

Aflutter over Futterman

OK, you win. I have long been among those who resent it when you put a nongay person on the cover. But today, when I pulled my *Advocate* from its wrapping and saw the face of *Will & Grace*'s Dan Futterman ["Boyfriend in Training," February 18], I felt nothing but pleased. There seems to be such a gentle, compassionate soul residing within Dan, and he does seem to be making

character David just recently shared their first kiss, and it was an adorable thing to watch as they set the framework for a relationship. This show has been a godsend to me, realistically displaying both the awkwardness and the wonder of growing up. Any arguments that their relationship or the characters are not gay enough can't compete with the spark of hope and reassurance watching the kiss gave me.

Jason Stafford, Orlando, Fla.

sition with allies who are vital to the ultimate victory of the GLBT equality cause. But as we have made eminently clear, we are not devoting resources to antiwar activities. Our precious resources continue to be dedicated to our 30-year fight for GLBT freedom, justice, and equality. (2) NGLTF's actual work speaks the indisputable truth that we are not, as Sullivan speciously claims, irrelevant to GLBT people. In 2002 alone we were instrumental in defeating all but one of the anti-GLBT ballot measures that were voted on across the country and in passing nine antidiscrimination laws, one hate-crimes law, and one safe-schools law.

And oh, yeah, amid hundreds of public statements about GLBT equality issues, we issued one announcement about joining the Win Without War coalition.

Lorri L. Jean, executive director
NGLTF, Washington, D.C.

Sullivan criticizes NGLTF for publicly taking a position opposed to war on Iraq and suggests that its occasional inclusion of broader social justice issues is irrelevant. It is Sullivan who risks irrelevancy by insisting that gay organizations have no business weighing in on political debates with wide-ranging implications for gay and nongay folks alike.

Sullivan's politics of selfishness is tired. A single-minded focus on "What's in it for me?" threatens the very legitimacy of our movement and undermines opportunities for broad-based support. Moreover, the very arrogance, unilateralism, and imperialism that drives the Bush administration to war is the same holier-than-thou philosophy responsible for the most far-reaching attack on civil liberties since Joe McCarthy.

The hundreds of organizations that have taken positions opposed to Bush's war understand that the struggle to end discrimination against us is inexorably tied to the fight to eradicate the race, class, and ethnic divides that breed so much conflict and discontent in this country and worldwide. Sullivan is free to stand by himself. Many more of us understand and appreciate the ►

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—BARRY BARBEE, Washington Crossing, Pa.



a career out of playing gay men. His energy suggests a sensitivity that is unusual for a straight man. The flirty twinkle in his eyes and smirk on his lips give him the appearance of someone whose quiet, understated demeanor is really just an act and that at any moment he might break out in a "just Jack" sort of way. I believe him when he says he is straight. The only explanation I have for the uniqueness of Dan is that he is a gay soul trapped in a hetero body.

Barry Barbee, Washington Crossing, Pa.

First kiss

I loved your article "So Happy Together" [February 18]. Chronicling all the gay couples in the entertainment world was a great Valentine's Day pick-me-up. Watching actors, whatever their real-life orientation, bring truth to what is so true to us is exciting, rejuvenating, and necessary. However, I was upset by the omission of one particular couple that has recently developed in mainstream teen-targeted television. Kerr Smith's Jack on *Dawson's Creek* and the

Fightin' words

Reasonable people can disagree about whether national GLBT organizations should speak out on important issues that are not exclusively related to GLBT civil rights, like the impending war against Iraq [Last Word, February 18]. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has long believed that a "gay voice" in such national dialogue is important, that our community need not be limited to a GLBT-only sphere. After all, we're fighting for equality in society as a whole and not just to remain in a GLBT-only world.

What isn't reasonable is when Andrew Sullivan attempts to bolster his argument not by articulating a rationale for why GLBT organizations should be silent on issues like the war but by writing a scattered diatribe against NGLTF that promotes blatant falsehoods about what we are and what we do. Here are the facts: (1) NGLTF has joined a national coalition that is advocating alternatives to preemptive war against Iraq. We have taken a rhetorical po-