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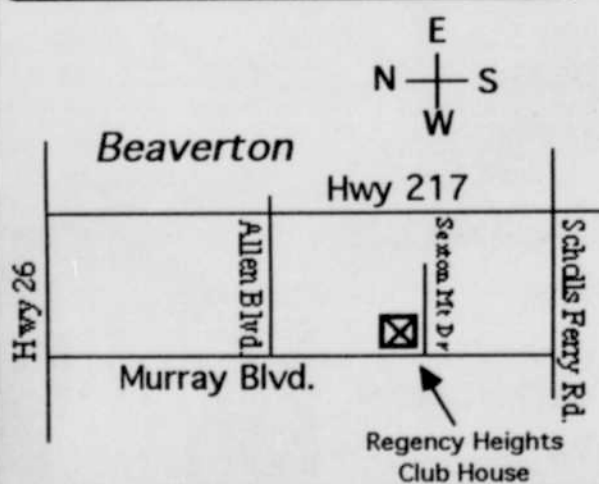
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The God Connection

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EASTER A Time for Larger Life



Rev. Casey Chaney
Rev. Berdell Moffett
Licensed, Ordained Ministers

Easter is about resurrection—
Sunday messages this month will focus on renewing forgotten friendships, reigniting abandoned talents, and reawakening dormant dreams. Join us!

- April 5 Those Who Would Be Master
- Easter Sunday 12 Living The Larger Life
- 19 Demons & Snakes & Deadly Things, Oh My!
- 26 Sittin' At The Right Hand of God

NATIONAL news

GAY AND LESBIAN DOCS GRANTED EXHIBIT SPACE

In a decision that could benefit lesbians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has reversed its position and granted the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association exhibit space at its annual conference.

"ACOG's decision means the health concerns of lesbians will be visible at the largest annual gathering of women's health providers," says Dr. Michael Horberg, a San Francisco Bay area internist and GLMA's president. "From the outset, we have wanted to attend ACOG's conference to educate obstetricians and gynecologists about the specific health care needs of lesbians, and we're pleased that ACOG recognized the significant educational role GLMA can provide."

On March 3, GLMA, the nation's leading group of gay and lesbian physicians, learned its request for exhibit space had been denied. GLMA's board called on ACOG to reverse that decision, requested a meeting with ACOG officials and notified GLMA members and the media of the denial.

The exhibit booth will give GLMA an opportunity to educate individual physicians about lesbian health. GLMA will also pursue future opportunities to meet with ACOG's directors and staff to increase their awareness of the specific barriers gay and lesbian physicians confront in the workplace.

GLMA will sponsor exhibits and receptions at 10 medical association meetings this year. The group selected ACOG's conference, which will be held in New Orleans May 11-13, because ACOG is the nation's leading group of obstetricians and gynecologists and because many gynecologists are unaware lesbians have specific medical needs.

HUSH, HUSH, SWEET CHARLOTTESVILLE

The second National Day of Silence, an awareness-raising event for queer youth, is slated for April 8. Begun in 1996 at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the day is believed to be the largest national youth event of its kind.



Participants are asked to honor a nine-hour vow of silence, from 8 am to 5 pm, and arm themselves with cards that read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. People who are silent today believe laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"

For more information, visit the event's Web site, www.youth-guard.org/ndos, or send e-mail to mkp6n@unix.mail.virginia.edu.

HIGH COURT MULLS HIV AS DISABILITY

The U.S. Supreme Court is pondering a case which questions whether the federal Americans with Disabilities Act—which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, housing, and public accommodations and services—applies to a person with HIV who has not developed any of the acute conditions that fall under the definition of AIDS.

The case was brought, and won in two lower federal courts, by a woman whose dentist refused to treat her in his office after she informed him that she is HIV-positive.

In the 1990 law, Congress did not specify diseases or conditions. The statute says one is covered if he or she has "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities" or if he or she is "regarded as having such an impairment."

Lower courts have ruled conditions like epilepsy, breast cancer and various forms of mental illness are not covered by the law. The courts are divided over whether asymptomatic HIV infection is a disability.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, says, "Denying ADA protection to people because their HIV infection is not obvious would undermine public health goals—it would discourage testing and treatment and encourage people to hide their HIV status.... Why reveal, or even learn your status if that information means you can be denied treatment or fired from your job?"

BEWARE, SAN FRAN, PHELPS MAY BE ON THE WAY

The Rev. Fred Phelps, infamous for picketing funerals of those who have died from AIDS complications, has announced plans to visit San

SEESAWING CIVIL RIGHTS

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force says the nation's political barometer is spinning wildly with simultaneous progress and setbacks.

On the heels of Maine's Feb. 10 election in which voters repealed statewide gay rights protections, three victories came out of the courts.

In a lawsuit filed by two men denied the right to marry, an Alaska Superior Court ruled the



state must show a compelling reason for prohibiting same-sex marriage.

On March 2, a New Jersey appeals court found that the Boy Scouts of America's prohibition of gay men violates the state's civil rights law, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A few days later on March 4, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the legal definition of sexual harassment includes harassment toward a member of the same sex.

NGLTF also reports two state Republican parties, those in California and Kansas, adopted "virulent anti-gay resolutions." Wording from the California resolution equates homosexuality with "incest, sexual child abuse, bestiality and pedophiles."