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## PASSWORD



Due to the new legislation that was passed in February, new accounts for **PASSWORD** are no longer being offered. Existing accounts will be serviced to the end of their contract.

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# national briefs

### ARIZONA

Jeff Ofstedahl, general manager and writer for the Phoenix-based gay and lesbian magazine *Echo*, was selected as the 1995 Community Journalist of the Year. The award, which is given by the Arizona Press Club, was presented to Ofstedahl at a Press Club banquet in May, according to *The Arizona Republic*.

Ofstedahl's articles and his regular column, "The Inside Story," often cover issues ignored by the mainstream media. He gives particular attention to gay-bashing and its victims.

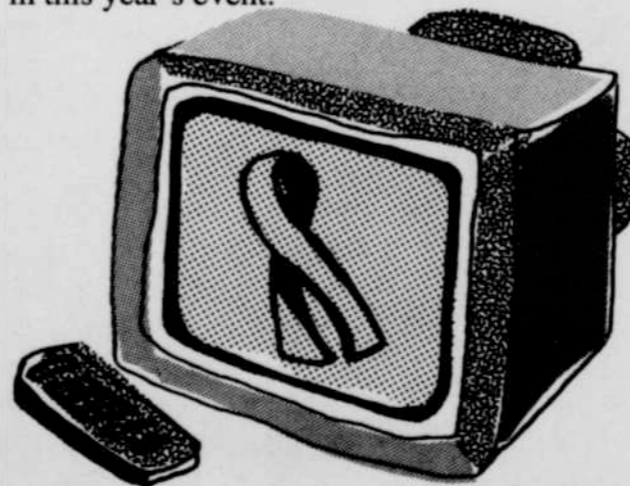
### CALIFORNIA

Actor Eddie Murphy, facing demands that his appearance on *The Late Show with David Letterman* be canceled because of remarks he made about AIDS in the early 1980s, issued a public apology for those remarks in May, reported *The (San Francisco) Examiner*.

Murphy's appearance on Letterman took place during the week the show was being broadcast from San Francisco. Protesters had demanded Murphy be removed from the guest list because he had never apologized for comments he made during an HBO show called "Delirious." The protested comments included a statement that AIDS might be transmitted by kissing, although research has shown that transmission occurs through bodily fluids like blood and semen.

In his statement, Murphy noted that he is now much more knowledgeable about AIDS. His earlier remarks, he said, had been those of a misinformed 21-year-old. He went on record stating that he is neither homophobic nor anti-gay.

A long lineup of daytime dramas, talk shows and other television programs, as well as numerous cable networks, have signed on to participate in the fourth annual Day of Compassion on June 21. On that day, participating shows will highlight storylines and guests that demonstrate compassion and support of people affected by HIV and AIDS. Radio programs also will participate in this year's event.



Hollywood Supports, a project founded to counter workplace fears and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV status in the entertainment industry, coordinates the Day of Compassion activities.

Angry voters barraged members of the California Legislature with calls protesting the removal of language requiring that AIDS education be taught "with compassion" in the public schools, according to a story in *The (San Francisco) Chronicle*. The language appeared in the original draft of a controversial bill that would require parental consent for public school students to be taught about sexually transmitted diseases. Current law allows parents to withdraw their children from such classes, but does not require that schools secure parental permission before broaching the subject in class.

State law says that "AIDS education must be taught with compassion about people with HIV." Apparently that requirement was dropped from the proposed bill by Assemblyman Steve Baldwin (R-El Cajon) because he felt the compassion rule justified teaching about homosexual practices "in

graphic detail."

Baldwin agreed to put the compassion requirement back into the bill as long as a qualifier was added stating, "This language shall not be construed as a reason to advocate drug use, particular sexual acts or lifestyles."

Opponents of the bill are still concerned about the precedent its passage would set. They worry that the need to obtain prior approval from parents could be applied to any of a number of subjects where some parents might disagree with what is being discussed in the classroom.

Alleging that the man he "married" did not disclose that he was HIV positive prior to the beginning of their relationship, **Mychael Robinson** of San Francisco has filed a lawsuit in Superior Court seeking unspecified damages for fraud, sexual battery and assault, emotional distress and half of Allan Louie's assets and future income, reports the Associated Press.

Robinson claims he closed his two businesses to take up life as a "homemaker" with Louie. He says the two were married and engaged in unprotected sex before he found AZT in Louie's house.

Speaking through his attorney, Louie denied that any "marriage" took place. He claimed that Robinson was in his house as an invited guest.

Although California law does not recognize same-sex marriages, state appellate courts have adjudicated gay and lesbian palimony cases.

Candidates, delegates and everyone else attending this year's Republican National Convention in San Diego in August will be treated to the sight of a dozen billboards and 17 bus-shelter displays promoting a positive image of gay and lesbian families, according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Gay and Lesbian Families of America has rented the billboards and displays for the month.

### CYBERSPACE

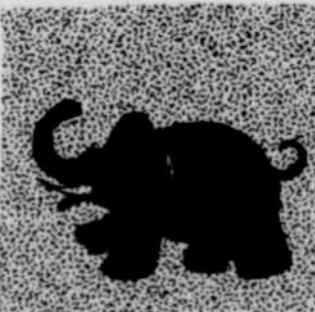
Charging that CompuServe Inc. has violated the Communications Decency Act, a provision of the recently passed Telecommunications bill that criminalizes the posting of "indecent" material on the Internet, the right-wing group American Family Association has demanded that the Federal Bureau of Investigation expedite an investigation of the on-line service provider.

Enforcement of the Communications Decency Act has been suspended pending a ruling by a three-judge panel on the act's constitutionality. If the CDA is found to be constitutional, its vague wording and lack of a clear definition of the word "indecent" could cause serious problems for those who post information about abortion, AIDS, sex education and the lesbian and gay community. The AFA's action has been roundly condemned by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Republicans are gearing up for a nasty intra-party fight at this August's Republican National Convention.

At the center of the storm is the wording of a long-standing plank in the party platform stating that



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