

just briefs

World news briefs

According to *Gay Community News*, the Norwegian government has granted lesbian leader Kim Friele an annual pension. Friele receives the pension of \$13,000 under a program which allows prominent individuals to pursue their scientific or cultural activities — in her case, gay and lesbian emancipation — without worrying about making a living.

The *New York Times* reported that the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth District overturned a federal district court's dismissal of a lesbian's lawsuit against the CIA. Julie Dobbs brought suit against the CIA for denying her a security clearance based upon her sexuality. The ruling allows Dobbs to go to trial against the CIA.

According to *The Stanford Observer*, mice have been successfully infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) following the successful implantation of the human immune system into the mice. Scientists will now be able to study the interaction between the virus and the human immune system in heretofore impossible detail. HIV does not infect normal laboratory mice.

Computer users with modems can now link up to a gay and lesbian bulletin board for legislative updates, voting records, press



releases, fact sheets, and more. Contact Human Rights Campaign Fund system operator Sheryl Harris at (202) 628-4160 or access the HRCF NET via your personal computer at (202) 639-8735.

A long-distance telephone company in New York, Mid-Atlantic Telecom Company, has amended its hiring and employment policy to list sexual orientation as a classification protected against discrimination within the company. Race, creed, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, disability, age and "any other non-merit factor" are also protected. This change came on the heels of a recently settled discrimination case brought by a gay employee.

Svend Robinson was re-elected by a wide margin to the Canadian House of Commons. Last year, Robinson made a public announcement of his sexuality in order to advocate gay rights. During Robinson's campaign, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney implied that homosexuality was an impediment to holding positions of responsibility. He later apologized.

A complaint has been filed against the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its denial of a loan. Last October, a San Jose non-profit agency seeking to provide housing for people with AIDS and ARC, applied for and was denied a loan. HUD's reasoning was that AIDS is an illness not "expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration." The petitioners called HUD's excuse an erroneous stereotype.

The president of Rutgers has solicited input from gay students regarding changes at the university. Issues under discussion are social and cultural events, university insurance coverage for same-sex partners, curriculum revisions to incorporate gay and lesbian experience, and homophobia among faculty. Rutgers has had an active lesbian and gay organization since the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City.

A court in San Francisco rejected a dental clinic's assertion that it had the right to deny

treatment to a man who reported that he tested positive for HIV infection. The man's case against the Sutter Dental Clinic for illegal discrimination will now proceed to trial.

In Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee hearings, Federal Drug Administration chief Frank Young said he was urging the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to revise more than 30 AIDS drug-trial protocols. The revision would allow participants to use pentamidine, an "investigational new drug" (IND) shown to help prevent pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). Young also called for more funding to deal with the surge of new drug applications. He said 213 AIDS drugs are now in the FDA "pipeline."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance based in Roseburg, is in need of funds to continue operation of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and switchboard, and printing of *The Gay 'Ol Times*. GALA is operating month-to-month, but thanks all who contributed recently, the February issue of *The Gay 'Ol Times* was possible. Address contributions and/or correspondence to GALA, P.O. Box 813, Roseburg, OR 97470.

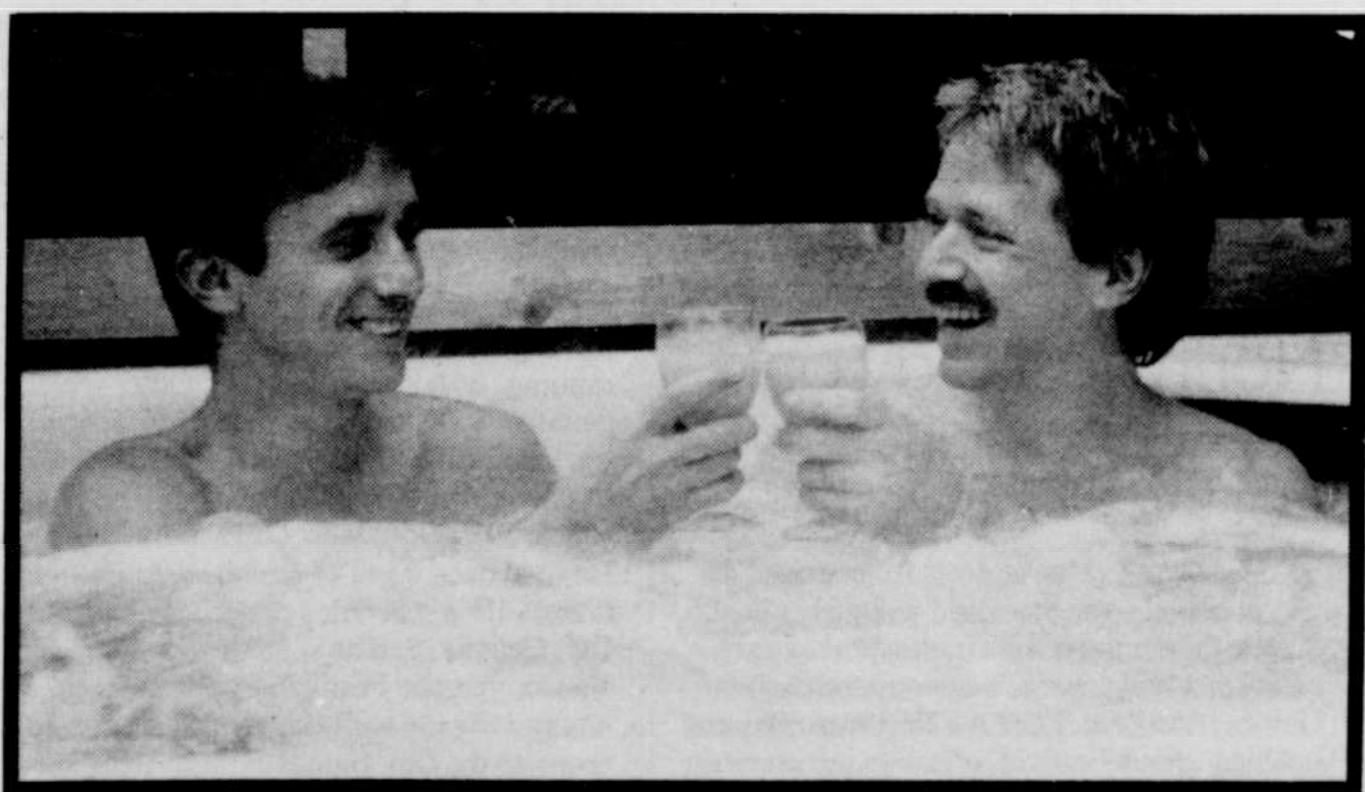
Compiled by Nancy Walseth; sources include *Gay Community News*, *The Stanford Observer*, *The New York Times*, *National Gay Rights Activists*

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