

The War Conference

Because they're making war against us

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December 15, 1987

Dear

You are asked to attend a meeting of gay and lesbian leaders the weekend of February 26-28th at the Airlie House conference center in Virginia.

A select group of lesbian and gay leaders nationwide are being invited to this conference. Our purpose is to examine the state of the movement in 1988 - a movement which can bring over a half-million people to Washington to demonstrate our commitment and our numbers to the nation and the nation's politicians, but a movement which, three days later, can be kicked in the gut by those politicians as 96 Senators and 368 Representatives vote in favor of a Jesse Helms' "better dead than gay" restriction on AIDS educational funding. A movement which has blossomed in the past two decades, with thousands of local organizations and institutions and a score of organizations exerting national influence, but with little common strategy and little sense of cohesion in expressing ourselves as an organized national political and educational force.

We want to build a stronger movement. Not a single organization that replaces or smothers our diversity and the vitality which comes from pluralism, but a psychology and infrastructure for encouraging the diverse elements of the movement to work together in common purpose.

Enclosed you will find a broader statement of our purpose. We hope you will be a part of this process. You are being invited because we know of you as a leader, whether a leader or leading supporter of a lesbian/gay organization, or a leading member of your community who happens to be gay or lesbian.

More details on the conference and logistics will be mailed in early January. For the moment, we hope you will plan on reaching Airlie House by Friday evening, February 26 (via Dulles Airport or other transport through Washington, DC), and remaining until Sunday afternoon, February 28. Costs per person are indicated on the enclosed information sheet.

Please be with us.

For the organizing committee,



Michael Shower

<ORGANIZING COMMITTEE LISTED ON REVERSE>

Organizing Committee

(in formation)

(ORGANIZATIONS LISTED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)

ROGER ANDERSON Los Angeles	NICOLE MURRAY San Diego
VIC BASILE Executive Director Human Rights Campaign Fund	HON. TOM NOLAN Supervisor San Mateo County, California
PAUL BONNBERG Mobilization Against AIDS	TORIE OSBORN Los Angeles
DAN BRADLEY Miami	JEAN O'LEARY Executive Director National Gay Rights Advocates
SHERRIE COHEN Executive Director Fund for Human Dignity	LOIS RECKITT Deputy Executive Director Human Rights Campaign Fund
PAT CHRISTEN Public Policy Director San Francisco AIDS Foundation	ERIC ROFES Executive Director Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Los Angeles
DUKE COMEGYS Co-Chair Human Rights Campaign Fund	MICHAEL ROSANO City Council President's Office New York City
CRAIG DAVIDSON Executive Director Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation	BEN SHATZ National Gay Rights Advocates
JOETOM EASLEY Chair Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund	VIVIAN SHAPIRO New York
PAULA ETTTELBRICK Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund	MICHAEL SHOWER United Nations
AVRUM FINKELSTEIN Silence = Death	PAUL VAN SOUDER Executive Director People With AIDS Coalition (NY)
CHUCK FORESTER San Francisco	TOM STODDARD Executive Director Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
ANDY HUMM Hetrick-Martin Institute	TIM SWEENEY Deputy Executive Director for Policy Gay Men's Health Crisis
JOYCE HUNTER National March on Washington Steering Committee	ROBIN TYLER Los Angeles/Provincetown
HOWARD KATZ New York	ROSE WALTON State University of New York-Stoney Brooke
JEFF LEVI Executive Director National Gay & Lesbian Task Force	STEVEN WEBB Silence = Death
MARIE MANION East End Gay Organization	TIM WOLFRED Executive Director San Francisco AIDS Foundation