

Bill seeks to amend immigration law

A bill to remove provisions of the US immigration laws that permit exclusion of aliens on the basis of sexual orientation and political ideology has been introduced into the US House of Representatives. Sponsor Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, whom *The Advocate* is now referring to as "openly gay," says the current law is "simply inconsistent with our role as the defender of freedom in the world."

Under current law, individuals may be barred from entry or immigration to the US if they are gay (defined by INS as a pathological disorder) or if they espouse political views unpopular with the US government, according to the *New York Times*.

Catastrophic coverage to include AIDS (maybe)

President Reagan has endorsed plans to offer an expansion of Medicare to cover the costs of catastrophic illnesses. While the Administration's plans are limited to coverage of senior citizens, only members of Congress have vowed to amend the program to include citizens of all ages.

Rep. Paul Waxman of California said on National Public Radio that the plan, which is expected to find broad support in Congress, would be expanded to include others than just senior citizens. Waxman specifically cited AIDS patients as a group that would benefit from expanded Medicare coverage.



Designer Lez

Readers of two Ohio newspapers were treated to an ad featuring a photograph of two women lying on a bed, gazing at each other. The text of the ad reads: "The stuff fairy tales are made of . . . My happily-ever-after . . . just look at her. My spirit soars at the mere sight . . . Only Christian Dior for my princess."

Apparently the text was meant to run under a photo of a man and a woman, but at the last moment the photo of the two women was substituted to display the women's sleepwear. The text was not checked for "appropriateness," according to the *Gay Community News*.

Baker new PAC chair

John Baker has been elected chair of the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee. Baker, a Portland native, is a founding member of the PAC, which began in 1981. Baker plans to consolidate the strengths of the PAC and to involve the gay community at more levels of the political process during his tenure as chair.

Keeston Lowery, stepping down as chair, says he plans to remain the liaison to Governor Neil Goldschmidt, Congressman Les AuCoin, and other elected officials.

The Right to Privacy PAC was the eighth most successful political action committee in Oregon last year in terms of dollars raised, reports the *Oregonian*. Right to Privacy garnered \$39,444 for state candidates. Funds raised for national candidates are not included.

Baker and Lowery recently attended a meeting of West Coast Gay Rights PACs in Palm Springs. After attending the meeting, Baker said the Right to Privacy is among the three most successful gay PACs on the West Coast in terms of dollars raised.

This month's testing news

The federal government has begun anonymous testing for the AIDS virus in five hospitals nationwide, in order to obtain a representative sample to determine the percentage of the population that has been exposed to AIDS. The blood samples are not labelled with the patients' names, nor is permission requested. No attempt will be made to contact those whose blood tests positive to HIV antibodies.

California's strict laws preserving anonymity in HIV tests are interfering with that state's cooperation in the national sampling.

Meanwhile, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended, as part of AIDS prevention programs, that all hospital admissions and applicants for marriage licenses be tested for the HIV antibodies. The testing program would identify those who have been infected with HIV so they could be counselled about risk reduction, according to the CDC.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force opposes the program, claiming that mandatory testing would drive people

away from public health programs. And presumably from marriage.

Britt due in Portland

Harry Britt, openly gay City Supervisor from San Francisco is running for Congress and will attend a fundraiser in Portland sponsored by the Right to Privacy PAC. The fundraiser is tentatively set for March 13, place to be announced.

Britt is running for the seat left vacant by the death of Sala Burton. Britt was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors following the assassination of Supervisor Harvey Milk. Also running for the congressional seat is Nancy Pelosi, who was instrumental in dismantling the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the Democratic Party. Pelosi has been endorsed by San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein. California's 5th District has one of the largest lesbian and gay populations in the US.

Where do I apply?

"The Reagan Administration announced details today on a sweeping drug-detecting program that will require about a million Federal workers to submit urine samples under strict controls to prevent cheating, including direct observation of urination in some cases," *New York Times* 2/20/87.

Didn't this used to be called something else?

Government fears of wide-scale cheating on drug tests are apparently well founded. For example, a woman living in a Midwest city reportedly needed more than \$50,000 last year selling urine samples. (That's good old American free enterprise, worthy of Hero of the [Reagan] Revolution, Second Class, I'd say.)

Phone sex jerked

"976" telephone numbers have been shut down by Mountain Bell in New Mexico, due to alleged misuse by callers. A spokesperson for Ma Bell said the "Abusive and sexually suggestive language" and complaints from parents whose children have run up huge phone bills forced the decision to terminate the service, according to *The Advocate*.



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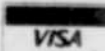


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