

# national briefs

## CALIFORNIA

Once again, the San Francisco 49ers are out ahead of the pack in the National Football League. According to the *Lesbian and Gay News-Telegraph* of St. Louis, the world champion team hosted the NFL's first "Until There's a Cure" benefit at its Nov. 26 game against the St. Louis Rams. Proceeds from the event went to fund AIDS research and treatment.



The 49ers event included a \$50-per-person tailgate party, where participants could rub shoulders with television stars David Schwimmer (*Friends*), Daphne Zuniga (*Melrose Place*) and Jonathan Silverman (*The Single Guy*). Concession stands sold "Until There's a Cure" items. In addition, the 49ers will donate \$10,000 to the AIDS charity.

## CYBERSPACE

Yet another gay and lesbian enterprise has plunged into the world of the Internet. Web crawlers can now add *The Advocate's* web site to their list of hot spots to visit. Visitors to the site will find the current issue's cover, the table of contents, a subscription page, an interactive poll that allows readers to e-mail responses, and a bulletin board-style discussion area.

*The Advocate's* web site address is <http://www.advocate.com>.



The burdens of participatory democracy just got a little lighter. Mailbot, a new e-mail service, makes it possible for constituents to express their views to members of Congress with two messages, instead of the traditional 435 individually written messages.

Mailbot will forward an e-mail message to all Senate and House members with e-mail mailboxes. Messages must be no larger than 5,000 bytes. Those wanting a response must include their name, address, city and state in their message. Abusive and obscene messages will be rejected.

Messages should be sent to [house@mailbot.com](mailto:house@mailbot.com) and [senate@mailbot.com](mailto:senate@mailbot.com). Questions about the service can be sent to [Mailbot@Mailbot.com](mailto:Mailbot@Mailbot.com). This service is free of charge.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Nominations are now being accepted for the seventh Lambda Literary Awards. The "Lammys" recognize excellence in gay and lesbian writing and publishing. The awards will be presented at a banquet to be held at the American Booksellers Association Convention, which will be held on June 14, 1996, in Chicago.

Nominations are accepted from the public. Books must have a 1995 copyright date and must be available in the United States to be eligible. Nomination forms must be received by *Lambda Book Report*, sponsor of the awards, by Feb. 16, 1996.

For information contact *Lambda Book Report*, 1625 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009-1013, (202) 462-7924.



Important consumer information for terminally ill people who are considering selling their life insurance policies is now available from the Federal Trade Commission. These arrangements are known as "living benefits" or "viatical arrangements." They are often entered into by the terminally ill who need money to pay bills. These arrangements have complicated legal, financial and tax consequences.

"Viatical Settlements: A Guide for People with Terminal Illnesses," a free informational brochure, is available from the FTC's Public Reference Branch,

Room 130, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-2222, TTY (202) 326-2502. News releases and other materials are available on the FTC web site at: <http://www.ftc.gov>.

## NEW JERSEY

The Rainbow Card Foundation, a charitable organization affiliated with the Rainbow VISA Card, lost a court battle over the use of its trade name.

A U.S. District Court judge granted a motion for a preliminary injunction preventing the Rainbow Card Foundation from using its name in the New York/New Jersey area. A lawsuit to stop the use of the name was filed by the Rainbow Foundation Inc., a New Jersey charity that provides medical help, financial assistance and shelter to ailing New Jersey children.

In filing the lawsuit, Rainbow Foundation Inc. argued that the use of the similar name could undermine its ability to raise funds.

The Rainbow Card is a VISA credit card targeted at lesbian and gay consumers. Martina Navratilova is the card's spokesperson. Proceeds from the card will be donated to lesbian and gay causes, including AIDS and breast cancer research and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

## NEW YORK

Uninsured and underinsured New York residents with AIDS are looking at a major reduction in the assistance they receive to purchase medications. New York's HIV Uninsured Care Programs faces drastic budget cuts, reports *The New York Times*. The program, which funds medication for about 10,000 people, plans to eliminate coverage for nearly 70 percent of the drugs now funded.

The state has cut 129 drugs from the program. The list includes painkillers, antibiotics, vitamins and psychotropic (those that treat mental illness) drugs. The state will keep paying for drugs it says directly treat AIDS, such as AZT.

Diane Mathis, New York state Department of Health spokeswoman, told the *Times* that the eliminated drugs were "nonessential drugs that don't pertain to AIDS patients."

## MONTANA

Members of the radical right are charging that a campaign to create a Hate-Free Zone in Montana is an attempt to undermine the constitutional right of free speech.

Those opposing the Hate-Free Zone claim that backers of the campaign are simply trying to silence homophobia. Militia of Montana spokeswoman Kamala Webb and the Rev. Richard Crow of the Temple Baptist Church claim that the Hate-Free movement has a homosexual agenda.

"People who speak out against homosexuality are worried about it because it sounds like in a Hate-Free Zone you can't express that without violating the Hate-Free Zone," Crow said in an Associated Press story. "That robs people of their First Amendment Rights."

Supporters of the Hate-Free campaign are circulating petitions endorsing a resolution renouncing hate and discrimination. They hope to get 100,000 signatures. There are plans to introduce the proposal during the 1997 legislative session.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Triangle Interests Federal Credit Union, a credit union serving the lesbian community, is set to begin operation in January. The credit union received a charter from the National Credit Union Administration. It is a not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members. All deposits are federally insured for up to \$100,000.

The credit union is a project of Triangle Interests, a Philadelphia-based national nonprofit lesbian membership association. For information about the credit union or Triangle Interests, contact Triangle Interests, PO Box 35148, Philadelphia, PA 19128, (215) 487-3736, e-mail: [triint@aol.com](mailto:triint@aol.com).

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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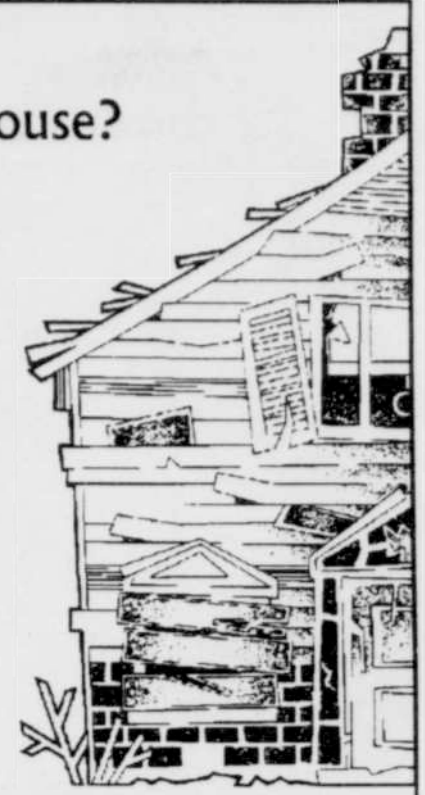
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