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national news

South Asian queers gather in San Francisco

Nearly 100 South Asian lesbians, gay men and bisexuals gathered in San Francisco last month for Pride Utsav '95, reported the *San Francisco Bay Times*. This year's conference, which drew queer South Asians from around the world, was sponsored by Trikone, a Bay Area-based group for gay and lesbian South Asians.

Lesbian activist Urvasi Vaid gave the keynote address, and Pink Peacock awards were presented to filmmaker Pratibha Parmar and Trikone founder Arvind Kumar in recognition of their contributions to the South Asian gay and lesbian community.

Trikone can be reached at PO Box 21354, San Jose, CA 95151, (408) 270-8776; e-mail: trikone@rahul.net.

Kristine Chatwood

All participants are asked to fill out a consent form and give a sample of blood for DNA sequencing. The brothers are also asked to fill out questionnaires on early childhood sexual orientation and family life. That should take less than an hour. Volunteers will not be paid, but NIMH will pick up lab and shipping fees associated with the project.

Gershon hopes to recruit at least 100 sets of brothers within the next six months. For now, he will collect and freeze samples. He will not process them until he has enough groupings to achieve economies of scale and to offer up scientifically valid conclusions. He hopes to have results in about a year.

Potential volunteers are encouraged to contact Elliot Gershon and his NIMH team for further details. The e-mail address is GQZ@CU.NIH.gov and they will accept collect calls at (301) 496-8977 during regular business hours (Eastern Time).

Bob Roehr

Portlander leads GLAAD

Local lesbian activist Donna Red Wing has been appointed acting executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Red Wing has been GLAAD's national field director since October 1993. Prior to working for GLAAD, Red Wing was the executive director of the Lesbian Community Project. She was also active in the campaign to defeat Oregon's Ballot Measure 9.



Red Wing replaces Ellen Carton, who had served as GLAAD acting executive director since November 1994.

Kristine Chatwood

Windy city activists form black gay PAC

A group of Chicago activists has formed a political action committee to raise money for gay- and lesbian-supportive candidates running in local districts with large African American populations, according to *The Washington Blade*. Known as "The Committee," the group is believed to be the first of its kind in the country.

In addition to sexual-minority-supportive candidates, The Committee plans to endorse candidates based their positions on issues affecting people of color. The Committee will also support openly gay and lesbian candidates who are people of color.

Kristine Chatwood

Union fights workplace homophobia

The Service Employees International Union developed and is now distributing a new brochure to help union members and workers fight homophobia in the workplace and in unions. Entitled "Don't Discriminate: Lesbian and Gay Workers Have Rights, Too," the brochure is published by SEIU's Civil and Human Rights Department and is an outgrowth of a 1992 SEIU International Convention resolution. The resolution is part of the union's continuing support for civil rights legislation, local union civil rights programs, and participation in progressive social reform coalitions.

For information and free copies of the brochure call Wyatt Closs at the SEIU Civil and Human Rights Department at (202) 898-3354.

Kristine Chatwood

Phoenix gay man abducted, shot

Mark Sauer, a Phoenix man active in the gay community, was abducted and shot three times in the leg June 4, reports the *Western Express*. According to Sauer, he was driving out of a parking lot when he stopped to answer his beeper. A man pulled open the passenger door, aimed a .22 caliber revolver at Sauer's head and told him to drive "slowly and carefully" down the street. The man threatened to kill Sauer, and reportedly said, "We don't want you people around here, we don't like what you do." After driving through side streets with the gun at his head, Sauer was told to stop in a deserted parking lot. The man then robbed and shot him.

Sauer was treated at a Phoenix hospital and has been released.

Phoenix police are reluctant to classify anti-gay crimes as bias crimes and are even more reluctant to discuss them, according to the *Western Express* story.

Kristine Chatwood

FOR HIV POSITIVE ONLY

A SPECIAL DENTAL CARE PROJECT TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH HIV



Project Dental Health at the Russell Street Clinic needs HIV participants for an Oral Care Project to study the overall health effects of regular dental care for people with HIV.

Eligibility:

- HIV positive
- 20 to 45 years of age
- Have a T4 count between 100 and 500
- Have at least 20 teeth

Participation:

- Dental exams three times each year
- Possible cleaning every two months
- Possible daily use of a special mouth rinse

To participate in the Oral Care Project call:
Melody Scheer
Russell St. Clinic/
Project Dental Health
(503) 494-6300

All participants will be paid \$15.00 for each examination and a \$25.00 bonus for the final exam. Participants will help in efforts to improve the quality of life for people with HIV.

Study director: Dr. David Rosenstein, Oregon Health Sciences University

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