

Rose City Soberfaire 1992

A Twelve Step conference for Lesbians, Gay Men and anyone interested in recovery.



Rose City Soberfaire

- Speakers Meetings
- Workshops
- Dinner
- Dance

For more information
call (503) 233-3955

Friday, Saturday, Sunday May 29, 30, 31

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national briefs

CALIFORNIA

Mobilization Against AIDS, California's oldest and largest AIDS lobbying organization, is making an appeal to people with HIV/AIDS to meet with their congressional representatives on National AIDS Lobby Day (Monday, May 18). The event will occur the day after the world's largest AIDS event, the ninth annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization, which is also coordinated by MAA. Candlelight Memorials will be held in over 250 cities worldwide. Anyone interested in more information about National AIDS Lobby Day should call 1-(800) LOBBY.

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The United Way of the Bay Area said that it would no longer support the area's six Boy Scout councils because of the youth organization's national policy barring membership to homosexuals. Officials of the Boy Scouts of America said they were not daunted by the cutoff, which had been expected. The action was the latest in a series of protests against the Boy Scouts' national policy barring homosexuals.

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Oliver Stone says he will not carry through with plans to direct "The Mayor of Castro Street," a film based on Randy Shilts' book about Harvey Milk, the slain San Francisco city supervisor and gay folk hero.

Meanwhile, *Chicago Sun-Times* file critic Roger Ebert says Stone told him, perhaps jokingly, that he was afraid a CIA agent posing as a homosexual might assassinate him at the Academy Awards.

"Oliver Stone [said he] had a few fears as he entered the Chandler Pavilion while gay activists picketed across the street," Ebert wrote.

"JFK" was one of their targets, for the film's depictions of gays. But what had Stone worried about was the possibility he'd be assassinated by a CIA agent disguised as a gay protester. Stone was joking, I think."

ILLINOIS

While a dozen of their comrades shouted, "Stop waffling with our rights!" four Queer National members threw breakfast waffles at the Cook County Board of Commissioners during a meeting in Chicago. The four, who had chained themselves to their chairs, were arrested after police cut through the chains with bolt cutters. The protest was staged to dramatize a demand that Board President Richard Phelan follow through on a campaign promise to pass a county-wide gay rights law.

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The Illinois Supreme Court has refused to review a case in which a suburban Chicago lesbian was denied custody of her 5-year-old daughter because the lesbian is not married to the lover with whom she lives. Lower courts said sexual orientation was not the issue but rather the unmarried status of the couple.

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The Physicians Association for AIDS Care (PAAC) recently distributed \$470,000 in grants to 51 chapters of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). The funding, announced in Chicago, represented a portion of the profits from the sale of "Red, Hot and Blue," an album collection of popular Cole Porter tunes performed by pop/rock superstars including Sinead O'Connor, Lisa Stansfield, Jimmy Somerville, Iggy Pop, Blondie, U2, Nine Cherry and David Byrne. Gordon Nary, PAAC's executive director, emphasized the critical role that activist groups, particularly ACT UP, perform in keeping the political and economic issues affecting access to appropriate healthcare at the center of public attention.

The Pink Angels, a mostly homosexual anti-crime group, has begun patrolling the largely gay and lesbian section of Chicago's North Side, the scene of a recent shooting police believe was motivated by hate against homosexuals. Dressed in black berets and jackets, volunteer members of the Pink Angels walk the streets and alleys, jotting down the license numbers of hecklers, exchanging information with police, and checking for trouble. Chicago police have been publicly supportive of the unarmed, nonviolent approach taken by the Angels.

NEW YORK

In an unprecedented show of support for gays and lesbians, rock legends Lou Reed, Debbie Harry, and David Byrne will join other Sire Records superstars on a compact disc to be released this spring. The disc, titled *Get Out*, will mark the first time in history that major label recording artists have united to benefit gays and lesbians.

It will be available only to charter subscribers of *Out*, a new national gay and lesbian magazine beginning publication in June. The 17-track CD, also featuring artists like k.d. lang, Marc Almond and John Wesley Harding, can be obtained by calling *Out's* information line at 1-(800) 876-1199. From its New York City headquarters, *Out* will cover culture, current affairs, and people, as well as interests from fitness to fashion.

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Heckling from a person with AIDS caused presidential frontrunner Bill Clinton to fly into a rage during an address to lawyers at a supper club in Manhattan. *The New York Post* said Clinton "exploded in an angry outburst" when his speech was interrupted by Bob Rafsky, a member of ACT UP who has AIDS. At one point, Clinton reportedly told Rafsky he was "no better than Jerry Brown" and to "go support somebody else for president." Later, Clinton shook Rafsky's hand, which Rafsky discounted as "only a photo opportunity."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIDS organizations are protesting a new \$1.5 million government ad campaign for not explicitly conveying how to prevent the spread of HIV. The three television ads, prepared by a private advertising agency for the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, feature teenagers with AIDS living in small towns as part of the government's "American Responds to AIDS" campaign. However, the ads contain no mention of condoms, or other preventative measures. Instead, they advise viewers to call the federal AIDS hotline. "You don't sell detergent by saying to call 1-(800) DETERGENT if you're concerned about dirty laundry," said Jeff Levi of the AIDS Action Council.

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Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA), a member of the House Subcommittee with responsibility for AIDS, today called for a full investigation into comments, attributed to senior Administration health officials, that Studds said amounted to "a death sentence for thousands of ill Americans." Studds requested public hearings, if necessary, regarding the assessment of the federal AIDS effort by Department of Health and Human Services spokesman William Grigg, who reportedly said:

"When you're fighting a fire, you control it from the outside and let the center burn. The same holds true for medicine."

"No tenet of modern medicine or science dismisses from care whole segments of the population," Studds contended. "It is shocking that senior Public Health Service personnel—if accurately quoted—have made such outrageous judgments about people at highest risk for HIV disease."