

# national briefs

## CALIFORNIA

NBC-TV has announced that it will air a two-hour movie based on the true story of Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer during the '93-94 season. The film, *The Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer Story*, will be executive produced by Barbra Streisand and Glenn Close. Close will play Cammermeyer in the leading role. NBC is touting the film as symbolic of its "continuing commitment to addressing contemporary social issues." Cammermeyer served 26 years in the military and was the highest-ranking woman in the armed services to be forced out of service for admitting she was a lesbian. She had won the Bronze Star for her service in Vietnam and was named Nurse of the Year by the Veterans Administration in 1985. Says Streisand, "This is a story that throws light on one of the most important issues of our time."



The main item on the agenda of the Aug. 8 meeting of the California Association of Pride, Inc. was the 16-year-old Coors boycott. The group is not only committed to continuing the boycott but has added an additional ban on Coors' newest product, ZIMA ClearMalt. The organization continues to boycott because of contributions made by Coors family members to several right-wing organizations. Says a spokesperson for CAPI, "We have a right not to provide the funds for those contributions." The Coors brewery is located in Colorado, now grappling with Amendment 2. The group is urging all gay and lesbian bar owners to refuse to sell Coors products.

Ron Kirkpatrick, Western Community Relations Manager for Coors, pointed out that Coors and its distributors have provided more than \$300,000 in support of lesbian and gay groups since 1988, has developed business policies about AIDS in the workplace and supported many AIDS support groups throughout the U.S. CAPI has stated that they hope any money from Coors will not be accepted by the gay and lesbian community until Coors has redeemed itself on the issue of Amendment 2, its commitment to support employees with AIDS and submit to CAPI a list of stockholders and their philanthropic histories.



United Airlines has recently revised its corporate Equal Employment Opportunity Policy to prohibit discrimination against gay and lesbian employees. The policy's implementation, effective July 1, was due to the work of the Gay and Lesbian United Employee Coalition. GLUE, a non-profit employee association, is "dedicated to the full and equal recognition for all gay and

lesbian employees of United Airlines." The move by United, the nation's largest air carrier, makes it one of the largest corporations and the first U.S. airline to include sexual orientation in its EEO policy. GLUE is currently researching and compiling a domestic partner policy proposal to submit to United Airlines management. For more information about GLUE call (800) 999-3448.

## CONNECTICUT

"People have the right to live their lives as they choose," were the words of a judge, Richard A. Damiani, as he sentenced two brothers convicted of raping a gay man. The two men, John L. Pittman, 21, and Johnny Pittman, Jr., 30, received a total of eight years and ten years, respectively. Their sentences were enhanced by Connecticut's anti-bias law, which bans physical contact, property damage and threats based on racial, religious, ethnic or sexual bias.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Parents from Gaston County have demanded that Africa and Germany be removed from classroom maps and globes because they believe them to be anti-Christian countries. The *Wilmington, NC Star-News* also reported that the parents called for the removal of Greek letters from the curriculum because they believed using them endorsed sexual minorities.



Police in Wilmington have a warrant out for the arrest of Crae Pridgen, the North Carolina gay man who was involved in an incident outside a gay bar with three U.S. Marines last spring. According to *The Front Page*, a Raleigh lesbian and gay newspaper, Pridgen is wanted on charges of felony embezzlement. He allegedly used credit cards to steal between \$200 and \$300 from a men's clothing store he once worked in. So far, police have not been able to find him. They suspect he may have left North Carolina for San Francisco.

Pridgen gained much notoriety after the incident with U.S. Marines and during the subsequent trial. He spoke at various rallies and gatherings across the country on the issue of President Clinton's lifting the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military.



The research-based pharmaceutical company, Burroughs Wellcome Company, has announced enhancements to its patient assistance program that will speed access to medication therapy for financially-disadvantaged patients. Initiated in 1987, the program will now give the physician a toll-free number to call to enroll the patient into the

program. This will then authorize the physician to give qualified patients a prescription benefit card that can be used at any pharmacy. The company expects the program to be used primarily by patients using medications for HIV and its related infections, people with herpes virus infections and cancer, transplant and congestive heart failure patients. Enrollment must be initiated by a physician. To find out about patient eligibility, patients should have their physicians call (800) 722-9294.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

A new national office of gay Republicans is opening in the capital city. The Log Cabin Republicans, an affiliate of the larger Log Cabin Federation with over 6,000 members, announced its plans to open its doors within the next 60 days. Rich Tafel, former Federation president and head of the new organization, says it will, "take our case to the Congress, the Clinton administration, the Republican National Committee and the American People." The group has elicited the support of over 24 elected Republican officials, including California Gov. Pete Wilson, Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and ten members of the House and Senate.



The National Minority AIDS Council has announced the implementation of a new program to help communities of color gain access to AIDS treatment and information. The NMAC Treatment and Research Advocacy Program, marshaled by Moises Agosto, NMAC's research and treatment advocate, will provide people of color an infrastructure that will facilitate their participation in the drug development process, behavioral research and address research budget issues and federal policy issues. A component of the program to be developed is the NMAC AIDS Treatment and Research Information Network. This arm will provide information through treatment publications and technical assistance on how AIDS service organizations can develop treatment educational programs and link up with major AIDS information sources.

Agosto will be holding a series of regional meetings around the country within the next year. For more information, call (202) 544-1076.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the former head of the Arkansas Health Department, has been confirmed by the Senate as U.S. Surgeon General, the country's highest medical office. Despite some opposition from conservative Republicans and Democrats, Clinton's appointment of Elders was confirmed by a vote of 65 to 34. The President

said, "Her dedication to improving the lives of all Americans, especially children of America, won her the strong backing of a bipartisan majority of the Senate." Thirteen Republicans, including Sens. Mark O. Hatfield and Bob Packwood of Oregon, supported Elders' confirmation. Said Packwood, "Dr. Elders is the wakeup call we need for the preventative health of our nation—the wakeup call that we sometimes don't want to hear." In a statement released by the Department of Health and Human Services, Elders said, "It is time to look forward — not back — to a time when all American children are planned and wanted, when all American children are immunized, when all American citizens have the security of quality health care, and when all dread diseases are a distant and haunting memory."

## WASHINGTON STATE

The Southwest Washington Fairness Coalition has officially joined forces with the state-wide group, Washington Citizens for Fairness/*Hands Off Washington Project*. Through this new relationship the group will "join with others throughout the state to stand against any and all attempts to legalize discrimination." At a Vancouver meeting, the Fairness Coalition pledged "to counter the current challenge to gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered people." The Coalition also recently welcomed the support of the Vancouver City Council as they proposed an amendment to the city's new anti-discrimination policy for city employees. The policy's original version had omitted protections from discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation. The 300-member group is currently soliciting members and volunteers. For information call (206) 695-1002.



The state Liquor Control Board ruled to continue the state ban on the sale of Crazy Horse malt liquor. The state is the only in the country currently banning the sale of the liquor named after the revered 19th-century Sioux leader. The 1992 national ban was overturned on First Amendment grounds by a federal judge in New York. A spokesman for Hornell Brewing Co., told the Liquor Control Board that the malt liquor, sold in 40 ounce bottles, was named "to celebrate a great Native American chieftain," not to insult tribes. Still, the board ruled that sale of the beer was "particularly unconscionable in light of the ravages alcohol has brought to Native American people."

Compiled by Lee Norwood

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