

A ALICE REPORTS

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President's Report

KQED and the Gay Community

By Robert Esteves

The upcoming membership meeting will focus upon KQED and the issues surrounding it. Most recently the controversy has been centered upon the PBS *Frontline* program: "AIDS: a national study" which repackaged and re-broadcast a sensationalist documentary first transmitted by a CBS affiliate in Minneapolis.

Many local Gay and Lesbian activists called KQED asking that the program not be broadcast in San Francisco. Citing First Amendment rights and the issue of "prior restraint" (censorship), KQED management refused to withdraw the program from broadcast, but did respond with an offer of 30 minutes of "rebuttal" programming following the show. I have personally asked that KQED consider producing a documentary to counter the damage sure to be incurred by the *Frontline* program, but I have received no commitments.

This request was only the latest round in ongoing dialogs with KQED that have been occurring since January. At that time, I joined with Rick Pacurar of Harvey Milk, Ralph Payne of Stonewall, and Hank Wilson, owner of the former Valencia Rose, to discuss with KQED management some of the other issues of concern to the Gay community. Specifically, responding to the lack of Gay/Lesbian talent in the Comedy Tonight Showcase, the group asked for commitments for increased Gay/Lesbian programming and inclusion of gays in regular KQED programming. Management advised us that in fact a Lesbian comedian

had been offered a slot, but had refused to appear. KQED staff refused to commit to any regular gay programming or series of programs citing their current "AIDS-awareness" programming, and their philosophy of inclusion of all groups rather than creation of "special interest" programming of limited general appeal.

Another area of concern is the KQED carriage of the Christian Science Monitor's radio news program: *Monitoradio*, despite proved discriminatory practices of the Monitor (a lesbian was fired for being gay, but the termination held up in court as valid separation of Church and State). KQED maintains that *Monitoradio* is the best, most objective news programming available, especially in the area of international news. No other news programming appears to meet this standard. If San Francisco boycotts companies doing business with South Africa, why shouldn't gay people boycott KQED for doing business with a known homophobic organization?

The outcome of all these issues is still to be decided. KQED has offered to sponsor a community forum on June 12 to bring the Gay concerns to the KQED Community Advisory Committee and has suggested people volunteer to serve on the Committee since several openings are coming available in May.

Since the *Frontline* program, the protests of the community are stronger and economic sanctions are being proposed by most gay

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AIDS and Ethnic Minorities Western Regional Conference

Since the summer of 1981 many Blacks and Latinos have been diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The Centers for Disease Control report that 25% of all AIDS cases in the United States are Black, 14% are Latino, and 2% are Asian. The combined total represents 41% of the more than 18,000 people diagnosed with AIDS in the United States.

The Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force is currently planning the Western Regional Conference on AIDS and Ethnic Minorities. The Conference, scheduled for April 25, 26, and 27, 1986, is aimed at health care and service providers. The format will be a three day educational program designed primarily for health care and service providers serving at-risk ethnic minority communities.

Planned workshops include: Substance Abuse and Needle Use; The Politics of AIDS; Youth, Education and Prevention; Use of the Media; HTLV III Testing; Safe Sex; Women and AIDS; Prisons; Policy and Services; Mental Health; Support Services for People with AIDS; Legal Issues; and, Panel Discussion With Third World People With AIDS And Their Families.

The Conference is sponsored by the Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, and is cosponsored by a wide range of professional and community groups, including Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay

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