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national briefs

ALABAMA

The fifth annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference is scheduled to be held Feb. 16-17 on the University of Alabama campus at Tuscaloosa, unless Alabama state Sen. Bill Armistead (R-Columbiana) has his way.

Citing a 1992 state law forbidding the use of public facilities to "promote lifestyle or activities" prohibited by Alabama's sodomy and sexual misconduct laws, Armistead insists that the university is violating the law by providing low-cost, on-campus housing for conference visitors.

CALIFORNIA

Sid Sheinberg, former president of MCA/Universal and partner in The Bubble Factory, will be honored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Sheinberg will receive a Vanguard Award at the seventh annual Media Awards, to be held March 10 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

The Vanguard Award is given to an entertainer or member of the media who has made a significant contribution to equal rights for lesbians and gay men. Previous honorees include Roseanne, Aaron Spelling and Steve Tisch.

In 1991, Sheinberg and Barry Diller co-founded Hollywood Supports, an entertainment industry project that provides workplace education about AIDS, HIV and sexual orientation. The project was instrumental in persuading over 40 companies and unions to adopt domestic partner benefits for employees' same-sex partners.

"From his involvement with ABC's landmark telefilm *That Certain Summer* in 1972 to his enactment of domestic partner benefits at MCA/Universal in 1992 while president, Sid Sheinberg has set the standard for the entertainment industry to follow in ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive treatment and portrayals of gay men and lesbians," said GLAAD Los Angeles co-chair David Huebner.

press secretary. "The government should not be in the role of sanctifying marriages. That's when they run into problems."

It is not known if Cayetano will propose and push for legislation to replace marriage with domestic partnership agreements.

NEW YORK

CBS Sports has dropped Ben Wright from its golf coverage, according to the Associated Press. Wright, who joined CBS in 1972, was quoted last May in a Delaware newspaper as saying "lesbians in the sport hurt women's golf," and women golfers "are handicapped by having boobs." Wright denied making the remarks.

CBS stated Wright's termination was due to the controversy surrounding those alleged comments.



A series of armed robberies at gay bars in Manhattan and Queens may be linked, the New York Police Department has said. Six robberies are known to have been committed since July. At least three were committed by a single man; three men working together committed at least three other robberies.

Commenting on a list of the robberies compiled by the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Deputy Police Commissioner Thomas Kelly acknowledged that a crime pattern had been established. All the robberies occurred around either opening or closing time at the bars. The robbers seemed to be knowledgeable about the bars' business procedures.

Patrons of gay bars have been cautioned that they may be in danger.

A former employee of the New York Stock Exchange who has charged the exchange with firing him because he is gay, will get his day in court.

The exchange's request that Peter Degan's complaint be dismissed without a trial was denied by state Supreme Court Justice Stuart Cohen, according to *The New York Times*. Cohen dismissed several of Degan's claims, but permitted him to proceed with his charge that the exchange had violated the New York City Human Rights Law, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

WEST VIRGINIA

After several months of searching in central Virginia for property on which to build its retreat and conference center, Maat Dompim, Womyn of Color Land Project has located 120 acres of land for \$85,000. The group is now in need of cash gifts and donations, as well as long-term low- and/or no-interest loans from individuals in the community. The group has a \$15,000 grant and \$7,000 in pledges. It needs an additional \$23,000 for the down payment.

For information contact Maat Dompim, Womyn of Color Land Project, Auto Road, Auto, WV 24917, (304) 497-3737, (804) 263-8363, or voicemail: (703) 992-0248.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood