

the Reality brand "female" condom for anal sex. Volunteers are distributing 500 packets containing two Reality condoms, lubricant and instructions on how to use the condoms, along with a brief questionnaire, to gay and bisexual men in the Bay area.

The survey is in response to the dialogue and growing interest among gay and bisexual men about this safer-sex option.

Advocates of the condom say that it doesn't decrease sensitivity, while detractors say it is awkward and noisy.

Autoworkers hold firm for rights

Gay and lesbian union activists aren't satisfied with Chrysler CEO Bob Eaton's letter of Nov. 11 condemning workplace harassment of sexual minority employees. According to a story in the *Detroit Sunday Journal*, they are continuing their informational picket outside the company's headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., demanding a contract clause explicitly barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Chrysler management contends that such language is unnecessary because the standing policy bans discrimination in general, but in fact the policy specifically mentions race, religion, sex, and political and union activity—but not sexual orientation. The picketers have some support from the United Auto Workers, but recent contract negotiation between the union and Chrysler failed to secure the protection gay and lesbian autoworkers say is badly needed. To get the point across, Ron Woods, Midwest co-chair of Pride at Work, a national labor organization for sexual minorities, has gathered testimonials from gay and lesbian autoworkers who have been the victim of hazing, harassment and even sexual assault at work.

Although the UAW has not officially sanctioned the ongoing protest, Woods and supporters are encouraged by recent advances in an industry that they say is notoriously brutal to homosexuals. Within days of Eaton's letter, Ford Motor Company issued its own condemnation of gay-bashing, and this year GM Canada met union demands that the company extend health benefits to domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees.

A day at the movies with Mel Gibson

As a result of meetings in May between the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and actor Mel Gibson to discuss his relationship with the sexual minority community, Gibson will host an on-location seminar for 10 gay and lesbian filmmakers on the set of his new movie, *Conspiracy Theory*, in January. Along with the film's director and producer, Gibson will give the aspiring filmmakers a tour of the inner workings of a major Hollywood feature film.

Seminar participants were chosen from a nationwide pool of gay and lesbian film students.

Fort Lauderdale plans queer love fest

Organizers of Winter Gayla '97, a series of events to celebrate pride in lesbian and gay culture to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., over Valentine's Day weekend, are planning what they hope will be

the world's largest group same-sex commitment ceremony. The service, known as "Love Celebration," will be presided over by the Rev. Grant Lynn Ford on behalf of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Winter Gayla '97 will take place during the same weekend as Ft. Lauderdale's annual lesbian and gay pride festivities, which have been moved from the traditional June date to winter.

A portion of the proceeds from the weekend's events—which will include a beach party, dance party, cruise and the commitment ceremony—will benefit MCC's efforts to establish a couple's ministry to help same-sex partners deal with the challenges of long-term relationships, as well as the church's ongoing outreach to all sexual minorities. Money will also be donated to assist Sunshine Cathedral, a local congregation that is working to establish a national domestic partnership registry.

For additional information or to register for "Love Celebration," call (954) 525-4567; write to Winter Gayla '97 at PO Box 2647, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303-2467; or send e-mail to aarinc@earthlink.net.

Women honored for efforts in community's struggles

Men's Associated Exchange, the Human Rights Campaign and the National Center for Lesbian Rights hosted the Brothers for Sisters Bash in San Francisco on Nov. 22 to honor women's contributions in the fight against AIDS and the fight for sexual minority rights. A story in the *San Francisco Bay Times* noted that the event also raised funds to benefit Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services.

Sandra Hernandez, San Francisco director of health and former director of the city's AIDS Office, was honored, and filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman presented an award to Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen for their documentary *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*. Cohen and Hernandez each acknowledged the importance of the Lyon-Martin clinic in her own life—in what the *Bay Times* reports became a running gag of the evening—by naming it as the first clinic in San Francisco where she had had a Pap smear. The women and life partners for whom the clinic is named, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, received special recognition from the mayor and the state Assembly.



The Lyon-Martin clinic's executive director, Donna Canali, made the ceremony's closing remarks: "It's definitely been a team effort that has made the 17 years of service at Lyon-Martin's possible.... We need you because come January there are going to be 26,000 poor people thrown out of medical care in this city. We need you because in the last year the number of homeless women who have come to us has increased by 300 percent.... We need you and you need us, because until this country has a national single-payer universal health care system, we are going to have to keep taking care of each other."

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone

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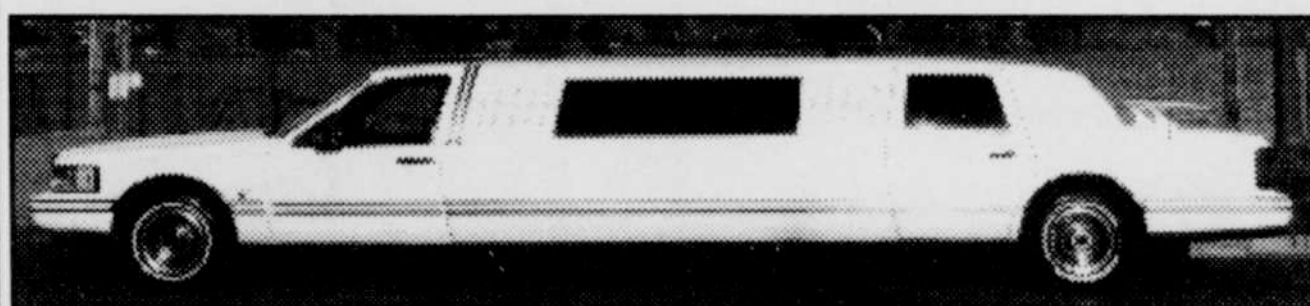
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