

Just news

You should march

If you have decided not to march on Washington, please read this

BY STEVE WARREN

A random check with friends around the country indicates a hell of a lot of us will be marching in Washington on October 11. "I've been asking around, and I'm surprised how many of the people I know are going," said a Los Angeleno, echoing my experience in San Francisco.

It won't be just the usual crowd that will go anywhere to march for anything. There's more at stake this time, and for those of us who have felt frustrated at not being able to do anything, this has become the thing we can do.

If you're still not convinced, see if you fit into any of the following categories:

If you were going to write a letter to this publication but were afraid to sign your name, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you recognize more people in *Newsweek's* "Faces of AIDS" article than on Reagan's AIDS Commission, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you don't want to spend the rest of your life in a concentration camp, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If the movies have shown you how the Vietnam War was fought but you don't remember how it ended, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If a carload of teenagers has ever called you "faggot" or "dyke," YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you can't afford to go to Washington be-

cause you've settled for a menial job where your being lesbian or gay doesn't matter, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If your lover is dying of AIDS and a lawyer has told you you won't be able to fight his family, even for property you bought together, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you've never been in a crowd of a quarter-million gays, lesbians and our friends, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you're prohibited from having — or seeing — a child of your own, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If your gender or color keeps you from enjoying first-class American citizenship, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you're not proud of who and what you are, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you're mad as hell and you're not going to take it anymore, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If your sexuality is having a negative legal or emotional impact on you, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you've added the name of a loved one to the quilt the Names Project will unveil in Washington, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

If you think columns like this are full of shit, YOU SHOULD MARCH.

This list barely scratches the surface. If you haven't found yourself on it and can't think of any other reasons, YOU SHOULD MARCH because the other 249,999 of us need your support.

Gay man awarded custody of lover's son

Brian Batey chooses to stay with his father's lover

BY DELL RICHARDS

The gay lover of Palm Springs resident, Frank Batey, who died of AIDS complications in June, has been granted temporary custody of Batey's 16-year-old son.

The court order places teenager, Brian Batey, in the guardianship of Craig Corbett, 49.

Although a gag order has been placed on the custody case, news of the ruling by San Diego Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell was confirmed.

A hearing on permanent custody is scheduled for Oct. 2.

The temporary ruling was viewed by some observers as a harbinger of what could become a landmark case. The court chose Corbett over Brian's natural mother, Betty Lou Batey, a fundamentalist Christian.

The July ruling marked the latest twist in a bitter custody fight that has raged for five years.

The battle began in 1982 when Frank Batey, who worked as a writer, was awarded custody of his son.

That decision infuriated Batey's ex-wife, who used religious talk shows to raise money and launch a nationwide effort to lobby for Brian's return.

At one point, Betty Lou resorted to more drastic measures. She kidnapped Brian and was on the run for 19 months before surrendering herself and the boy to authorities.

She was acquitted of child-stealing charges stemming from that incident, however.

After Frank Batey died in June, Brian was again caught in a tug-of-war custody bout, even though the boy had lived with his father and Corbett for 12 years.

Despite pressures from his mother to live with her, Brian told authorities that he wanted to remain in Palm Springs with Corbett.

In awarding Corbett temporary custody, Judge McConnell undoubtedly took the sixteen-year old's wishes into consideration.

"I am really proud of Brian for taking and making a stand," Corbett said in an interview. "If he didn't, it would be the end of his education and the end of the choices Frank worked so hard to give him."

Ed. note: For those who might be confused (and to satisfy the worrywarts in our office), these are not the people who were featured in last month's issue.

NAMBLA calls for contributions for Anthology on Man/Boy Love

The North American Man/boy Love Association is calling for articles, stories, and poems for the eighth edition of the *NAMBLA Journal*, due to be published in 1988. The *Journal* is an occasional publication dealing in depth with issues surrounding gay intergenerational sex. The theme of the eighth edition, which will be published in book form, is how has man/boy love come to be considered

a specific form of sexual expression? How has it been considered in different historical class, ethnic, and cultural contexts?

NAMBLA hopes that the *Journal* will contribute to an understanding of the diversity of man/boy relationships, and provide a form for boys and men to speak in their own voices about a form of sexuality which others presume to define according to their own preconceptions and prejudice.

Submissions are due by January 15, 1988, and publication is expected to occur in spring or fall 1988. To get more information, suggest a proposal or submit a contribution, write *NAMBLA Journal*, 537 Jones St., No. 8418, San Francisco, CA 94102.



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