

just out
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steppin' out

The fifth annual gay and lesbian bodybuilding contest will be held in San Francisco on June 30—the evening before the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. First timers as well as seasoned athletes are invited to join in this spectacular annual event. For information write Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, 1230 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

editorial**Portland gay rights**

Right now we have the rare opportunity to rally support for a city gay and lesbian rights ordinance, and state and national gay and lesbian rights laws.

In Portland, a steering committee of lesbian and gay community leaders has written a letter to Mayor Bud Clark and members of city council demanding a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians by mid-June, in time for the celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. The committee represents the Lesbian Community Project, Right to Privacy PAC, and the ACLU Commission on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Rights. Those people signing the letter were Terry Bean, Gary Wilson, Steve Fulmer, Cathy Siemens, John Baker, Stephanie Holloway, Paul Starr, Sherry Oeser and Donna Redwing.

City officials have been telling us for years—we support you, BUT the time just isn't right. Our community leaders say, the time is right, let's do it, now.

Council members say they need letters of support from us as well as a show of mainstream support for this measure. Those straight friends who are reading this, write letters and get civic organizations that you are a part of to support the civil rights of gay men and lesbians. And of course those of us who are lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, dykes, faggots, and queer must once again or possibly for the first time write the members of city council, call them, visit them—they aren't so far away. Call your friends, go in a group and LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Go to your churches, local businesses, civic organizations and tell them to support you. You have, after all, been supporting them. This year maybe Lesbian and Gay Pride can be a real celebration—or a real protest. Instead of ending up in the park blocks we could end up IN City Hall!

On the state level, Senate Bill 708, the gay and lesbian rights bill is almost assuredly out of the Senate and on its way to the House of Representatives and an uphill battle. House Speaker Larry Campbell will assign that bill to a committee—a decision which could make or break our future. Call or write Speaker Campbell now and ask him to please assign SB 708 to the Housing Committee in order to give it a chance to have a fair hearing and reach the floor of the House for a vote. Letters, postcards and telegrams are the most effective (something to hold onto). Phone calls are also good.

Nationally, our congressional representatives will be home for a break May 24-June 3. This would be a good time to talk to them about HR-1, the bill which adds lesbians and gays to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Also, ACT UP/DC is organizing National AIDS Lobby days. Direct lobbying is the most effective means of reaching your representative with your message. June 5 marks the tenth anniversary of the first AIDS cases reported by the Centers for Disease Control. The first 1000 cases were reported over a period of 18 months, now 1000 new cases are reported every eight days. By the end of 1990, more 100,000 Americans had died of complications related to AIDS and an estimated one to two million are infected with HIV (call 202-543-1070 for more info.)

On a lighter note, Cj and Abby are back in the script of *LA Law*. Abby, the inexperienced one, asked Cj on a date. Yes, a date. They even used that word—just to make sure they understood each other. Wouldn't want any misconceptions here, after all. So much for the rumor that *LA Law* wasn't going to continue that storyline. I'm excited. So when you sit down for your marathon postcard/letter writing session don't forget to thank the writers and producers of *LA Law* for not forgetting that our 10 percent of the population exists, and that we just love to see ourselves on TV. —Linda Kliewer

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