

Colorado boycott snowballs

The lesbian and gay community is responding swiftly to the passage in Colorado of anti-gay Amendment 2. Boycott Colorado, Inc., has been founded as "a grassroots organization of volunteers working to educate the world about the atrocity called Amendment 2." It is coordinating much of the boycott movement. Although Aspen Gay Ski Week 1993 is still scheduled, promoters and fund-raisers continue to pull out their support of individual events, making it unclear what will be left when Ski Week takes place in late January.

Robin Tyler has canceled out and said that she will conduct all future fund-raising events outside Colorado until Amendment 2 is overturned. Scott Hitt, co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and a regular participant in the annual ski event, said, "We cannot spend our money in Colorado." Lesbian tennis star Martina Navratilova has compared the developments in Colorado to the hard-line communist takeover of her native Czechoslovakia in 1968, and she has joined others in filing a lawsuit challenging the amendment. "If Amendment 2 is not overturned, I will move out of Colorado," she said. "I will not pay taxes in a state that does not recognize me as an equal citizen."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has issued an alert to its nationwide membership warning of "adverse conditions" in Colorado and recommending that travelers and convention planners avoid the state. Arriba! Ski Club of Southern California, one of Ski Week's founding organizations and participating clubs for the last 15 years, is canceling the race they sponsored and refusing to participate in any way in Ski Week.

Jim Hunger

Clinton sends greetings

President-elect Bill Clinton sent a letter of support to the fifth-annual Creating Change Conference. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force presented the conference, which ran from Nov. 13 through 15 at the Los Angeles Hilton.

"To my friends at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force," Clinton said in his letter, "I would like to welcome you all to the NGLTF Policy Institute Conference. Hillary and I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have done for the advancement of human rights for gay and lesbian people everywhere. It is an inspiration to us all."

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your tremendous support during our campaign for change—without your support our victory on Nov. 3 would not have been possible. I now ask you again for your help and support in implementing the changes that are needed to get America moving forward once more. Thank you. Sincerely, Bill Clinton."

Former NGLTF leader Urvashi Vaid read the letter, which was greeted with wild applause by the more than 1,200 activists at the conference. The conference featured awards for four organizations and two individuals for their work in advocating civil rights and visibility for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The awards went to No on 9; the Equal Protection Campaign in Colorado; United Lesbians of African Heritage; the National Latina/o Lesbian and Gay Organization; Philip Rubin, founder of the first community center for deaf gays and lesbians; and Dee Mosbacher, the out lesbian daughter of Robert Mosbacher, the leader of the Bush-Quayle campaign.

Irene K. Hislop

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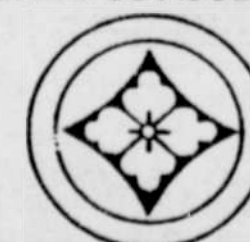


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FLORIDA

Miami Beach moved closer to becoming the first community in Dade County to adopt a human-rights ordinance including sexual orientation since the county's original law protecting gays was repealed by referendum in a 1977 campaign led by Anita Bryant. The proposed ordinance, covering employment, housing and public accommodation, is opposed by some religious groups but is considered likely to pass.

GEORGIA

A new program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages businesses to be actively involved in educating their workers about AIDS and to keep HIV-infected employees working as long as possible. It recommends assuring HIV-positive employees that they will remain entitled to health insurance and other company benefits. Announcing the program via satellite hookup, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said he was "very concerned" about a Supreme Court ruling allowing a company to drastically reduce the benefits of an employee with AIDS—a ruling the Bush administration had been seeking.

IDAHO

Three Meridian High School teachers who were suspended for allowing lesbian parents to talk to their students were reinstated on the condition that they apologize to the students and their parents. Letters of reprimand will also be placed in the teachers' personnel files. The school board considered the teachers' action to be a violation of the state teachers' code of ethics and will require board approval of all future speakers.

KANSAS

On Our Backs magazine, billed as "entertainment for the adventurous lesbian," switched to Dimension Graphics in order to print its entire issue on glossy paper after that printer had demonstrated a lack of homophobia by printing *The Advocate*. The Kansas-based company, however, on very short notice refused to print two photographs, one of a woman masturbating with

a dildo and the other of lesbians practicing safe sex with plastic wrap. The January/February 1993 issue of *On Our Backs* will return to a non-glossy format in order to include the photographs. To obtain a copy of the censored November/December 1992 issue or the forthcoming uncensored issue, call 1-800-845-4617.

MASSACHUSETTS

Two top officials in Gov. William Weld's administration have publicly affirmed that they are gay and involved in long-term romantic relationships. Kevin M. Smith and Mitchell L. Adams came out in a *Boston Globe* story, citing growing support for gay rights. Weld, a Republican, earlier this year signed an executive order giving some benefits to domestic partners of state employees.

MINNESOTA

Pride Institute, America's first inpatient facility devoted exclusively to the treatment of alcohol- and drug-dependent lesbian, gay and bisexual persons, has been purchased by Northern Healthcare Associates. Founded six years ago, Pride Institute celebrates the history, heroic figures and spiritual resources of the lesbian and gay community, transcending the homophobia inherent in most mainstream treatment facilities. For more information, call 1-800-54-PRIDE.

NEW YORK

Organizers for the June 1994 Gay Games IV in New York expect 15,000 athletes and 500,000 spectators, up from 1,300 athletes participating in the first Gay Olympics in 1982 and 7,250 in the last Gay Games in 1990 in Vancouver, British Columbia. "It will be the largest gathering for the purpose of sports and arts in history," said Bob Weaver, a member of the board of directors of the San Francisco-based Federation of Gay Games. Ice hockey and figure skating have been added to the list of athletic events, bringing the total to 26, including several not included in the regular Olympics. A cultural festival will also be included.

Compiled by Jim Hunger

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