

just news

Conference focuses on college campus visibility

Scholars to discuss combatting homophobia

KELLY BURKE AND GREG ASHER

The Oregon Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Campus Union in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Phoenix Rising Foundation, and the Lewis and Clark College student group Homophile will present its second annual statewide conference "Vision '90: Pathways to Change," Oct. 19 and 20.

The "Vision '90" conference is designed for students, faculty, staff and alumni, and will focus on the emergence of lesbian, gay and bisexual visibility on the college campus. The conference's purpose is to facilitate discussion of sexual minority concerns to create a secure and accepting place to work and study within campus communities.

"Vision '90" begins Oct. 19 with an address by Dr. John D'Emilio, co-chair of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He is co-author of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*, and author of *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970*. D'Emilio is a Fellow at the Center for Advancement Studies in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.

People are welcome to attend this lecture without registering for the entire conference.

In addition to Friday evening's keynote address, D'Emilio will present a Saturday workshop entitled "Scholarship and Visibility: Up Front and Doing Our Work." Drawing from his personal experiences, D'Emilio will discuss the joys and concerns of being both an effective scholar and an openly gay man.

The second day of the conference will open with a keynote address by Dr. Nancy Stoller-Shaw, who is an associate professor of Community Studies and the first open lesbian faculty member to receive tenure at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is a researcher, lecturer and author who addresses issues of women, lesbians, and gay men within campus and health care communities, including the AIDS community. Stoller-Shaw is the acting provost of Kresge College, U.C. Santa Cruz.

Stoller-Shaw will also present a workshop Saturday afternoon entitled "Sexism and Homophobia: Issues for Lesbian Activists — A Workshop Not Solely Designed for Women." In this workshop Stoller-Shaw will talk about her challenging experiences as a woman, feminist, and open lesbian who has been successful in a male-dominated university system.

Saturday's agenda includes six additional workshops: examining the emerging research on bisexuality and the unique issues of the bisexual community; organizing, promoting and programming for campus-based student

groups; exploring the development, process, findings and recommendations of the President's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Concerns at the University of Oregon; discussing the recent findings from social research on behavior and HIV transmission in gay men, minorities, women and children, and the implication of these findings for the campus community; training how to design workshops about combatting homophobia using the model and materials developed at U.C. Santa Cruz; and exploring issues of intimacy, dating, relationships and safer sex practices in a "Dating Game" format.

At this event Kathleen Saadat, affirmative Action Officer for the State of Oregon, will give a lunchtime address during the Lunch-in-a-Box Social Saturday afternoon.

Other conference events include keynoters' reception hosted by *The Lavender Network*, Lesbian Community Project and Right to Privacy PAC; a book sale hosted by Ladd's Editions Bookstore; and an information and resource fair of social and political organizations.

The Lavender Cup Tournament of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Bowl, will run concurrently with and following the reception. College teams will compete in fast-paced and entertaining games of lesbian, gay, and bisexual trivia. Schools interested in bringing a team can contact the conference planning committee.

The conference will conclude with a dance hosted by the Lewis and Clark College student group Homophile.

Although the conference agenda is designed to address the concerns of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals, this event is open for everyone to attend. To encourage maximum participation by students, the only events for which they will be asked to pay include the Lunch-in-a-Box Social and the dance. The preregistration price for Saturday's lunch is \$5, \$8 if lunches are available for purchase at the conference. Limited free student housing is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For campus professionals, alumni, and other interested persons the preregistration fee is \$25. This includes all conference activities. The fee for those registering at the door will be \$25 which will not include lunch. If still available, lunches will be sold for \$8 at the door.

Since workshop enrollment is limited and lunches must be ordered, preregistration is strongly encouraged. Preregistration deadline is Oct. 10.

For more information or to request conference brochures write: Vision '90 Conference, c/o Homophile, LC Box 158, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland, OR 97219; or call (503) 234-0368 or (503) 236-2597.

Meier & Frank opening to benefit ART/AIDS

Meier & Frank has selected ART/AIDS as the beneficiary of the Nov. 9 gala opening of its Lloyd Center store. In doing so, the company becomes one of the first corporations in Oregon to respond to the dire needs posed by AIDS and HIV disease in this community.

The Meier & Frank Benefit Gala will showcase prominent regional artists, including George Mitchell and Gordon Lee, and performers from the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Portland Opera and Oregon Ballet Theatre. The highlight of the evening will be a performance by a nationally recognized artist,

to be announced in the near future.

ART/AIDS is a coalition of Portland area artists and The Research and Education Group, Oregon AIDS Task Force (OATF). Established in 1987, it was created to address the pressing, unmet needs of people with AIDS/HIV disease. All funds raised through ART/AIDS events are dedicated to the Long Term Care Fund of The Research and Education Group, OATF, a public, non-profit group.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person, and are available from steering committee members, or by calling Amanda Baines Ashley, ART/AIDS coordinator, at 292-0218, or Michelle Simone, Meier & Frank Public Relations, 241-5328.

Club 927's reign ends

Owners begin again with nude dancers

BY ROSANNE KING

Club 927, recently Portland's best known lesbian bar, has closed. In a surprise move, owners Orlando and Rudy Yazzalino radically changed it—to a straight club featuring nude entertainment.

The Club closed for minor remodeling on Aug. 13 and reopened Aug. 17 as Sassy's. No announcement was issued to the women's community. Club staff members, including manager Aleson MacFarlane, were given only five days' notice before the bar closed.

On Aug. 26, Club 927 would have marked 10 years as Portland's most frequented, and most frequently notorious, lesbian bar. MacFarlane managed the establishment for two and a half years over the last five years.

According to MacFarlane, the Yazzalino brothers hope to increase business by changing the bar format.

"Business has dropped off a lot," she said. "As of July, we were doing a little more than half of the business that has been consistent over the past five years."

The major reason for the decline in business, according to MacFarlane, centers around an issue that continually created controversy in the lesbian community.

"Women are tired of supporting a women's bar owned by straight men who don't reinvest in the community," she said.

Linda Hartmann, co-producer of women-only erotica shows at Club 927 and manager of a dancer's bar, agrees with MacFarlane.

"Women in this community have been crying out for a different place for a long time,"

she remarked. She also noted that the decline in the Club's business is a trend that all alcohol-related establishments are experiencing to some degree.

The new Sassy's, however, has an advantage over similar bars in the area, since it will be the only nude dancers' club serving hard alcohol.

The Yazzalino brothers' chances of success will be affected by other factors as well, Hartmann said.

"They have a real good possibility of making this work big," she commented, "but they are overlooking the Club's reputation. Club 927 has been real well known. People know it's been a women's bar for 10 years."

In addition, the Yazzalinos' overhead expenses will skyrocket with the employment of dancers. Such bars generally run shifts of four to five hours daily, with two dancers per shift. Unless the Yazzalinos wish to hire dancers independently, they will have to pay an agency \$8-\$10 per hour for each dancer.

Hartmann also noted that with no previous experience in operating a dancers' bar, the brothers are "unaware of the problems inherent in employing dancers, and the situations that can arise."

The abrupt and completely unannounced closing of Club 927 has created some problems not only for the lesbian community, but for some of Portland's other gay bars.

Steve Suss, manager of The Embers, said, "When Club 927 first closed, we were inundated by women. It was very rough. Things have changed tremendously. They're much better now."

Workshop offered by LCP

Beginning Oct. 17, the Lesbian Community Project (LCP) will sponsor a special pilot workshop on coming out. *Coming out: A Practical Guide* is a six-session class designed to examine the dynamics, risks and rewards involved in being 'out' in the following life areas: work and school; family; friends and acquaintances; neighbors and the public.

Each participant will assess her own level of 'outness' in each of the four life areas, using objective self-assessment tools which are based on individual response to real and hypothetical situations.

Participants will develop a 'coming out' plan based upon their self-assessments in each of the four areas.

The initial class will be offered to LCP members only, but will be available to the

community at large in the near future. Carol Steinel, the workshop's designer and presenter, says the workshop is a response to increasing community discussion on being out, "a discussion that often touches on ethics and issues, but doesn't offer any 'how-to' or support."

The workshop will run Wednesday evenings from 7 - 9pm. The pilot has only 15 slots available on a first come, first served basis, and is offered at a special pilot rate of \$20 for the entire six-session workshop (later workshop fees may run \$80-\$120 for the six sessions, depending on overhead). Some work exchange will be offered for the pilot. If you are an LCP member and wish to register, call 223-0071. If you want to schedule this workshop for your organization or receive more information about future sessions, call Carol Steinel, 235-1356.

House votes to suppress feminist art work

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to cut funding for "The Dinner Party," an installation by feminist artist Judy Chicago. The move outraged activists from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who are waging a battle against censorship.

The House voted 297 to 123 on July 26 to cut \$1.6 million from the D.C. Appropriations Bill in response to the scheduled acquisition of "The Dinner Party." The piece is slated for display at the University of D.C. The money deleted by Congress is the amount the university had earmarked for the renovation of the school library, in which the art work will appear.

The work, created to symbolize the achievements of women throughout history, has

been highly acclaimed by critics, and exhibited internationally.

According to Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF legislative director, "the donation of this important work should be celebrated by Congress, not denounced. Since the exhibit will occur anyway, it is clear that this cut in funding was designed to punish the University for accepting a significant feminist work."

Radecic blasted Congress for meddling in District affairs and using this issue as a test case for future art censorship. "The vote was a serious blow to freedom of expression and serves as a prelude for future attacks on the NEA," said Radecic.

The bill now goes before the Senate floor for ratification. Lobbyists, who had only 24 hours' notice before the vote in the House, are hopeful they will be able to defeat the funding cut amendment in the Senate.