

Just news

Between the lines

Homophobia in Parade; Washington's two-front war on AIDS; resolutions for life.

B Y J A C K R I L E Y

"Parade" marches to a straight drummer

Parade magazine should be congratulated for reminding us, as we count down the final 12 years to the new century, that blatant defamation of gays by mainstream media in America is as mean-spirited as ever.

Parade magazine is the Sunday newspaper supplement that wraps patriotic Americana stories around full-page ads hawking \$9.95, 24-karat gold-plated teddy bear pendants. If it weren't for the fact that Parade is ogled by millions of readers every Sunday morning, a slur against gays wouldn't be worth mentioning.

In a recent story on the 1950s, a writer matter-of-factly stated, "The '50s, viewed through the rosy prism of nostalgia, were the good old days. We were the greatest military power in the world. . . . Our children did not smoke crack or swallow Quaaludes. We had never heard of AIDS. Homosexuals stayed in the closet, not on the front pages."

For a moment I flashed: "Negroes stayed in the back of the bus, not on the front pages. . . ."

Sworn to protect and serve — jaywalking tickets

It was a dark and stormy night: it was raining like hell. So, when the three of us quickly stepped across Stark Street, we didn't expect to get nailed for jaywalking. The selective enforcement of such laws — at \$36 a ticket and with a 20-minute wait in the cold rain for a background check — in a city awash with crime left a bad taste in our mouths.

Moral: don't jaywalk on Stark Street. Unless you're leaving Jake's.

Officials brace for patient increase

An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Washingtonians are infected with the AIDS virus. Although most do not show signs of the disease, health-care officials in Seattle say a third are expected eventually to develop AIDS.

Since 1982, 633 cases have been recorded in Washington. So far, officials have been able to meet the inpatient demand and are attempting to meet the outpatient demand. But a redefinition of AIDS cases to include AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) will explode the number of reported cases.

The Governor's Task Force on AIDS estimates that under the new definition by 1991 4,771 AIDS cases will have been reported in the state; epidemiologists estimate that at least 1,500 people in Seattle will have AIDS.

In King County, where 80 percent of the state's AIDS patients live, health department officials are reviewing plans for a long-term AIDS care facility to include hospice and nursing sections. Meanwhile, the Northwest AIDS Foundation is developing small, private group homes for patients.

"Must teach morality and patriotism"

That's what Washington State Code 28A.67.110-1969 requires and that's what is being violated when teachers mention homosexual viewpoints in classrooms, according to a

member of the Governor's Task Force on AIDS.

The issue came to light during an AIDS education workshop for teachers and public officials that was sponsored by the Washington state superintendent of public instruction.

Cathy Mickels of Lynden, a member of the Governor's Task Force, called the workshop an "outrage and a violation of constitutional rights" because information was distributed concerning human rights and discriminatory practices against homosexuals.

In a letter to *The Bellingham Herald*, Mickels said she also objected to discussion of condom use as an alternative to abstinence.

"I'd like to know who gave these speakers the right to violate the law and propagate the political viewpoint of homosexuals to our teachers, who in turn are expected and encouraged to spread this information to our children?" she asked.

Well, you can't say that Governor Gardner's Task Force on AIDS is a one-sided group. . . .

New Year and a new beginning

RESOLVE to stop feeling sorry for people with AIDS and ARC and to start doing something about it. A donation of food, clothing, housewares, money or volunteer time to one of the groups caring for our sick will make you — and them — feel much better in 1988.

RESOLVE to persuade yourself and your friends to dump recreational drugs. There is a growing body of evidence that drug use accelerates the onset of full-blown AIDS in those who are infected with the virus. The longer one fights off the disease, the better the possibility that one can survive once a cure is found — if a cure is found.

RESOLVE to demand that every politician or would-be politician who solicits your vote explain his or her stand on the issue of human rights for gays. Don't support anyone who will not openly endorse the right of gays and lesbians to equal protections in employment, housing, insurance and medical treatment. •

Lesbian entrepreneurs

The new entrepreneurs' group is intended to bring women together for exchange of ideas relating to their businesses.

B Y H O L L Y H A R T

Entrepreneurs are people who start things! And 1988 is the year for Portland-area lesbian entrepreneurs to start their own organization. The cliché says that it's lonely at the top, particularly if you are single. The reality is that women who run their own businesses benefit from networking with other women who not only share the same management problems, but whose strengths of initiative, ideas, energy and know-how are similar as well.

Most lesbian-run businesses are directed at the general public rather than at a predominantly lesbian and gay clientele. At a planning session for the new group the diversity of fields was shown by the presence of an analytical chemist, a floral designer, a jewelry designer, a restaurant manager and a lawyer.

The group will differ from the Portland Professional Organization for Women (PPOW) in that PPOW is primarily a social organization providing dances, parties and outings for its members.

As with any new organization, its purpose

will become better defined as more women join and indicate their interests.

One project that has gained support is an annual autumn lesbian business fair where women can showcase their art, crafts and services as well as their retail and wholesale outlets. Not only will this generate business for lesbian-owned enterprises, but it can give all lesbians a source of pride and strength and reinforce awareness that lesbians are truly represented throughout the economy and society.

The entrepreneurs' organization can also serve as a resource to non-profit groups serving the lesbian community by identifying women with business and professional experience who can advise the groups on particular projects. A forerunner to the entrepreneurs' group was the committee of restaurant owners and managers who met last spring to advise the Lesbian Community Project on a plan to establish a cafe within a lesbian community center.

The entrepreneurs' organization will hold its next meeting at 11 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, at 13165 SW Ash, Tigard. Call 639-0826 for directions and more information. •



A WOMAN'S PLACE

14 Day Clearance Sale

20% off

(All items except consignment items, tickets, and special orders)

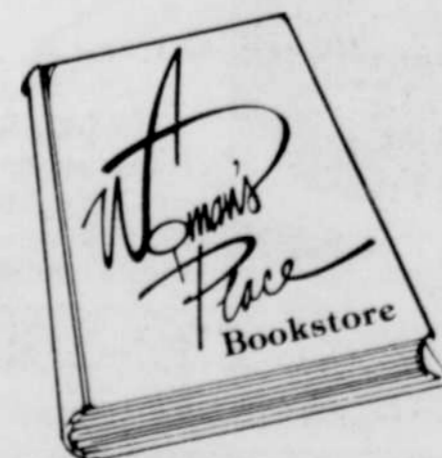
Jan. 2 to Jan. 15

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP FORMING

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

First book, *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
Help choose future titles and meeting days.

MOMS — Look for information in January about our weekly children's reading hour.



A Feminist
Bookstore
& More

1431 N.E. Broadway
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 284-1110

Mon.-Sat. 11-7
Sunday 12-5

Healthway
Vitamin & Food Center
"PORTLAND'S MOST UNIQUE FOOD STORE — OVER 5000 ITEMS"

DOWNTOWN LUNCH SPECIAL \$2.25

INCLUDES A CUP OF FRESHLY MADE SOUP, 1/2 TUNA SANDWICH WITH SPROUTS, TOMATO & WHOLE WHEAT BREAD — AND A HANDFUL OF OREGON-MADE TORTILLA CHIPS, TOO!

(DOWNTOWN LOCATION ONLY)

AVAILABLE MON-FRI
11 AM-3:30 PM
524 SW 5TH

(BETWEEN WASHINGTON & ALDER)