

# Just news

## Conferences, gatherings, sports

*Beginning in May, conferences, gatherings and sports events to be held throughout the summer illustrate the diversity of the gay and lesbian community. The events will focus on a wide range of issues, including homophobia, Native Americans, politics and education*

### Forward in Unity

Nationally known lesbian and gay political and organizational figures will be among the dozens of speakers, workshop facilitators and other resource persons providing leadership for "Forward in Unity," a grassroots gay and lesbian leadership conference. The conference will be held May 13-15 on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis.

The principal goals of "Forward in Unity" are to provide skills, resources and opportunities for networking that will facilitate participants' abilities to function as grassroots leaders in their own lesbian and gay communities; to experience the empowerment of the wealth of cultural and spiritual resources available in a setting that crosses lines of race, sex, class and disability; and to build on the momentum generated by the March on Washington.

The conference will employ a variety of strategies to create a setting for the achievement of its objectives: building skills, sharing strategies and resources, interacting with recognized leaders, giving and receiving support, setting the agenda for the next phases of the movement, and empowering for action.

Workshops offer opportunities to enhance leadership abilities by the exchange of skills and resources. Through a process of community forums and consultations with different interest groups in the community, conference organizers developed an agenda with a block of workshops in each of the following interest areas: addictions, aging, arts, care and feeding of activists, coming out in public, people with disabilities, fund-raising, gay male concerns, health and AIDS, legal and political issues, lesbian culture, other liberation issues (racism, feminism, militarism, radicalism, coalition-building), organizing and organizational development, people of color, spirituality, violence, youth and family issues.

A \$100 registration fee includes all events and most meals. Reduced registration fees will be available for low-income persons. Special rates have been arranged at the Holiday Inn Metrodome, and community housing will also be available.

Registration information may be obtained by writing to Forward in Unity, PO Box 300171, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

### National Conference on Homophobia

The first Conference on Homophobia Education will be held in Washington, D.C., May 20-22, at the National 4-H Conference Center. It will be a small working conference for approximately 150 leaders in the field of homophobia education. The work of the conference will be to exchange strategies and resources for teaching about and reducing homophobia, to build the capacity for development and distribution of resources on homophobia, and to plan for a larger, public conference in 1989.

The conference planners have identified nine areas in which homophobia education now occurs or should occur: religion, public health, formal education, the media, art (broadly defined), politics, community organizations, psychology and law. The program for the first conference will focus on the first four of those areas, and the planners are inviting leaders in those fields.

The conference is being organized by the Campaign to End Homophobia, a project initiated by the National Organization for Changing Men, and is co-sponsored by 13 organizations including the Unitarian Universalist Association, Women's Action Alliance, New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Vermont Coalition for Equality and Goddard College.

The campaign is based on the belief that homophobia can be reduced through education, and that there is a need to bring together organizations and individuals who have developed educational models and who are committed to reducing homophobia.

In preparation for the conference, the planners have requested assistance in identifying print or visual resources on homophobia, the identification of individuals and organizations involved with educating others about homophobia, and capital contributions to cover conference expenses. For more information, write to the national coordinator, Cooper Thompson, PO Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139.

### The Basket and the Bow

The Basket and the Bow: A Gathering for American Indian Gays and Lesbians" will convene for the weekend of June 18 and 19 in Minneapolis. The gathering was called by American Indians who participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights last October.

The gathering invites American Indian gays and lesbians, their partners, lesbian and gay service providers, and American Indian service providers. Workshop topics will include AIDS, spirituality, reservation/urban issues, homophobia, internalized oppression, the politics of racism, being out and family issues.

For more information, write to The Basket and the Bow, PO Box 10229, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3229.

### The Lesbian and Gay Education Conference

The Fund for Human Dignity, the national lesbian and gay educational organization, will sponsor the Lesbian and Gay Education Conference: "Initiatives Toward a National Education Agenda for Our Culturally Diverse Community," to be held on July 24 in Boston.

The Education Conference seeks to develop a network of individuals, projects and organizations working to educate various communities on lesbian and gay issues. It will focus on education in six areas: the media, educators and youth, the non-lesbian/gay communities, the lesbian/gay community, the creative arts and legislators.

Specific issues to be addressed include strategies for educating educators, youth, media, legislators, librarians, religious institutions, unions, corporations, healthcare and social-service agencies, police and the legal community; educating about racism, classism, sexism, ageism and disability issues in the gay community; educating about lesbian and gay issues in the black, Latino, Asian and Native American communities; incorporating positive gay images into school curricula and AIDS education; using gay history as a means of education; legal obstacles to gay and lesbian education; promoting multi-cultural gay and lesbian history, pride and culture; and the politics of teaching sexuality.

The Fund Education Conference will be held in conjunction with the Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum.

For information write to the Lesbian and Gay Education Conference, Fund for Human Dignity, Suite 410, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

### Physique '88

The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society will present Physique '88, the second annual National Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships, on June 25 in San Francisco. The event is open to all men and women. In addition to men's and women's open and masters competitions, the championships will include same-sex and mixed-sex pairs competitions.

The weight classes are as follows:

*Men's Open* — Bantamweight, up to 143 lbs.; Lightweight, 144 lbs. to 154 lbs.; Light Heavyweight, 155 lbs. to 198 lbs.; Heavyweight, over 198 lbs.

*Women's Open* — Light Weight, up to 116 lbs.; Middleweight, 117 lbs. to 125 lbs.; Light Heavyweight, 126 lbs. to 132 lbs.; Heavyweight, over 132 lbs.

*Men's Masters* — Ages 40-49; Ages 50-59; Ages 60 and over.

*Women's Masters* — Ages 40 and over.

For applications and information, write to the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, Suite 221, 1455A Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

### The Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival

The second Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival, a multi-sport event for lesbian and gay athletes, will be held in Seattle during the weekend of July 2-4.

Team Seattle, the organizer of Seattle's contingent to Gay Games II and host of the first Festival last summer, expects 1,500 athletes to participate in this year's event.

Ten sports have already committed to be a part of the festival: swimming, diving, soccer, volleyball, water polo, tennis, bowling, croquet, women's softball, and running — including 10K and 4K runs, and a 4K walk; others may be added this spring.

Highlights of this year's festival will be the National Gay Soccer Tournament, a volleyball tournament and a water polo event that this year will have a home team . . . the Team Seattle Orca water polo team.

Team Seattle is planning an exciting weekend for athletes who attend the Festival. In addition to the various sports competitions, Friday night will be "City Night," with parties and other events at local nightspots. Sunday evening will feature the festival banquet. The last night, Monday, July 4, will provide athletes with a chance to see the fireworks display on Seattle's Elliot Bay.

Deadline for entering events in the sports festival is June 15. For more information, write to Team Seattle, 600 E Pine St., Seattle, WA 98122.



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