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national news

CALIFORNIA
Supporters of a bill that would ensure nondiscrimination in California's public schools will lobby state lawmakers during "Dignity for All Students Lobby Day" on Jan. 3.
Backers of the bill, AB 1001, were unsuccessful in moving the measure last legislative session, but will try again in January. The measure is sponsored by state Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, who will be on hand for lobby day.

▼ ▼ ▼
Thousands turned out on Oct. 31 for the annual Halloween bash in San Francisco's Castro district. The event has drawn as many as 400,000 participants in recent years.

In response to complaints historically stemming from the party—namely too much noise and feisty rabble-rousing—a professional force of up to 300 security guards and 200 police officers patrolled the area. A mandatory \$2 entry fee was also charged at street barricades in an effort to head off any problems.

Last year police arrested 53 people, mostly for public drunkenness and brawling. They detained 100 others and confiscated several weapons.

▼ ▼ ▼
The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is encouraging the Motion Picture Association of America to rescind a NC-17 rating of the new film *When Night is Falling*, which centers around a lesbian romance.

"The content of the film is neither graphic nor gratuitous," says GLAAD's Tamra King. "The love scenes are simply part of the story."

The film is set for release this month from October Films.

GLAAD, which works to educate entertainment and media officials about the adverse effects of gay and lesbian stereotypes, is encouraging people to contact MPAA via fax (202) 293-7674 or by calling (202) 293-1966.



Pascale Bussièrès (left) and Rachael Crawford in *When Night is Falling*

CYBERSPACE
A gay talk show now can be heard on the Internet's World Wide Web.
"The Gay '90s with Buck Harris" features interviews with people who have shaped America's gay history.

To hear the shows, download the RealAudio software from the Web site at <http://www.tstradio.com>.

Also, on Dec. 1 there will be a live Webcast of the Harvard AIDS Institute's World AIDS Day conference on new research findings. Visit <http://www.tstradio.com> for more information.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
In a defeat for gay and lesbian rights advocates, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to repeal a District of Columbia law that

allows city workers to register domestic partners for health benefits. In October, lawmakers voted 249-172 in favor of a rider to the city's 1996 spending plan.

ILLINOIS
Lesbigay Radio Chicago debuted on Oct. 30 in its new morning drive-time slot on Chicago radio station WNDZ 750 AM.

The gay and lesbian radio show has been airing this past year on Sunday mornings on WCBR FM. The switch to AM drive-time means an estimated 500,000 gay men and lesbians throughout the Chicago area will be able to hear the queer talk radio show. The program will air every weekday morning drive-time, an extremely high-profile spot.

NEW MEXICO
According to the Sept. 24 edition of the *Albuquerque Journal*, a number of bumper stickers offensive to sexual minorities, people with AIDS, and ethnic minorities were prominently displayed for sale at a recent convention of the National Federation of Republican Women.

One bumper sticker reportedly said "Roosevelt: A Chicken in Every Pot; Clinton: A Fag in Every Pup Tent," while another said "Work—It's the White Thing to Do."

WASHINGTON
The Seattle-based Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples has a survey, a list of domestic partner benefits providers, and other information relevant to queer couples available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.eskimo.com/~demian/partners.html>.

The site is dedicated to the needs of same-sex couples and features a wide variety of free information on the 70-plus pages of text, image and sound files. Included is a "Couples Gallery," featuring photographic portraits of committed couples.

The task force, which is nine years old, develops publications and videos promoting the rights of same-sex couples to full, legal equality, including the right to marry.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

REMEMBER TO VOTE

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LOOK FOR **just out's**
NEXT ISSUES **DEC. 1 AND DEC. 15**
(DEADLINE **NOV. 30** FOR THE **DEC. 15** ISSUE)