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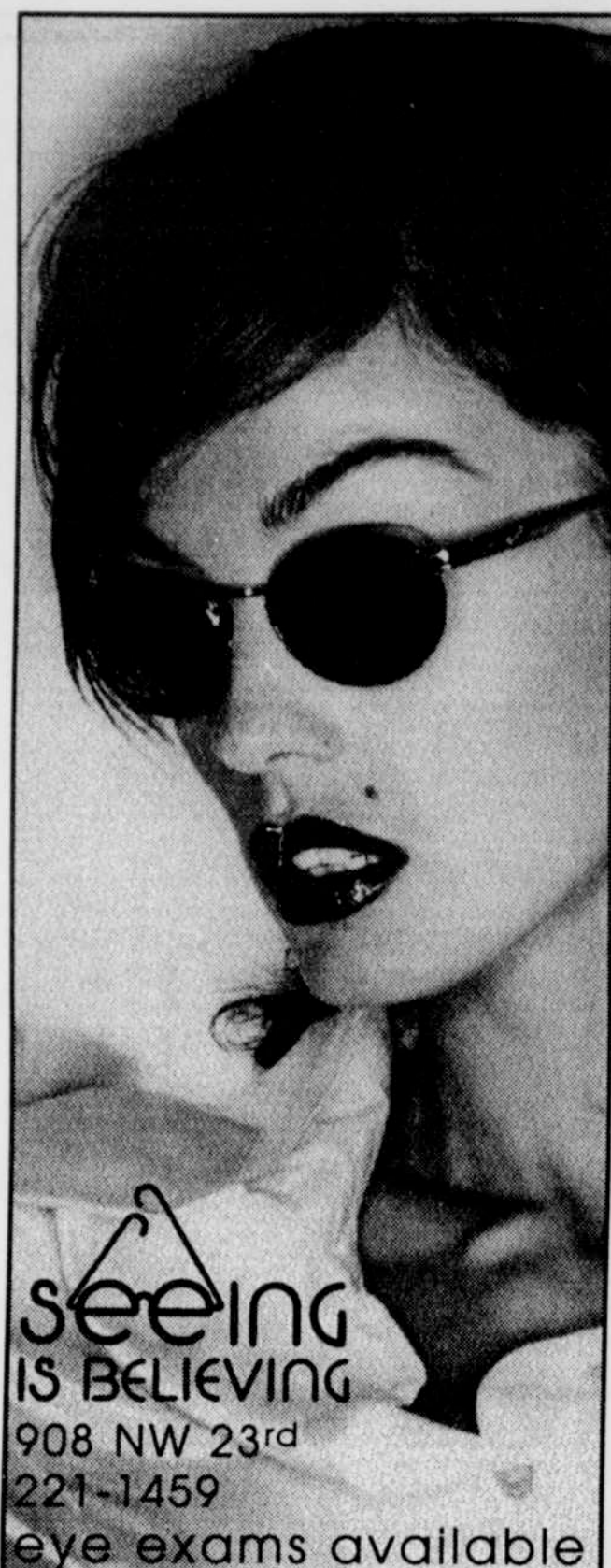
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national news

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Legislation proposed recently in the U.S. House of Representatives "attempts to prevent more Americans from contracting HIV and to improve the quality of life of those who are affected," according to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.).



The National Association of People with AIDS has expressed concern, however, that The HIV Prevention Act of 1996 does not assist programs already in place to stop the spread of HIV in the United States.

"It is imperative that our common goal—to stop the spread of HIV infection—be just that," said Mike Shriver, NAPWA public policy director. "This bill is the product of no consultation with national HIV prevention reform experts or advocates."

The Coburn bill also would establish a confidential HIV reporting effort and require states to inform individuals if they may have been exposed to HIV by a current or past partner.

FLORIDA

A Florida court has ruled that a lower court was wrong to deny a woman custody of her 4-year-old child simply because the woman is a lesbian. The Florida First District Court of Appeals on July 16 granted Valerie Maradie, a nurse from Niceville, a new custody hearing. The Appeals Court ruling stated that Okaloosa County Circuit Judge Jere Tolton could not assume without evidence that "a homosexual environment...can adversely affect a child."

GEORGIA

Following the lead of the San Francisco Giants, the first major league baseball team to host an AIDS benefit, the Atlanta Braves will dedicate its Sept. 7 game against the New York Mets to people in the Atlanta area living with AIDS and HIV. According to the *Southern Voice*, the Braves Foundation, the charity arm of the team, will present



a "significant" sum of money to three local AIDS service organizations. Recipients are Project Open Hand, AID Atlanta and the Grady Infectious Disease Programs pediatric unit.

AIDS and cancer have been selected as the Braves' targeted charities this year. "AIDS was chosen because of its enormity, and the desperate need for research and education," Miles McRea, the team's senior promotions director, told the *Voice*.

In addition to the benefit game, the Braves also made public service announcements featuring outfielder David Justice and third baseman Chipper Jones. The ads warn fans of the dangers of HIV.

MASSACHUSETTS

The *Harvard Educational Review*, a quarterly journal that "provides an interdisciplinary forum for innovative thinking and research in education," has published a special issue on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and Education. The issue includes a selection of youth writings; an interview with Cornel West on heterosexism and transformation; an article about a gay African American teacher who used historical figures to build and understand the dimensions of his own identity; an alternative under-

standing of sexual identity based on the Native American concept of "two-spirit"; and a 14-page resource guide that educators can use to refer lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their families, friends, parents and teachers for support and information.

To learn more about the special issue call 1-800-513-0763.



Charging that he was wrongfully terminated because he was "perceived not to be supportive of the homosexual movement," Clinton "Skip" Parker, administrative assistant to the former Provincetown superintendent of schools, has filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, reports *The Washington Blade*.



Current superintendent of schools Dr.

Susan Fleming said Parker was fired because of an "unsatisfactory job performance and conduct unbecoming an administrative assistant of business and finance."

Parker charges that he was "subjected to open hostility by the town and the school committee for not being supportive of the gay movement," which he says is "predominant" in the town.

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination will hold a hearing on the charges on Sept. 25.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis is the site of the 1996 Gay Softball World Series, which takes place Aug. 18-25. The largest annual gay event of its kind, the series is sponsored by the North American Amateur Athletic Alliance.

Teams compete in either the open or the women's division. The week's games culminate in championship games to be played on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Parties, dances, a celebrity T-shirt auction and other social events will take place throughout the week.

NEW YORK

John Scagliotti, executive producer and creator of *In the Life*, the gay and lesbian newsmagazine on PBS, left his position on Aug. 1. He spent 10 years working to bring the show to television. PBS began airing the show in 1992 on six stations; *In the Life* is now broadcast on more than 90 stations.

Scagliotti has been succeeded by Charles Dominic Ignacio, formerly the show's producer. Prior to joining *In the Life*, Ignacio worked in production at HBO and Thirteen/WNTE, the PBS flagship station. He studied writing and directing under Milos Forman at Columbia University.

NORTH CAROLINA

A Seattle church youth group that had planned to travel to Greenville County to work on a Habitat for Humanity project canceled its plans after learning of an anti-gay resolution passed by the County Council, reports the *Greensboro News & Record*.

Seattle's University Congregational United Church of Christ, an "open and affirming church," sent a letter and a resolution of its own to the County Council denouncing the anti-gay resolution. In the letter the Seattle group said, "The wording of the [county] resolution seems to suggest the Council is concerned with the very real issue of family breakdown. Gays and lesbians are not the cause of this breakdown."

The Seattle group has now volunteered to work at a Habitat for Humanity project in Sumter.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood