

Editorially Speaking
*Not enough gay TV
characters? Get in line*

by **Janna Brock**

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation came out with a report recently that only two percent of the 710 sitcom characters appearing in the upcoming 2005-06 major network are gay or lesbian. The group's spokesperson declared this a "shocking misrepresentation of reality."

Don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with diversity in television programming, but what if every group whined that they didn't have enough sitcom characters representing them? The networks would be bombarded with mail from traveling gypsies, little people and the Elvis Presley Look-alike Association.

In addition, where are all the bald men? Why do all the overweight guys end up with supermodel wives? (And while we're on that topic, where are the plus-size women with stud muffin husbands?) Why aren't the hippies given equal representation? How come we don't have any sitcoms starring only Asian-Americans? We have yet to hear them complain. It seems as though if every minority thought their needs should be put above all others, the gay community would have to get at the end of an awfully long line.

The point is that television is not reality and never has been. Even reality television is based on everything but reality. If every group insisted on equal representation in television programming, we would need a lot more than 710 sitcom characters to meet the quota.