Alliance Task Forces Form

A task force is forming to coordinate the participation of the Sonoma County Contingent in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 24.

Another task force is forming to help coordinate participation in the March on Washington set for October 14.

In addition to these task forces, the Alliance continues to maintain a fundraising committee, a site committee, and a graphics media committee.

The Alliance also maintains connections with affinity groups such as Parents and Friends of Gays and Gays Under 21.

Washington March Talk

The National March on Washington will be the topic of discussion at the next open meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Alliance on Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 PM.

The guest speaker will be Rita Goldberger, a Bay Area Lesbian activist and PFC claims more then 600 members countywide.

A group with similar goals, the Pro-Family Forum, recently formed in Petaluma with a core group of approximately eight women "who enjoy being wives and mothers." One of the founders, Pat Jackson, describes the group as "conservative and essentially pro-life," and on the issue of ERA, members range from "concerned about its vagueness to radically opposed."

This local group is affiliated with the National Pro-Life Forum, an anti-abortion organization that is linked with ERA-opponent Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum.

According to Jackson, members were active in letter-writing in support of Prop. 6 and attempting to persuade San Francisco city officials to withdraw funding for the SF Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Some of Pro-Family Forum's other concerns are government interference in schools and family, the use of taxes for gay care centers, and sex education.

After being alerted by a Contra Costa chapter of the national group, local members marched down to the Petaluma Public Library to make sure the book "Show Me," used in sixth grade sex education classes, was not on the shelf. "For just anyone to see." The book, which was then banned by many educators for its honest portrayal of human sexuality, is, according to Jackson, "nothing but a didactic, outright艳ant to the ERA." This incident led the group to take a closer look at "text books that might affect morality" and they plan on examining all the books used in the public school system over the summer.

The emergence of these "grassroots" ultra-conservative organizations in Sonoma County appears to be part of any "widespread" nationwide right wing backlash. Their aim to "protect and preserve" the family is fueled by moral fervor and their targets are, among others, Lesbians and Gay men, abortion, and the ERA.

The groups appear to be, at this point, loosely organized and relatively low profile. They are growing, however, in sophistication and number. They are dedicated and they feel they have God on their side, a formidable combination.
Gay Male Couple Adopt Child in Landmark Case

The couple, named Robert and David, were granted the right to legally adopt a two year old boy.

The adoption of Robert and David was approved under the California law that allows a same-sex couple to adopt jointly.

The couple is known as the first same-sex couple to adopt a child in California.
When The Nazis Spoke....

by Judy Freyberg

You are walking down a baby street or riding on a crowded bus when suddenly you realize that you are being watched and someone is following you. What do you do? Do you try to hide what you are doing? Do you run for cover? You cannot do anything to cover yourself from the person who is watching you. You cannot do anything to run from them. You cannot do anything to stop them. You cannot do anything to escape from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them. You cannot do anything to get away from them.
Sorry, but due to rising costs of doing mailings, we can no longer continue to mail the NEWS to your home free of charge. The change in your membership status can be completed the coupon below and send it to us along with the appropriate fee.

If you appreciated receiving the NEWS in the past, please give us your support now.

The NEWS will still be available free of charge, and much of the information presented on this page will be available electronically on the Internet.

Washington March Speaker April 18

October 14 in the national capital. Erika Goldberger will discuss other aspects of the national organizing effort, the goals and purposes of the March, and what people in Sonoma County can do to support and participate in the March. The Alliance meeting will be held at the Sonoma Valley Community and Loan Building on the corner of 3rd St. and 6th Ave., Sonoma County, CA 95476.

We appreciate your support and encouragement.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact us at Gay Men's News, 544-4109 or Pat-at (707) 564-8295.

I think that if we are really serious about doing productive work, and really confronting our own limitations, then we have to be very open to this question with all the others, but really understand that any kind of machinery is sometimes very painful, heterosexist relationships are not innocent, and we do know about some kind of that is not personal. I think that if we really asked a lot of our following is not, but are courage to learn from ourselves. When you push them around sexual issues, . . . I would a lot of times push them to say what they thought about the homosexual answer to the homosexual problem was. When pushed like that, they will sometimes say that Hitler was right and they will say that we... That is not important because we didn't want to learn from the mistakes that we didn't get along on this one thing. I think that it is important to respect the basis of those kinds of assumptions and not go because there then we can confront the question of genocide and what starts it.

Since we are not very visible to the community, people are not only afraid but are afraid of being violent against us. I think we have to develop a relationship that they are better.
Grassroots Organizing In Rural California

Continued from Page 7

Third World people and white people being together. That's a really under-mentioned phenomenon that opens up potentials for dealing with issues because they're already on the agenda because of the way people live and what they have to deal with. Therefore, there is sensitivity to other people's oppression. So Gay men were much more sensitive around questions of sexism in smaller towns. They weren't nicer. They weren't less sexist, but they knew that there was something real particular about Lesbian oppression that was different from faggots, because they were closer to Gay women and they had close women friends and so they had to deal with their own sexism and that meant that they were much more receptive to sexual issues that affronted women in general, and specifically around children.

And it was the same for racism. It wasn't an abstract thing where someone who's a Lefty feels they have to talk about something. It was an issue that was vitally important because part of the accusation about being Gay in those small towns was that you hung out with Black people. You hung out with Chicano people. You went to one of those bars. And 'one of those bars' didn't just mean faggot or queer. It meant there were Third World people there in large numbers. And so in order to deal with being Gay, you had to deal with assumptions of racism. It seemed to me to be a really important observa-

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tion that we miss here in the city because the Gay community is separated in so many different sections. I haven't seen any evaluation of that after the campaign.

I felt that the way that things are always talked about is that the rural community is somehow more backward in terms of issues in general and the city is more advanced in the struggle. I don't think that this is absolutely a lie, but I think that in some really vital ways, it's really just the reverse. That the way we are polarized and separated in the city; the way that we are genuinely a ghetto inside of a ghetto inside of a ghetto means that we don't communicate, that we don't struggle in the same way. We don't see each other as allies.

In the rural communities, people really had to deal with issues differently because they were confronted with them more intimately in their personal relationships and in their social lives as Gay people.

Well, part of the myth about organizing in small towns is that people have hay in their teeth, and they're dumb; some really disgusting class and political assumptions. Whereas, my experience was that people just didn't have a lot of access to information in small places and were slowed down by that lack of hook-in to the way issues were being debated in the cities and some of the sophistication of how an issue shapes up or why. But people were incredibly responsible politically and moving much faster than they were in the city; while people here thought that working against Prop. 6 in San Francisco meant going to a disco dance on Saturday night. They didn't want to go into precincts. They didn't want to face people. They didn't want to talk about being Gay. They came there to be Gay only with other Gay people.

Q: So then, the power of California Outreach was in its ability to get information out to people who had no ready access to it and who were ready to go.

A: That's right. People should understand that when we went out, we took an enormous amount of literature. We took out a journal called Gay Left, information on the early Homosexual Rights Movement, we took out information on socialism; and on women's oppression because we thought that people would be real interested. And they were. They were thrilled to get that kind of stuff. They didn't think we were laying anything on them. We didn't go out in that situation and say: you have to have this or we won't speak to you. People were clammering for information. They desperately wanted it.

Nobody took them seriously in the city. Nobody thought they were worth bothering with. And the truth of the matter was that they were absolutely ripe for an incredible political commitment over-all. The men were ready to move around sexism. The white people were ready to talk about racism. The Gay people were ready to confront homophobia. It was in the city that this fight was much more pessimistic, much more jaded. It was in the city that Gay men fought over the crumbs of the Gay community. David Goodstein versus Howard Wallace in the fight between Gay capital and Gay labor. In other places, people not only compromised more principally but struggled with a lot more depth.

With this issue, THE NEWS is offering classified advertising to our readers.

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