

**NATIONAL news**

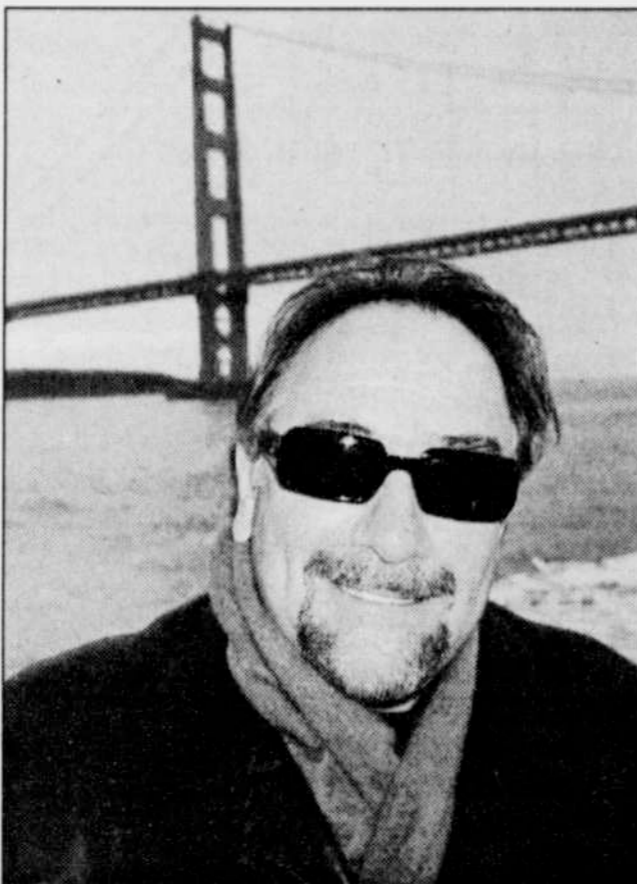
**NATIONAL**

Negotiations broke down March 10 between the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and NBC News concerning shock jock Michael Savage, who regularly launches verbal attacks on women, people of color, immigrants and queers. A cable version of his radio talk show, *Savage Nation*, debuted March 8 on MSNBC.

"For the past two weeks, GLAAD has been negotiating in good faith with NBC News executives in hopes of securing a meeting to discuss NBC's decision to offer a television platform to Michael Savage," executive director Joan M. Garry said. "Unfortunately, we cannot agree to conditions mandated by NBC News today that would bar us from talking about the content or outcome of the meeting with our constituents, our coalition partners or the media. It is inconceivable an operation like NBC News would not have the integrity to publicly state it would hold Savage accountable to its current standards and practices regarding news content, as it does all other NBC, MSNBC and CNBC on-air talent."

The ultra-conservative says in his book *Savage Nation*, "The degenerates on the left who want to sell Americans on the idea that homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, even sex with animals is normal are using porn as a way to indoctrinate the sheeple." On Page 48 he writes that MSNBC stands for "More Snotty Nonsense By Creeps."

"It was evident in his debut program that NBC News was forced to exert strict control over Savage's content and the views expressed by his callers," Garry said. "Clearly, they fear that, without these controls, he will revert to the types of bombastic, inflammatory diatribes targeting minorities upon which he built his reputation."



Within one week of his cable talk show's debut, Michael Savage lost all six of his national sponsors

GLAAD announced March 12 that all six national sponsors of *Savage Nation* have publicly withdrawn from the program. Procter & Gamble, Dell Computer Corporation, Casual Male, Idea Village, Cole Media Group and The Sharp Image have instructed MSNBC that their ads are not to appear on future airings. Kraft Foods and General Mills also have stated that they will not support his television show.

"These companies get it," Garry said. "They get that Michael Savage's racism, sexism and homophobia do not reflect the attitudes and

beliefs of fair-minded corporations and consumers. We applaud these companies' swift, decisive response and their stand against the divisive, intolerant diatribes of Michael Savage."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force board of directors announced March 5 that executive director Lorri L. Jean will step down from her position at the completion of her two-year contract May 31.

In June she will assume the position of CEO at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, a \$30 million social services organization that she led from 1993 to 1999. She will be joined there by NGLTF deputy executive director and longtime colleague Darrel Cummings.

"Lorri put her life on hold to come and help us at a time when the organization was facing tremendous financial difficulties and overall instability," board co-chairwoman Margaret Burd said. "In the two years that she has been at the helm we not only have recovered from that instability but have positioned the organization to play an increasingly vital and effective role in the GLBT community for years to come."

Jean commented: "My work at the task force has been enormously gratifying. We have accomplished what I was hired to do, and more, thanks to a remarkably talented staff and a dedicated board. Now it is time for a new leader to take the organization to its next stage. I am proud that the new executive director will inherit a strong

organization that is well poised to meaningfully lead our movement towards freedom, justice and equality, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition of executive leadership for this vitally important GLBT organization."

The U.S. Census Bureau has released a landmark report that, for the first time, provides data on the nation's families headed by same-sex partners. It gives information on the number of these households that are raising children, the couples' average age and their racial makeup.

The report was compiled on data taken during the 2000 census. Previously released statistics revealed that the country has 594,391 reported same-sex households—of those, 301,026 are male, and 293,365 are female. Those same numbers also showed that gay and lesbian families live in 99.3 percent of all counties in the United States.

The new report indicates one-third of female partner households (34.3 percent) and one-fifth of male partner households (22.3 percent) are raising kids. Eight states and the District of Columbia, along with scattered counties across the country, guarantee same-sex couples access to second-parent adoption, which lets both parents establish a legal relationship to any child they might raise together.

"Children in all families deserve the security of a legal relationship to both their parents," said Lisa Bennett, who runs the Human Rights Campaign's FamilyNet. "These new census numbers

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Lorri L. Jean

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