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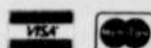
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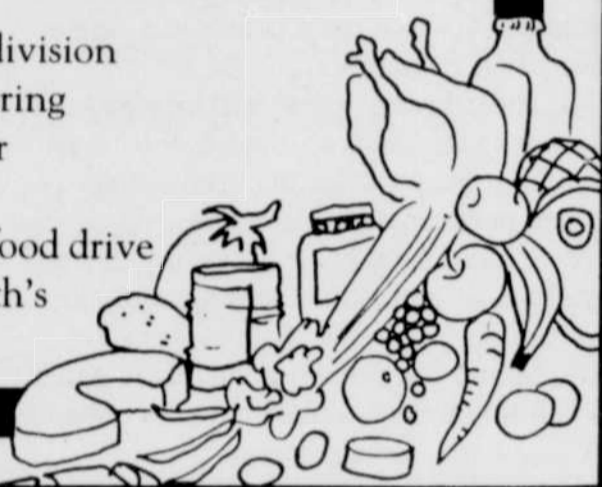
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Unique Gift Idea!



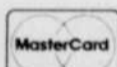
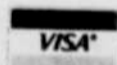
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Just briefs

B Y W C M c R A E

Gays Press Ma Bell

The largest single financial settlement in the history of the gay rights movement was negotiated recently in a class action suit brought by gay organizations and individuals against Pacific Bell. The three million dollar settlement resulted from an 11-year legal battle in which plaintiffs alleged Pacific Bell had a specific policy forbidding the employment of "manifest homosexuals." In the course of investigation, it was determined that Pacific Bell had written policy mandating discrimination against openly gay individuals.

The case went to the California Supreme Court in 1977, and resulted in a landmark decision affirming that "coming out" was a necessary political act, and therefore a protected activity under the California Labor Code. The Labor Code forbids employers from interfering with the political activities of employees.

Goldschmidt vows support

Vowing that gays won't be "treated any differently than anyone else" in state employment, Governor Neil Goldschmidt stated in front of the Salem Chamber of Commerce on January 19 that in state hiring, gays should not be discriminated against unless security is at stake.

Although he purposefully avoided addressing the larger issue of protection of gays and lesbians in housing, public accommodation or private employment, Goldschmidt stated that the civil rights of individuals had always been an "important part of my life, both as an attorney and as the child of a Jewish family."

Goldschmidt disingenuously claimed to be unfamiliar with House Bill 2523, the omnibus gay rights bill currently in the House. However, his statement may indicate his intention of issuing an executive order protecting state-employed gays and lesbians.

Ain't that right, Neil?



Stories out of school

Ishmail Merchant and James Ivory, the team that brought "A Room with a View" to the screen, are in the process of filming *Maurice*, another E.M. Forster novel. *Maurice* is the story of love between gay undergraduates in pre-World War I Cambridge, England. Written in 1914, *Maurice* was published after Forster's death in 1971.

Merchant and Ivory report that Cambridge University has allowed the filmmakers the rare privilege of filming within colleges and private meeting rooms, usually unavailable to non-academics. "They've been very cooperative," report Merchant and Ivory, according to the *Sunday Times* of London.

"Prick Up Your Ears," a movie biography of gay playwright Joe Orton is now in production. Orton, who was murdered by his lover in London in 1967, wrote *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, *Loot*, and *What the Butler Saw*. The film is directed by Stephen Frears (*My Beautiful Laundrette*), according to *The Dial*.

Majority of Canadians protected from anti-gay discrimination

The Province of Ontario, Canada, late last year enacted laws barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, making Ontario the second Canadian province to prohibit anti-gay discrimination. Quebec passed similar legislation in 1977; together, Ontario and Quebec contain 60% of the Canadian population.

The bill, which was endorsed by the Liberal and the New Democratic Parties, passed with a large 19 vote margin (64-45), according to the *Advocate*.

What's it worth not to be a lesbian?

A suit has been filed in Boston District Court by a psychiatrist who alleges her professional reputation was damaged by the film version of Sylvia Plath's *A Bell Jar*, in which the psychiatrist is portrayed as a lesbian. Dr. Jane V. Anderson, a member of Harvard Medical School faculty, claims she is the model for the character of Joan Gilling in Plath's book and the subsequent movie. (*A Bell Jar* was published in the US in 1971; the movie was released in 1979.)

The movie version embellished Plath's original story by inserting an incident involving a lesbian love-suicide pact. Anderson's lawyer claims that allegations of lesbianism and participation in a suicide pact have "grossly damaged her reputation."

Sylvia Plath committed suicide in 1963; her husband, poet Ted Hughes, is named as a defendant in the suit. Determination of damages will be left to the court, according to the *New York Times*.