

national briefs

Survey to help AIDS prevention

If you are a man who has sex with other men and is sometimes being sexually unsafe, the University of Washington School of Social Work wants to hear from you.

The school is conducting a survey to help design more effective AIDS prevention programs. Some of the questions the survey asks are: What steps have you taken to avoid AIDS; what kinds of help do you think you might need; what's important to you in considering counseling; and what are you learning about yourself in dealing with AIDS risks?

The survey is done anonymously by phone and takes 30-45 minutes. Call 1-800-999-7511 between 9 am and 9 pm Monday through Thursday and 9 am to 5 pm on Friday.

Queers dance at Disneyland

Lesbians and gay men danced with partners of the same sex on Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 years after two gay men were ejected from Disneyland for dancing together.

Andrew Exler, 29, of Palm Springs, said the same-sex dancing was in commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of Disneyland ejecting him and a male dance partner from the Tomorrowland Terrace after disco dancing together. The two men sued the park and in 1984 won a lawsuit which effectively reversed Disneyland's 1957 policy barring same-sex dancing.

Exler says twelve male couples and two female couples danced for 30 minutes at the Tomorrowland Terrace to the live band "Discovery," which played pop 40 music. The couples participated in both fast and touch dancing without any confrontations from guests or park security. However, while the couples were dancing, a Disneyland security officer ("Cheryl"—Badge No. 69) was overheard telling park guests: "There was a lawsuit 10 years ago; I hope they all die from AIDS—they are going to die from AIDS anyway...."

Exler says that the comment from the on-duty officer was totally inexcusable and should not be tolerated by Disneyland officials. "Her comments were clearly homophobic and in very poor taste, especially since persons with AIDS were dancing that evening," he said. Exler has demanded in writing that Disneyland publicly apologize for the officer's offensive and derogatory comment, but Disney officials refuse to return his phone calls.

Conference to combat ROTC discrimination

The Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union will host a nationwide conference for campus organizers fighting ROTC's anti-gay policy Nov. 9, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change conference.

The Lesbian and Gay Rights project is organizing the conference along with the Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project, a coalition of groups united to fight the military's discriminatory policy. The conference will be co-sponsored by: Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders; Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America; Human Rights Campaign Fund; Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union; The National Organization for Women; and the University Gay Community of the University of Minnesota.

"Nearly 50 campuses around the country are fighting the military's discrimination by challenging the presence of ROTC on their campuses," said William B. Rubenstein, Director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "This conference will be the first opportunity for students and faculty from across the country to compare notes and plan strategy for the future."

Continuing its challenges to the military's anti-gay policies, the American Civil Liberties Union is assisting a gay man who was forced to resign from the United States Navy and is now being asked to repay the \$22,000 cost of his Annapolis training.

PAC breaks \$400K mark in campaign contributions

The political action committee (PAC) of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, has contributed \$400,000 to candidates running for Congress.

"Our effectiveness on Capitol Hill is due not only to our lobbying and constituent field work, but also to the impact that lesbian and gay Americans have in congressional elections all over the country," said Campaign Fund Executive Director Tim McFreeley. "Candidates running for office

from the hills of Carolina to the mountains of Oregon look for support from the Campaign Fund and from lesbian and gay Americans in their local communities."

Former Charlotte, North Carolina mayor Harvey Gantt, who is running neck and neck in his race against Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has received the maximum \$15,000 allowed by law from the Campaign Fund's PAC. Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill.), chief sponsor of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act which earlier this year became the first federal law in history to include lesbians and gays received \$10,000 in his race against GOP congresswoman Lynn Martin. Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), who chairs the committee with jurisdiction over the National Endowment for the Arts, and congressman John Miller (R-Wash.), who worked to defeat the Helms-Chapman food handlers amendment on the Americans with Disabilities Act, also received \$10,000. Both openly gay members of Congress, Representatives Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) also received \$10,000 for their campaigns.

In one of the nation's most closely watched races, the Campaign Fund is supporting Washington congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld, the first-term supporter of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. Alexandria, Virginia, mayor Jim Moran and former Oregon state legislator Mike Kopetski, who are strong contenders to win seats in the House against homophobic incumbents, have also received major contributions.

Sharon Kowalski denied again

Judge Robert Campbell denied permission for Sharon Kowalski to attend and be recognized by the first National Disability Pride Day held Oct. 6, in Boston. According to the court-appointed social worker, Judge Campbell felt it was "not in Sharon's best interest right now" to be allowed to attend the event.

"This ruling is yet another clear example of why I need to be Sharon's guardian," said Thompson. "I asked Sharon if she wanted to go to this event, she said yes. I am the only one who has taken Sharon's wishes into account and has listened to Sharon."

Thompson, who has been fighting for Kowalski's rights for over six years, filed a petition last year to be appointed Kowalski's guardian.

"I am very disappointed. I had hoped this would be over and we could get back to living a more normal life. The judge's ruling could certainly be viewed as a setback but I am optimistic of what the final outcome will be. It's very frustrating that this is being unnecessarily dragged out because once again, Sharon loses."

Despite this temporary setback, Thompson

said she is confident the professional testimony at the hearings will support her petition for guardianship. "This hearing should validate what I have been saying is best for Sharon all along," said Thompson.

Charges of lewd conduct dropped

In its first victory, the newly formed Gay/Lesbian Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio has won dismissal of all charges filed against 41 people arrested during a June raid on a gay bar in Lima.

On June 10, Lima police raided The Office Bar, arresting 41 patrons, the manager and the bartender on charges of "visiting a disorderly house." Police wore gloves during the raid and one of the officers called the bar an "AIDS place."

In a ruling handed down on Sept. 19, Judge William B. Lauber of the Lima Municipal Court said the city's law against visiting a "disorderly house," defined as a place operated for the purpose of "lewdness," was unconstitutionally vague. He also ruled that the charges against the patrons violated the due process clauses of both the United States and Ohio constitutions.

Feminist essays sought

Essays are being sought for *The Bisexual Feminist: Essays on Feminism and Sexual Identity* to be published by the Seal Press. Deadline is January 1991. For more information write Bi Book, PO Box 30645, Seattle, WA 98103-0645.

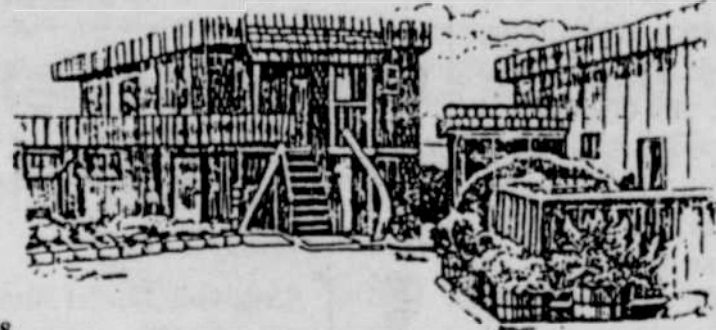
Gay couples get spousal benefits

Stanford University is apparently the first United States university to allow gay and lesbian couples to live in married-student apartments and to share in university benefits extended to spouses of students.

The new policy affords gay and lesbian mates access to university libraries, recreational facilities, and campus events.

That's a great first step toward recognizing gay and lesbian relationships on campus. Feel free to tack this item on your campus bulletin boards in student housing.

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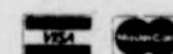
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