

national briefs

CALIFORNIA

Alleging their constitutional rights were violated, a gay couple filed a civil lawsuit in May against the majority of the El Dorado County Republican Central Committee. *The Washington Blade* reports that Paul Johnson and Kevin Wadsworth claim they were ousted from the committee because of their sexual orientation. Committee members say the two were removed because of their friendly relationship with Democrats.

It seems during the 1994 election campaign for the California Assembly the couple rented their ranch to a Democrat raising money to challenge a local Republican incumbent. The lawsuit alleges committee member Bernard Carlson said, "We've got to get rid of those faggots." The couple seeks monetary damages. In addition, Wadsworth wants his seat on the committee back. Johnson is now a registered Democrat.

COLORADO

Anti-abortion activist Randall Terry, recently released from federal prison where he was serving a term for contempt of court, has gotten a job. Terry now has his own radio talk show. The nationwide call-in show, *Randall Terry Live*, will, according to Terry, make Oliver North look "moderate" and Rush Limbaugh, "liberal."

Although he built his reputation as the founder of Operation Rescue, Terry's new focus, according to a story in the newspaper *Wisconsin Light*, will be on gay men and lesbians. The show began airing in June. It can be heard on stations in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver.



The Colorado newspaper *Out Front* reported May 31 that the Adolph Coors Co. has joined the ranks of corporations extending domestic partners benefits to same-sex couples. Coors board members unanimously agreed in principle to extend the benefits. Coors has included sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policies since 1978 and enacted an HIV/AIDS employee policy in 1986.

IDAHO

People Like Us, a gay, lesbian and bisexual group born of last year's campaign to defeat an Idaho Citizens Alliance-sponsored anti-gay ballot measure, has opened an office in Coeur d'Alene. The opening of the office is the first step in the group's plan to open a community center in Kootenai County, reported *Stonewall News Northwest* in June.

MASSACHUSETTS

A queer anti-abortion group was forced to leave Boston's Gay Pride Festival in June after its booth was surrounded by a crowd opposed to the group's anti-abortion stance, a group press release stated. The Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians is an alliance of over 400 lesbians and gay men throughout the United States. Members staffing the booth at the Boston festival were escorted away by police after both the police and festival organizers determined that their safety could not be guaranteed.



The Massachusetts Department of Education, under the auspices of its AIDS/HIV and Safe Schools Program, held a statewide leadership conference on June 10 and 11 for high school students and adults involved in issues of concern to lesbian and gay students. According to the PR Newswire, the retreat was funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The AIDS/HIV and Safe Schools Program works with students, parents, schools and communities to address issues of discrimination, harassment, health and violence in public schools and communities.

NEW YORK

The American Library Association's 1995 Gay,

Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award was presented to *Uncommon Heroes: A Celebration of Heroes and Role Models for Gay and Lesbian Americans* by Samuel Bernstein and Phillip Sherman, and *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature* by Dorothy Allison. The awards were presented June 24 at a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force held during the ALA's annual conference in Chicago.



According to the National Coalition Against Censorship, efforts to ban certain books from classrooms and library shelves across the country occur with unsettling regularity. In a recent case, a high school history teacher in Port Charlotte, Fla., was accused of recruiting students for homosexuality because he used Mary Renault's *The Last of the Wine* (which includes a homoerotic relationship) to teach his honors history students about ancient Greece. Efforts to ban this book were ultimately defeated; in other cities book-banners have been more successful.

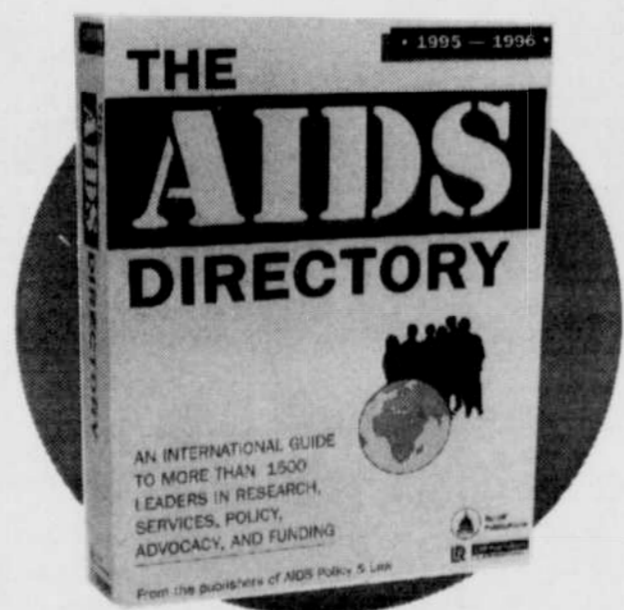
NCAC is a national alliance of religious, educational, professional, artistic, labor and civil rights groups that works to educate about the dangers of censorship and how to oppose it. The goal of the group is to "create a climate of opinion hospitable to First Amendment freedoms in the broader community." For more information, write NCAC, 275 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001; (212) 807-6222, fax: (212) 807-6245.

OHIO

A legal defense fund has been established to help Nuala Archer, an associate professor at Cleveland State University, in her fight against the loss of her position as director of the CSU Poetry Center. Archer was allegedly subjected to continuing hostility from her predominantly male colleagues in the CSU English Department after she won a grant to hold a poetry festival in honor of Audre Lorde, the late African American lesbian poet. Subsequently, the Poetry Center Directorship was abolished, and three men from the English Department were appointed to run the center.

Archer has filed charges under the Civil Rights and Equal Pay acts, alleging sex discrimination and harassment. Contributions can be sent to The Nuala Archer Legal Defense Fund, c/o Carol Kerr, Chair, PO Box 770112, Lakewood, OH 44107.

PENNSYLVANIA



The 1995-1996 AIDS Directory, a guide to over 1,500 AIDS fund-raisers, research institutions, policy makers, advocacy groups and service providers, is now available from LRP Publications of Horsham, Pa. Information contained in the directory includes names and addresses of organizations; names of key officers, directors and staff; phone and fax numbers; and the organization's mission statement, areas of special interest, and the amount of money awarded to grant-receiving organizations. The cost of the directory is \$250. For information call 1-800-341-7874, ext. 274.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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