

# national briefs

## Network serves youth

A national resource guide, a pen pal service, and a telephone hotline have been established to help link young gays and lesbians throughout the U.S. with information, support, and each other.

The services are offered by a San Francisco-based organization called Youth Networks, which focuses on the needs of gays and lesbians under the age of 25. Network organizers are seeking information from local gay youth programs and services to include in upcoming editions of *We Are Here*, the title of its resource guide.

A copy of the guide may be obtained by sending \$5 to Youth Networks, 2215 Market Street, Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114-1612. Information to be included in the guide can be sent to the same address. The network's hotline number is 1-415-386-GAYS.

## Latinas, latinos focus of conference

El Encuentro Nacional, the first nationwide gathering by and for latina lesbians and latino gay men was held May 21 through 25 in Houston, Tex.

Sponsored by LLEGO, the national Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization based in Washington, D.C., the conference focused on the impact of the AIDS crisis and on a number of other issues. More information on the conference or on LLEGO can be obtained by calling Barbara Garcia in Watsonville, Calif., at (408) 728-0782.

## Bush against bashing

President George Bush has refused to sign a document opposing federal support for activities promoting homosexuality.

Bush's support for the document was sought by a group calling itself the Traditional Values Coalition during a 20-minute, closed-door meeting with the president. The president told the group he was against gay bashing and in favor of including protections for gays and lesbians in the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

Sources and newspaper reports differed in their accounts of Bush's stance on gay civil rights in general.

## Police chief fired

San Francisco Police Chief Richard Hongisto has been fired for allegedly instigating the removal of more than 2,000 copies of a gay newspaper from street racks after the newspaper ridiculed him. Hongisto's actions were in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The decision by the city's police commission was a political embarrassment to Mayor Frank Jordan, who took office only four months ago. Hongisto was appointed by Jordan. Hongisto denied that he ordered mass removal of *The Bay Times*. He said he had only suggested that some officers "take a look at the newspaper."

"I suppose that what transpired is once I suggested they take a look at the newspaper, the idea in their minds to larger proportion, and they got carried away with the act," he said at a news conference following his dismissal.

Hongisto had ordered mass arrests during May 1



and May 8 sweeps of areas where demonstrators had gathered to protest the acquittal of four white Los Angeles policemen of most charges in the videotaped beating of African-American motorist Rodney King.

## Pow-wow to draw hundreds

The largest Native American pow-wow in the Pacific Northwest will be June 5, 6 and 7, in Yakima, Wash.

Hundreds of Native American dancers, singers and artisans from throughout the U.S. and Canada will be on hand at the Yakima Sun Dome for the 18th annual Tiinowit International Pow-Wow. More information can be obtained by calling (509) 452-6566.

## Gays, lesbians visible at King verdict protest

A noticeably large contingent of gays and lesbians joined hundreds of protesters in Washington, D.C., following the verdict in the Rodney King case.

Shouting "This isn't justice, we're disgusted," the group marched around the Department of Justice building and shut down Pennsylvania Avenue and other streets during the four-hour demonstration. One arrest was reported.

"The gay and lesbian community knows all too well the bitter reality of abuse by both the police and the courts," said Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

## Perot for equal rights

While some gays and lesbians in Texas are still skeptical about H. Ross Perot's true feelings on the subject of lesbian and gay civil rights, he told talk show host David Frost in a nationally-broadcast interview that "we are a country of individual rights, and it's that simple to me." When pressed for more details on his gay rights stance, he went on to say that "there are a number of ways for people to have relations and not create a human life."

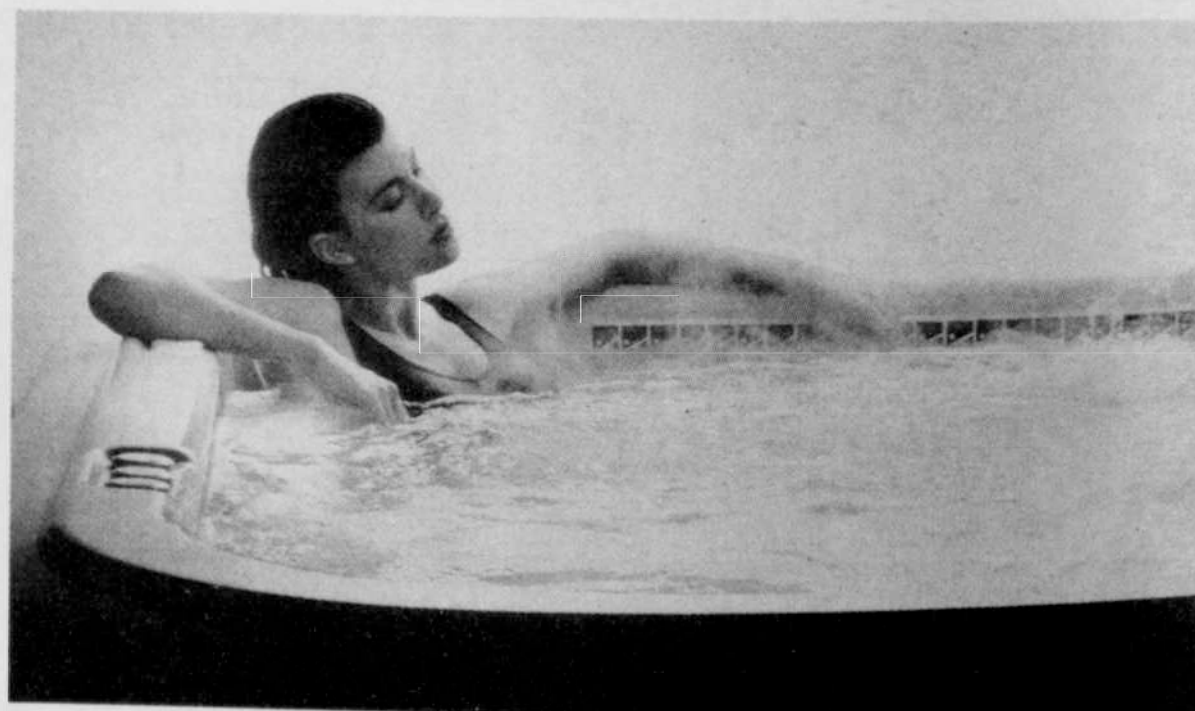
Following Perot's statement, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national gay and lesbian lobbying group, said it welcomed the candidate's support and looked forward to a more in-depth treatment of the subject by him.

Compiled by Matt Bailey, Rex Wockner and Ariel Waterwoman.

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