

Page 2



Sppeaking out at a Washington rally. A (Quiet) Uprising In The Ranks From Newsweek Magazine-Edited

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower received some unsettling news while he was in occupied Germany after World War II. There were, he was told, a significant number of Lesbians in his Women's Army Corps (WAC) command. He called in Sgt. Johnnie Phelps and ordered her to get a list of all the Lesbians in the battalion. "We've got to get rid of them," he barked. Phelps said she'd check into it. But, she told the general, "when you get the list back, my name's going to be first." Eisenhower's secretary then interrupted. "Sir, if the general pleases, Sergeant Phelps will have to be second on the list, because I will type the list, and my name will be first." Dumbfounded, Ike realized he'd lose many of his key personnel if he persisted. "Forget he told Phelps. Military brass that order, have been far less tolerant since then, and women have borne the brunt of the crackdowns. Service wide, women are three times more likely to be investigated and discharged for homosexuality - six times more likely in the Marine Corps. Curiously, women have been largely left out of the debate over lifting the ban on homosexuals. "The big hysteria is about showers and bunks and fears of straight men," says Tanya Domi, a retired Lesbian army captain now with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "There's been no discussion about how this impacts women." Women's activists say the ban, and the pernicious "Lesbian-baiting" that accompanies it, have cast a cloud over all women as they fight for respect in the military ranks. "If I act like a female, they think I'm weak and can't do my job," ' says "Sara," a noncommissioned army officer at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, who has Kept her Lesbianism a secret. "If I'm overly aggressive, they think I'm manly and therefore must be a queer." Some Gay and straight women alike say they have sometimes agreed to have sex with men rather than be hit with an accusation of Lesbianism. Those who have reportedsexual harassment by men often find their sexual harassment by men often find their own sexual practices investigated instead. Military officials "are much more interested in investigating Lesbians than they are in investigating Lesbians than they are in

## Lakeshore FLAG

## **October**, 1993

investigating sexual harassment. cases," says Shilts, Randy author of "Conduct Unbecoming: Lesbians and Gays in the U.S. Military." Air force Lt. Heidi De Jesus was "outed" last August after she rejected a male colleague's persistent advances. Investigators at Goodfellow AFB in Texas put her off-base home under surveillance for 12 days and learned of her relationship with Airman 1/c Laura Little, who told intimate details in exchange for an honorable discharge. De Jesus is still fighting her pending discharge and challenging the ban in the federal courts.

Despite the harsh prosecutions of women, most of the military's objections to homosexuality focus on the threats straight men fear from Gays. Some women find that "These guys who operate laughable: multimillion-dollar aircraft and tanks are afraid somebody's going to hit on them," says Domi. "Maybe they'll understand how women feel all the time." In general, military women feel less threatened by homosexuality than men do.

But some straight military women do say that they feel uneasy about the Lesbians among them. Tricia Schwartz, who saw active duty in the Persian Gulf with the Oregon National Guard, says one officer was open about her sexuality and made suggestive comments to women in her unit. "When she was in the shower, no one wanted to go there," says Schwartz. "I was more concerned about her looking at me than I was about getting my job done." But most military Lesbians insist that they lead lonely, celibate lives out of fear of exposure.

As the July 15 deadline neared for President Clinton to decide whether and how to lift the ban, more Lesbians stepped forward publicly. Some have found themselves in legal limbo between military and civilian courts.

#### AIDS is changing - New at-risk groups identified. Newsweek

In 1984, everything seemed possible. Just three years into the AIDS epidemic, scientists had already identified the responsible virus and developed a blood test to screen for it. Margaret Heckler, then secretary of health and human services, boldly predicted that a vaccine would follow within a few years. If only it were so easy. The plague is still spreading and scientists are still amassing incremental insights. That, of course, is the way science works. But after 12 years, it may be time to ask whether science is the ultimate solution to this problem.

According to the World Health Organization's latest estimates, 14 million people have contracted HIV since the epidemic began, and more than 2 million have developed AIDS. If current trends continue, both numbers will triple by the end of the '90s. The billions of dollars that developed countries are now shoveling into AIDS research won't affect those trends any time soon. Yet there are cheap, proven strategies for slowing the spread of the virus. Dr. Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS, told the Berlin gathering that by tailoring educational campaigns to local communities, distributing condoms and clean needles, and treating the sexually transmitted diseases that foster the spread of HIV, health agencies could quickly cut the rate of new infections by half throughout the developing world.

The lesson may hold just as true at home. In the United States, AIDS now ranks as the second leading cause of death among 25- to 44year-old men and the sixth leading cause among The number of infected young women. Americans has held steady in recent years, but according to a 22-state survey released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week, the shape of the epidemic is changing. Though safe sex has slowed the rate of new infections among gay men, the virus is growing ever more entrenched in poor urban communities, particularly among teens, women and blacks (chart.below).



AIDS who are...

people who are ...

Researchers glimpsed the future of the AIDS epidemic by comparing people with HIV to those with full-blown The 22-state study shows infections declining AIDS. among Gay men but rising sharply among Blacks, Teens and Women.

The Holy Bible says "Love Thy Neighbor," not "Persecute those you consider sinners. The Holy Bible says "Judge Not lest YOU be judged," not "Condemn those chom YOU judge to be sinners.

IF someone is sinning, where is a more appropriate place for them than IN Church?

# AIDS is changing - Continued from Page 2

How should AIDS be fought in these circumstances? The people at greatest risk are IV drug users, their sex partners and their children. Numerous studies, including several presented last week, have shown that when addicts can exchange used needles for clean ones, their infection rates decline dramatically. Dr. Don Des Jarlais of New York's Beth Israel Medical Center has documented local reductions of up to 50 percent-reductions that could, over time, help free entire communities from the virus. Yet more than 40 states effectively encourage the sharing of needles, by treating them as contraband

Sex acts: By the same token, it's well known that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) make people far more susceptible to HIV infection, by causing breaks in genital tissue. People are up to 100 times more likely to contract HIV during a single sex act if they have lesions from a disease syphilis or herpes. Yet those diseases have recently been allowed to fester in this country. Syphilis incidence has doubled since 1984 alone. The disease is cheaply and easily treated with antibiotics, but since the emergence of AIDS, conventional STDs have garnered less attention and funding. In constant dollars, the government now spends just half what it did in 1943 to control syphilis.

During the election campaign, Bill Clinton made much of his commitment to fighting AIDS, but his administration has yet to launch any initiatives. The president has not appointed the "AIDS czar" he promised, let alone restructured the Office of AIDS research along the lines of the Truman-era Manhattan Project. (Many researchers believe that is just as well.) Faced with congressional opposition, Clinton has abandoned his pledge to stop barring people HIV from entering the United States. And though his proposed federal budget includes a tiny funding increase for STD control (\$103 million, up from \$90 million last year), it falls far short of the \$200 million that public-health officials deem essential.

Two hundred million dollars may sound like a lot of money, but the government spent \$1.3 billion on AIDSrelated medical research last year-and the Clinton administration proposes spending \$1.5 billion next year. That huge commitment reflects both the political savvy of the Gay community and our enduring faith in technological fixes. State-of-the-art laboratories, full of brilliant scientists racing to understand a deadly medical mystery, have a lot more popular appeal than storefront clinics in bombedout neighborhoods. Both have their place. But storefront clinics have the advantage of being able to combat AIDS today.

#### The story of the pink triangle

In a chapter of history recently coming to light, thousands of homosexuals were thrown into the Nazi concentration camps, along with Jews and others who did not fit the Aryan ideal. Nearly all gay prisoners perished. This is a brief history of that period.

Pre-war Germany had a casual attitude toward gay men. Many lived openly with their lovers and were accepted members of their communities. Respected authors, (W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood among them), traveled or lived there for extended periods.

Then Adolph Hitler assumed power, revising German law to forbid every form of homosexual expression including kissing, embraces - even fantasies. Gay men were forced to wear pink triangles to distinguish them from "loyal" Germans. Like Jews, they were sent by tens of thousands to Dachau, Auschwitz, Bucherwald, Sachsenhausen and other camps where they were worked to death, tortured, and brutally murdered.

On arrival, gay inmates were stripped, forced to shout, "I am a faggot, sir!" and shorn of all hair. Names were replaced with a tattooed number. Queer 45678, sir!" Every attempt was made to devastate dignity, humanity, and will to live.

If two men were known to be lovers, or showed compassion for fellow inmates, each was made to watch as the other fellow was beaten and raped with sharp objects. They were often clubbed to death or killed by dogs trained to attack the genitals. In other atrocities, prisoners were forced to watch brutal executions while singing Christmas carols.

After the war, financial reparations were denied to gay inmates. Although most were imprisoned without a trial, many were never released since the occupation government regarded homosexuality a crime. Germany did not repeal Hitler's severe laws until 1969. In the 1980's, the government finally erected monuments and publicly recognized the deaths of thousands of gay victims.

In honor of the memory of these men, out of determination that sanctioned quarantine and brutality must never again be permitted, and out of pride in ourselves - in who we are today - the pink triangle has been adopted as a symbol of all gay and lesbian people.

 Originally printed from a flyer distributed by Citizens For Equal Protection, reprinted from Woman's Day - November 1992

Editor's Comment: Just because more Heterosexual cases are showing up these days, does NOT mean that the Gay community can let it's guard down and stop practicing safe sex! What is DOES mean is that EVERYONE, HOMOSEXUAL, HETEROSEXUAL AND BI-SEXUAL MUST practice SAFE sex! Remember. when you have sex with someone, you are not only having sex with THAT person, but with everyone he or she has had sex with in the last 12 years - and with everyone that THEY have had sex with in the 1st 12 years, and everyone that THEY have had sex with in the last 12 years, etc! If only ONE of those previous sex partners was HIV positive, then YOU ARE AT RISK!

As then-Surgeon General Evret Koop said, "ABSTANCE AND NOT SHARING IV DRUG NEEDLES IS THE ONLY SURE WAY TO KEEP FROM GETTING AIDS," but we live in the real world, and this is unlikely, so the two rules of survival for Gays and straights alike are:

1) Use a condom Every Time you have sex, and

2) Do NOT share drug needles (unless they are completely cleaned BEFORE AND AFTER USE with chlorine bleach, (which DOES kill the HIV virus).

As Spock would say, "Live long and prosper." IS LESBIANISM A MATTER OF GENETICS?

Newspapers and television have bombarded us with the nature vs. nurture theory, and it seems that the consensus a just that - a theory. Surveying a very small group of gay women - 147 - hardly qualifies as a conclusive report. After long neglecting lesbians in their studies of the biology of homosexuality, researchers at the Boston and Northwestern Universities now say that genes may play as strong a role in shaping female orientation as they appear to do in dictating the sexuality of gay men. Studies have shown that identical female twins are at least 3 times as likely to be lesbians as maternal twins or sisters. But other adopted influences - emotional and social may also contribute. Some women claim that their homosexuality is a feminist choice, but most lesbians feel they were born gay. The new study only begins to address the It is by no means a issue. resounding endorsement of DNA's effect.

### October, 1993

## San Francisco Mayor dismisses Commissioner over anti-Gay remarks Wisconsin Light

[San Francisco]- Seeking to end a controversy that had come to national attention and divided San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay community from the African-American community. San Francisco's Mayor Frank Jordan on August 22, dismissed the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin from the city's Fluman Rights Commission.

The furor over Lumpkin, an African-American and pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, began in June when Lumpkin told a reporter from The San Francisco Chronicle that he believed that homosexuality was an "abomination against God." He said this was according to the Bible and went on to imply that AIDS was God's punishment of Gays upon earth.

There were immediate and angry calls for Lumpkin's dismissal from the Gay community. However, the Mayor held fast, backing his long-time supporter. But, as Michael Colbruno writing for the San Francisco Sentlnel, said, Lumpkin hadn't learned to keep his mouth shut. Tempers flared higher when some six weeks later, on August 20, when Lumpkin, appearing on a local TV program was asked if he believed that the bible sanctioned stoning Gays to death. Lumpkin replied, "That's what the book said. Sure, I believe it. I believe everything the Bible says."

Lumpkin said later that he had been misunderstood, but phone calls and letters to city hall demanded his immediate ouster. Lumpkin refused the Mayor's request to resign and was dismissed.

Both African-American leaders and leaders of San Francisco's large Gay community blamed Mayor Jordan for mishandling the issue.

"People in the Black community and people in the Gay community should wonder why the Mayor has let us dangle around for a Month and-ahalf and chew each other apart and then has chosen to fire the man," said Randy Miller, a prominent African-American Gay leader. "It's a standard tactic of divide and conquer."

The issue may not be over yet. The Rutherford Institute, a Right-Wing Christian organization defending "traditional Christian beliefs," has been brought in to defend Lumpkin. "We are prepared for a lawsuit," said Brad Dacus, Western Regional Coordinator for the Institute.

One of the lawyers working for the Institute in its Washington, D.C. office is Craig Parshall, formerly of Wisconsin. Paishall's wife Jan, is well known to viewers of Vic Eliason's WVCY-TV. (Milwaukee Religious TV station, for the benefit of those outside of the area - Editor)

#### **Results of Ammendment 2**

[Denver]- According to the Denver Police Department, the number of anti-Gay hate crimes reported in Denver in the first three months of this year was more than twice as high as the number of similar crimes reported in the first quarter of 1992. Colorado Gay activists are calling this the result of a hate campaign generated by the Christian "rabid right" in the midst of the battle over Amendment 2.

Part of this campaign is the handing out of fliers saying, "Death Penalty for Homosexuals is prescribed in the Biblet" These are the only words on the bright orange paper.

The campaign appears to be especially virulent in Colorado Springs, home of Colorado for Family Values (CFV), the sponsor of the anti-Gay Amendment 2. According to Franklin Wentworth of Ground Zero, a Lesbian/Bisexual /Gay activist group of 250 in the city, the orange flier and on-going incidents of violence "represent just the tip of the iceberg of the hate and intolerance that permeates the epicenter of hate, Colorado Springs."

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Wentworth said that CFV has embarked on a million dollar fundraising campaign to promote the Fundamentalist Christian agenda in Colorado and elsewhere around the nation.



Social Progress - Slow but sure.

An Atheist Speaks TO THE EDITOR:

I recently picked up your newspaper and read the article "They Have Blood On Their Hands" by Terry Boughner. [Printed in last month's Newsletter, Page 10] As an atheist, I have no interest whatsoever in whether homosexuality is frowned upon in the bible - I honestly couldn't care less! Or, indeed, whether the King James version was translated accurately from the Greek.

But the next time Mr. Boughner is talking to his homophobic Catholic friend on the telephone, he may like to point out one simple historical fact: The King James Bible is actually named after a homosexual king. JamesI of England (a.k.a. James VI of Scotland) was a great screaming nelly queen who banished women from the court.

- Sukie de la Croix Chicago

(Wisc. Light) Editor's Note: Like you, I keep my copy of the bible right next to my handbook of Classical mythology. However, I would suggest that perhaps we all should be concerned with how accurately the book is translated and what it actually says, since a great many people act on It.

Oh, yes, I agree with you about James I & VI. I have a chapter in my book on him. James was Gay, very Gay. As the king told his Privy Council, "Christ did have his John and I have my sweet Bobby."





#### Transgender Journal

Continued from Last Issue - Slightly edited from Wisconsin Light

By Samantha

In the last article, I mentioned that transgenders incur large expenses in pursuit of treatment. Surgery can cost from ten tc fifty thousand dollars or more. Female-tomale surgery is much more expensive than male-to-female. But surgery is only one part of an expensive process. Other necessary medical treatment, (hormone therapy, counseling, etc.), can cost several thousand dollars over time. In addition to medical costs, there are other financial burdens such as facial hair removal, which usually amounts to several thousand dollars. All of these expenses are paid out of pocket.

While assuming these debts, the transgender is not assured of maintaining employment. There are no legal protections offered the transgender community. Whether one is fired (or hired) depends solely upor the good will of the employer. In some cases a company goes out of its way to protect the rights of a valuable employee. In other cases, excellent workers were fired merely because they were discovered to be transgender.

Usually, if the person had been living in their chosen gender before being hired, their secret is discovered through rumors or other sources, not because of the person's appearance or behavior. So far as I know, nc employer has been sued successfully for this type of discrimination. The same problem applies to those who wish to effect gender transition while staying on the job.

The answers to such financial problems are not so simple as one might desire. While it is obvious (at least tc transgenders) that the TS community should be afforded legal defenses against job discrimination, it is unclear whether the state, or even private insurers should subsidize the cost of gender changes, even if they could be persuaded to do so.

In this, I think I'm going to be at odds with most of the transgender community. It is an article of faith among transgenders that if surgery and other costs were paid by the government, all our problems would be solved.

While I agree that some form of subsidy would greatly ease an already difficult situation for most transgenders, I wonder if this might encourage people for whom surgical gender change is inappropriate or even harmful. When such people discover that they have made mistake they tend to sue their doctors. I know of people who, because of personal wealth could easily pay for gender change, and who later sued a well-known hospital and its doctors for malpractice. The hospital was forced to stop performing the surgery for fear

#### of further malpractice suits.

For most transgenders I know, gender reassignment is an urgent necessity frequently postponed for lack of money. It would be a shame to consign these good people to perpetual suffering either because no financial help is available, or because abuse of financial help has made doctors shy gender reassignment away from In raising this concern, 1 surgery. should point out that no one is given hormonal or surgical treatment or. demand. Strict guidelines, called the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Associations Standards of Care, help therapists to distinguish true transgenders from patients with other problems.

Still, I know that there will be a certain segment of the public who will object to any tax-funded help for transgenders. These people will very likely try to campaign for an end to such funding or worse, for an end to therapy which they perceive to be immoral.

For lack of space, I haven't discussed the pros and cons of this issue thoroughly enough to give you a clear idea of all the problems involved. However, it should be apparent that something must be done to ease the financial burdens that transgenders face in dealing with their disorder. Only further dialogue between transgenders, therapists and the general public can generate a solution that really meets the needs of the transgender community.



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## **Bigotry Hurts**

Every day law abiding citizens are beaten or even murdered because of their sexual orientation. Even more loose their jobs, their homes, and their access to health care. Thousands of military personnel are discharged, at a cost of millions of dollars to the taxpayers, simply because of bigotry against lesbians and gay Americans. PEOPLE WITH VALUES REJECT

PEOPLE WITH VALUES REJECT BIGOTRY - public opinion polls show that most Americans believe we should stop this prejudice. Yet, in 48 American states, it is legal to engage in anti-gay discrimination.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND is America's largest Lesbian and Gay political organization. They participate in electoral campaigns, lobby in Congress, and mobilize fairminded Americans in support of civil rights and health care for Lesbians and Gay Americans.

YOU CAN HELP them win the fight for fairness by making your contribution to the:

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND

> 1012 14th Street N.W. Suite 6 Washington, D.C. 20005

# Japan to host next AIDS conference

[Tokyo]- Japan will host a world conference on AIDS next year that organizers hope will draw attention to the disease's explosive growth in Asia.

About 10,000 people are expected International l0th attend the to Conference on AIDS in Yokohama August 7-12, 1994. It will be the first time the annual gathering is held in Asia. World Health Organization The estimates that more than a million and a half people are infected with HIV in South and Southeast Asia, mostly in India and Thailand.

## COMPLACENCY IS DANGEROUS!

In the United States, 160,000 people have died of AIDS since the disease first was reported in 1981. About 1 million are now infected with the virus. The World Health Orgaation has predicted that as many as 40 million people could be infected by the year 2000. There is no cure for HIV, transmitted primarily through sexual contact or the exchange of blood. To complicate matters, it has proven far trickier than scientists once thought, mutating quickly. It's extremely dangerous to be complacent about this virus.

HELP SUPPORT AIDS RESEARCH

The Back Page

Since this is the last issue I will be publishing and it is not known if this newsletter will be resurrected in the near future, I had to delete the usual message which goes in this spot. Perhaps the newsletter will be resurected some time in the future, perhaps not. In any event, please call the Church at 458-4889 to get the latest information about which Monday evening the P-FLAG meetings will be held.



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