

# Drawing "Straight" With Crooked Lines

William Norman Grigg

"I wouldn't be who I am today without Scouting," gushed homosexual activist James Dale on August 4th. Dale is the former assistant scoutmaster who was expelled by New Jersey's Monmouth Council in July 1990 after it was learned that Dale was co-president of the Rutgers Gay/Lesbian Alliance. Dale's testimonial to Scouting — easily the least persuasive endorsement this side of a cosmetics ad featuring Madeleine Albright — was inspired by the New Jersey State Supreme Court ruling that the Boy Scouts would have to accept homosexual scoutmasters. That decision inspired one Rhode Island Scouting Council to adopt a "don't ask-don't tell" policy, and emboldened Chicago Circuit Judge Stephen A. Schiller to order the Boy Scouts to stop barring homosexual applicants in hiring decisions.



tion to his work as a homosexual militant at Rutgers, the 29-year-old Dale (who looks a bit like a less masculine version of lesbian singer k.d. lang) is "now a Manhattan staffer at *Poz*, a magazine for people who are HIV-positive," reported the *New York Daily News*. The readership to which that magazine caters is defined by a disease that is bred in promiscuity and drug abuse, and the editorial slant of the magazine is generously removed from the ethic to which Dale offered allegiance as a Scout.

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what scouting taught me — to believe in the system, and that justice and goodness will prevail." Evan Wolfson of the homo-revolutionary Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who represented Dale, took exactly the same tack by designating the state court's decision "a win-win ruling. It's a victory for James Dale

"My opponent has the advantage of me, as he has done things a gentleman can't mention in public," declared the Roman orator Cicero in one of his speeches condemning Marc Antony. In the spirit of Cicero's lament, let us examine some of *Poz's* contributions to our public culture. The magazine's April 1999 cover story examined the impact of AIDS upon "the men and women who populate and copulate" in the San Fernando studios responsible for "the great American pastime, pornography...." The May 1999 issue featured an *in memoriam* column dedicated to the late Rod Sorge of the homo-fascist group ACT-UP. The founder of ACT-UP's needle exchange program, "Saint Sorge" — as he was designated in the column's title — "advocated tirelessly for the rights and health of drug users." In a December 1997 *Poz* essay, Sorge, who knew he was dying, wrote about "his plans for an 'empowered, purposeful' suicide by heroin to avert a degrading AIDS death," wrote ACT-UP comrade Lei Chou.

*Poz* devoted its February 1999 cover story to a profile, complete with nude photos, of Tony Valenzuela, "the Poster Boy of Unsafe Sex," who champions the practice of "barebacking" — that is, condom-free homosexual sodomy. A self-described "sex gourmet" who was the "first openly HIV-positive porn actor in the United States," Valenzuela founded a group called "Twentysomething Positives" who are united by their love for what they call "the ultimate taboo." In an effort to conciliate critics, *Poz* affixed a sidebar to the Valenzuela profile describing "Safer Barebacking Considerations."

Readers who feel defiled by these sanitized descriptions of some relatively benign samples of *Poz's* editorial content must understand: *This* is the sewer which James Dale, erstwhile Eagle Scout turned sodomite revolutionary, will play in before changing into his scoutmaster's uniform — and, thanks to the definition of moral "cleanliness" imposed upon Scouts by the New Jersey State Supreme Court, Dale can't even be asked metaphorically to wash his hands before he lays them on his youthful charges. Dale may have thought himself generous when he gave Scouting the credit for making him "who I am today." He needn't be so modest; he did it all on his own. ■

... and a victory for all members of Scouting."

Both the decision and its treatment by the media urge the public to believe that Dale embodies the values of Scouting, and is a worthy exemplar for young men — and that his homosexuality is no impediment to being "morally straight," as required by the Scout Law. Nearly every press account underscored the fact that Dale had achieved the properly esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. However, commendable achievements do not consecrate moral flaws. Benedict Arnold's early heroic service in the War for Independence did not mitigate his later treason. As he was the first to admit (see Psalm 51), King David's accomplishments as a ruler and psalmist did not expunge the taint of his acts of adultery and murder.

Dale reportedly is awaiting re-instatement as a Scouting leader. His résumé since his 1990 expulsion may help us anticipate the type of youth leader he will prove to be. In addi-