS home

A Washington D.C. Catholic home for people with AIDS has been charged with operating in violation of city zoning codes, after neighborhood residents filed complaints ac-

cording to the *Washington Blade*. Mother Teresa's Gifts of Peace Home which had been in operation since last November, provided a supervised living space for homeless PWAs. However, the D.C. Board of zoning adjustment voted unanimously that the home must now be licensed as a health care unit and meet strict medical guidelines. Zoning officials had previously held that the facility was not a health care unit, since no medical services were offered, and the nuns who staff the facility were not nurses.

However, residents successfully lobbied the zoning commission to reverse itself. One neighborhood activist said, "The medical professionals can give this neighborhood no valid assurances that AIDS is a non-transmissible disease, and, besides, homosexual and heterosexual rape of children does occur."



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