

# national briefs

## CALIFORNIA

In an unprecedented move, the Los Angeles Unified School District sanctioned a prom for gay and lesbian students of the district. According to the Associated Press, about 200 students attended the event, which was held at the Los Angeles Hilton and Towers. The theme of the prom was "Live to Tell."



## COLORADO

The Radisson Hotel in Denver will be the site of the 1994 "Out and Equal in the '90s," a conference on workplace issues affecting the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. The theme, "Working It Out in the Rockies," reflects the educational and motivational aspects of the conference. Planned for Oct. 15 and 16, sessions will cover workplace issues for corporations, small businesses, labor unions, public employment and nonprofits. Topics will include empowerment in government employment; having HIV and a career; and unlearning racism, sexism and classism in the workplace. A one-day institute for human resource professionals will be held Oct. 17.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The U.S. House of Representatives will hold hearings in September to consider adding sexual orientation and religion to the mandate of the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service. CRS is a mediation agency. In March it was involved in the Camp Sister Spirit case in Ovett, Miss., at the urging of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. However, its limited mandate has kept CRS from responding to a number of community disputes that could benefit from federal mediation.

"Our experience...in working with communities in crisis, supports the need for an expansion of the CRS mandate," said NGLTF executive director Peri Jude Radecic, in a statement submitted to a House subcommittee. "NGLTF encourages this committee to take action to expand that mandate."

## FLORIDA

A Jacksonville television station has suspended Jerry Falwell's *Old Time Gospel Hour* because of its "sexual content." WTLV-TV said

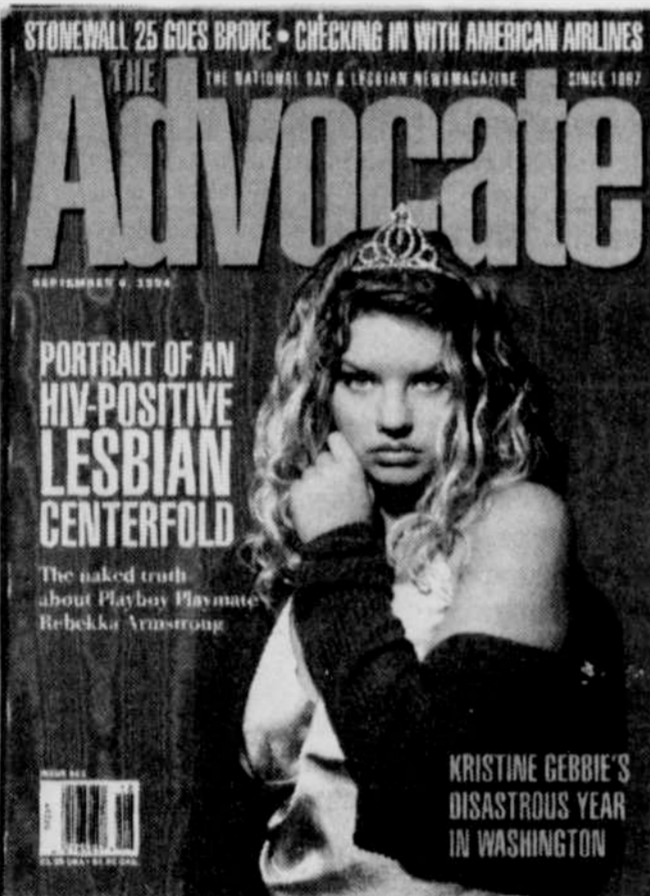


it had received complaints about the explicitness of the program.

One woman complained when her 9-year-old son asked her about oral sex. When asked where he had heard that phrase, he responded, "On Jerry Falwell's show." The station has threatened to cancel the show if Falwell continues to focus more on politics than on religion.



Rebekka Armstrong, *Playboy's* playmate of the month in September 1986, recently came out both as a lesbian and as having HIV. Armstrong, 27, said she now lives with a woman but was infected during a heterosexual encounter as a teen-ager.



"I want to educate children and women and go out there and say, 'This can happen to you, protect yourself,'" Armstrong told *Entertainment Tonight*.

## IDAHO

A manual being distributed among members of the Idaho Citizens Alliance attacks gay men, lesbians, feminists and contraception. The manual, *Debating the "Gay Rights" Issue*, which was written by right wing activist Brian Clowes, states, "Promiscuous sodomite activists are the most violent and irrational group of people on earth." The manual also says that gay men "should enjoy getting beat up by 'homophobes.'"

Mary Rohlfing, co-chair of Idaho for Human Dignity, said, "The similarity between the type of deceitful rhetoric the ICA is selling in this manual and what Germans heard about the Jews from the Nazis is uncanny."

## MASSACHUSETTS

Alyson Publications is offering a free copy of the book *Two Teenagers in Twenty* to any public or school library that requests it. Making this book available to young people could make a difference to a teen-ager on the brink of despair.

## NEW YORK

*Out* magazine captured a 1994 Editorial Excellence award given by *Folio* magazine. *Out*, tapped for its "witty, smart, funny" content and "depth and range," was named best general editorial magazine.

"It's truly an honor to be recognized by a jury of our peers," said *Out* editor and president Michael Goff. "Our writers are passionate about subjects others would consider queer, and their passion is reflected in the quality of the magazine." *Out*, based in New York, is a leading gay and lesbian publication.

Compiled by Jann Gilbert

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