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THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY PROJECT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Mar. 21, 7-9pm
The Lesbian Forum will discuss
**"Sex, Intimacy & Spirituality:
In Search of Intergration"**
Westminster Church, NE 16th and Hancock
\$2 donation (More if you can, less if you can't)
Grace: (503) 864-4446

Friday, Mar. 24, 7-11pm
Join LCP's Board and CEP for an evening of
LezBingo!
NW Service Center 1819 NW Everett
Blackout games, fun, friends, sodas & snacks!

Monday, Mar. 27, 6-7:30 pm
Lesbians w/ Breast Cancer Support
New support group forming:
women with other cancers welcomed
Call Michelle to pre-register: 236-8770

A membership organization...join today!
(503) 223-0071/TDD
Fax 242-1967
P.O. Box 5931
Portland, OR 97228

Anti-Violence Project
796-1703/1-800-796-1703

national news

A family affair

P-FLAG plans tolerance campaign

by Richard Shumate

The fight to reach those in this country who have not yet been sold on the radical right's view of lesbian and gay issues and people may soon take a new turn.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a national group made up of relatives and supporters of gay men and lesbians, is planning an ambitious nationwide media education campaign called Project Open Mind. While details are still to be worked out, pilot projects testing the campaign are now being planned for three cities—Houston, Atlanta and Tulsa, Okla.

"There is a polarization that is taking place in our society. There is a struggle going on for the psyche of our country [on gay issues]," says Mitzi Henderson, national president of P-FLAG. "We feel we have a unique voice to bring to this discussion. What we are trying to do is get people to take another look—to take another step on the journey that we've all been on."

Henderson and the rest of P-FLAG's national board were in Atlanta on the weekend of Feb. 10 to 12 for a meeting at which plans for Project Open Mind were discussed. Although not ready to officially launch the campaign, Henderson outlined in

broad sketches how the project will work.

The national P-FLAG organization will produce television spots and other ads in which friends, parents and other relatives will tell of their experiences with their lesbian and gay loved ones. Members of local P-FLAG chapters will also be trained on how to serve as spokespersons on lesbian and gay rights issues and how to cultivate the media so that their viewpoints will be aired. The project will be funded by both the national organization and local chapters.

Project Open Mind was developed in response

to the discriminatory initiatives on the ballot in three western states, as well as the debate over the role of open lesbians and gay men in the military. If it is successful in the three cities where it is being

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tested, P-FLAG, which has 365 local affiliates across the country, wants to take the program nationwide, Henderson says.

Houston, Atlanta and Tulsa were chosen in part because of the strength of their local P-FLAG chapters. But they were also picked to test the project's effectiveness because the public's views of gay and lesbian issues in these cities are fairly typical of those in the nation at large, Henderson says.

CASCADE AIDS PROJECT BENEFIT ART AUCTION



Fireflies Oil on board Patrick Abbey

HOSTED BY SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
Sunday, March 26, 1995 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 850 S.W. Fifth
Honorary Chair, Dr. James Sampson, MD

PATRON PARTY 6-7 PM
Five-Piece Oral Auction Curated by John Buchanan, Director, Portland Art Museum

SILENT AUCTION 7-9 PM
Featuring More Than 150 Works of Art

TICKETS: \$25.00 Patron Party and Silent Auction; \$10.00 Silent Auction

Tickets: Cascade AIDS Project, Saks Fifth Avenue, and at the door.

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Louganis reveals he has AIDS

In an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters, Olympic gold medal diver Greg Louganis stated that he has AIDS.

Louganis also revealed that he knew he was HIV positive before the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. It was while competing in those games that Louganis hit his head on the diving board and bled in the pool.

Louganis publicly came out at the Gay Games held last summer in New York.



Same-gender sexual harassment outlawed

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination ruled last month that the state's laws protecting workers from sexual harassment apply in both same-gender and opposite-gender cases.

Commission chairman Michael Duffy awarded \$25,000 plus interest to machinist Thomas Smith for the emotional distress he suffered as a result of sexual harassment by a male co-worker, Glen Johnson, according to a story in *Bay Windows*. Federal law currently applies only in cases involving opposite-sex harassment.

Duffy believes the precedent-setting decision to be a positive one for gay men and lesbians. He called a 1994 decision by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and an earlier decision which said

federal law only applied to heterosexual harassment "wacky."

No more HIV testing for Chicago cops

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and the City of Chicago have reached a settlement in an ACLU lawsuit challenging the Chicago Police Department's policy of testing recruits for HIV. Under the terms of the settlement, the City of Chicago will no longer test police recruits for HIV, nor will recruits be required to disclose their HIV status.

The ACLU filed the class action suit in July 1994 on behalf of a man and a woman who were denied jobs as police officers because they tested positive for HIV. The ACLU charged that the Police Department's practice of discrimination violated both the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibit discrimination based on handicap.

State ban on same-sex marriage fails

Intense political maneuvering, lobbying and luck kept House Bill 1184 from coming to a vote of the full Senate in South Dakota. The bill—which would have banned same-sex marriages in South Dakota and banned recognition in that state of same-sex marriages performed in other states—fell one short of the 18 votes needed for a floor vote.

The measure, which was introduced in response to a pending Hawaii Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriages in that state, sailed through the South Dakota House last month.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood