



Thanks for Articles About Leather Community

I would like to thank you for publishing Don Bastion's article, *Leatherstrokes: What SM is Not*, in the December 23, 1994 issue of *The Front Page*.

I have been an OUT leatherman for almost five years now and it is rare to see information about the leather community published in a non-demeaning manner in non-leather publications. I feel that you have taken an important step in the education of non-leather people about some of the misconceptions that exist. I also think you have taken a very important step of validating your leathermen and women readers.

I will be copying this article, with your permission, and distributing it among several leather groups in Atlanta and in my travels.

Thank you.

In leather,
Kevin Drewery
Southeast Mr. Drummer 1994

No Slip of the Tongue

Dear fags, I mean gays, "... This was nothing more than an unintentional mispronunciation of another person's name."

The number one ranking Republican calls women "bitch." The number two ranking Republican in the House calls gays "fag."

A Casual Reprieve

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recovery from alcoholism and drug use talk about this type of commitment. However, unlike the person who cheats on a diet, slips from drug recovery or even smokes an occasional cigarette after quitting, gay men have consistently been fed the message that there is no margin for error—each slip bears the memory of 160,000+ dead brothers.

Of course equating slipping with drug relapse is problematic because we fought to be proud of sex with other men and we still should be. But to slow the spread of HIV we've had to think of our

Letters

Excuse me? Is this truly unintentional?

Has House Majority Leader Dick Arme known Democratic Representative Barney Frank for many years?

Does Dick Arme have a college degree?

Is Dick Arme a Christian? (If yes, he wouldn't have ever used the term "fag" even in a slip of the tongue.)

Was it a mispronunciation?

Did Dick Arme fail his Hooked on Phon: Did he fail to pass rudimentary reading in grade school? He did get two of the letters from Frank to fag correct! Did he really mean to say "frag?"

Was it "... nothing more than ...?"

To use a derogatory word (spic, nigger, kike, whitey) to name a person or group is not "nothing more than a slip of the tongue." It is purely and simply hate and prejudice.

Does the Republican Party wish the American public to believe that their top ranking legislators are so inane that they think we will believe their hatred and prejudicial name calling under any disguise?

partners' not only as objects of desire, but as diseased. Poisoned. Forbidden. The message is no different from what many of us learned and internalized about for desire for men anyway. Perhaps, we dream, a negative result means "I'm not infected." It also means, perhaps, that another gay man, a brother, if you will, is also uninfected. Of course, a negative result gives no such information, but for a second it is comforting to think that some of us are still spared.

Sadly, each HIV antibody test not only has taken on the pronouncement of an individual's health, but the health of our brothers and our community as well. Each test is more than just a reminder of those lost, but of those struggling and

Please call or write your senators and representative today and demand a public apology—one that doesn't contain a gross rationalization for hatred and prejudice. Write to Democratic Representative Barney Frank and share with him your support and caring. Obviously, we do not want to be as insensitive, hateful, and uncaring as the Republican Party to the feelings of the American public. Barney Frank has been hurt by this attack.

Newtie. Dicky. Let's put your names on the level of your brains!

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth A. Netz
Chicago, IL

AIDS Forgotten in State of the Union Address

President Clinton broke the modern day record for State of the Union address, but in his 81 minute monologue he failed to mention HIV or AIDS.

The government has announced 1993 figures showing that AIDS has replaced accidents as the leading cause of death among 25-44 year old Americans.

The first Presidential primaries start in 14 months.

David Reid
CommuniTV
West Hollywood, CA

those who are fighting. Each result, positive or negative, blaringly announces our mortality and the tenuous nature of life. As gay men in a queer community, we know that a test result, no matter the circumstance, is no casual matter as my nurse seemingly thought. A negative result brings us in touch with our mortality and forces us to live in fear of our own humanity.

Derek Charles Livingston served as a national co-chair for the 1993 March on Washington, is the past Executive Director of the North Carolina Pride PAC for Lesbian and Gay Equal Rights and is the founder of the Wake County Stonewall Political Caucus.

QUOTES

Compiled by Rex Wockner

"America is where I came out. I slept with half of it — and came out HIV-negative. I was a lucky, lucky person. ... As long as I live, I will help fight this cause."

—Elton John at AIDS Project Los Angeles' recent blowout benefit.

"It hasn't hurt my career obviously to play Andrew Beckett (in Philadelphia) and I hope it will pave the way for other actors to be unafraid to take gay roles."

—Tom Hanks at the APLA benefit.

"I think safe sex has slipped the other way. It's disturbing to me. I was at Fire Island this summer and it was just like pre-AIDS. I was shocked that people were partying all night; friends of mine were sleeping with guys every night."

—Actress Sandra Bernhard at the APLA benefit.

"Brad [Pitt's] effect is far-reaching. One night a few of us, shall we say, lesbians were in the hot tub watching the guys play basketball in the pool. We were staring at Brad, and we all agreed he could change a woman's mind."

—Rocker Melissa Etheridge to Vanity Fair.

"Heterosexuality is not normal, it's just common."

—An ad in the Austrian gay magazine Lambda Nachrichten from AIDS Help Vienna.

"AIDS has not made deep inroads into mainstream American life."

—The Associated Press Feb. 1 de-mainstreaming gays.

"When the gays-in-the-military issue came up, we had both the funding and the lobbying talent already in place. ... What we need is a field operation that will influence opinion at the top. [I want to establish] a grass-roots organization consisting of locally based affiliates, and not just happenstance. We need to do our own work in the field, building brick by brick, district by district. We need to put into place a political machine that will not have us guessing about the results."

—Human Rights Campaign Fund Executive Director Elizabeth Birch to The Los Angeles Times

Q: "Do you sleep with people of both sexes?"

A: "Yes."

—R.E.M. lead singer Michael Stipe to Details magazine.

"The simple truth is, [U.S. Rep.] Richard Arme [who made the "Barney Fag" remark] has a thing about homosexuals. He believes they are depraved human beings who engage in immoral behavior, which should be stopped or discouraged. Why will he not admit this? He thinks homosexuals should be hunted down and discharged from the military, subjected to mandatory testing if they contract a virus and actively discriminated against in the workplace and many voluntary organizations. Why on earth wouldn't such a person use the term 'fag'? It would at least render his rhetoric consistent with his beliefs."

—Andrew Sullivan, editor of The New Republic.