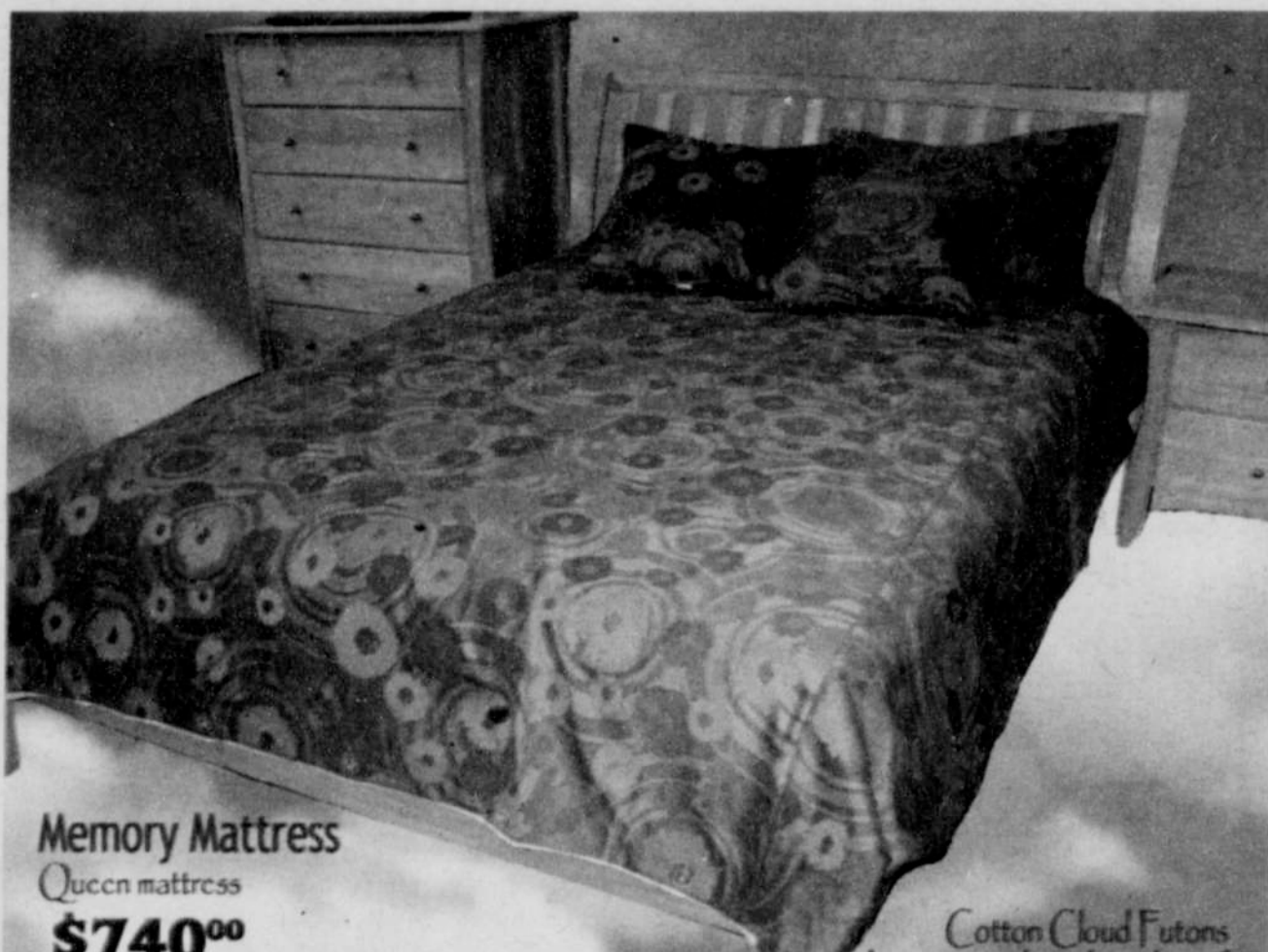




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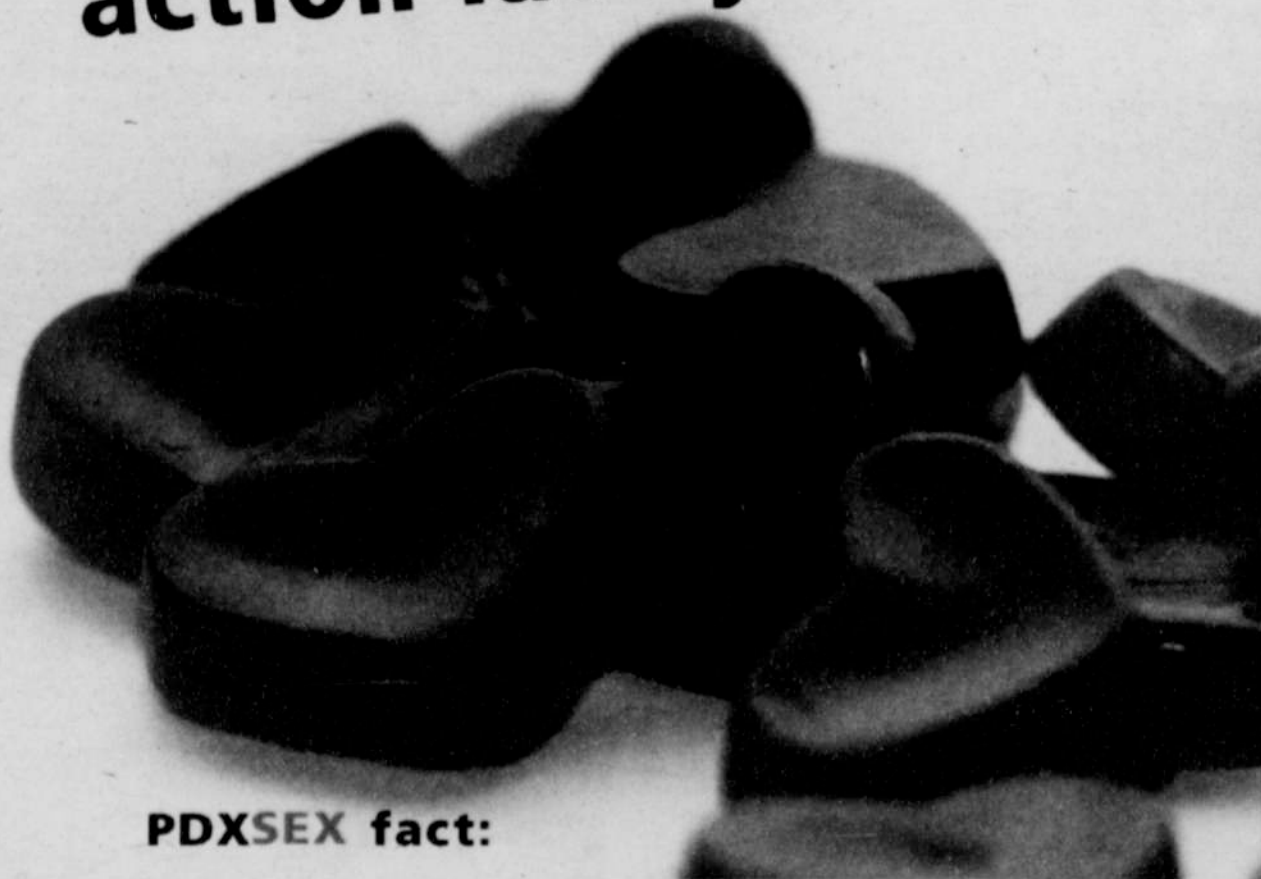
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CALIFORNIA

Transgender Religious Summit Breaks Ground

The first conference held on transgender issues at a Christian seminary wrapped up Jan. 21 at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. In attendance were transgender leaders and allies from the United States and Canada. Participants represented many different faith traditions, although Christian and Jewish denominational leaders had the highest representation.

Topics discussed included denominational policy, outreach to transgender communities, transgender religious leadership, public policy and issues of theology and worship. Among the presenters were the Rev. Justin Tanis, program director of the National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington, D.C., which co-sponsored the conference; Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality; the Rev. Erin Swenson, transgender minister in the Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Cameron Partridge, an Episcopal priest and doctoral student at Harvard Divinity School; Donna Cartwright, member of the Oasis commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, N.J.; and Reuben Zellman, a rabbinical student from Oakland, Calif.

Common themes that came up for discussion throughout the conference included education about trans issues amid faith communities; a portrayal of being trans as a medical issue; an awareness of the diversity of trans people in attendance; a need for leadership; and experiences about religious discrimination.

"The progress we have made in society and public policy over the last few years has not just been because of the work of people like me," said Keisling, speaking as a public advocate for transgender rights. "It has happened because of the



Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, noted the progress of transgender rights at a religious summit.

thousands of people like you who have had the courage to come out and educate your families, faith communities and elected representatives about who you are."

Safe Bathrooms Sought

A group known as the San Francisco Genderqueer Hackers Collective has created a Web site with a directory of 307 gender-neutral bathrooms in 76 cities throughout the United States, a list that continues to grow.

The site aims to support the comfort, safety and convenience of those put off by or excluded from the rigid binary of bathrooms.

The site features a mapping of locations, images and the ability to post comments and information about accessibility. Expansion into international bathroom directories, a rating system and cell phone searches are slated for the future.

For more information visit www.safe2pee.org.

Star Apologizes for Slur

Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington met with gay rights activists Jan. 23 in his first effort to heal the rift that stemmed from his use of an anti-gay slur.

"With the support of my family and friends, I have begun counseling. I regard this as a necessary step toward understanding why I did what I did and making sure it never happens again," Washington said in a statement Jan. 24.

Washington's on-air use of the word "faggot" during a backstage press conference at the 64th annual Golden Globe Awards outraged many gay leaders who called for a public apology.

Last October, rumors swirled about Washington having referred to Grey's Anatomy co-star T.R. Knight as a "faggot" during an on-set altercation with Patrick Dempsey. Washington denied this at the Golden Globes, but the openly gay Knight confirmed during an appearance on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* that he had indeed used the slur.

"When Isaiah Washington uses this kind of anti-gay slur—whether



Television star Isaiah Washington apologized for using the word "faggot."