

national briefs

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Checks started rolling in this spring for four studies on lesbian health issues, reports *The Washington Blade*. Grants were awarded to the projects last fall by the National Institutes of Health. The total amount awarded is estimated at \$350,000.

The funded studies include: a District of Columbia project to determine breast-cancer-screening practices among lesbians and bisexual women with a family history of breast cancer; a North Carolina study to determine the most effective methods for delivering health maintenance messages to lesbians; a project in Miami that will study the psychological impact on lesbians of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment; and a San Francisco-based project that will study the mental health conditions among lesbians who have had breast cancer surgery.



According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm of the Republican Party, has joined the ranks of offices on Capitol Hill prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. The committee's policy is similar to policies in many congressional offices. At the present time, 293 members of Congress have office employment policies that forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation.

GEORGIA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency issued a report last month advising people with compromised immune systems to boil their drinking water. According to the report, boiling the water for one minute is the best way to kill *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite sometimes found in water supplies contaminated by sewage or animal waste. Alternatively, water can be filtered or one can drink bottled water.



Although not usually life-threatening, the parasite can cause serious illness in people with AIDS or cancer and transplant patients taking drugs that suppress immunity. The parasite can cause severe diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramps.

MASSACHUSETTS

Two hundred gay and lesbian organizations received donations totaling more than \$100,000 from the Pride Network, a long-distance telephone service provider serving the gay and lesbian community. Pride Network donates 3 percent of net residential long-distance charges and 2 percent of commercial charges to gay, lesbian or HIV-related organizations. Recipients are chosen by Pride Network customers.

The Pride Network, started in February 1994, offers discount long-distance service to persons and businesses who support lesbian, gay and HIV-related causes.



The town of Northampton, thought by many to be a "lesbian heaven," is in the throes of a community conflict over a domestic partnership ordinance, according to a story in *Bay Windows*. The Northampton City Council unanimously passed a domestic partnership ordinance in May. One month later, a group calling itself Northampton for Traditional Values collected nearly 3,000 signatures on its petition to place the issue on the ballot. According to the city clerk, Christine Skorupski, this is the first time in nearly a quarter of a century that an ordinance passed by the city council has been placed on the ballot.

Supporters of the petition stated they did not want to be portrayed as "anti-gay." However, Christopher Aquadro, a member of Northampton

for Traditional Values, told *Bay Windows*, "Marriage is a big part of traditional values with a traditional family being made up of a man and a woman. I don't think there should be a law on the books promoting [same-sex marriage]."

OKLAHOMA

At least one lesbian was among the 166 people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing in April, according to a story in the June issue of the Chicago newspaper *Outlines*. Sheryl Schelkun, owner of the Bunkhouse, a gay bar, said that Kathryn Ridley, the mother of two small children, died in the bombing. Ridley, believed to be in her early 20s, had moved back to Oklahoma City shortly before the bombing; she had previously been living in Alabama with her girlfriend, Johnika Edwards.

According to Schelkun, a number of lesbians and gay men were displaced when their apartment building was damaged by the blast. A fund has been established to help lesbians and gay men hurt by the bombing, write: G/L Disaster Relief Fund, c/o Bunkhouse, 2800 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.



UTAH

The Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats spearheaded a petition drive calling for the protection of equal marriage rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the state. Over 1,200 people signed the petition at the Utah Gay and Lesbian Pride '95 celebration last month.

The petition is in response to Utah's Recognition of Marriages law which prohibits recognition of same-sex marriages. The Democrat group plans to challenge the law in court.

WASHINGTON

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to oppose two anti-gay initiatives, according to an Associated Press story. Rejected by the 900 clergy and lay representatives from Washington and Northern Idaho were Initiative 166, which would bar schools from portraying homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle, and Initiative 167, which would bar gay men and lesbians from adopting children or becoming foster parents.

Additionally, conference representatives voted to ask the church's national board to change the Book of Discipline. That document is a set of guiding principles that describes homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teaching.



Starbucks, the ever-expanding coffee company headquartered in Seattle, agreed at its February stockholders meeting to adopt a code of conduct for all of its coffee production, according to the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee newsletter *La Lucha Solidaria*. Active in writing the code of conduct are representatives from the U.S. Guatemalan Labor Education Project. That group was the main organizer of a nationwide campaign for justice for coffee pickers that prompted the company's decision.

Picketing and leafleting at Portland Starbucks stores was coordinated by Jobs with Justice and PCASC.



Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

LEAVE IT TO A PRO!

Marvin Salles

Associate Broker

Buying or selling a home can be stressful even under the best of conditions. Benefit from my experience, relax!

- Top selling, multi-million dollar agent
- 17 years marketing, negotiating, and sales management experience
- 16-office network to serve you
- 1031 tax deferred exchange specialist



Windermere

225-1115 • pager 204-1271
2078 NW Everett St. Portland, OR 97209

TRAVEL AGENTS INTERNATIONAL®

"Serving Our Community ... By Meeting Your Needs"

Hawaii On Sale!



Airfare's Low and Cars are FREE ...

Portland/Honolulu Air from \$319* per person
Waikiki Package from \$534 per person
Kauai Package from \$697 per person

Packages include: RT airfare from Portland, 7 nights hotel based on double occupancy, FREE compact rental car, and Classic's change and cancellation waiver. Call TODAY! Restrictions apply to this limited-time-only free car promotion.

*Airfare valid from 9/5 to 10/30/95 Fri-Mon on Hawaiian Airlines. Requires purchase of land package.

Sail into the Christmas Season with this pre-Christmas Group Booking!



Royal Caribbean

We are pleased to announce we are holding 10 cabins for the Dec 3 sailing of the *Song of Norway*

ONLY **\$937** Per Person Double occupancy

7 Day Mexican Riviera Cruise
Stop offs in CABO SAN LUCAS, MAZATLAN & PUERTO VALLARTA

Price includes RT Airfare from Portland, RT transfers between airport and pier, 7 night cruise, all meals, and all taxes and port charges.

(Note: We strongly encourage the purchase of cancellation waiver insurance, at additional cost)

©1995 RCCL Ships of Norwegian Registry

Prices Good Only at Downtown Portland Office

917 SW Washington St.

503-223-1100 800-357-3194

