

West Virginia town deluged with letters detailing gay sex

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLARKSBURG, W.Va.
For months now, folks in Clarksburg have been getting letters from a New Yorker who shares details of his sex life and his contempt for hillbillies with people whose names he picks out of the phone book.

"If Denver can survive the humiliation it went through with their new airport, you, Clarksburg, can survive me," he wrote recently. "So stop hacking at me you bucktoothed, overall-wearing, inbreeding clowns."

The 31-year-old man, who uses the pen name J.T. Colfax, has mailed more than 300 letters since December to residents and businesses in this city of 18,000, about 90 miles south of Pittsburgh. He calls his daily writings art and a

"cheap distraction from life."

"We felt invaded," says Karen Heaster, 51, who received a letter in February detailing an afternoon of anonymous homosexual sex near Times Square. "It's trash."

Mr. Colfax says the letters are a literary project he began to ease his loneliness and to introduce homosexuality to small-town America. He says he picked Clarksburg because it has no gay bars that people could attack to vent their anger over his letters.

"I just make it a huge mix of everything, completely mundane details of what I bought at the store today to going out and having sex and how that went," says Mr. Colfax, a Denver native, alcoholic and one-time street hustler who lives in a New York City boarding-house.