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♥ See us in the classifieds for even more hot listings! ♥

NATIONAL news

QUEERS CLAIM DENNY'S DISCRIMINATION

Three people are suing a Denny's restaurant,
accusing the eatery of discriminating
against them with poor service because they are
sexual minorities.



According to a July 7 Associated Press
report, Ken Stanley, Julia Roberts and Tiffani
Lambright claim that last year, during visits over
six months, waiters at the Pleasant Hill, Calif.,
restaurant served customers first who came in
later, and the manager once told them to find
another place to eat. They are seeking \$300,000
in damages.

The trio's lawyer, Daniel Ready, says a former
Denny's employee told him the manager
ordered workers to give Stanley, Roberts and
Lambright poor service. Ready says the former
worker gave him a statement supporting allega-
tions in the suit.

The manager did not specifically mention
that the three were gay but told workers they
were a bad influence, according to Ready, who
filed the suit in Contra Costa County Superior
Court.

"They had been part of a group that had met
there for a while, and they made no secret of the
fact that they were gay," Ready explains.

A Denny's corporate spokeswoman in South
Carolina said the company doesn't tolerate dis-
crimination.

Pleasant Hill is about 30 miles east of San
Francisco.

NEW ORLEANS COUNCILORS PROTECT CROSS-DRESSERS

By a 5-1 vote the New Orleans City Council
adopted an ordinance designed to "protect
those whose characteristics are different from
their own sex and they then dress accordingly,"
United Press International reported July 1.

The measure covers employment discrimina-
tion and applies to city
government and all
other workplaces in New
Orleans.

Earl Jackson of the
city's Human Relations
Commission brought the
matter to the council.

During a discussion of
the proposal, Council-
man Oliver Thomas
asked, "Do you mean to
say if my assistant,
Kevin, who is male, comes to work in high heels
and a skirt, I can't do anything about it?"

Jackson answered, "You can, but you might
face legal action."

The issue is complicated for businesses, says
UPI, because they currently have the right to
institute dress codes, but it's unclear if such
codes could be gender-specific under the new
ordinance.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION EFFORT IN PERIL

President Clinton may have had the authori-
ty to issue Executive Order 13087—the
May 28 action banning federal workplace dis-

crimination based on sexual orientation—but
four Republican congressmen hope to wield
enough influence to make the order ineffectual,
reports the Human Rights Campaign.

In a letter to their congressional peers, the
gang of four—Reps. Tom Delay of Texas, Joel
Hefley of Colorado, Robert Aderholt of
Alabama and John Hostettler of Indiana—
asked other members of the House to support
Hefley's amendment to the Treasury-Postal
Appropriations bill, which would "prohibit the
expenditure of funds to implement, administer
or enforce Executive Order 13087."

The congressmen defended their actions by
stating they are opposed to discrimination, but
also opposed to granting "special rights" for any
reason, including sexual orientation.

HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg
doesn't buy that defense. She says, "This blatant
attempt on part of the GOP leadership to keep
discrimination against gay Americans legal is
against the spirit of freedom and tolerance on
which this nation was founded."

ACLU GOES TO BAT FOR PUERTO RICAN QUEERS

The American Civil Liberties Union has tar-
geted Puerto Rico's law that criminalizes
gay and lesbian sex, as well as heterosexual
sodomy, on the grounds the law is unconstitu-
tional. An ACLU press release announced the
group had filed a lawsuit June 23 to challenge
the law in San Juan Superior Court.



Michael Adams, a staff attorney with the
ACLU's National Lesbian and Gay Rights
Project, says the case "is about securing basic
civil liberties."

He adds: "Laws criminalizing sexual intima-
cy have been used in workplaces to deny les-
bians and gay men jobs. They have been used to
take children away from parents who are gay. In
Puerto Rico, they have even been used by politi-
cians to threaten gay citizens who speak out for
their rights."

Margarita Sanchez De Leon, one of six plain-
tiffs in the lawsuit, insists the "Commonwealth
of Puerto Rico has no business in my bedroom.
Our constitution gives me the right to decide
whether I love a woman or a man, and how I
will love my partner."

KELLOGG CASH FOR QUEERS

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
announced July 2 it has received a \$44,500
birthday present from the Kellogg Foundation.

The foundation's first contribution to a queer
organization coincides with NGLTF's 25th
anniversary and will be put toward the task
force's 4-year-old Youth Leadership Institute.

In August, the leadership institute will train
25 young people to return to their communities
and assist with Equality Begins at Home, a series
of queer-positive actions planned for March
1999 in state capitals across the country.

LARGE-SCALE TESTING OF AIDSVAX UNDERWAY

Five thousand pricks—the needle-piercing-
skin kind, that is—marked the start of the
first large-scale human AIDS vaccine test June
23, reports The Associated Press.

