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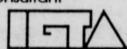


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# national briefs

ATLANTA: Seven hundred ACT UPers from 30 states protested at the Centers for Disease Control Dec. 3, demanding that the CDC expand its list of AIDS opportunistic infections (OI) to include OI's that strike women more often than men. The activists say that the 'sexist' nature of the OI list often leaves women with AIDS unable to qualify for social security and other benefits. Similar protests were held around the country Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. CDC and World Health Organization officials say they do not believe that women with AIDS develop distinct AIDS-related infections.

BOSTON: The North American Man/Boy Love Association held its 14th annual conference Nov. 9-11 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Organizers praised the center for its "courageous decision" to let the group use its building, noting that an identical request last year was denied by the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

CHEVY CHASE, MD: C. Boyden Gray, counsel to President Bush, used the word 'fag' during a speech Nov. 1 at the Montgomery County Republican Club. During comments about the S & L crisis, Gray said that former House Speaker Jim Wright had spread rumors that a Federal Home Loan Bank Board examiner "was a fag." Write Gray at The White House, West Wing, Second Floor, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; or call (202) 456-2632. GLAAD also requests calls to the White House Media Relations office, which had "no comment" on the incident, (202) 456-7150.

CHICAGO: Same-sex couples from Queer Nation and Citizens for Gay Action spent three hours at the Cook County Marriage License Bureau Nov. 23 repeatedly demanding that clerks issue them marriage licenses. The clerks said no, but activists scored a media coup, attracting nearly every news organization in the city. The protestors handed out flyers to heterosexual couples. "Did you know that lesbians and gay men are denied the privileges associated with heterosexual marriage in every state of the union?" the flyer asked. "Denied insurance rights,"

DALLAS: GLAAD has convinced *The Dallas Morning News* to consider openly gay and lesbian students for its summer internship program. Journalism students should apply before the end of January. Send a cover letter, résumé and six clippings (both news and opinion writing) to Bob Mong and Paula LaRocq, *The Dallas Morning News*, P.O. Box 655237, Dallas, TX 75265.

Oct. 14 increased penalties for those who commit crimes against people or property because they dislike another's sexual orientation. It is the first pro-gay law ever passed in Kentucky. Opponents argued that the law encourages a "homosexual lifestyle" and Attorney General Fred Cowan labeled it as "unconstitutional." Aldermen were unswayed.

NEW YORK: The United Nations will hear the International Lesbian and Gay Association's application for Non-Governmental Organization status Jan. 21. ILGA will be represented by secretaries general Lisa Power of England and John Clark of Australia, and by NGLTF head Urvashi Vaid. Activists are concerned that the UN committee that will consider the application includes representatives from Cuba, the USSR, Chile, Bulgaria and Iraq—nations which are opposed to gay liberation. ILGA asks that individuals not lobby these nations without prior consultation with ILGA. Power's direct-dial telephone number is 011 44 71 515 8703; Clark's number is 011 43 1 505 5987.

NEW YORK: MTV banned Madonna's new "Justify My Love" video, which reportedly includes bisexuality, cross-dressing and mild sadomasochism. Madonna responded, "Why is it that people are willing to go to a movie and watch someone get blown to bits for no reason and nobody wants to see two girls kissing or two men snuggling?"

NEW YORK: GLAAD says Geraldo Rivera recently did a program on "Rape, Racism and Hate Crimes on Campus" without mentioning the most violently attacked community in America—gays. "Aren't you sick of this?" GLAAD asks. Investigators News Group, 311 W. 43 St.-Penthouse, New York, NY 10036, (212) 265-8520.

NEW YORK: GLAAD has set up a computer network, GLAAD-Net, "to facilitate national activism against anti-gay bigotry by allowing for increased and more efficient information sharing." It will operate under the auspices of GayCom, a national network of gay computer bulletin-board systems or BBS's. There is no connect charge; modems should be set to 1200 or 2400 baud, N-8-1. The number is (718) 849-1614 or the nearest GayCom node. Callers should type "GLAAD" as their first name and "INFO" as their second name. If the local BBS requires a password, type "GLAAD."

NEW YORK: The ACLU, AIDS Action Council, and American Foundation for AIDS Research offer a new pamphlet entitled The Americans With Disabilities Act: What It Means For People Living With AIDS. The organizations will also offer in-service programs to train AIDS workers about the ADA, which extended disabled federal protection against discrimination in employment and public accommodations. ADA Eduction Project, ACLU, 132 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036.

SAN DIEGO: A former FBI agent who says he was fired for being gay is seeking other such former agents for a class-action lawsuit against the agency. Frank Buttino is the first gay agent to challenge the FBI on the issue of sexual-orientation discrimination. Buttino may be reached at P.O. Box 179142, San Diego, CA 92177.

WASHINGTON, DC: Poppers, the liquid substance some gay men sniff during sex or while dancing, will become illegal Feb. 27, reports the news service operated by journalist Keith Clark. The ban was included in the Omnibus Bill of 1990, which was signed by President Bush on Nov. 29. Some AIDS activists believe poppers contribute to the development of Kaposi's sarcoma among people with AIDS and/or damage the immune system in general, but this has never been proved. It was anti-poppers gay and AIDS activists who led the drive to make the substance illegal.

WASHINGTON, DC: A report from the U.S. Justice Department indicates that eight percent of incidents reported to the new national hate-crimes hotline involved attacks motivated by hatred of homosexuals, reports the Blade. The free hotline was created after President Bush signed into law the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Phone 1 (800) 347-HATE. You don't have to give your name or other identifying information, but be prepared to provide details on the attackers, what kind of injury or property damage occurred, the method of the attack, whether it was reported to police, and the date, time and location of the incident.