

don't miss
Anita Hill



**"Sexual Harassment:
An Historical Perspective
of Abuse of Power"**

Wednesday, November 19, 1997
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Portland State University,
Smith Center Ballroom
1825 S.W. Broadway, Third Floor

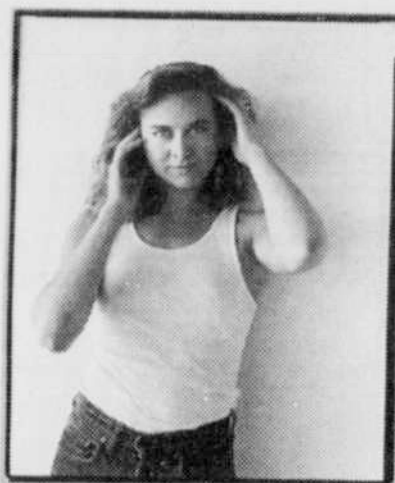
general admission - \$35
patron ticket* - \$100

* includes reserved seating and private
reception with Professor Hill

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world briefs

BELGIUM

Foreign domestic partners of Belgian citizens will now receive automatic provisional residency permits, Internal Affairs Minister Johan Vande Lanotte announced in mid-October.

However, in order to receive permits couples must live together and sign a domestic-partnership contract.

BRITAIN

Same-sex-partner immigration became a reality in Britain on Oct. 13.

"Some people, such as gays and some common-law couples, are actually prohibited from marrying by law," says Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien. "I think it's unfair to destroy their relationships. The position we inherited [from the previous government] for common-law and same-sex couples was unsustainable and may have breached human-rights laws. We have therefore decided to introduce a concession outside the rules in respect of these couples."

According to O'Brien, applicants must show they have been living together for four years or more and intend to continue to live together permanently. Once admitted, they will have to show the relationship has continued for another year before being granted settlement.

▼ ▼ ▼
The British ACT UP-style group OutRage! wants to show gay-porno movies to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe while his penis is attached to a plethysmograph.

"[He] is being invited to take an erotic arousal test to dispel suggestions that his anti-gay attitudes could be evidence of repressed homosexuality," the group said in a press release.

Mugabe has called gay people "immoral and repulsive" and has declared gay sex "an abomination" and "sub-animal behavior."

OutRage! has written to Mugabe challenging him to take a test devised by U.S. psychologist Henry Adams of the University of Georgia, whose research suggests that 80 percent of men who are homophobic have secret homosexual feelings.

In Adams' test, homophobic men who said they were exclusively heterosexual were shown gay sex videos. Four out of five became sexually aroused by the homoerotic imagery, as recorded by a penile circumference measuring device.

Adams' findings were published last year in the *U.S. Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, with the backing of the American Psychological Association.

"These findings support the theories that homophobia...is often indicative of repressed, self-loathing homosexual feelings; and that many homophobes subconsciously use anti-gay attitudes as a smoke screen to disguise their own homosexuality," OutRage! said.

CANADA

The Ontario Court's General Division ruled in early October that the Axa insurance company broke the law when it refused to pay an \$18,000 death benefit to a woman whose female partner was killed in a traffic accident.

Justice Douglas Coe said Axa's refusal to pay spousal benefits to Kelly Kane, 36, violated her rights under Canada's national Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and he ordered government officials to rewrite the Ontario Insurance Act's definition of "spouse."

It is estimated that there are 90 other Ontario laws that define "spouse" in a heterosexist manner.

COSTA RICA

The man who forced the country's government-run health care system to provide antiviral

drugs to people with AIDS died of complications from the disease Oct. 12.

In late September, the Supreme Court ordered the socialized medical system, Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social, to buy anti-HIV "cocktail" drugs for Garcia and, a few days later, three other people who had filed similar suits.

CCSS continues to claim the drugs don't work, have debilitating side effects and are too expensive.

JAPAN

Three hundred lesbians and some drag queens marched through Tokyo's popular Shibuya neighborhood Oct. 10 in the nation's first dyke march.

According to Agence France-Press, they could not resist the humor in turning the national Sports Day (*taiku no hi*) into Dyke Day (*daiku no hi*).

According to the Australian daily *The Age*, the women banged drums and blew whistles as k.d. lang tunes blasted from a sound system. Some marchers wore dark-blue suits and others wore rainbow flags.

"The lesbian community here is hardly visible," says spokeswoman Maria Miho Hiramatsu. "The problem with lesbians in Japan is that they are connected with pornography. The image of lesbians follows men's ideas of what women are, which is very different from women's ideas of what women are."

MEXICO

As attendees of the Climax circuit party waited outside to enter, Mexico City police shut down the gay disco Box, on Oct. 11, citing code and liquor violations.

"We're very disappointed the city aims to ruin legitimate and exciting places for gays and lesbians, especially when there are more urgent conditions in the city," says Climax promoter John Rozzo.

Climax raises money for Alianza, Mexico City's gay/lesbian business and professional group. Sponsors of the event include Sauza Tequila, Tower Records, Diesel Jeans and Mexico's national tourist office.

PERU

Word has reached *Toronto's Xtra!* that 60 gay men, lesbians and transgendered people marched in Peru's first gay and lesbian pride parade, held this summer in Lima.

Participants walked 10 blocks from the offices of the Lima Homosexual Pride Movement to Plaza Francia downtown.

According to activists, gay men and lesbians in Peru are routinely bashed, fired and arbitrarily detained.

SWEDEN

The Swedish Federation for Gay and Lesbian Rights (RFSL) has launched insemination-education programs in the cities of Helsingborg, Göteborg, Örebro and Linköping.

"It is time that lesbians' and gay men's desire for children is taken seriously," says RFSL's Eva Ogenborg. "Lesbians do not have access to artificial insemination at Swedish medical clinics.... We therefore take the responsibility for informing and supporting those who wish to have children."

RFSL receives calls daily from gay men and lesbians considering parenthood, many looking for a willing opposite-sex partner.

"By arranging these courses we can create opportunities for people to establish contacts, as well as informing about practical details and legislation related to gay and lesbian parenthood," Ogenborg says.

Compiled by Rex Wockner

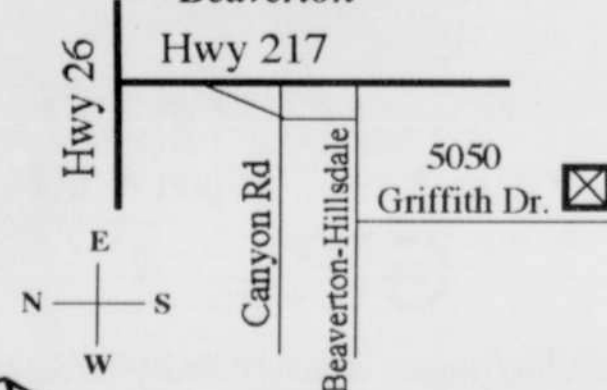
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