

Gay label nixes degree

SAN FRANCISCO — A private Christian college in southern Illinois has refused a man the bachelors degree he earned based on unspecified charges of homosexuality.

Greg Johnson, now a resident of Chicago, completed all the academic requirements for graduation in May, 1981. When a fellow student told the dean that Johnson was gay, the college withheld his diploma. National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, has sued the college to compel it to issue Johnson his degree.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "The school has offered no legal rationale for their action. In fact, they have none. We're suing them for breach of contract and money damages as well as demanding the issuance of Greg's diploma."

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: "The school's action is homophobic and offends common sense notions of fairness. Greg has met all the requirements for graduation and, of course, he should be granted his degree regardless of his sexual orientation." O'Leary noted that Johnson's graduate study and career have been stalled because of the college.

NGRA's local cooperating counsel is Jenner & Block, a prestigious Chicago law firm.

Lesbian Slide Show announces categories

"Lesbian Sexuality" and "Lesbians In Action" are the competitive categories in the 3rd National Lesbian Slide Show and Competition scheduled for March 1985. The Show and competition, sponsored by Herizon, a women's social club in Binghamton, NY will encourage the exploration of lesbian images and will offer lesbian photographers cash prizes. The judging will be accomplished by lesbian audiences in several US cities.

"We're focusing on sexuality for this show because the national lesbian community seems ready to explore this area of our lives," said spokeswoman N. Meg Glaser. "We are also interested in seeing upbeat, 'action' shots, of sports, protests, work, or play," she added.

The guidelines for the show emphasize original color slides, not black and white slides or reproductions of other photographs or artwork. There is an entry fee of \$5 per slide (3 slides per category limit). Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, \$25 will be awarded to winners in each category. For complete guidelines send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NLSSC, c/o Herizon, PO Box 1082, Binghamton, NY 13902. The deadline for entries is March 1, 1985.

This is the 3rd year the NLSSC has been

sponsored by Herizon, a 9 year old social club which has recently opened a women's space at 213 State Street in Binghamton. Proceeds for the Show go to Natalie Barney Fund which has funded grassroots lesbian projects such as the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City. Winners in previous shows include Joan E. Biren (JEB) of Washington, DC, Marian Roth of Provincetown, MA, and Trudy Wood of Cazenovia, NY. For information about sponsoring the Show, contact Herizon Thursday through Saturday evenings at (607) 724-2582 or write PO Box 1082, Binghamton, NY 13902.

For more information: N. Meg Glaser, (607) 724-9218 evenings.

NGA considers civil rights agenda

In its November meeting, the Staff Advisory Council of the National Governors' Association's Committee on Human Resources recommended to the NGA Executive Committee that it adopt a general civil rights policy that includes the issue of gay/lesbian civil rights.

The National Gay Task Force, in a presentation to the Advisory Council on September 20th, called on the governors "to endorse legislative and executive measures that would extend equal protection of the law to gay and lesbian Americans at the federal, state, and local levels." In considering a response to NGTF, the council realized that the NGA did

not have a general position on civil rights. The council therefore referred the matter to the Staff Advisory Council of the NGA Executive Committee for consideration, with the specific stipulation that the general policy include gay/lesbian civil rights.

NGTF Executive Director Virginia M. Apuzzo commented, "Through our presentation we have identified a deficiency in the NGA agenda that affects the entire civil rights community. The struggle for lesbian and gay rights is just one part of the overall civil rights agenda, which is best addressed as a single entity rather than piecemeal."

Apuzzo said that NGTF would be contacting representatives of other civil rights organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, to discuss strategy in pursuing this matter through the National Governors' Association.

Members of the current NGA Executive Committee are the Governors of Kansas (John Carlin, Dem., Chair), Tennessee (Lamar Alexander, Rep., Vice-Chair), Colorado (Richard Lamm, Dem.), Florida (Bob Graham, Dem.), Illinois (James Thompson, Rep.), Pennsylvania (Richard Thornburgh, Rep.), South Dakota (William Janklow, Rep.), Vermont (Richard Snelling, Rep.), and Virginia (Charles Robb, Dem.). Membership will change slightly as a result of the November elections.

In June, following lobbying by NGTF, the U.S. Conference of Mayors became the first national organization of elected officials to take a position in favor of lesbian and gay rights by endorsing a resolution recommending "that all levels of government adopt legal protections for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans."

Funtastic Shows
presents



DORIC WILSON was born in Los Angeles, February 24, 1939 and raised on his grandfather's ranch on the Columbia River of Washington State. He received his theatre training from Lorraine Larson, apprenticed with the Richland Players, and after a brief stay at the Drama Department of the University of Washington, he came to New York City in 1959. A pioneer of the off-off-Broadway movement, his play *And He Made a Her* opened at the Caffe Cino in 1961. Committed to the development of alternative theatre, he has written, directed, produced and/or designed over a hundred productions. An original member of the Barr-Wilder-Albee Playwright's Unit and Circle Repertory, in 1972 with Peter del Valle and Bill Blackwell, he formed TOSOS Theatre Company. Described as "one of a handful of leading contemporary playwrights who deals frankly with the gay experience," Wilson is a satirist "who genuinely likes—and laughs at—human foibles" with "wit and charm, detouring critical barbs through the funny bone en route to the gut. Nothing is sacred—including himself."

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Just Friends Page 19