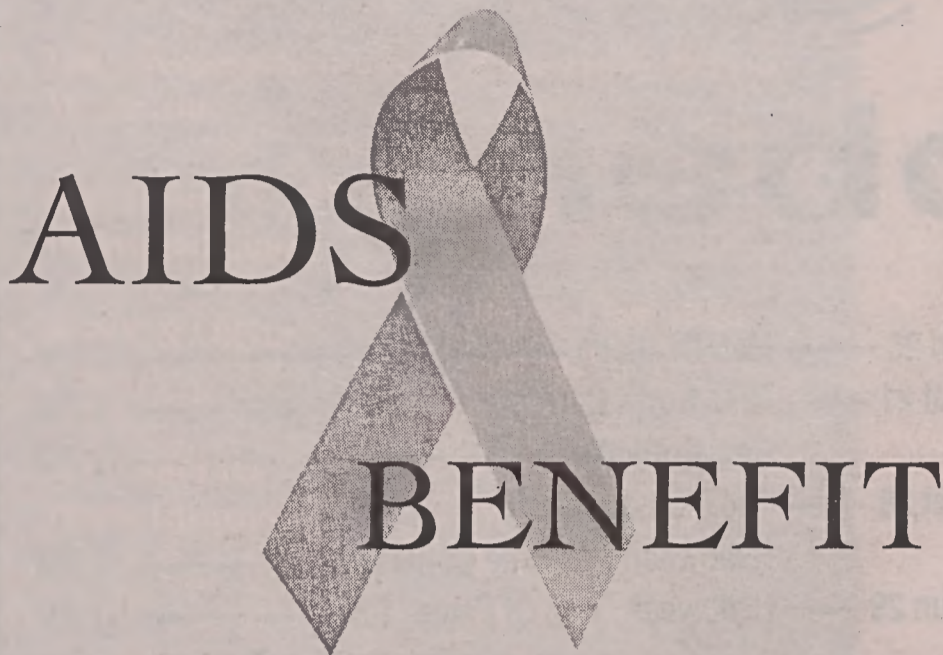


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Local PBS stations won't carry gay program

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—Although many public television stations around the country are planning to air a four-part documentary this month that chronicles the gay and lesbian civil rights movement in commemoration of National Gay and Lesbian History Month, *Q-Notes* was unable to locate any PBS affiliate in this area scheduled to broadcast it.

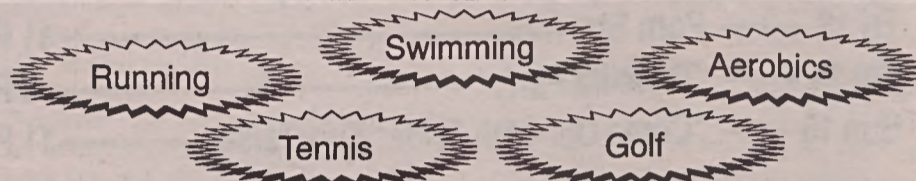
The series is called *The Question of Equality* and uses archival footage and on-camera interviews with over 100 people to explore a number of timely issues, including the current political debate over equal rights vs. "special rights," gays in the military, media censorship, the increase of anti-gay and lesbian violence and the Radical Right's ongoing campaign against gays.

The stations that were contacted included WNSC (Rock Hill, SC); WTVI (Charlotte); WUNC (Chapel Hill) and WUNG (Concord, NC). A spokesman at WNSC said the program was not being aired by his station due to "content and some pretty rough language."

Since the 1993 broadcast of the highly rated and award-winning miniseries *Tales of the City*, which featured prominent homosexual themes, public television has come under increasing criticism from conservative watchdog groups who claim they are being forced to foot the bill for obscene programming. These organizations say that PBS proselytizes values which are at odds with taxpayers' "traditional family" values and have called on Congress to de-fund the network.

Many public television supporters now charge that PBS has become gun-shy from this cultural war and are backing away from programs that contain "controversial" topics — such as homosexuality. Progressive activists claim that the network is acquiescing to right wing pressure rather than rising up to its mandate: to be representative of the whole of American society.

Considering the blackout of *The Question of Equality* — in conjunction with the similar treatment of *Coming Out Under Fire* several months ago — the assessment that public television is becoming too cautious seems reasonable.



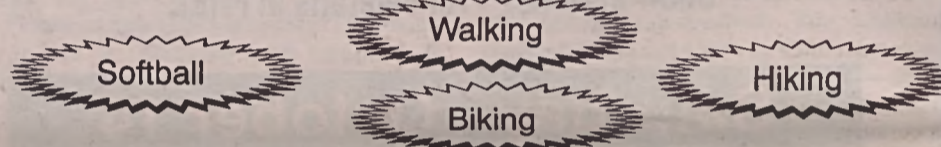
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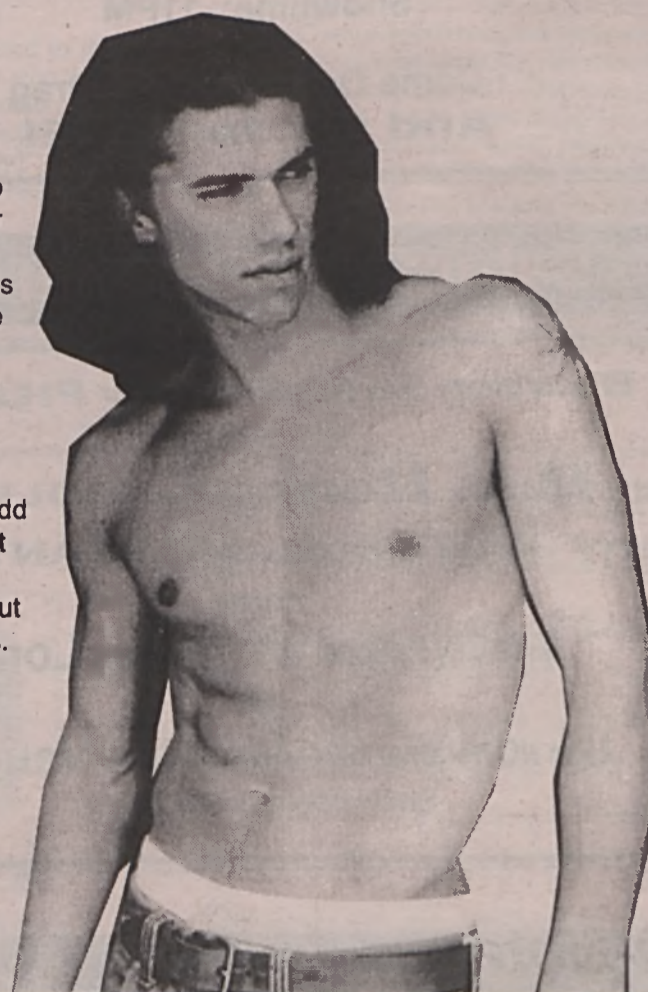


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