

Hawaii marriage trial postponed

The famous Hawaii same-sex marriage case, scheduled to go to trial in September, has been postponed until July 1996. Circuit Judge Kevin Chang postponed the trial July 13 to give state lawmakers a chance to consider recommendations from a commission that will study the issue. The new trial date follows the 1996 legislative session.

The case stems from a 1991 lawsuit filed by three same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses. The case made its way to the Hawaii Supreme Court, which sent the case back to a lower court, ruling that unless the state can demonstrate a "compelling state interest" for refusing the licenses, it must stop discriminating against same-sex couples who want to marry.

Woman bilks lesbians

Warrants have been issued in Georgia and Florida for a woman accused of grand theft, credit card theft and forging checks. Victims of the alleged crimes claim Suzanne Moore Nelson preys on lesbians, reports *Southern Voice*.

Carol Tolbert of Macon, Ga., began dating Nelson in April. She claims that by June, Nelson had stolen \$900 from Tolbert's credit card by wiring money to herself, and had stolen items from Tolbert's house. After Nelson disappeared in June, Tolbert began calling phone numbers she had found. She reached a woman in Pensacola, Fla., who said she had been Nelson's lover for a year and a half. The woman said she had sworn out warrants charging Nelson with grand theft, forging her signature on the woman's checks, and impersonating the woman to sign checks.

Although Nelson was arrested in Georgia and extradited to Florida in November 1994 to stand trial on the Pensacola charges, she was released on a technicality in January. She was ordered to stand trial in April. She did not appear for the trial and is now wanted for failure to appear.

FDA approves lotteries to decide who gets drugs

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of lotteries to determine who will receive free doses of two experimental drugs, one for AIDS and the other for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Pharmaceutical company Hoffman-LaRoche announced in June a lottery for doses of Invirase, a protease inhibitor, a type of drug that seems to be most effective at reducing the amount of HIV in a patient's blood, reports Boston's *Bay Windows*. The lottery for the 2,280 spaces is limited to people with advanced AIDS who have CD4 cell counts lower than 300 and who no longer benefit from existing drugs.

Drug maker Rhône-Poulenc will provide free doses of Rilutek to more than 1,000 ALS patients. Rilutek, also known as riluzole, is the first drug to prolong survival in people with ALS. However, it does not stop the muscular deterioration of the disease, which advances until patients can no longer breathe or swallow.

The Invirase lottery will be run by Parexel, an independent research firm. To register for the

Invirase lottery, call 1-800-332-2144. The National Organization for Rare Disorders will run the Rilutek lottery; to register, call 1-800-RX-TRIAL.

Dancing lawsuit settled

A settlement was reached July 20 in the lawsuit brought by four gay men in Illinois who were arrested for dancing together in a sports bar. The four men won their case against the bar for sexual orientation discrimination last May.



Under the terms of the settlement, Sidelines Sports Bar in Harwood Heights, must pay the men an undisclosed sum for damages and attorneys fees; pay a \$2,000 fine to Cook County; and post a notice pledging compliance with Cook County's Human Rights Ordinance.

The whole thing started in March 1994, when the four men went to the bar on a Friday night. They were dancing together when they were approached by an employee and told to "find partners" or stop dancing. The men explained they already had partners. The bar called the police. When the police arrived they arrested the four men, who were later acquitted of all charges.

The men filed a discrimination lawsuit with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights, the group that enforces the ordinance. The hearings officer ruled that the bar had engaged in sexual-orientation discrimination when it ordered the removal and arrest of the four men.

Queer doctors honor health advocates

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association has announced that five individuals will be awarded GLMA Achievement Awards for outstanding contributions to lesbian and gay health and well-being. The awards will be presented at the GLMA Symposium to be held Aug. 17-19 in Los Angeles.

This year's honorees are:

Psychologist Evelyn Hooker, for her groundbreaking research on the mental health of homosexuals. Although some 35 years have passed, lesbians and gay men continue to benefit from Hooker's pioneering work. She is also honored for her willingness to challenge anti-sexual-minority forces that use medicine as their tool.

Sheila Kuehl, member of the California Assembly, for her advocacy for lesbians and gay men and for her work to strengthen the legal rights of women and to improve services for battered women.

Vickie Mays, for her efforts to promote a greater understanding of the health issues of lesbian and gay African Americans in general and HIV-infected gay African Americans in particular.

Dr. Dee Mosbacher, for her work using video to educate the public and the medical profession about lesbian and gay health. She is honored for her Academy Award-nominated video *Straight from the Heart*.

Richard Jennings will receive the Media Leadership Award for his work in transforming the relationship between Southern California's sexual minority community and the entertainment and media industry. He was instrumental in establishing a Los Angeles presence for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and Hollywood Supports.

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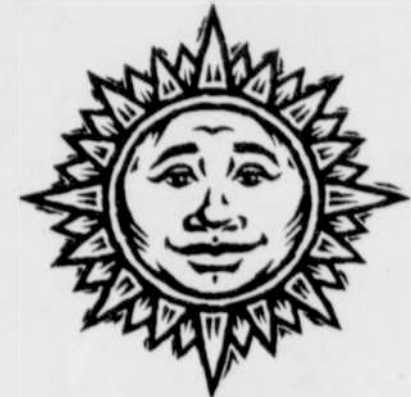
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