

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The 1995 federal budget that President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress last month calls for the removal of a congressional amendment that bars the District of Columbia government from spending money to implement its domestic partners law. In spring of 1992, the D.C. Council passed a law that enabled same-sex and heterosexual couples to register with the city as domestic partners. In September of that year, Congress passed an amendment that barred the district from using funds to implement the plan.

GEORGIA

Organizers for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta are being pressured to move the volleyball competition from Cobb County, where county commissioners passed a resolution last year that legalizes discrimination against sexual minorities. "The Cobb County commissioners have made it clear the lesbian and gay athletes and spectators will not be welcome in their county," said Tim McFeely, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "The Olympic Committee has a responsibility to choose another venue rather than reward a county that supports discrimination." Letters can be sent to: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, Chateau de Vidy, CH-1007, Lausanne, Switzerland.

ILLINOIS



Women who drink coffee should also drink plenty of milk to prevent osteoporosis, according to a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Previous research has shown that caffeine increases urinary excretion of calcium. In a new study, researchers found that women who drank two or more cups of coffee a day and at least one glass of milk a day for about 40 years had a bone density 6.5 percent higher than women who drank two cups of coffee but no milk each day.

MARYLAND

A bill may pass the state Legislature that will require physicians, medical laboratories and institutions to report the names of people who test positive for HIV antibodies to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Gov. William Donald Schaefer has supported the bill for the past three years. Last year, a similar bill was defeated by one vote in a Senate committee. Members of the AIDS Legislative Committee, which opposes the bill, say it has a good chance of passing.

MASSACHUSETTS

About 40 lesbian and gay activists from the United States met for three days in March in Dedham for a working retreat sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and organized by Torie Osborn, former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Attendees represented about 15 groups, including NGLTF, the National Minority AIDS Council, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay and Lesbian Rights Project. The gathering covered ways to strengthen communication between groups and further networking.

"It is helpful and imperative that gay and lesbian people from different places around the coun-

try have an opportunity to talk to each other," said Phill Wilson, founder of BGLLF. "I hope that this weekend will be replicated in the future with other participants in other locations, so that people from other areas of the country can come together to work on issues impacting them and their communities."



Torie Osborn with Clinton

Presenters included U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and historian John D'Emilio.

NEW YORK

A poll published in the Feb. 14 issue of *Newsweek* found that 74 percent of the 750 adults surveyed think that sexual minorities should be protected from job discrimination and that 81 percent favor housing protection. However, more than 60 percent say they oppose same-sex marriages and adoption rights for sexual minorities. The telephone survey was conducted by the Princeton Survey Research Associates.

PENNSYLVANIA

An international Asians and Friends Network is being organized by about 25 Asian groups in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Asia. The international group, called the Umbrella Committee, will support member organizations by sharing information, developing friendships and facilitating networks. It may also assist emerging groups in Asia to promote gay and lesbian civil rights. For more information, write: International Friendship Weekend, PO Box 219, Sewickley, PA 15143.

SOUTH CAROLINA

A regional office of State Farm Insurance Company has canceled a policy covering South Carolina's Gay and Lesbian Community Center. The insurance company cited a policy that forbids the coverage of high-profile, controversial businesses. The policy had cleared the local offices and was stopped when regional officials became aware of the policy. The center opened in October 1993.

WISCONSIN

The state Supreme Court ruled last month that a Madison woman can temporarily have regular visits with the 5-year-old boy she raised with her former lesbian partner. The court refused to block an appeals court ruling that allows Sandy Holtzman to see the boy despite objections from the boy's biological mother. The appeals court is reviewing a circuit court ruling that said Holtzman has no rights to visit the boy under state law. The appeals court said Holtzman would likely lose, but allowed her to visit the boy while reviewing the lower court decision.

Open lesbian Cathreen Godre, who is running for the Dane County Board of Supervisors, has received the recommendation of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Godre currently serves as guardian *ad litem* for Dane County, with the bulk of her practice consisting of child abuse and neglect cases. She has received strong support from Wisconsin state Rep. Tammy Baldwin and former Rep. Dick Clarenbach. The retiring supervisor, Richard Wagner, who is openly gay, also supports Godre.

"As the radical right escalates its attacks on our community, we must have open lesbians and gay men in positions of power who are ready to confront the hatred," Godre said.

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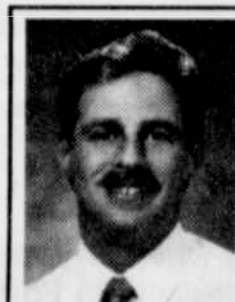
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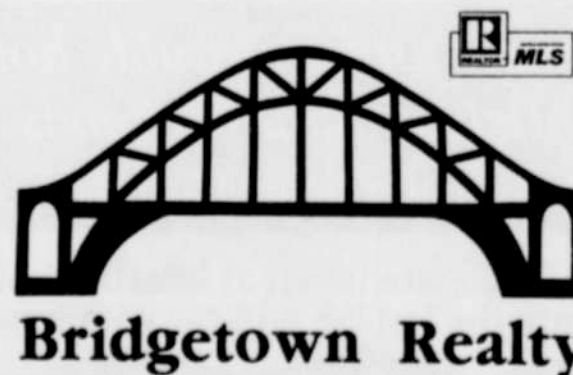
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