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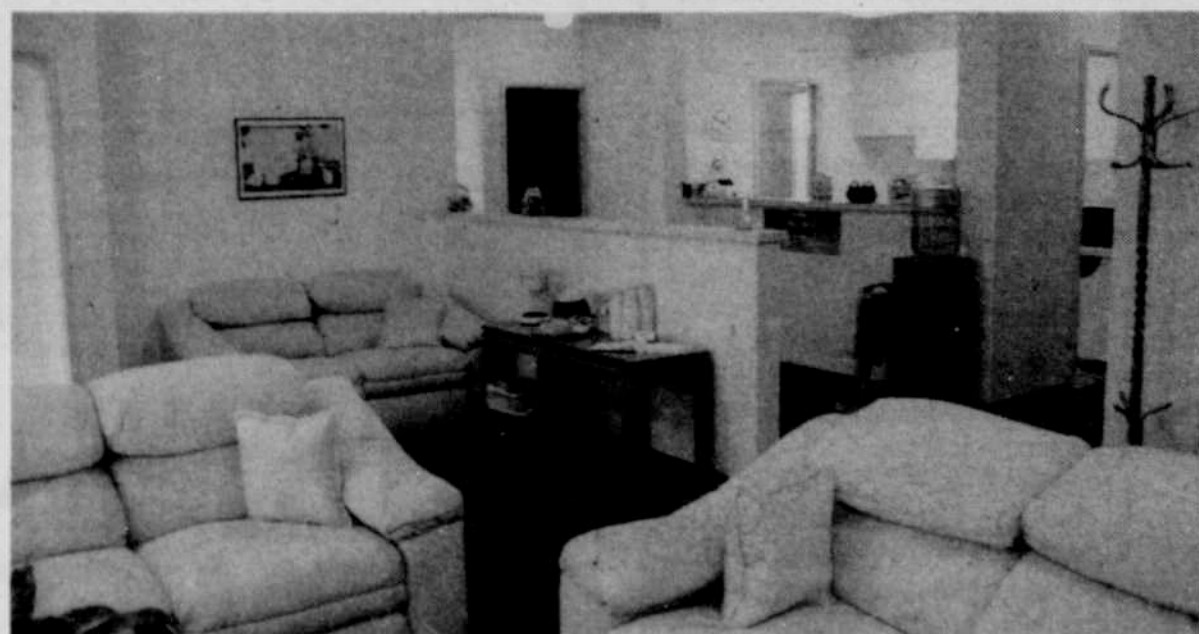
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Out a Scout

United Way withdraws funding, and a new group emerges to challenge Boy Scouts' biases

A regional Boy Scout director said the youth group won't yield to pressure from its primary funding source to admit homosexuals.

"Such a move would compromise eight decades of values," said Buford Hill, western regional director of the Boy Scouts of America.

In spite of this, the Boy Scouts of America renewed its charter of a troop that defied national policy by announcing it would accept gay people as Scouts and leaders.

The San Jose troop leaders in December adopted a resolution stating that it would not reject any members based on sexual orientation. No current member is openly gay.

Hill said a draft report by a United Way of the Bay Area task force urges the Boy Scouts to allow gay participation. The chapter last summer withdrew \$9,000 in funding from the Boy Scouts because of the exclusion of homosexuals.

The United Way is the Boy Scouts' primary funding source nationwide. Last year, it contributed \$1.1 million to six San Francisco area Boy Scout councils, or 16 percent of the councils' budget, said Boy Scout spokesman Greg Bustin.

Last month, the San Jose troop was threatened with loss of its charter unless it complied with the national policy that bars gays.

In a closeted move, Grant Robinson, the Boy Scouts' Northern California director, wrote to the pastor whose church sponsors the 26-member troop saying the troop could remain affiliated if it agreed not to "actively seek to register known or avowed homosexuals."

The request is easily met, since the troop has never said it would actively recruit anyone, said

Scoutmaster Michael Cahn. "I feel that our resolution (to accept gays) is unchanging," Cahn said.

A group in San Francisco, called Forgotten Scouts, has formed to challenge the biases of Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Forgotten Scouts is seeking documentation from gay men who are former Scouts, detailing name, address, city, Scout program, dates of participation, and what Scouting contributed to their lives.

According to Forgotten Scouts co-founder Allan Shore, also a Human Relations Commissioner for Contra Costa County, Calif., "I realized the linkage of 'Forgotten Scouts' with National Coming Out Day would be a vital one when a BSA official told me that 'the issue of gay inclusion in scouting should be a non-issue because there are no gay scouts and there never were.'"

NCOD has become a member organization of the Forgotten Scouts and is helping with the visibility campaign.

NCOD founder, and former Cub Scout in Los Angeles in the mid-1950s, Dr. Rob Eichberg states, "My own experience as a Scout, and sharing with my father as Scout Master, was invaluable in my growth. Many young people do not yet know they are gay when participating in Scouting. If honesty and integrity are being taught, it is essential that boys be validated in telling the truth and that they are supported to develop self-esteem, whether they are heterosexual or homosexual."

For more information, or to send your documentation to Forgotten Scouts, please call or write National Coming Out Day, PO Box 8349, Santa Fe, NM 87504-8349, (505) 982-2558 or Forgotten Scouts, 1072 Folsom St., #383, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 905-6120.

transitions

Welcome to the world

Kim, Celia and Keegan Heron proudly announce the birth of Cameron Joseph Heron. Cameron was born January 23, weighing 6 lbs., 12 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches. The birth team included Martha Goetsch, nurse/midwife Laurel Lee, Marge Columbus, Jean Fairbanks and Cheryl Welch.

Mona (Loeta) Doyon

Mona (Loeta) Doyon of Northeast Portland died of cancer Jan. 27 at the age of 51. At one time she and Lurene John co-owned the Linden Tree Deli. The Deli was often a meeting place after lesbian events.

Mona was a person who put her beliefs into practice in her daily life. She kept the schedule and the keys for the Women's Cabin at Mt. Hood. She trucked leftover food from the Deli to Baloney Joe's. Every few weeks she donated blood. She contributed to the trip fund for the Martin Luther King school choir. She wrote intelligent and effective Letters to the Editor for the causes she believed in. Music was always a big part of her life and she set out to learn to play the mandolin at the age of 34.

She was loyal to her quirky friends and adept at helping others find solutions to resolve a difficult situation.

Above all, she was a gracious lady, in the very best sense of those words. And in her efforts to conquer cancer, she became an impeccable warrior. Her two daughters, her two grandchildren, and her friends will miss her greatly.

Diane F. Lynch

In memory of My Di
The lady in my life
Pure, sweet and simple
I shall always wonder
what made you fly away
The lady of my dreams
I shall always wonder
I shall always wonder
Diane F. Lynch April 28, 1960 to Jan. 13 1992.
Sorely missed by longtime partner and friend, D. Dennis and son, Michael. See you later, alligator.
(Lynch committed suicide by jumping off the I-205 bridge, Jan. 13, 1992.)

STEPHEN D. YEW,
D.M.D.

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