

national briefs

ARIZONA

"Adelante con Nuestra Visión," the first National Leadership and Self-Empowerment Conference for Latina Lesbians, will be held in Tucson from Sept. 16 to 18. It is co-sponsored by Lesbianas Latinas de Tucson and the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization. The conference, expected to draw over 300 participants from across the United States and Puerto Rico, will feature keynote speaker Carmen Vásquez, director of Public Policy for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of New York. Saturday Sept. 17, Cherrie Moraga, Chicana poet, essayist and playwright, will keynote a day of workshops, plenary sessions and roundtable discussions. For information, contact Aileen Jacinta McMurrer (602) 884-7810, or Carmen Chávez (202) 544-0092.

CALIFORNIA

A San Diego elementary school teacher invited her gay son to class when one of her students showed a negative response to hearing about a gay man with AIDS. Toni Wanic's son, Nick, spent about 30 minutes answering students' questions about gay life. Subsequently, two parents filed complaints. Toni Wanic was reprimanded by her principal, who stated that, according to school district policies, Wanic was not allowed to "teach alternative lifestyles." Principal Juel Moore also demanded that Wanic write a letter of apology to her students' parents. Thus far, Wanic has refused.

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Family Voice is the monthly magazine of the Concerned Women of America, which claims to be the largest women's organization in the United States. A recent issue offers a list of tips titled "How to Overcome Homosexuality." Items listed include "accept Jesus as Savior and Lord," "present your body formally to God," "avoid homosexual hangouts," and "learn to control your mind."



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The Lesbian Health Fund, a project of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, has awarded research grants to five organizations to further investigation of lesbian-specific health issues. Grants are awarded to investigators and projects that will broaden the nation's awareness of health-related issues that affect the lives of lesbians. This round of grants goes to projects studying substance abuse, access to health care, domestic violence, and the mental health of lesbian mothers and their children.

The latest recipients are "Understanding Abuse in Lesbian Relationships," Janice Ristock, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; "Improving Access to Gynecological Services Among Lesbian and Bisexual Women," Beverly Biddle, Whitman Walker Clinic, Washington, D.C.; "An Exploration of Patterns of Substance Abuse Among Lesbian and Bisexual Women in Central North Carolina," Carol Camlin, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, Chapel Hill; "Families of the Lesbian Baby Boom: Factors Related to Mental Health Among Mothers and Children," Barbara Raboy and Charlotte Patterson, The Sperm Bank of California, Oakland; and "Curriculum for Lesbian Health Issues," Vick Sands, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif.

CONNECTICUT

A Boy Scout Council in New Haven has lost its funding from the United Way because of its decision to fire a Scout leader who is gay. The board of the United Way of Greater New Haven voted to withhold \$60,000 it was scheduled to give to the Quinnipiac Council of Boy Scouts next year, because the council violated United Way

anti-discrimination policy in firing David Knapp. Knapp, 67, was a respected volunteer leader who had a 25-year affiliation with the organization. There were no complaints of misconduct against him. Knapp has been out since age 50.

FLORIDA

The Florida Citrus Commission has decided not to renew its contract with homophobic talk show host Rush Limbaugh. Commissioners said the decision had nothing to do with protest from the lesbian and gay community.

NATIONAL

Pat Robertson recently issued a call to the 1 million members of his group, Christian Coalition, demanding they protest Visa's support of the Gay Games. Visa made a corporate donation of \$10,000 to the games, and it is now getting hundreds of calls from Robertson's followers.

NEW YORK

Actor Lee Mathis took out an ad in *Variety* last fall looking for work so that his health benefits would not run out. In the ad he revealed that he is HIV positive. "Friends said it would ruin my career," says Mathis. "But I figured, fuck it, I need the benefits." Mathis has since been chosen for small roles in films and a recurring role on ABC's *General Hospital*, playing an HIV-positive man. Scripts imply the character is gay.

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The Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University has awarded a Pulitzer Prize to editorial cartoonist Michael Ramirez, a man with a history of racist, homophobic and AIDS-phobic cartoons, according to the New York Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation *Bulletin*. In one cartoon a gay man sits on a tombstone marked "Aids Related Deaths," puffing on a cigarette holder as he complains, "Testing would severely curtail my lifestyle." From the grave beneath him come the words "Tell me about it." Register your opinion: Write to Seymour Topping, director of Pulitzer Prizes, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

PENNSYLVANIA

The 1994 International Symposium on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS will take place October 13 and 14 in Philadelphia. The symposium, presented by the Physicians Association for AIDS Care, will feature programs on some of the newer therapies such as growth hormones and anabolic steroids that have had significant success in controlling wasting and the loss of muscle tissue. Other topics for presentation will be the diverse clinical aspects of nutrition and malnutrition, clinical research, and a discussion on the role of exercise as a component of a nutrition regimen. The symposium will be held at the newly opened Pennsylvania Convention Center and is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania AIDS Education and Training Center. For more details contact PAAC, 101 W Grand Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60610.

VIRGINIA

Monday, July 18, the Charlottesville City Council unanimously banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in city employment and contracting, according to *The Washington Blade*. The amendment to the city ordinance covers city employment and contracts valued over \$10,000, but will not affect businesses and landlords.

The legislation was proposed by the Charlottesville Campaign for Human Rights, which came to the hearing with more than 400 signed postcards and letters from supporters of the legislation. Charlottesville is the third jurisdiction in Virginia to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Arlington County and Alexandria also have such protections on the books.

Compiled by Jann Gilbert

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See Classified for this month's selected listings.

My pledge for 1994: To donate/invest at least 10% of my commissions back into the lesbian and gay community.