



PHOTO BY MARIY DAVIS

The Northwest Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf will be heading to Seattle for a national conference

petuated by Maj. Gen. Clark simply made it an unsafe place for servicemembers."

The Navy's discharge numbers increased slightly in 2000, totaling 358 compared to 314 in 1999. A total of 81 of the discharges were from Charleston, S.C., where the Nuclear Power Training Unit and Command are stationed.

"The numbers from Charleston are alarming," Osburn said. "While we do not know the precise reason so many Navy personnel were discharged from that installation, we do know that servicemembers come out for a reason. Those reasons most often include unchecked harassment, inadequate training and a failure of leadership."

The Air Force discharged 177 servicemembers in 2000, down dramatically from 352 in 1992. Most significant were discharges from Lackland Air Force Base, which dropped from 221 in 1999 to 37 in 2000 after leaders were asked to improve training on the policy.

Marine Corps discharges increased slightly, from 97 in 1999 to 104 in 2000. The Coast Guard discharged 19 servicemembers, up from 12 in 1999.

An overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens—72 percent—favor the right of lesbians, gays and bisexuals to serve in the U.S. armed forces, according to a Gallup poll released June 4. Only 23 percent say they should not be hired.

DEAF QUEERS PLAN SEATTLE CONFERENCE

The Northwest Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf will play host to the 17th biennial National RAD Conference from July 3 to 7 in Seattle.

"Facing Tomorrow: Breaking New Ground" will give Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard-of-Hearing gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans individuals an opportunity to create new challenges, gain mutual respect and work together toward a stronger community. In addition to workshops, keynote speeches, delegate meetings and social events, the conference will allow everyone from all walks of life a place to celebrate their culture, pride and identity.

The Northwest Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, the largest RAD chapter in North America, has served Oregon, Washington and British Columbia since 1981. In April 2000, the Canadian members set up their own chapter.

The alliance shares the same mission as RAD: to provide networking, advocacy, education, leadership and biennial conferences. The nonprofit voluntary organization seeks more visibility by developing relationships and affiliations with the general community.

For more information visit the Internet site www.nurad.org.

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