

Provost Alison Richard explained that Yale has frozen its faculty hiring and suggested that gay and lesbian studies is too narrow a specialty to warrant a tenured position or even a permanent position.

Kramer, on the other hand, feels that visiting or untenured professors are too transient to give students the academic guidance and role models they need.

Kramer, 62, was a founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP, and is the author of the novel *Faggots* and the play *The Normal Heart*. He may still donate his manuscripts and records from his early activism to Yale's Beinecke Library.

AIDS walk brings in big bucks

An estimated 25,000 people raised about \$3.5 million via AIDS Walk San Francisco.



The 11th annual fund-raiser, held July 20, set new records for both the number of participants and the amount of money raised.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation says the funds will help 37 organizations in the Bay area to provide critical programs and services for people with AIDS and HIV.

AIDS Walk San Francisco was created in 1987 by activist Craig R. Miller. A cumulative total of 155,000 participants have raised more than \$25.5 million since the event's inception.

Report cites possible roots of anti-gay bigotry

Despite the growing cultural visibility of sexual minorities in the United States, institutional bigotry remains pervasive, according to a report issued by People for the American Way.

"Hostile Climate" is a state-by-state chronicle of anti-gay activity which reveals an increase in the number of reported incidents in 1996 and concludes that a significant proportion of anti-gay discrimination is connected to campaigns by conservative religious groups.

The report focused on instances of institutional prejudice and discrimination and includes brief case studies of its 228 documented incidents.

In addition to legal and legislative battles, the report examines occurrences in schools and the workplace, in public discourse and the media, in places of worship and in the health care industry.

Its analysis of this anti-gay activity found a pattern of bigotry fostered directly by national groups claiming to act in the name of religion.

To order a copy of "Hostile Climate," visit PFAW's Web site (pfa.org/hc.htm), or send a check for \$12.95 to Hostile Climate Book Sales, People for the American Way, 2000 M St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.

Gay bars accuse state regulators of bias

State auditors are investigating allegations that the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has engaged in "discriminatory enforcement" by disproportionately raiding bars that are frequented by people of color.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the audit is the latest round in a battle between the department and gay, African American and Latino/a

activists that began last fall in response to an apparent increase in the number of ABC raids on gay bars.

Activists also claim that many of the targeted bars, queer or not, serve an ethnic minority clientele.

Many bar owners suspect the raids are aimed at forcing them out of business and have banded together as the Tavern Guild to legally challenge the ABC.

The allegations against the regulatory agency cite a February Los Angeles Police Commission study which showed that gay bars make up 1.4 percent of ABC licensees but were the site of 2.9 percent of law enforcement actions last year. ABC officials deny that the agency's actions are discriminatory.

The audit, which will combine statistical analysis with interviews of bar employees and customers, is scheduled for completion in six months.

IRS gets it right the second time

The Internal Revenue Service has admitted it was wrong to demand proof that a queer youth support group which applied for nonprofit status would not encourage "homosexual attitudes and propensities," according to a Reuter report.

The admission came in response to a letter drafted by David Buckel of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in defense of the Greensboro, N.C., grass-roots group Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Support System.

"We agree with Mr. Buckel that the methodology used to communicate a viewpoint or position to others should be the focus rather than the viewpoint itself," the IRS said in a July 9 letter to GLASS.

The IRS also promised to take "a fresh look" at the education and social welfare group's application for tax exemption, and said the case would be resolved quickly.

Internet use is risky for service members

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is cautioning gay men and lesbians in the military not to use their work computers to look up queer Web sites or to send personal e-mail.

The *Washington Blade* reports that SLDN staff is aware of about a half-dozen cases in which



members of the armed forces are being investigated for reasons related to computer use.

SLDN is also warning against saving any sexuality-related files on personal computers or disks, which could be confiscated and used as evidence.

While not revealing any details of service members being accused of homosexuality based on their activity on the Web, SLDN attorney Kirk Childress says some people have been prosecuted for misuse of government property.

"We are concerned that it is the new way to pursue people who are suspected to be gay," he says.

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone

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