

national briefs

Love Bites

This book featuring erotic lesbian photographs has been released by US Customs. Nobody is quite sure why—rumor has it a woman made the decision.

K.C. Mayor affirms gay and lesbian pride

Kansas City, Missouri—An estimated crowd of 4,000 people greeted Mayor Emanuel Cleaver in Southmoreland Park at the June 22 Pride Week picnic. Cleaver's appearance at the event culminated several weeks of anxiety and agitation which began when Gay and Lesbian Awareness, which organizes Kansas City's Pride activities, requested a Mayoral proclamation recognizing Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. Although the mayor ultimately declined to issue a formal proclamation, he not only attended the picnic but came bearing gifts. During his remarks to the crowd, Cleaver introduced Linda May and Keith Spare as liaisons to the Mayor's office for the gay and lesbian community, and announced the formation of a Commission on Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

Newspaper to continue despite controversy

A series of anti-homophobia educational ads produced by the Los Angeles-based Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project will continue in a Washington state newspaper despite a threatened boycott from some advertisers and subscribers.

Officials at the Tacoma *Morning News Tribune* said the educational series, which is being published as a public service, will continue because the negative reaction from publication of the first ad is proof that they are needed.

Heartland stops publishing

The Indianapolis-based gay and lesbian newspaper *Heartland* published its last issue in late June.

Editor James Jackson said the two-year-old publication had not attracted enough advertisers and was unable to lure professionals to work for an openly gay business.

Heartland was unique in that it claimed saturation distribution across an eight-state area.

Apart from *The Advocate*, that had never happened—or been attempted—before.

Heartland's editorial page frequently featured letters from readers in small Midwestern cities who were aghast to learn of all that was happening in the gay movement nationally and internationally.

The newspaper had a strong commitment to international news, in large part through subscription to the Chicago-based *Outlines News Service*.

Previous gay newspapers published in Indianapolis focused mainly on bar news and community gossip. The last of those, *The New Works News*, recently ceased publication when its publisher died of AIDS complications.

The farewell issue of *Heartland* contained several pages of moving obituaries for the newspaper written by staff and contributors.

Rex Wockner

Gay Peace Corps group forming

A nation-wide group of lesbian and gay former Peace Corps Volunteers is being organized for the first time in the Peace Corps' 30-year history. The group's first activities will coincide with Peace Corps' 30th Anniversary Celebration, August 1-4, which is expected to bring more than 10,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, to the nation's capital.

Anyone interested in getting information about the group's activities should write: D. Tickner, PO Box 65874, Washington, D.C. 20035 or phone Cynthia at (202) 331-0066. For information about the 30th Anniversary Celebrations, contact the National Council of RPCV's at (202) 462-5938.

T-shirt leads to suspension of fraternity

Leaders of the national Alpha Chi Rho fraternity have suspended members of the Syracuse University chapter because they sold T-shirts with anti-homosexual slogans.

The T-shirts read, "Homophobic and Proud of It!" on the front. The back of the shirts read, "Club Faggots and Not Seals," and depicted a muscled crow, the fraternity's mascot, holding a club and standing over an unconscious figure.

The T-shirts drew protests from gay and lesbian groups on the campus, which filed a complaint with the university code that prohibits verbal or physical harassment.

The chapter may recruit new members in the fall, but they must attend workshops on prejudice against homosexuals.

Michele N-K Collison
Chronicle of Higher Education

Gay bashing caught on video

Videotape footage showing a man being gay-bashed by a neighbor's 17-year-old son was broadcast by several Bay Area television stations on June 14, bringing mainstream media attention to the issue of anti-gay hate crimes.

Activists working against anti-gay violence praised the media attention given the incident.

The man attacked had been a recipient of abuse from neighbors over a three year period. He set up the video camera in his living room window on the advice of lawyers. The incident was taped on the final moments of the tape.

Gay Community News

P-FLAG to collect discrimination stories

Tom Sauerman, Executive Director of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, used FLAG Day on June 14 to kick off a national campaign to collect stories to be used in observance of National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1991.

Members and friends of P-FLAG are asked to write a story or keep a journal of approximately one week in which they document the ways that anti-gay and lesbian discrimination affects them and their lives. They can describe overt or subtle affronts to their dignity, the emotional and prac-

tical costs of living in the closet, anti-gay violence, or discrimination in employment and housing services.

"Sharing these stories will empower the individuals who write them," Sauerman added, "and P-FLAG will publish some of them as a consciousness-raising device for National Coming Out Day. They will also be used to document discrimination in meetings with public officials and for testifying in favor of legislation such as the 1991 Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill."

Same-sex couples need to cover their assets

Millions of gay and lesbian couples need to make better legal arrangements to protect themselves and their partners, according to Stevie Bryant and Demian, who publish and edit *Partners Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples*. As evidence, the men cite their national survey of 1,266 gay and lesbian couples, in which the majority of couples had taken no legal precautions whatever.

"In the United States, same-sex couples have none of the automatic legal protections that are routinely conferred on married couples," says Bryant. "Consequently, lawyers generally recommend that we execute certain legal documents to protect ourselves and our partners. Most commonly mentioned are wills, powers of attorney, and partnership or living together agreements."

"Generally speaking, a will can ensure that your wishes are carried out in the event of death," Demian explained. "With powers of attorney, you can assign your partner the right to act on your behalf under specified circumstances, such as incapacitating illness. Partnership or living together agreements allow you and your partner to record the ground rules of the relationship, including how it would be dissolved, if necessary."

Women distract men

A federal judge has ruled that the Virginia Military Institute, a tax supported institution, may continue to legally discriminate against women. The judge ruled that the discrimination meets important government objectives and if women were admitted, the school would have to make some changes such as allowing for more personal privacy. The judge also held that the presence of women would distract men from their studies.

Body Counts-LCP

Penn State cannot discriminate

Coaches and sports officials at Pennsylvania State University must not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, the athletics department noted in memorandum this month.

Penn State's athletics director, James Tarman, said the memo was designed to reinforce the department's commitment to the university's anti-discrimination policy.

Penn State came under criticism in recent

months because Rene Portland, the women's basketball coach, had suggested in some of her public comments that she didn't want lesbians on her team.

Maybe George and Barbara just don't know

AIDS activists contend that George Bush has shown no political leadership in the war against AIDS; AIDS is not a domestic priority in the White House. Bush has undermined and undercut funding for the Ryan White CARE legislation, ignored national plans proposed by two president-appointed commissions, permitted undercounting of the epidemic, and allowed the National Institutes of Health to waste millions upon millions of dollars. This is nothing to say of the billions of dollars thrown into the Gulf War, stealing even more potential dollars from health care.

Groups across the nation are clipping obituary notices of those people who have died from AIDS and are sending them to George and Barbara.

President Bush is to be a target in September of a series of national demonstrations demanding he seriously act against the AIDS epidemic. By sending obituaries this month, he can feel the weight of those who have died.

Send the obit alone or with a note. If the notice doesn't explicitly mention "AIDS", annotate it. Send to: President George Bush or Mrs. Barbara Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20500.

Doctors, nurses, AIDS

If the Senate of the United States has anything to do with it, doctors and nurses infected with the AIDS virus could go to jail for 10 years for not informing patients of their HIV status. Jesse Helms authored this bill. The American Medical Association and the American Civil Liberties Union are both strongly opposed to the legislation.

Rare stories of AIDS transmission from medical workers to patients has created a nationwide scare—Congress is responding with this proposal. Sen. Mark Hatfield voted against the bill, Sen. Packwood voted in favor of it.

Sen. Packwood is seen by many as compromising his stand on issues to appear more conservative. He has yet to sign on in support of the national Gay Civil Rights Bill.

Also passed by the Senate was a measure regarding health care workers and HIV testing. The bill would pressure states to require healthcare workers who perform treatments defined as high-risk involving exposure to blood to be tested for the HIV virus. Should a worker test positive, he or she would be required to notify patients or stop practicing.

If a state does not pass such legislation, that state would risk losing much needed federal health-care payments amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

Linda Kliever