## KISSES & CURSES

## USS lowa; Kissing the mayor

by Don Michaels

URSE Curses all around for the are afflicted: could prove that to be the case.

started out with direct references to a still in the denial stage..." possible Gay angle, but following the surviving sailor's public denial resorted an act of libel? Obviously, it has few epoch story. Am I sorry I didn't go? Yes." phasis.

dall Truitt's lawyer who, in a staged was worth covering. Better news judgpublicity stunt, asked the surviving sailor ment, Tom, means never having to say if he was a homosexual? ("No!") Then you're sorry! asked Truitt's wife if her husband was a homosexual? ("No!") Then asked her if Truitt was a good lover? ("Oh, Yes!")

Oh, barf!

CURSE School officials at the Fairfax County (Va.) Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology deserve to be hung out to dry. A T-shirt with a Gay double-entendre was produced by a couple seniors at the sheathed bananas and a city-produced school and when school officials learned of it, they deemed the shirts obscene and has not accepted for its trains and buses. libelous, then suspended the students, both male, for 10 days and barred them Washington Post revealed that the penalty administered was twice that for drug or alcohol use.

On the front of the T-shirt were the back "Jefferson Tech '89," along with a photo of two male school administrators, lately. one leaning over a desk, the other reaching for him from behind. Assistant Superletter to the parents of the offending stufor this type of communication." Accord- with AIDS." ing to the Post account, school officials also said the shirts were "lewd and on the Metro board and Crawford, who profane."

It's a measure of people's ignorant attitudes towards sex when, even in the in his ward because they offend religious context of a prank, they react to the suggestion of homosexuality with such are deplorable and revealing of spineless labels as "aberrational," "lewd," and "profane." And it's a shame such ignoramuses administer our schools.

television AIDS dramas in which the rebellion listed?

focus was on heterosexuals and kids who

players in the USS Iowa story involving "It sometimes seems that the only the two sailors who were, at least, close people on television, at least in featured friends. First, to the Naval Investigative roles, who don't get AIDS are gays and Service which is so obsessed with addicts, who only die in real life....It also homosexual witchhunts that it im- seems to me that disease-of-the-month mediately proffered the idea to the media semi-fictions probably do more good than that its investigation centered on a most cinema-verite documentaries, simpspurned lover's possible revenge/suicide. ly because more people will watch them Obviously, NIS would be delighted if it for their semi-famous actors, and we are marginally improved in the mass con-Next, a curse to the media which sciousness. Television, nevertheless, is

|CURSE| Asked recently by a San to describing the two sailors as "best Francisco Chronicle reporter why NBC friends" or friends who had a "special didn't send him to China to cover the relationship." Take note that the two Gorbachev visit, news anchor Tom descriptions appeared in quotation marks Brokaw replied, "It appeared it was going in the print media and with vocal em- to be Mikhail Gorbachev and Deng phasis on TV broadcasts—devices used Xiaoping meeting behind closed doors in the days when the act that "dare not and saying everything is swell. With the speak its name" didn't! Perhaps, like the students, it looked like a spring fling. No school administrators in the curse below, one expected it to go ballistic, the way it the media considers positing a Gay angle did... Those things happen. This is an

qualms about the titillating nature of em- This is the same network that didn't think the 1987 National March on And finally, a prolonged curse to Ken- Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

> KISS His honor, the mayor, deserves a kiss for his recent public pronouncement of support for OUT!'s civil disobedience actions aimed at AIDS education. OUT! plastered Metro bus shelters with graphic, how-to stickers showing a condom being unrolled onto an erect penis. They also disrupted a city council meeting by holding aloft condomeducational AIDS poster which Metro

When OUT! members were ushered out of city hall after disrupting the counfrom going to the prom. A report in The cil meeting, Mayor Barry happened along and told them, "I hope you all keep on doing what you're doing" and accepted a condom offered by one of the OUT! activists. Most politicians would have duckwords "I got screwed at..." and on the ed such an encounter if they were undergoing the publicity beating Barry's taken

CURSE On the same issue, a curse is intendent Beatrice H. Cameron said, in a due city Councilmembers Hilda Mason, Frank Smith, and H.R. Crawford, who dents, "There is no justification for this oppose the city's AIDS poster. The type of behavior which purposefully at- poster, in good taste, depicts a shirtless tributes aberrational behavior to these man holding a condom, with the words school officials. The First Amendment "Are you man enough to protect your does not, in my view, afford protection lover? Use a condom. Don't mess around

> Mason and Smith also represent D.C. represents Ward 7 on the council, says he won't permit the posters to be displayed leaders. Such head-in-the-sand attitudes leadership.

CURSE Does anyone even need to ask if there is any homosexual influence KISS In a recent column, New York at Interview magazine?! Then why, in the magazine television critic John Leonard calendar of historical events in their June commented on the recent spate of issue, isn't the June 27, 1969, Stonewall



