



Diane Rosenbaum for Representative District 14

Diane Rosenbaum is endorsed by:
Kathleen Saadat
Jerry Weller
Jean Harris
Don Powell

"I am supporting Diane Rosenbaum for State Representative in District 14. As a Steering Committee member on the No on 13 Campaign and Basic Rights Oregon, Diane has shown a long-term commitment to fighting the OCA and ending discrimination against gays and lesbians. I urge you to vote for Diane Rosenbaum on May 19.

—Don Powell, Co-Chair, No on 13 Campaign

Fighting for justice in the community

Authorized by Diane Rosenbaum for Representative, District 14, 238-6298

“The right to be let alone is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized people.”

— Justice Louis Brandeis



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NATIONAL news

BISEXUAL CONFERENCE DRAWS 900-PLUS

The Fifth Annual International Bisexual Conference, held April 4-6 at Harvard University, attracted more than 900 people, reports the *Harvard Crimson*.

The three-day event, which was organized by Harvard Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Graduate Students and the Bisexual Resource Center in Boston, featured workshops on topics including psychological research, activism, the media and spirituality.



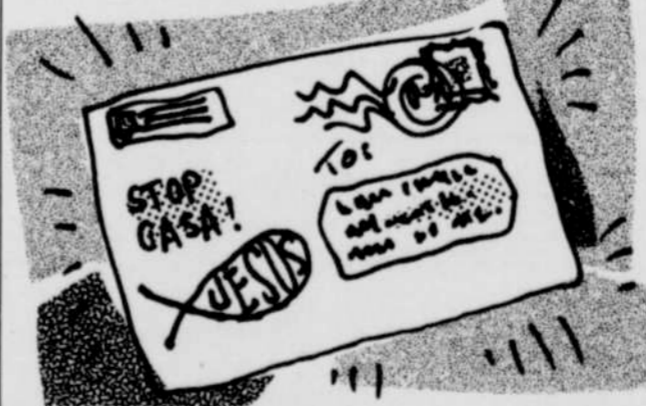
According to Jonathan Urbach, a student at Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences who was the event's facilities coordinator, the goal of the conference was "partly to empower the bisexual community, to increase their influence within the gay and lesbian community as well as increasing [their internal] bonds."

The conference included more than 150 workshops, as well as poetry readings and a concert. The event's three keynote speakers were Evelyn Mantilla, a Connecticut state representative; Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Elias Farajajé-Jones, a professor at Howard University Divinity School.

POSTCARD PROTEST HITS FLORIDA STUDENT GROUP

A support group for gay and lesbian students at Largo High School in Florida is drawing protests from a Christian group with members across the state who fear other schools will try to duplicate the program, reports the April 4 issue of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

From Key West to Pensacola to Jacksonville, members of the conservative Florida Family Association have sent about 1,000 postcards and letters to the home of Lucille Casey, chairwoman of the Pinellas County School Board. They want the board to disband the Gay and Straight Alliance at Largo High, the only group of its kind in Pinellas County.



Association head David Caton, who lives in neighboring Hillsborough County, told his group's members about GASA through his March newsletter, which he said goes to 10,000 supporters across the state.

Caton has also contacted 3,500 homes and churches in Pinellas County to rally support. In a few weeks, the association is slated to send letters to households in the Largo High School district, he said. All will be encouraged to send letters to school board members' homes.

The newspaper reports students who attend GASA meetings are not discouraged by the opposition. According to Matt Popiolek, the group's co-president, the publicity has been

good for the group because more students have started coming to meetings.

The issue came to the forefront in February after members of the association read an article about GASA in the *Times*. Caton wrote Superintendent Howard Hinesley, other members of the school board and some political heavyweights like Congressman Newt Gingrich and Mike Bilirakis, a Florida Republican.

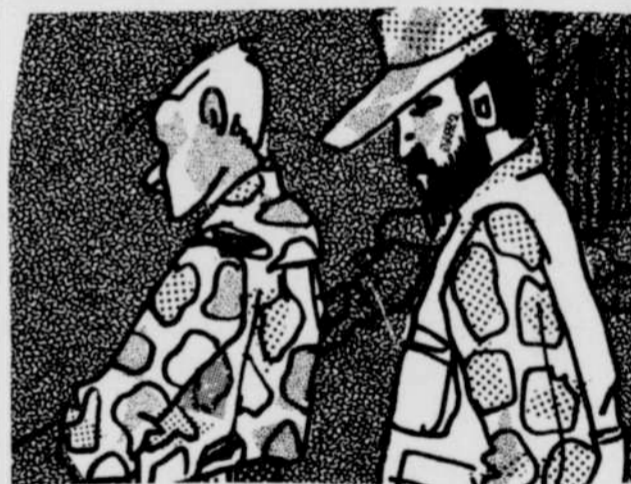
The attention has highlighted a small group that went unnoticed for a year outside the circle of about 35 students who confidentially attended its weekly meetings. The group formed in January 1997 after two students approached administrators with the idea. Meetings are held for about 45 minutes during the school day.

Largo principal Barbara Thornton said GASA is not intended to promote homosexuality, but is a response to complaints from sexual minority students who say they have been harassed by others in the school.

COHEN HEDGES ON 'DON'T ASK' COMPLIANCE

Defense Secretary William Cohen acknowledged April 7 that "some commanders haven't gotten the message" about the Clinton administration's policy barring the pursuit and harassment of gay men and lesbians in the military. He ordered new guidelines to explain and enforce it.

"I have tried to make it very clear that we want this policy fully and fairly implemented. That means there's to be no pursuit, there's to be no harassment, and if it's taking place, it's something I'm very concerned about," Cohen said in an interview on National Public Radio.



The "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy was initiated in 1994 amid controversy, attempting to strike a balance between prohibited homosexual conduct in the military and attempts to maintain the privacy of those who choose not to declare their sexual orientation.

Meanwhile, the Department of Defense released a report on April 7 showing the number of people discharged for being gay or lesbian climbed from 850 in 1996 to 997 last year.

Cohen recommended, among other things, that military commanders consult with their superiors and military legal authorities before embarking on investigations of suspected gay men and lesbians. He also said commanders and investigators need more training about the policy.

The report said without elaboration that in only three cases had the policy not been properly enforced.

Critics of the policy said Cohen would not have issued the directives if indeed the policy was being properly enforced.

"The policy itself is not being followed down the chain of command and the core problem of anti-gay bias goes completely unaddressed," says Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay and lesbian political organization. "The policy is not working because commanders in the field are continuing to ask and pursue, hunting down gay service members unabated."