

Harvey Milk School opens in NY

A New York City public school for lesbian and gay high school students has opened in NY City's Greenwich Village.

Organizers of the three-month-old Harvey Milk School said it was the first public school in the nation to be geared specifically to gay and lesbian adolescents, according to the *New York Times*. In an editorial, the *NY Times* called the school a "reasonable and constructive project."

The New York City Board of Education is operating the school in conjunction with the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth. Dr. A. Damien Martin, the institute's executive director, described the organization as a counseling group financed in part by the city and the state of New York.

All twenty students — fourteen boys and six girls ranging in age from 14 to 19 — say they are openly gay and have had difficulty fitting in at traditional high schools and had dropped out.

A teacher at the Harvey Milk School, Fred Goldhaber, said that all of the students enrolled would be targets for abuse at regular public schools.

Richard Organisciak, director of offsite education programs for the Board of Education, said the program at the Harvey Milk

School was organized to provide a standard education to teen-agers "excluded from the mainstream" at their high schools.

"If these kids don't want to go to school anywhere but this one place," he said, "what are you supposed to do? The important thing is to get them back into a school, address their problem and get them on the diploma track."

All 20 students in the Harvey Milk program are school dropouts or truants who have been receiving counseling. Dr. Martin said that the organization has no recruitment program and that the students had come to the institute on their own initiative.

Gay Olympics back in court

Attorneys for the 1986 Gay Games II filed suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco on June 12 to lift its ban on the use of the term "Gay Olympics."

The appeal stems from a ruling by U.S. District Judge J.P. Vukasin which also awarded the U.S. Olympic Committee \$97,000 in attorneys' fees to be paid by the gay games promoters. Judge Vukasin ruled that the term Gay Olympics was a "deliberate and willful" infringement of the U.S.O.C. trademark.

"Congress didn't give the U.S. Olympic Committee unlimited use of the word for all purposes and all time," attorney Mary C. Dunlap said. "Olympic is a 3700-year-old generic word."

Dr. Tom Waddell, a decathlon participant at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, sought to hold the first "Gay Olympic Games" in San Francisco in 1982. Waddell's group was forced by the U.S.O.C. to drop the word "Olympics" and call the event "Gay Games." Dunlap said Waddell had never sought to

infringe upon the trademark.

In fact, she said, Waddell offered a compromise where every advertisement, letterhead and T-shirt would have a disclaimer saying that there was no connection between the Gay Games and the Olympics.

Dunlap pointed out that the U.S. Olympic Committee has given "passive approval" to such events as the International Police Olympics, the Special Olympics and even the Nude Olympics.

A lawyer for the U.S.O.C. countered that a law passed by Congress in 1978 gave exclusive use of the word Olympics to the U.S.O.C. and the I.O.C.

"Any use of the term diminishes the economic value of the word for licensing and fund-raising purposes," the U.S.O.C. attorney said.

American Friends Service Committee developing NW lesbian & gay task force

The Lesbian and Gay Task Force of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is currently developing a regional program. The program will have a modest budget and a small staff (probably one person in Portland and one in Seattle). It will be a part of the community relations division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the AFSC, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and will operate within the AFSC organizational structure. AFSC's asking individuals and organizations in these communities to contribute their experience to guide the program development process by completing a survey designed for this

purpose.

If you would like to participate please contact AFSC and they will send a copy of the survey. Please contact: Bonnie Tinker at (503) 228-4306 or (503) 281-4847 or Sande Nelson at (503) 238-3539. Or: Lesbian & Gay Task Force, Portland AFSC Office, 2249 East Burnside, Portland, Oregon 97214.

Brief filed for bereaved lover

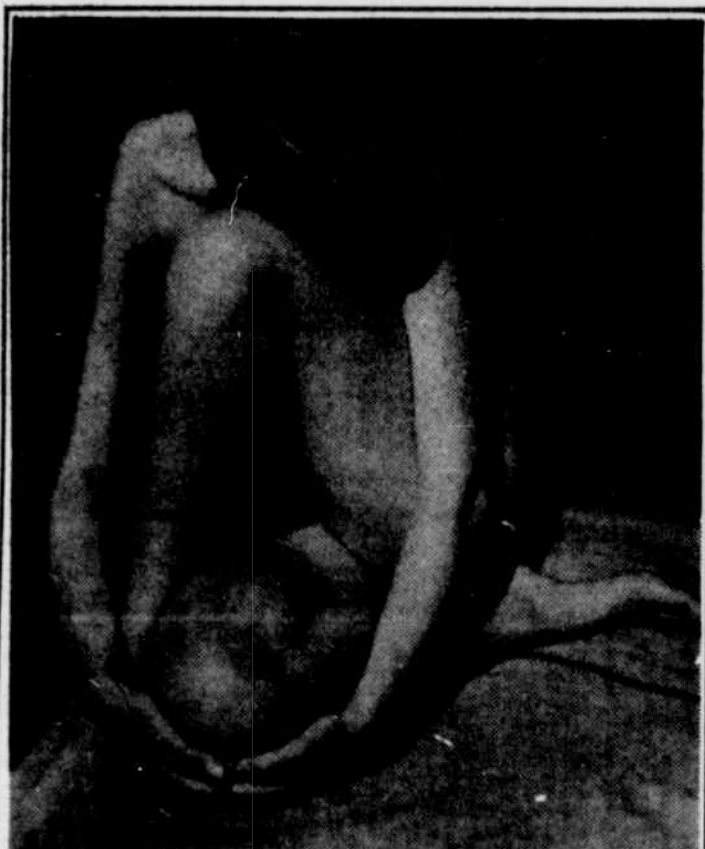
National Gay Rights Advocates has filed a brief with the California Court of Appeals in a suit for loss of "consortium" (marital companionship). The plaintiff in the lawsuit is James Crabtree. His lover of ten years, Jack Allen, was stabbed by an assailant and died in Crabtree's arms.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "There is no question that if Crabtree and Allen had been lawfully married, Crabtree would be able to sue for loss of consortium. Of course they were not married because no state permits same sex marriages." The trial court had dismissed the suit because Crabtree and Allen were not married.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: "It is patently unfair that this couple of ten years couldn't have the same rights of a heterosexual couple married for a single day. We've taken this case to further expand and define the rights of gay and lesbian couples."

O'Leary noted that a few years ago the Court of Appeals ruled that a heterosexual couple need not be married as long as they had a stable and significant relationship. Previous to that, only married couples could sue for loss of consortium.

Frederick Herz, a San Francisco attorney experienced in civil litigation, is working with NGRA on this case.



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