

WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

Arizona's Lesbian Newspaper published since 1974

NUMBER 9

VOLUME XXIV

SEPTEMBER 1998

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Gay Games in Amsterdam a success

by Mary, staff writer

Attending the Gay Games was a fantastic experience! Even after a 12 hour plane trip, and struggling with luggage (including 3 bowling balls) to our hotel, we were totally enchanted right away. The city is beautiful, the public transportation is reliable and easy, and the whole town was welcoming the gays and lesbians with open arms.

The games drew over 14,000 participants and over 40,000 attended the opening performance. We bowled with people from Bangkok, Australia, Berlin, Denmark, and lots of other countries. The opening and closing performances were very well done, at times very funny and at times very moving. The street parties happened each night of the games, with live music, dancing, and general fun.

We did some sight-seeing, some shopping, and a lot of people-watching. The Dutch are very accepting of all ways of life, so there was not the gaping or comments that we expect in the U.S. Same sex partners are recognized in the Netherlands, so no one thought twice about seeing two women holding hands or two men kissing in the street.

The games were intense, and we made some great friends. Everyone supported all the other participants, whether it was loaning equipment, a shoulder to cry on, or just cheering them on in a myriad of languages. While it was competition, there was also a terrific spirit of friendship. The theme of the Games this year was 'Friendship through Sports and Culture', and it was evident in every aspect of the 8 days.

At the end of the Games, there was much exchanging of addresses, phone numbers, promises to visit, and tears. We came away with an incredible sense of our global community, and determined to start planning for the next Gay Games in Sydney in four years.

San Francisco, a shining example

by Robin Dee, staff writer

On August 10th San Francisco set another standard for human rights by unanimously voting to expand the city's domestic partners policy. The ordinance, which Mayor Willie Brown says he will sign, makes San Francisco the only U.S. city to order private businesses to offer domestic partners any customer discounts they extend to married couples.

This shining example for equal treatment of all human beings comes at a cost. A few weeks prior to the ordinance the House voted to block San Francisco from receiving federal housing money because of its year-old Equal Benefits Ordinance which requires businesses with city contracts to extend health benefits to worker's partners.

Y2K update

by Robin Dee, staff writer

President Clinton has formed the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and has selected the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, and the National Council of Senior Citizens to aggressively search out retired programmers who will review millions and millions of lines of code to search out all the places where date information is stored.

The Year 2000 problem is caused when computer programs and imbedded chips recognize only the last two digits of the year. When these programs roll over to '00', the year 2000, computers will reset themselves to the year 1900 thereby disrupting the information flow and making the product of data crunching unreliable.

Many legacy programs are written in early computer languages like COBOL and FORTRAN and programmers familiar with these languages are in high demand. The web site: www.y2k.gov has a job bank maintained by the Department of Labor which seeks to connect and register businesses in need of programmers and programmers interested in taking part.

On August 8th auditors in the Department of Transportation gave a

Artist searches for breast cancer survivors

Nationally known photographer Michael P. Hays is looking for breast cancer survivors for his show in October. The show, titled "I'm still Beautiful", will feature black and white photographs of breast cancer survivors in Michael's unique EdgeScape style.

The exhibition was inspired by a woman who after going through breast cancer, extensive chemotherapy, loss of one breast and reconstructive surgery, came to Michael to be photographed as a closing to her ordeal. According to Michael; "This woman virtually paid for my life with one sentence, when she saw the completed work, she cried and said "I'm still beautiful".

The main objective of the exhibition is to carry the message to the thousands of breast cancer survivors that despite the physical damage caused by breast cancer, the intrinsic beauty that was there before the cancer is still there. The exhibition will be held at the Alwun House in Phoenix, October 2nd - 27th, and a portion of the proceeds will go to a local breast cancer support group.

Michael is looking for breast cancer survivors of all ages, sizes and



report to the technology subcommittee of the House Science Committee which stated that the Federal Aviation Administration has exaggerated and misled the progress they are making on the Y2K problem.

The FAA is reporting some systems as being repaired when in fact the crucial replacement parts have not yet been received. To make the situation worse the agency says it doesn't know if the new systems will be free from the problem. If the FAA computers are unable to deal with the Y2K problem they admit they will have to reduce the total number of planes it allows to fly.

Additionally, auditors from the General Accounting Office said in June that the Department of Agriculture reported 15 of its systems fixed when in actuality replacement systems were still under development or were planned to be developed.

shapes. So far, of the people that he has photographed for the show the ages have ranged from 34 to 64. Due to financial limitations he will

only be photographing a few more survivors. There is no charge to any of the survivors for the photo sessions. Tax deductible contributions can be made to Alwun House for the exhibition.

Complete press package, local references of breast cancer specialists and digital copies of some of the exhibition's photographs available on request. Some of the individuals that have been photographed have also expressed a willingness to be interviewed for the exhibition.

Any questions, please call: Michael P. Hays @ "Photography by Michael" (602) 921-4954.



WOMEN WHO DARED - Chana Timoner

Chana Timoner - (b 1952 - d 1998) In 1989 Chana Timoner was ordained in the conservative Jewish tradition and in 1992 became the first female rabbi to hold an active-duty assignment as an Army chaplain.

Letters to the Editor

Dear WCN Staff,

For the second time you have failed to print my announcement after sending a confirmation that you received it and would print it. WHY? What adds insult to this injury is that you printed my favorable comment about your organization while ignoring my WREN hike/campout submission.

I retract my favorable comment in disgust. I have put a lot of work into the campout and few people are even going to have the opportunity to enjoy it because of your failure to print the submission. What I really want to know is why did you not print it? I accepted the last one in May as an oversight, a simple mistake that a volunteer organization could make in haste, but this is the second time and this event has taken much more time and effort to put together. I can't begin to put into words my disappointment, frustration, and all the other feelings at this...just imagine how you would feel after doing so much work to put something together and nobody shows up because they don't know about it.

Please take the time to respond.

Kelly D.

Kelly,

Thank you for your remarks on our organization, both the one of appreciation in last month's issue and this one too. I have already sent you my personal apology for failing to include your WREN hike/campout submission in the August issue. I feel that your comments deserve a hearing in the Women's Central News as well.

We also can't begin to put into words our disappointment and frustration that we cannot do as

professional a job as, say, the Arizona Republic. Only a handful of women work on our paper and each one of us spend an enormous amount of our evening and weekend hours putting it out month after month, year after year. It comes down to current volunteers putting in more hours or having more women to share the work.

We have demonstrated our support of WREN by giving you free space in the paper since your existence and publishing your submissions. Although you had the right to chastise us, your words did not bring one more community lesbian into YOUR community newspaper to help do a better job for you.

It is obvious by your passionate remarks that you want this area of the paper, the community activities and announcements, to perform better. This is a community newspaper operated by community lesbians. The newspaper counts on women like you, to see things in the paper that need improvement and will get involved to improve it.

Sheryl, WCN staff

I've been advertising for almost a year. I enjoy the WCN and would love to have it delivered to me. I never get a chance to pick it up. Thanks for a great newspaper.

Stephanie

Stephanie,

Thanks for the subscription! We love hearing that people read and enjoy our efforts. Please continue to let us know what we're doing right - or wrong!

Mary

Hefley Amendment defeated

Task Force Hails Vote as Blow to Religious Right

WASHINGTON, DC--- August 5, 1998--- The amendment to block President Clinton's executive order banning workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation was voted down tonight by the House of Representatives. The vote was 252 to 176.

The Task Force hailed the defeat as an important blow to the religious right.

"In what has been one of the most hostile climates against our community in recent memory, we are relieved that a basic sense of fairness and decency is finally prevailing," said NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel. "This amendment was nothing but another tool to attack gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans. It is our hope that defeat of the amendment will mark a return to addressing the truly important issues facing our country and a cessation of the spineless scapegoating that has become so popular of late," added Lobel.

In May, Clinton signed Executive Order 13087. The order made complete and uniform non-

discrimination policy in the federal civilian workforce. It clarifies that protection from discrimination should be part of the already existing policies of the federal government. It amends President Nixon's 1969 Executive Order which includes race, religion, color, sex, and national origin.

"We hope this vote takes a some of the wind out of the sails of the right wing and this anti-gay crusade as of late. However, with the November elections still looming, it's doubtful their campaign of intolerance and mean-spiritedness will not go away as quickly as this amendment has," said Lobel. Founded in 1973, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

President's Message

Once in a while I get a glimpse of how it would be if we were totally accepted. If the world just treated us like everyone else, and recognized our relationships for what they are - loving and caring about another person. The Gay Games that were held this last month in Amsterdam gave me just that glimpse.

My partner and I walked hand-in-hand down the streets, shopped together and were treated just like a married couple. There were no comments, no staring, no fear! We even kissed on a bus without worrying about reactions or possible problems. It was both a liberating and sobering experience. Liberating because it is the first time either of us felt that we were recognized as a couple in the public eye, and sobering because we also knew that we would lose this precious freedom in a matter of days when we returned home.

So, when I think it's just not worth continuing to struggle for gay rights, for visibility, for equal treatment, I will think of that precious freedom I tasted. And know that it IS our right to love whom we choose, and not have to hide it, or live in fear that someone will find out.

GLAAD and GLSEN Disturbed by Senate Legislation Promoting Internet Censorship

NEW YORK, NY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1998 -- The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) expressed profound disappointment with the United States Senate's passage of two provisions which may significantly impede public access to information on the Internet.

The provisions directly affect two Congressional Acts. The "Internet School Filtering Act" (S. 1619) was introduced by Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and would require that, in order to be eligible for the "e-rate"--which provides Federal funding for Internet connections--schools and libraries would need first to be certified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as having "selected a system for computers with Internet access to filter or block matter deemed to be inappropriate for minors." The so-called "CDA II" (S. 1482), named after the failed Communications Decency Act (CDA), was sponsored by Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) and would censor materials deemed "harmful to minors."

While the appropriations bill was passed in the Senate, it still requires approval in the House of Representatives before it becomes law. Jennifer H. Einhorn, GLAAD Director of Communications said, "We urge the

House to step back before voting on this bill, and examine its implications from a point of view they may otherwise not yet have explored. Being a teenager is an awkward and often isolating time. In a society in which the Senate Majority Leader blanketly equates millions of his fellow lesbian and gay constituents with criminals and alcoholics, it is not surprising that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth experience that isolation to an even greater degree than their peers. It is crucial that these youth not be denied access to the Internet, which has an unparalleled ability to provide them with essential support and educational resources."

"The passage of this bill effectively holds true education hostage by allowing students access to only a narrow and confining view of the vast world in which we live," said Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSEN. "The McCain bill provides an imperfect and devastating solution to an issue that should have encouraged an open dialogue."

GLAAD plans to continue its work educating both the public and government on this issue. In December of 1997, GLAAD released a comprehensive and groundbreaking report called Access Denied, which brought to the attention of the American public the impact of Internet filtering software on the lesbian, gay and progressive community. To order a copy, contact GLAAD at 1.800.GAY.MEDIA or visit the Access Denied Web site at: http://www.glaad.org/glaad/access_denied/index.html.

Legal Briefs from the National Center for Lesbian Rights

From the spring 1998 case docket

Lesbian & Gay Adoption

In the interest of Baby Doe, a Minor Child; Idaho Decision Pending

In a case that will determine whether Idaho will allow second-parent adoptions for lesbian and gay couples, NCLR has petitioned the Idaho Court of Appeals to reverse the denial of a second-parent adoption by an Idaho District Court. The petitioners are a lesbian couple who

are parenting two children, one of whom has already been adopted by the non-biological mother in a second-parent adoption while the couple lived in California. The children's biological mother is a stay-at-home mom and the children's second mother is a highly-respected Boise physician. The District Court denied the adoption on the grounds that Idaho recently passed a law forbidding the state from recognizing same-gender marriages.

The Women's Central News is a community-based lesbian monthly newspaper published by an all-volunteer staff for the not-for-profit Women's Center, Inc.

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SUBMISSIONS

You are encouraged to send in your event announcements, book reviews, dining experiences, news analysis, commentaries, poetry, coming out stories or anything of interest to the lesbian community. WORD LIMIT: Letters to the Editor: 200 words; Articles: 350. Submissions must include name and address. You may request that your name be withheld. Submissions cannot be returned. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity and spelling. Copyright remains with each contributor. Deadline - 15th of the month.

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Postal Service:
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Editorial: Hate and politics

Reprinted from the Arizona Daily Star, Tucson

This is a strange time for gays in America.

On one hand, gay men and women enjoy more freedom than ever. Gays are prominent on television, they win political offices and the business community is throwing off old discriminations by extending employee benefits to same-sex partners.

On the other hand, as Newsweek magazine points out, high-profile progress brings with it a new backlash, such as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's announcement that homosexuality is treatable - not unlike alcoholism and kleptomania. Or the public display of homophobia in which Republicans blocked a vote to allow a gay man to be ambassador to Luxembourg.

Homophobia is a winning issue for Republicans, who have become skilled at whipping right-wing hostilities into huge voting blocks on Election Day.

So it's no surprise that Congress targeted San Francisco and its year-old domestic partners policy with a vote that could cost the city millions in federal funds. The House voted last month to block federal housing money because a city ordinance requires businesses with city contracts to extend health benefits to domestic partners.

Passage of the ordinance was business as usual in San Francisco where there was little opposition to the law. This week's expansion of the law was backed by mainstream organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Network.

In fact, the ordinance was largely ceremonial because many businesses that would be affected are already in compliance.

Now, San Francisco is by no means the barometer of middle-American political or moral sentiment. But it has been the cutting edge of the overdue gay rights movement. In addition, major corporations, local governments as well as small businesses across the country extend health benefits to domestic partners. Tucson-area governments do as well.

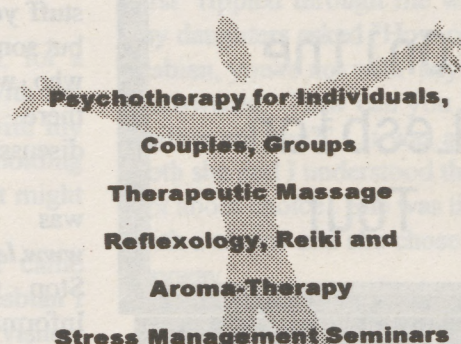
The benefits are proving to be good for business and are used as a marketing tool in recruiting employees.

But for Republicans, this is a crucial issue through which they hope to hang onto their slim congressional lead.

In the meantime, real issues - health care, education and widening income gaps - go largely untouched. None of those current crisis issues can bring conservatives to the polls.

But homophobia can whip up unfounded hatreds that become cornerstones for legislation. And, as Congress proves through its bill targeting the San Francisco law, not all Americans are created equal. Discrimination is an acceptable American practice.

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SANDRA L. LEAL C.I.S.W. L.M.T. MELODY HICKS M.C. C.P.C.

Thirty-Six States Gather For Federation Meeting

Representatives from thirty-six state organizations gathered in Denver, Colorado last month for the mid-year meeting of the Federation of State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Political Organizations. The meeting marked a critical moment for the GLBT movement as state groups pushed forward with plans for Equality Begins at Home actions in states and territories during March 21-27, 1999. Participants also shared successful strategies for GLBT organizing. States represented at the meeting were AL, AZ, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, MD, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MT, MO, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NH, NY, OH, OR, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WV, WY.

A key development out of the Denver meeting was the creation of a framework for moving ahead with the planned series of state actions slated for March 1999. Paula Ettlbrick of the Empire State Pride Agenda was named Equality Begins at Home National Coordinator. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has hired Ettlbrick to work with a newly-created Equality Begins at Home Steering Committee, comprised of six Federation members, to coordinate Equality Begins at Home events. Federation members also developed plans for their specific state actions. Events will feature a broad range of activities and events highlighting key GLBT issues.

At the meeting participants also shared legislative strategies and discussed methods for strengthening GLBT state organizations. Activists reviewed recent successful campaigns to repeal state sodomy laws and to pass hate crime legislation, as well as their attempts to fight anti-gay adoption, anti-marriage measures, and efforts to roll back GLBT civil rights. Federation members also outlined strategies for effective multicultural and coalition organizing.

The need for the Federation grew out of meetings of statewide activists occurring at NGLTF's annual Creating Change Conference in 1996. The purpose of the Federation is to facilitate cooperation and communication among organizations whose primary mission is to seek legislative change that benefits GLBT persons; to establish a clearinghouse for exchanging information and ideas among these state groups; to assist existing and new groups in addressing their organizational development needs; and to provide a structure for better working relationships between statewide groups and national GLBT organizations. NGLTF serves as the Federation's coordinator to support the work and resources of the Federation.

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Sherrie's Online Lesbian Tour

Welcome to Sherrie's Online Lesbian Tour. This will be an ongoing column giving you information about some of the many lesbian web sites on the Internet.

When I began researching this, lesbian resources seemed like a good place to start. I ran a search using the phrase "lesbian resources," and was rewarded with 2,134,284 results. The first listing, www.lesbian.org, proclaimed their motto to be promoting lesbian visibility on the internet." It is basically a list of links to web sites sponsored by various lesbian organizations. Under the category "Politics and Activism," I found the **National Lesbian Political Action Committee**, home pages of several chapters of the **Lesbian Avengers**, two pages devoted to dyke marches (they were both out of date), and two sites about lesbian mothers. The **Lesbian Mother's Support Society** had a home page entitled "Mommie Queerest." Despite the humorous tone of the title, this site wasn't kidding. It had links to sites covering everything the lesbian parent might need to know. The other lesbian parenting site was an extensive collection of mailing lists, covering a wide variety of relevant topics.

"Arts and Culture" included links to an assortment of lesbian cultural organizations, leading off with the "June Mazer Lesbian Collection," and "The Sappho Project." Other links led to lesbian books, music, newsletters, and online art exhibits.

Lesbian.org also gives you "Other links of Interest." There is a link to **Eva Issakasson's List of Lesbian Lists**, a collection of almost 100 special interest mailing lists that

you can subscribe to, covering anything you can imagine that might be of interest to lesbians, and a lot of stuff you probably wouldn't imagine, but somebody did. For those of you who want an interactive experience, there is the lesbian.org list of discussion groups.

Moving along, my next stop was "LesbiaNation," at www.lesbianation.com/, the "One-Stop Cyber Resource Center of Information, Interaction, & Entertainment for all Lesbians of the World." Resources abound at this site. I checked out the events calendar, and found listings for over 120 events. Each listing is a link to a site that gives you all the info on that particular event.

Under "Support & Organizations" were 6 pages of links to lesbian businesses, groups, organizations, information and education sites, professional associations, political groups, and more.

LesbiaNation also has a full service travel agency, a national directory of Lesbian & Gay Community Centers, a discussion group where you can read and/or post messages, and chat rooms. You can send a virtual postcard, read lesbian history, and shop at the online mall. There's a comedy section where you can read hundreds of posted lesbian jokes, or post your own.

Another useful site, The National Center for Lesbian Rights, at www.nclrights.org, is the home page for the nation's only legal center with a primary commitment of advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families. This site keeps you informed on current legal cases and recent decisions. There's a newsletter, a listing of upcoming events and projects, and links to related sites.

There are many more sites with resources for lesbians on the web. Using the sites in this article as a starting point, you should have no trouble tracking down the information you need. When you finish your research you'll probably go back and check out all those interesting sounding places you discovered and bookmarked along the way.

IRS Works to eliminate anti-gay bias

by Bob Lind, EA
Camelwest Tax Service

In a letter of response from IRS Exempt Organizations Division Director Marcus S. Owens to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., the IRS has acknowledged that there have been some problems in the way that agents may have dealt with gay and lesbian individuals and organizations. To remedy this, specially trained agents from the EO division in Ogden will be assigned to travel to all IRS offices to talk to agents about the need to be impartial and fair in dealing with all taxpayers, including gays and lesbians.

Lambda Legal Defense spokesperson David S. Buckel responds: "The IRS is taking a meaningful step by addressing antigay bias nationally, through training of all the field agents who first see and act upon applications from lesbian and gay groups for tax-exempt status. We'll keep hoping and pressing for other meaningful action throughout the entire agency."

The original letter came about as a result of a 1997 incident, in which an IRS agent reviewing the exempt organization application of a North Carolina support group for gay teens demanded that the organization show it would not try to "recruit" or encourage teens to become homosexuals. Following a protest from the gay community in NC, the IRS withdrew the agent's request and granted the determination.

There have also been some cases in which EO agents have been hesitant to grant exempt status to an organization that provides services primarily to the gay and lesbian community, and not the general public at large. An example of this happened earlier this year, when an IRS agent incorrectly advised a Rhode Island support group for lesbians with cancer that they could not get exempt status unless they agreed to provide services to all women with cancer, not just lesbians.

Personally, I have been involved in obtaining tax exempt status for over a dozen organizations, most within the gay and lesbian community, and can honestly say I have noticed an antigay bias only once. That was over a decade ago, in the negotiations following the application for exempt sta-

tus for the Phoenix Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee Inc. (now known as Arizona Central Pride.) The EO division chief kept nitpicking the application unnecessarily, and threatened to decline the exempt status unless I would agree to a downgrade from a public charity status (able to accept tax-deductible donations) to a social organization. His "logic" was that the committee's most visible work, the annual pride event, was just a big "party for homosexuals" and had no real educational purpose. I answered with a three page narrative, talking about a hypothetical organization for left-handed people. In order to make left-handed people more comfortable in a "right-handed world," the organization needed to advise them of the resources and support available to them in the area. The best way to convey that information would be in an fun atmosphere that also makes the left-handed people more comfortable and proud of who they are, and also makes the general public aware of the problems faced by left-handed people in our society. The last paragraph of my fable was "Now, go back and change every 'left handed' to 'gay and lesbian', and it shouldn't make a difference." We were granted the exemption within a matter of days.

Likewise, I have never noticed an obvious anti-gay bias in dealing with IRS personnel locally here in Phoenix or via the phone or mail in Ogden. A few agents did seem a bit uncomfortable when confronted with a return where some of the information is derived from shared income or expenses with the taxpayer's same gender "domestic partner," but it did not prevent them from handling the matter fairly. (If truth be told, their discomfort might have been a benefit, since it made them unwilling to prolong an audit by disagreeing with my proposals!) I have also found local agents to be very accommodating to situations where taxpayers had become delinquent in taxes due to medical reasons, including HIV-related.

Still, there is no doubt that such bias does exist to some extent, and the IRS move is definitely a step in the right direction.

Legal Briefs from the National Center for Lesbian Rights

Gay & Lesbian Adoption *S.R.E. v. A.S.S.; North Carolina Victory!*

In the first known case in which a court has been called on to recognize the validity of a second-parent adoption granted in another state, a North Carolina trial court reconsidered and reversed its initial refusal to recognize a second-parent adoption granted in Washington state. The lesbian couple in this case lived

together in Washington state. One of the women gave birth to the child in 1993, and the other parent adopted the child the following year. The couple moved to North Carolina with their child in 1995. The couple separated in 1996, leaving the child with the adoptive mother. When the adoptive mother filed for legal custody of the child in 1997, the biological mother fought the custody petition by urging the trial court to refuse to recognize the

validity of the adoption on the grounds that recognizing lesbian co-parent adoptions would violate North Carolina's "public policy against protecting homosexual 'families'." The trial court rejected this homophobic argument and held that the adoption must be recognized in North Carolina.

Equal Benefits

Air Transport Assoc., et al. v. City & County of San Francisco; California Decision Pending

A groundbreaking San Francisco ordinance requiring all employers who do business with the City of San Francisco to provide equal benefits to lesbian and gay employees is being challenged by a coalition of airlines. NCLR filed an amicus brief in support of the ordinance with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.



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Changing Landscapes for lesbian/gay health, says National Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. - August 3, 1998 - The landscape for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) health care is changing.

That was one of the many conclusions reached at the well-attended 20th Anniversary of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and the 16th National AIDS/HIV Forum in San Francisco.

"Over the last twenty years, our health care has changed on a variety of different levels," said Beverly Saunders Biddle, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association. "Medical issues have evolved to include HIV/AIDS and breast cancer most notably, but STDs and addictions are also becoming more present. We're beginning to understand more of the complexities involved in psycho-social issues such as the high rates of LGBT youth suicide, issues surrounding gender-identity disorder, and the horrific impact that homophobia places on both access to and the quality of medical care. And with AIDS treatment and prevention, we're examining a lot of the social factors that influence successful programming."

Diverse Conference Issues

Another change in the discussion around LGBT health care issues witnessed at the conference was the increased recognition of the diversity of issues involved. To that end, the conference offered more than 150 panels, discussions, and workshops.

In addition to providing critical new AIDS-related information, theory and discussions, the conference educated physicians, nurses, health educators, activists, and other health care professionals about the critical health issues affecting LGBT people:

New data on GLBT youth was unveiled by Callen-Lorde Health Center.

Two new ventures were announced: (1) A new Lambda Medical Center for gays and lesbians in LA, including a 2,400 square-foot medical facility, offering a full-spectrum of health care for lesbians and gay men; and (2) The Lambda Center, a joint venture of Whitman-Walker Clinic and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington, to provide behavioral health care.

AIDS updates. Updates from the World AIDS Conference held in

Geneva, Switzerland, discussed medical findings, new prevention theories, and epidemiological findings.

A Viagra forum, co-sponsored with the San Francisco STOP AIDS Project, attracted about 100 activists, dispelling sexual myths of Viagra, and pointing out potentially harmful interactions with poppers and AIDS-related drugs.

The debut of new tracks on bisexual, transgender, and senior health at NLGHC, as well as expanded tracks on lesbian health and youth issues Awards given to the Transgender Community Task Force for their leadership on transgender issues, and Greg Merrill for his anti-violence work with the Community United Against Violence. Also recognized were Lorri L. Jean, Cornelius Baker, and Dr. Richard Isay. **Sights Set on Dallas for June 1999 Conference**

"We're taking the momentum from this year's conference to build an even greater discussion next year in Dallas," said Saunders Biddle. "In 1998, we had more speaker proposals than ever before, and across a greater diversity of topics. Our program was significantly strengthened this year, a trend that will continue in future conferences."

NLGHA Becomes More Digital

NLGHA also unveiled a revamped website (www.nlgha.org), another web-engineering success for NetWORLD Communications, who along with Digital Queers, sponsored a Cyber Café at the conference, giving email and web-surfing access to conference goers.

About NLGHC and NLGHA

Since 1978, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference has provided a forum for presentations by and discussions among leading health care professionals, including the following constituents:

Physicians and nurses, AIDS service organization administrators and volunteers, Health educators and activists, and other mental and physical health care professionals.

No other national conference has consistently brought together health care professionals from diverse disciplines to tackle the challenges of creating environments responsive to the needs of LGBT people.

Heart to Heart

Dina Bachelor Evan, Ph.D.

Coming home

Question: I have wanted, for a very long time, to be truthful with my family about my relationship with my partner, but I still find myself holding back. Any coming out ideas that might help?

I never came out. I came home. Before I knew I was a lesbian I lived in a straight world as a visitor, never knowing why I didn't fit in and trying everything I knew to feel at home. Four children and a whole life time later, I discovered I was a lesbian in straight lady's clothing. Finally, in the midst of an acquiescing sigh, I understood. I felt so much joy that I could hardly contain myself. The kind of joy you feel when you find the perfect new outfit. The one that makes you feel ten pounds lighter and irresistibly attractive. I bubbled. I blissed. I relished. I rejoiced. Little did I know what this revelation would require!

There are certain things in life that act as spiritual wake-up calls. The car that nearly misses you as you step off the curb. The person whose eyes meet yours across the room in the silent recognition that you are, without ever having met, inextricably entwined. The flight you missed that crashes and... discovering you are a lesbian. If you are conscious, being gay or lesbian is the fire that moves your soul instantly into high school.

When you are straight no one knows at first glance whether or not you have integrity or personal pride. You are not confronted in the same way with these questions. But, once you realize you are a lesbian, every question about your level of emotional courage is instantly in your face. It hovers in the air between you and your beloved as you step out the front door of your home and must decide, "Do I keep holding her hand, or let it go?" It goes with you to work and creeps into your awareness when an associate asks about getting together for dinner and expresses wanting to meet your husband. It hangs on the telephone line when your family wants to know who

you are dating, whether it is serious and "when can we meet him?"

The depth of my new discovery first rippled through me when one of my daughters asked "How can you be a lesbian, you're not with anyone?" And I answered, "How can you be straight, neither are you?" It was at that point, both she and I understood the issue was not about choice. She was the only one with a choice and she chose to love me anyway.

My oldest daughter, a Jehovah's Witness on the other hand, called to tell me she wanted me to be at the birth of her first born child. She had chosen to separate herself from the rest of the family and I hadn't seen her for several years, so I was elated to hear her voice. I remember that call as if it happened yesterday, even though it was fifteen years ago. "I want you to be at the birth," she said, "but of course you won't be able to spend time with the child after it's born. You know... because of your life style"

I remember my heart dropping to the floor and after I found the strength to speak again I said, "I'm sorry honey, I can't bond with this child and then have it leave my life like you did. I love you but I can't be there." I never spoke with her again. I've never held any of her children. It is as if my first born died the day of that call. To this day it is her choice not to have me in her life... You know... because of your life style"

Being a lesbian is a spiritual assignment that has to do with integrity, authenticity, compassion and love. Being a woman who loves women is the fire in my spiritual process, the purifier of my soul. If I am to be authentic, that part of who I am must be honored. I cannot extricate my love for women from who I am spiritually any more than I can extricate my love for Spirit from who I am. They are magically interwoven to create the tapestry of my soul. Each time I stand up for either I am somehow made more whole, more powerful, more real. Each time I stand up, I make the statement that being a lesbian is not about who I love, it's about how I love. Deeply. Powerfully and from my soul with great pride.


" I think gay people are like blondes: there's fewer of them, but they have more fun. Rita Mae Brown, on the Maury Povich Show "

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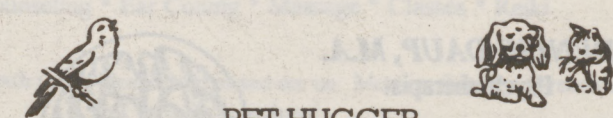
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Anti-gay Adoption Bill

WASHINGTON -- In the latest series of legislative attacks against gay Americans and people at risk for HIV, two amendments to the District of Columbia House Appropriations Bill were passed that would prohibit unmarried couples from jointly adopting, and deny money for needle exchange programs. The discriminatory adoption amendment, offered by Oklahoma Republican Steve Largent, is unmistakably anti-gay and is an intrusion into local government that will put thousands of DC children at risk, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"The contradictions and illogic of Largent's anti-gay amendment are unbelievable. On the one hand, those pushing it say they want to provide greater security for children. But in reality, they are creating less stability by limiting the number of guardians which will leave children vulnerable," said HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg. "The American public doesn't want family policy made by the federal government. It is hypocritical that these vocal proponents of more local control want to play national nanny and micro-manage adoption decisions that should be made on a case-by-case basis by parents and professionals."

Under the Largent amendment, which passed on a 227-192 vote, single DC residents would still have the ability to adopt children. The amendment will ban joint adoption by unrelated persons. While both parties of an unmarried couple would

obviously still serve as parents to the child, the second parent would have no legal responsibility or protections for the child, including financial. In unfortunate circumstances, such as a break up or the death of a legal parent, the non-legal parent would have no legal responsibility to care for the child.

The passage of Rep. Largent's amendment follows last week's rejection of the same amendment offered by Rep. Tiahrt to the House Appropriations Committee. For three years, there have been attempts to attach similar language on adoption in the D.C. appropriations bill. This is the first time such language has passed.

Kansas Republican Rep. Tiahrt's amendment to the bill also passed by a vote of 250-169. The Tiahrt amendment would prohibit the use of federal and District funds from being used for needle exchange programs. The amendment further prohibits funds from being paid to any organization that carries out such programs.

The Tiahrt amendment is a radical departure from previous Congressional action on this issue and sets a dangerous precedent for many states and localities where needle exchange programs operate using local and state funds.

The District of Columbia has chosen to use its own funds to address an urgent local need. Congress should not encroach on the ability of any state or locality to implement successful programs to prevent the transmission of HIV.

"We will work tirelessly during the months ahead to defeat both of these amendments in conference," said Stachelberg.

Religion and us

by Robin Dee, staff writer

On August 11th the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled that any pastor who blesses a same-sex union violates church law and if found guilty they will be removed from the church.

This ruling is a reaction to the controversy stirred up by the Rev. Jimmy Creech of Nebraska who was brought to trial after he blessed a union between two lesbians. Though he was acquitted, groups within the denomination requested that the church document, Social Principles, be clarified as to whether it was advisory or law.

The United Methodists holds their General Conference every four years, the next in the year 2000 where it is speculated that the prohibition on same-sex unions may be moved into the Book of Discipline, a document of enforceable church laws.

Currently there are 148 United Methodist congregations 'reconciling' in the country that welcome gays into all aspects of the church, recognizing that homosexuals are persons of sacred worth.

Not since slavery has there been such divisive positions in the churches of America. All denominations are facing the question of whom Jesus says they may love and whom Jesus says they must discriminate against. People of fine character are reaching the troubling conclusion that gays are not worthy of Christ's love nor will they ever be if they continue their homosexual lifestyle.

Intolerance is an individual personal conviction deeply rooted in fear and it fuels the religious modern day wars of discrimination. The line in the sand is becoming deeper and deeper and it is inevitable that religions will suffer a backlash for their public approval of discrimination and by extension hate.



Date	Day	At Home	Away	TV	Score
6/11/98	Thursday		SACRAMENTO		W 72-70
6/14/98	Sunday	LA		NBC	W 70-60
6/15/98	Monday	WASHINGTON			W 69-54
6/21/98	Sunday	CHARLOTTE			L 71-72
6/24/98	Wednesday	HOUSTON			W 69-66
6/26/98	Friday	UTAH			W 96-63
6/28/98	Sunday		WASHINGTON		W 86-69
6/29/98	Monday		NEW YORK	ESPN	L 68-71
7/2/98	Thursday		CLEVELAND		W 76-61
7/4/98	Saturday		CHARLOTTE	NBC	L 66-68
7/8/98	Wednesday		DETROIT		W 78-76
7/10/98	Friday	CLEVELAND		LIFETIME	W 76-60
7/13/98	Monday	LA		ESPN	W 72-62
7/15/98	Wednesday	DETROIT			W 73-60
7/18/98	Saturday	NEW YORK		NBC	L 63-69
7/20/98	Monday	SACRAMENTO		ESPN	W 88-67
7/21/98	Tuesday	HOUSTON			L 62-65
7/23/98	Thursday		LOS ANGELES	KASW-61	L 68-70
7/27/98	Monday		UTAH		L 80-90
7/28/98	Tuesday		HOUSTON		L 72-62
7/31/98	Friday		LOS ANGELES	KASW-61	L 56-71
8/4/98	Tuesday	WASHINGTON			W 88-59
8/6/98	Thursday		HOUSTON	KASW-61	L 64-75
8/8/98	Saturday	UTAH			W 68-62
8/10/98	Monday		CLEVELAND		W 82-80
8/11/98	Tuesday		NEW YORK	KASW-61	L 78-79
8/14/98	Friday	DETROIT			W 84-59
8/16/98	Sunday		SACRAMENTO	KASW-61	W 85-69
8/17/98	Monday		UTAH		W 75-64
8/19/98	Wednesday	SACRAMENTO		KASW-61	W 71-62

"Rolling Stone" magazine asks, "How does it feel to be young & gay?"

How Does it Feel? The August 6 issue of Rolling Stone features a 14-page special report, "To Be Young and Gay," in which author David Lipsky uses stories from across the country to create a broad and compelling portrait of lesbian, gay and transgender youth.

Lipsky begins the piece lightheartedly, describing a fifteen-year old who came out in front of a national audience when he appeared on CBS' 48 Hours. The boy told Lipsky, "My mom said, 'I know you [smoke]. But I just don't want to see you on national TV smoking.'" Lipsky writes, "In 1998, parents might be more unhappy having friends and relatives know that their child smokes than that their child is gay." But Lipsky does not take lightly the plights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, specifically addressing the discrimination, the harassment, and the increased rates of destructive behavior and suicide attempts. At one point, Lipsky writes, "I walk out of the [restaurant]...and there are a couple of cowboys sitting on the front bumper of a truck. They look me over coolly. I think for a second that I'm going to get

beaten up. It's the first time I've ever had that feeling." Lipsky details the experience of Jamie Nabozny, a young gay man who made history last year when he sued the Ashland, Wisconsin school district where he attended high school, and with whom he settled the case for \$900,000 as compensation for years of mental, emotional and physical brutalization. He uses Nabozny's case as a springboard for comparing legislative protections for lesbian and gay youth in different states, as well. He speaks with Kelli Taylor and other Salt Lake City students about a 1996 controversy involving their attempts to form a Gay-Straight Alliance in their high school, and asks them about the suicide of one of the group's founders, Jacob Orosco. One of Jacob's schoolmates tells him that "There's just that feeling ... with everything he'd done and gone through: 'Well, if Jacob was this stud of a guy who was so out there and so ready to take on the world and he couldn't do it, what makes me think that I can?'" Lipsky also goes to youth group meetings, joins the kids for coffee and meals, and shows them to be above all else-human.

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SE HABLA ESPANOL

Your lesbian community calendar and events pull out.

Are you a part-time poet? Nascent novelist?

Regardless of how often or how well you write, most writers agree that the act of writing is its own greatest reward.

If you've got an itch to scratch out on paper, join us for an eight week writing group at The Center. Noted writer and facilitator, Ren Northup, will lead the group through exercises and discussions focused on the creative act of writing.

The group will meet at The Center, 7pm on Thursdays. Space is limited so call Anne at 256-2365 to reserve your spot. All you need is pencil and paper. Novices and pros, all welcome!

Alternative Healing Workshop

Join us for our highly successful Alternative Healing Workshops & Networking Meetings, where Reiki, Chiropractic and other Alternative Healing Practitioners get to work and learn together. Third Tuesday of every month at the Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th Street, Phoenix (between Maryland and Glendale). Expand your abilities and gain new insights with the experts.

The next meeting is September 17, 7-10 pm. Admission by good-will donation. Adepts of all disciplines of Healing therapy are welcome. For more information call (602)264-1470.

NOW - National Organization of Women: East Valley Chapter

Meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month from 7-9PM at the Pyle Center, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe. For information contact Jennifer Deprey-Jackmen at 917-4760.

Health talk

Free health talk every Thursday, 8-9 PM at Dr Susan Rayeski's office A Chiropractic Place, 5527 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017 602-242-2370. All are welcome!

Breakfast with Friends

Join us every 2nd Saturday of the month for Womyn To Womyn's "Breakfast with Friends." We meet at 10:00 AM, at the Eggery restaurant, located at Central and Camelback.. September's breakfast date is the 12th. For more information, call Cheryl at 780-3102 or e-mail sammie@psn.net.

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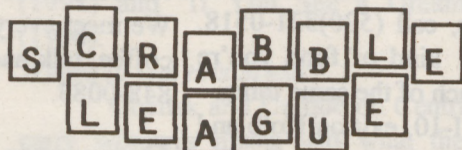
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Glenna's Community Potluck



The September Potluck will be held on the 19th. We will meet at 1058 E. Clarendon (Phoenix). Clarendon is 3 blocks South of Indian School and 3 blocks North of Osborne. And, this address is one block West of 12th St. Bring a dish to pass, table service, favorite drinks and a big smile.

Any questions? Call Glenna at 345-7453 or 671-4166.



The Tuesday Night Lesbian Scrabble League, held at the Coffee Plantation on Mill and 6th Avenues in Tempe, is growing! We meet at 6:00 PM, in the back room. Usually we play two or three games, switching opponents, until we have the winner for the night. Our players cover all levels of skill, and everyone is welcome. Whether you just play for fun, or are viciously competitive (all in fun, of course), or anything in between, come join us. If you have a Scrabble board, or any other Scrabble "paraphenalia" bring it along. It's a great way to have some fun, meet new people, and make friends all at the same time. Drinks are half-price until 6:00 PM, and food is available. For more information, call Sherrie at 946-5570, or e-mail SHNIST@AOL.com.

Friends of Ellen Brunch

The Friends Of Ellen brunch meets every OTHER Sunday morning at 10:30 at the Good Egg restaurant at Park Central Mall, between Thomas Road and Earll. September's brunch dates are the 6th and the 20th. We try to get a large table outside. If you don't know anyone, just tell the hostess you are with Ellen's group and she will point you our way! For questions and further information e-mail Abitcrazy@aol.com, or call Arlene at 944-9432.

Saturday Morning Hiking Group

Do you enjoy the outdoors, meeting new people, and hiking? If so, join our hiking group for a morning hike. Our first hike will be on Sept. 26th at 9:00 a.m. at South Mountain Park (On Central south of Baseline). We will meet at the main ranger station and parking lot, then drive to the trailhead. The hike is approx. 4-5 miles and should take approx. 3 hours. This is an easy to moderate hike and all levels of hikers are welcome. Be sure to bring a lot of water and sturdy shoes or boots. If you have any questions call Deb at 396-8068.

Latina group

Latinas wanted for a new organization for cultural/heritage get togethers.

Seeking women in the community that miss La Familia in their lives.

We're planning festivities, concerts, outings, mexican food, possible Spain/Mexico tours, and lots of fun. We'll be collaborating with the Tuscon Latina Group for future plans. Email Personnaly@aol.com or 803-9952 for further info.

S.C.A.M.P.

New Lesbian E-mail Club

Singles! Couples! Meet people in your area! Join S.C.A.M.P. (Scottsdale, Chandler, Ahwatukee, Mesa, and Phoenix, and surrounding areas) - the lesbian e-mail club for Arizona women only! We are especially looking for lesbians who live in the Chandler/Ahwatukee areas to even out the mix, but all areas are welcome.

Express your opinions, have a laugh, help make policy, and maybe find your dream dyke - who knows! For more information, visit our homepage at <http://members.home.net/beeswax>, and don't forget to check out the Member Pics and Bios. There's also community links to the Womyn 2 Womyn event calender, the Women's Central News, Az Women's News, and member's personal home pages. Get connected!



Gay & Lesbian literature groups

There are several Gay & Lesbian Literature book discussion groups that meet at the "mainstream" book stores around the valley. Call the store for date, time, and the title of the next book.

In Phoenix, Bookstar at 2030 E. Camelback has a group that meets every first Thursday of the month at. Call 957-2001.

Border's at 2402 E. Camelback has a group that meets every second Wednesday of the month. Call 957-6660.

In Mesa, at Borders at 1361 S. Alma School Road, the group meets every third Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 833-2244.

Support group in Verde Valley

Women's Chat in the Verde Valley is held every Wednesday night from 5 to 7 PM at the Huff n Puff Straw Bale Inn near Sedona. Call 520-567-9066 for more information.

Simplicity Circle

Simplicity Circle is starting again. We had some time off this summer, now let's get back to the simple life. Our first meeting will include a program taped from PBS titled "Affluenza". We will meet at 7pm on Tuesday September 8th at Jo's. Call Jo Miller 482-7804 for directions.

Obelisk Gay/ Lesbian Writer's Workshop

Ever wonder how a Gay/Lesbian author gets published? Mainstream publisher vs. Gay/Lesbian publisher: which is right for you?

Obelisk the Bookstore is proud to sponsor a workshop on Gay/Lesbian writing and publishing facilitated by Abigail Padgett, author of the new mystery novel "Blue."

The event will take place September 13th, starting at 4:00PM and running approximately 1 1/2 hours. If you would like more information, please call Jody @ 266-2665.

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Xena group activities include: reading lesbian fan fiction from the Internet, viewing early episodes, interviews, and bloopers, and sharing information about posters, articles, books, and merchandise.



For information on activities, call XenaFan at 813-8681 or e-mail me at xeenafan@worldnet.att.net

Telephone Tree

Let's keep the messages flowing. The way to send any message of interest to the community, at no charge, is by using the Telephone Tree. Tell us what you have to sell, or what you want to buy; ask for a roommate or a place to live; or announce a new business. Call me with your news and it will be passed down the line.

Volunteers are needed to make just one call. The more people on the tree, the more people who will hear your message. Call Jean at 954-8007 for news or to volunteer.



AZ Dykes of Tucson to hold Birthday/Barbeque Bash

AZ Dykes of Tucson will hold a B-Day/Bar-B-Que/Potluck/Picnic Bash, on Saturday, September 19th, 12 noon till 10 PM, at Udall Park in Tucson. Udall park is located at 7200 East Tanque Verde. Picnic will be at Ramada #7.

This event is open to the lesbian community. Kids and pets are welcome. Ramada #7 is convenient to bathrooms, swimming (50 cents per person), a playground for children, and a volleyball sand court with three hours of reserved time. A barbeque grill is available. There is no shade other than the ramada. We do have a beer drinking permit, but please, no glass containers.

Bring games, frisbees, softball equipment, etc. We will have musical entertainment; Carol DeGroot (from Hereford, AZ) will be playing her twelve string guitar. If you have musical instruments, bring them along.

For the potluck, each person/couple should bring one of the following: entree, side dish, salad, snacks, dessert, paper goods, condiments, or breads. Everyone should bring their own meats and drinks.

If you're planning to attend, RSVP via e-mail to hisetson@webtv.net. To RSVP by phone, call (520)321-0518. Tell us how many are coming and what kind of food you're planning to bring so we don't have too much of the same thing.

Directions: Coming from East on I-10, exit on Kolb and stay on Kolb to Tanque Verde. Turn right (east) onto Tanque Verde, cross Sabinio Canyon road then make a right into Udall Park.

Coming from west on I-10, exit on Grant road. Head east on Grant (quite a ways up Grant) to Tanque Verde. Turn left (east) onto Tanque Verde, cross Sabinio Canyon road then make a right onto Udall Park.

Once in the park: Stay on the road, passing an amphitheater and parking on your right. You'll also pass volleyball fields to your right. At the second road to the right, immediately after the volleyball fields there is Ramada 7 on the right and parking.

Two parking lots are available. One, west (on the end of the second road turning right) and the other, south of Ramada 7. (follow road to the end which becomes a parking lot). More information, and a map, are on the Tucson Lez Community home page, at <http://www.flash.net/~cbozarth/>.

1998 Ride Calendar

September 13th - Sunday - Prescott via Wickenburg
 October 11th - Sunday - Jerome
 November 8th Sunday - to be announced

If you are interested in joining us on any scheduled club ride or event call Deb at 279-9228 for times and meeting locations.
Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club wishes you happy and safe motoring.

Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club

WOMEN: Please join us at the Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa (east of Country Club and North of Main). We meet every Sunday at 10 AM to talk, eat, talk, drink coffee, talk and talk. For more information call Robin at 848-0083.

Resource directory for Verde Valley

Want to know what's going on in the Gay and Lesbian community in the Verde Valley? The Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory is now available to provide resource, social events, and friendly services available to the Gay and Lesbian community. For info call 520-634-1405 or e-mail martimac@sedona.net.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Providing Sacred Space for Sharing Personal Spirituality - Focusing on The Healing & Transformation of Ourselves, Our Community, Humanity & The Earth.

MEETINGS

We Meet the 1st & 3rd Mon. of the Month

Aug 3rd - Creative writing Exercise
 Contact Valissa - 468-9672

Aug 17th - Sharing Psychic Experiences
 Contact Sandy - 245-1235

Sept. 7th - No Meeting

Sept 14th - **Note - 2nd Mon. Of Month**
 Earth Ritual
 Contact Patti - 678-5729

SOCIALS

All Women Welcome to Join us for our Social Gatherings

Aug. 13th - Movie Nite
 Contact Sue for More Info - 253-8498

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Luma sun

"Los Amigos Del Sol"

Now 22 years old, Los Amigos Del Sol continues to benefit its members and the community as a social organization of men and women working together for the fun of it.

For information on the location of business meetings held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 3pm and the social events call GB at 997-2411.

Group forming for theater & musicals events

by Joyce Ratner, community submission

Are you interested in getting together with other like minded lesbians to attend the theater? Call me at 395-1579.

it's a lifestyle choice

©1998 BY ALISON BECHDEL

SPARROW IS STILL SOJOURNING AT STUART'S...

GOD! THAT NEW NEIGHBOR'S DRIVING ME INSANE! HE'S PLAYED THIS MÖTLEY CRÜE ALBUM SIX TIMES SINCE I GOT HOME! AND IS THAT CIGAR SMOKE?!

POOR BABY. SEE YOU LATER. I'M HAVING DINNER WITH LOIS AND GINGER.

SHORTLY...

THANKS FOR COMING, SPARROW. I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

HOW'S IT GOING, BABE?

GOOD! I MISS YOU GUYS TOO. I'M FEELING MUCH CLEARER ABOUT THINGS WITH STUART, AND I'M READY TO COME BACK.

EXCELLENT! ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

NOW WHAT? HAVE YOU INSTITUTED VISITING HOURS FOR MALE GUESTS?

HEY, YOU CAN MOVE IN AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED. WE JUST WANT YOU TO CO-SIGN THE MORTGAGE AND SELL OUT FIVE THOU TO HELP BUY THIS PLACE.

WHAT?

URNS OUT GINGER CAN'T AFFORD HER HOUSE ON HER OWN.

AND MY CREDIT ISN'T SO GOOD SINCE I DEFAULTED ON MY STUDENT LOAN.

COME ON! IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT! AND NOT JUST FINANCIALLY!

IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN FRIENDSHIP! A COMMITMENT TO SHARING RESOURCES! A TRIUMPHANT BLOW TO THE ALIENATING CORPORATE FORCES THAT ARE STEADILY ERODING HUMAN BONDS!

OKAY. WHAT THE HELL. I'VE GOT SOME MONEY SAVED UP.

REALLY?

REALLY, I'VE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT LATELY TO HOW I WANT TO LIVE. IT'S BEEN NICE STAYING AT STUART'S AND HAVING SOME PRIVACY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT PERMANENTLY, THAT KIND OF ISOLATED, COUPLE-FOCUSED EXISTENCE, ALL CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD.

MEANWHILE, IN A DIFFERENT ZIP CODE...

...AND WITH THE ELECTRIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET OUT OF YOUR CAR TO GO INSIDE!

UH... I THINK WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE LESS... UH...

HERMETICALLY SEALED.

LATER THAT EVENING...

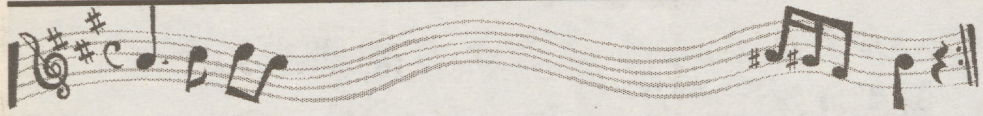
HI, LISTEN, I'M GONNA STAY HERE TONIGHT... I KNOW, ME TOO... WHAT?... WELL, I GUESS SO, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY HEALTHY IF YOU CAN'T BE AWAY FROM ME FOR EVEN ONE NIGHT.

UH... I DO MISS YOU, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I WANT TO COME OVER.

Girls, Girls, Girls!

MACANUDO EXHAUST

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S DEAD. I STILL WANT TO IMPEACH NIXON.



Music Review

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Libby Roderick's latest release is called "Lay It All Down". And Libby makes you want to do just that. She has put together a collection of songs that soothe, inspire, challenge and entertain. Libby's compelling alto voice is accompanied by acoustic guitar, bass guitar and drums, with the occasional and appropriate addition of accordion, fiddle, keyboards and electric guitar on this well-produced CD of folk-rock.

The title track is one of my favorites. Libby invites us to "Lay it all down when you can't hold it. Let your life carry you like a boat on the sea." Stretched out on the couch I certainly drifted off to sea to Libby's soothing tones, accompanied primarily by acoustic guitar and throbbing bass. Another soothing tune is the bittersweet "I Wish I Still Believed in Angels" (Like I still believe in you).

Not surprisingly, an extra dose of drums provides an appropriate background for the toe-tapping "Earthquake" and a fiddle added to the usual guitars/drums mix gives the right bouncy touch to the playful tune "The Road to Ecstasy".

One of the most compelling tunes on the disc is "Goodbye Old Friend", in which Libby sings farewell to Northern Ireland, "my wartorn

home". Libby's delivery is so heartfelt that you are convinced she is originally from Northern Ireland. But in actuality, she is a life-long resident of Anchorage, Alaska.

Amongst the inspiring songs is "Hold Your Ground", in which Libby encourages us to "Hold onto what you know. What the world is telling you ain't necessarily so." And in another thought-provoking tune, Libby advises us to "Listen to a Devil" when she talks to you because "A devil isn't always telling lies".

Other Titles by Libby

This was my first exposure to Libby Roderick and it won't be the last. I intend to start adding her earlier titles to my women's music collection. They are: "If the World Were My Lover" (1993), "Thinking Like a Mountain" (1991) and "If You See a Dream" (1990).

Where to Get this Music

Obelisk and Unique on Central carry women's music and what they don't have in stock, they'll order for you. Most titles are available in either CD or cassette. You can also order from Ladyslipper Music online at www.ladyslipper.org or by calling 1-800-634-6044. Or, you can get any of Libby's titles directly from her. Go to www.alaska.net/~libbyr or write Turtle Island Records, P.O. Box 203294, Anchorage, Alaska 99520-3294.



Sherrie Nist, staff writer

High Art

Recently Womyn 2 Womyn sponsored a "Meet Me at the Movies" day. We went to see "High Art," starring Radha Mitchell as Syd, an ambitious young magazine editor, and a painfully anorexic-looking Ally Sheedy as Lucy, a lesbian heroin addict who had once been a rising star as a photographer until her drug habit got in the way. I've always liked Ally Sheedy, and her acting was far and away the best in the movie.

Our up and coming young editor discovers that her upstairs neighbor (Lucy) is a compelling photographer, when she goes to investigate a water leak from above. Lucy lives with her whacked out girlfriend, a has-been German actress who regularly OD's and has to be brought back from the brink of death.

Having no idea who Lucy really is, and thinking that she has discovered the next great talent, Syd almost immediately sets in motion a plan for Lucy to do a photography spread in the magazine she works for, "Frame."

I found this movie interesting in a morbidly fascinating kind of way. Movie reviews shouldn't give away the plot, so I won't; suffice it to say that as this movie works it's way toward an inevitable bad end, Syd discovers the joys of both lesbianism and heroin, dumps her live-in boyfriend for Lucy, and becomes the subject of the photo spread that is to be Lucy's "comeback."

I certainly don't recommend this movie if you don't want to be depressed. Even the lesbian sex scenes didn't cheer me up. I should point out that this is my personal opinion, and some members of our group really liked "High Art." There were plans to have dinner after the movie, but somehow, no one was in the mood anymore, and we all just went our separate ways.

Saving Private Ryan

"Saving Private Ryan" is not an easy movie to watch, but you should watch it because it tells an important story. Billed as the "most realistic war movie ever made", "Saving Private Ryan" attracted a considerable amount of controversy even before it's release. At issue was the extreme amount of violence, and whether it was necessary to the telling of the story. It was definitely the most violent war movie I've ever seen. I usually don't go to violent movies, or war movies, but being a fan of both Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, I wanted to see the movie. My eyes were riveted to the screen, even though I cringed through most of the movie. As horrifying as it was to watch, I believe in knowing the truth, however unpleasant it may be. To protect people from the truth, whatever the issue, is to deprive them of the motivation to do something about it.

Aside from just the fact that my father was in this war, behind enemy lines in both France and Germany, the story has additional family relevance for me. My father was in a situation similar to Private Ryan's. Both of his parents were killed in an accident while he was behind enemy lines. As oldest surviving son of four brothers, he was eligible for a discharge, but nobody took it upon themselves to find him or even let him know. He didn't find out that his parents were gone until his time in the service was up.

This movie is a masterpiece. I will never forget it. Steven Spielberg, as usual, did an incredible job. In case you don't know, the plot (based on a true story) revolves around a soldier whose three brothers were killed in action at roughly the same time. Their parents received the news of all three deaths on the same day. This tragedy left the remaining brother, played by Matt Damon, eligible for a discharge. The problem was that he was behind enemy lines, and nobody knew where. A mission was initiated to find him. The team of rescuers was led by Tom Hanks, who delivered yet another Oscar level performance. The entire cast was superb. Spielberg has once again re-created a piece of our history that we should never be allowed to forget. "Saving Private Ryan" pays tribute to and tells the true story of all those soldiers who went through(in WW2 or any other war) this living hell.

Ellen nominated for Emmy Award

The nominees for the 50th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards were announced earlier July 24th. Ellen DeGeneres was acknowledged by the Academy with a nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series. DeGeneres, who was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award at GLAAD's Media Awards ceremony, made television history last year when both the actress and her title character on the sitcom Ellen came out. At last September's Emmys, both DeGeneres and the Ellen writing team were honored with an Outstanding Comedy Series Writing award for the "Puppy Episode," the sitcom's groundbreaking coming out episode. The same episode won a Peabody Award this year.

Television programs with recurring lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters nominated this year include ER (Dr. Maggie Doyle), The Larry Sanders Show (Brian), NYPD Blue (Officer Abby Sullivan) and The

Simpsons (Waylon Smithers). Armistead Maupin's More Tales of the City was honored with a nomination for Outstanding Miniseries. The HBO movie Gia was nominated for Outstanding Made for Television TV Movie and Golden-Globe winner Angelina Jolie was nominated for her title role as the lesbian supermodel. In all, More Tales garnered five nominations, and Gia six.

Oscar-winners Olympia Dukakis and Emma Thompson were both nominated as well. Dukakis, who reprised her role as transgender den mother Anna Madrigal in Armistead Maupin's More Tales of the City in the category of Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Movie; Thompson in the category of Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as a closeted lesbian on Ellen.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' award ceremony will be broadcast live on Sunday, September 13, 1998 on NBC.

Will & Grace

by Robin Dee, staff writer

We can look forward to a new sitcom in October on NBC about Will, a gay man, and his straight roommate, Grace, who is also his best friend. It will air on Mondays at 9:30pm.

Ellen's bravery opened the door for further attempts to broadcast television shows with main characters who are gay.

Will, Eric McCormack of *Lonesome Dove: The Outlaw Years*, plays a New York lawyer who is out, dresses well and can really cook. Grace, Debra Messing of *Ned & Stacey*, is an interior designer.

Interestingly, the cast includes an outrageous queen played by Sean Hayes as Will's friend Jack.

James Burrow who also directed *Cheers* and *Frasier* directed the first 13 shows of *Will & Grace*.

Lesbians on Showtime

On Saturday, August 1, two of Showtime's new original series dealt with sexual orientation, and both in innovative ways. On August 1, 1998, *Linc's*, a dramatic comedy set in a Washington, DC bar and grill with a principally African American clientele premiered. In the first episode, recurring character Rosalee (Martin's Tisha Campbell) transfers from her military base to a station near DC so she can be closer to home. Upon her return, she tells her father, Russell "Linc" Lincoln (The X-Files' Steven Williams), that she is questioning her sexual orientation. The episode discusses many of the stereotypes associated with the lesbian and gay community, and helps dispel the predominant myth that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are not people of color. The series also stars Pam


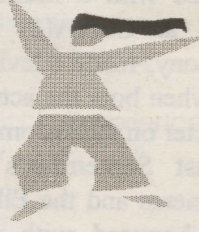
Grier (Jackie Brown), whose character encourages Linc to love and support his daughter.

On *Rude Awakening*, the network's new irreverent comedy starring Sherilyn Fenn (Twin Peaks), lesbians and same-sex experiences are presented simply as part of life. The sexually-charged premiere focused on former Hollywood star Billie Frank (Fenn) and her sometimes funny, sometimes poignant life-struggles. At one point, Billie graphically retells her own hilarious same-sex experience in order to annoy her born again sister-in-law. And during a meeting at Addictions Anonymous (for her drinking problem), she reluctantly befriends Jackie (Rain Pryor) a cooky African American lesbian with an even wackier girlfriend. *Rude Awakening* also stars Lynn Redgrave as Billie's mother.

September 1998

Community Calendar

Places to go, things to do!!!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7	31	1 Scrabble league, pg. 7	2 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	3 Writers group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7	4	5
6 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen Brunch, pg. 7	7 	8 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Simplicity Circle, pg. 7	9 WCN general meeting 333 E. Virginia #106 7PM Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7	10 Writers group, pg. 7	11	12 Los Amigos Del Sol, pg. 8 W2W Breakfast with Friends, pg. 7
13 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Obelisk Bookstore Writer's workshop, pg. 7	14 Wonen's Spirituality Group, pg. 8	15 Scrabble league, pg. 7	16 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7	17 Writers group, pg. 7 Alternative Healing Workshop, pg. 7	18	19 AZ Dykes of Tucson B-Day/BBQ/Potluck/ Picnic Bash, pg. 8 Glenna's Community Potluck, pg. 7
20 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7	21	22 Scrabble league, pg. 7	23 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	24 Writers group, pg. 7	25	26 Saturday morning hiking group, pg. 7
27 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7	28	29 Scrabble league, pg. 7	30 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	1 Writers group, pg. 7	2	3 
4 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7	5	6 Scrabble League, pg. 7	7 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	8 Writers group, pg. 7	9	10

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Comments: _____

Working well

Boyd Foster-Burns
Department of Exercise and
Wellness, ASU

While we may love, hate or be neutral about whatever kind of work we do, one thing is true for nearly everyone: we have to do it. And, while some days may be fantastic, other days may be stress city. Sometimes it may be a real battle to just get yourself to go, not to mention survive the day. Work may sometimes feel like a real war against backache, eye strain, stretched nerves, fatigue and tired muscles. It would benefit all of us to make some small changes in our routines and/or work areas to combat these downfalls of WorkLand.

Simple Rule Number One: don't leave home without breakfast. Eat it before you go or take it with (and there are many, many options on the market for you picky eaters). You need fuel after a long night without food (Hello, this is why it is called "breaking the fast"!). Coffee has no nutritional value, and even juice won't suffice. Besides we all like to eat, anyway, so start the day off right.

Number two (merely a continuation of number one): Pack a snack in your bag or briefcase. It should be energizing and preferably low-fat. Try yogurt, fruit, raw vegetables, or juice if you take a cooler or have access to a refrigerator. Popcorn is popular in many offices with a microwave. There are breakfast and other energy bars available that hold up in desk drawers, as do raisins or other dried fruit. You'd be surprised what a boost a snack can give you as the morning or afternoon wears on.

Note: for those of you who count every calorie, so NOT be horrified.

You need to eat to perform well at any job. **Simple Rule Number Three:** cap your caffeine intake, especially if you are sensitive to it. Caffeine has a dehydrating effect, which may cause headaches (among other symptoms) as the blood becomes thicker and slows down, delaying delivery of oxygen and glucose to the brain and muscles. Drink water instead, plain or zipped up with carbonation and/or fruit essences.

Number Four: Don't overeat at lunch. It may leave you drowsy and

sluggish. Keep lunches light and balanced, selecting low-fat, protein rich foods and complex carbohydrates (can anyone say grilled chicken, tuna, wheat bread, hummus, etc?). Don't skip lunch, either; there IS a happy medium.

Number Five: Particularly if you work at a desk, you may be prone to slouching. This can restrict circulation and stress muscles, which are in an awkward weight supporting position when you slump over. This can make you tired, achy and (gasp) even plain old grouchy! Work on your sitting posture: sit upright. You have to use your stomach muscles to do this, so tighten them up somewhat. Have your weight evenly distributed over both hips (don't favor one cheek over the other). Keep your lower back against the chair back, or against a cushion in the chair if the chair is not built that way (and lobby for an ergonomically correct chair). If you are on your feet a lot, keep your weight evenly distributed over both feet. DO NOT lock your knees back in the slightly hyperextended position favored by numerous women. This is a major cause of back pain. Keep your knees straight or very slightly bent, and wear good, comfortable, shock-absorbing shoes.

Simple Rule Number Six: make it comfortable. As much as possible, tune the temperature and lighting to a comfortable, appropriate level (be considerate of everyone). Adjust your chair height, desk height, worktable height, whatever to an appropriate level. If you type, keep your wrists flat at elbow-level. Your computer monitor's top should be even with or just below your forehead. Arrange your work area so that you do not have to stretch and strain to reach frequently used items.

Last but not least, take breathers. If you start to get stiff or stressed, get up and walk around the office, stretch, or go get some fresh air if you work indoors. If you work outdoors, find some shade and sit for a moment with a cool drink. Close your eyes. Breathe deeply. Repeat. Remember to do this at intervals throughout the day.

Most of us spend eight hours a day on the job. It makes sense to take care of ourselves so that we can take care of the work as well.

Women Business Owners Have Stake in Upcoming Survey

From the Census Bureau

The Commerce Department's Census Bureau is asking several thousand women business owners and self-employed persons to set aside a few minutes of their time to answer questions that could help shape federal, state and local governments' business assistance programs.

Beginning Aug. 17, about 1 million selected companies began receiving the "1997 Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons." Federal law keeps answers to the six questions in the survey kept strictly confidential.

"This is the first time that the Survey of Business Owners includes comprehensive coverage of corporations," said Aida Alvarez, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "This could benefit a significant number of owners and self-employed people who were not covered in previous years."

The August questionnaire, part of the 1997 Economic Census, collects information about the sex, race and

THE WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

ethnic background of business owners in 1997. Information gathered on this questionnaire is combined with data from other economic census programs and administrative records. This will permit the Census Bureau to publish comprehensive data on women-owned businesses' receipts, employment, payroll, kind of business and location.

Data will be used by the SBA, the Minority Business Development Agency and other agencies to allocate resources for their business-promotion programs.

The SBA's Alvarez stated, "We're interested in making sure all firms, especially small companies, have equal opportunities to compete in both the public and private sectors."

Private firms and individuals also use the data to evaluate their own industries and markets. Information gathered during the economic census also is used by the research and academic communities to identify characteristics of business owners.

Business owners have 30 days to complete and return the forms. Survey respondents may obtain assistance via a toll-free number (1-800-233-6132) between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday. More information about the economic census, which is conducted every five years, is available on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/csd/mwb/>.

Closeted Relationship: When One Partner Isn't Quite Ready

Alyssa Kahika McLoney, staff writer

One of my dearest friends once shared with me the following opinion: "Having a relationship with someone that still lives in the closet is just like visiting your own old closet. You remember what it looked like and can recall its safety, but in the end you miss the open space that the closet couldn't provide." She shared this insight with me after her companion refused to invite her to a company luncheon, even though her companion's employer was aware of her preferences for women. While I certainly could sympathize, and have occasionally contemplated the accuracy of her statement, I did believe that she was a wee bit inflexible with her partner's inhibition. I have also shared a relationship with a companion who felt more comfortable in the closet than out. In my case it was because this person hadn't yet deciphered her own feelings. Through my experiences, and those of others I have spoken with, I have seen 5 primary aides arise in relationships that

have transcended this type of obstacle.

Understanding: Seek to understand why she feels inhibited; remembering that most of us were at sometime in one size of closet or another.

Live in the Now: Enjoy her during the times and in the places she does feel comfortable to express herself.

Educate: Open doors to new places and surroundings that are receptive to your lifestyle.

Patience: Coming out is just that- a flowing process. Everyone is at different stages. Provide patience while staying true to your needs.


Patience: Coming out is just that- a flowing process. Everyone is at different stages. Provide patience while staying true to your needs.

Respect: Respect her decisions. This doesn't mean that you have to return to a life in the closet. It does mean you need to allow her to return to the closet as many times as she desires.

Through the course, as each partner seeks understanding of the other's wants, views and needs, compromises are secured. In the end, it is the compassion and respect from both partners that a relationship either dissolves or develops.

Correction: In the June issue the article, "BOB -Mercury game conflicts" incorrectly stated that there are 40,000 seats in America West Arena. The actual seat count is 19,023.

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Grounding and Centering Exercise

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

This grounding and centering exercise is a combination of basic breathing techniques and a revised version of The Tree of Life exercise described by Starhawk in her book, *The Spiral Dance*. Please note that it doesn't matter if you're on the ground floor or the 20th floor, you can still visualize and feel a connection with the earth. This exercise can be performed as preparation for carrying out a visualization or ritual, or simply to reconnect and calm yourself at any time in your daily activities.

Sit comfortably. Make sure any restricting clothing is adjusted and any potential distractions are minimized (remove your glasses, shut the door, etc.). Close your eyes. Draw a deep breath in slowly through your nose. Pause momentarily. Let it out slowly through your mouth or nose. Continue breathing this way, slowly and evenly, concentrating on the breath moving through you.

Become aware of your connection with the earth. You are sitting upon Mother Earth, touching her. Continue breathing deeply as you contemplate this connection.

Feel the point where your spine contacts the earth. Visualize a root sprouting from the end of your spine and reaching down into the earth. Continue breathing deeply as you imagine the root growing and stretching down into the core of the earth, perhaps sprouting branches as it goes.

Continue breathing deeply as you feel the energy within the earth

surrounding this root of your body. Open to this energy. Allow it to enter your root and travel upwards into your body. Continue breathing deeply as the energy flows in. Feel the energy flow into your legs and feet. Feel your body tingle as the earth's energy flows upward through your torso.

Feel the energy flowing into your arms and your hands. Continue breathing deeply as the energy flows into your head and spouts out the top in a fountain that cascades back to the earth. You are part of a circuit of energy, flowing up from the earth through your root and into your body, then out again and back to the earth.

Continue breathing deeply as you feel the energy flowing through you, tingling and pulsating as it renews and refreshes your body, mind and spirit.

If you are preparing to do a visualization, ritual or similar activity, you are now ready. When you are finished, or if you have simply taken a few moments to calm and empower yourself, be sure to follow the instructions in the next paragraph.

Stop the flow of energy through your root and allow the root to dissolve away. Continue breathing deeply as the energy swirls within your body. Store a little of it away, but ground the rest. If you keep too much energy, it will burn you out. To ground the energy, place your hands flat on the ground. Visualize the excess energy flowing out of your body and back to the earth.

Contemplate your continued connection with the earth as you sit breathing deeply and evenly. Open your eyes and slowly open your awareness to your surroundings. When you feel fully reconnected, get up and resume your day's activities.

NEWS MARICOPA COUNTY

Department of Public Health

Outbreak update: Hepatitis A cases still high in Maricopa County

Reported cases of hepatitis A have remained persistently high in Maricopa County in 1997 and early 1998. There were 1,477 cases reported to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) in 1997 compared to 1,029 in 1996. That represents a 44 percent increase for the period. In 1998, the trend is continuing with 409 reported cases to date.

"Frequent, thorough hand washing is the single most effective preventive tool to help stop the spread of infectious diseases, including hepatitis A," MCDPH Director Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch said. "However, efforts don't stop there. We're continuing to play a central role in identifying, preventing and fighting hepatitis A by encouraging timely reporting of the disease and identifying populations, who are at the highest risk for contracting the disease."

Hepatitis A is one of the most common of all contagious diseases and is commonly transmitted through the fecal-oral route. It is characterized by fever, a yellowing of the skin and/or whites of the eyes (jaundice), loss of appetite and nausea and is spread from person-to-person through unwashed hands, foods or utensils contaminated by unwashed hands. Because hands become contaminated when using the toilet and diapering a child, people are encouraged to:

Wash their hands with soap and water before and after preparing or eating any type of meals or snacks.

Wash their hands and their child's hands with soap and water after using the toilet, changing diapers or assisting a child to the toilet.

Avoid eating raw or undercooked shellfish.

Avoid handling (preparing) food while potentially contagious or for seven days after onset of jaundice.

People who have a connection to child care are five times more likely to get hepatitis A than those without a connection. As a result, MCDPH and ADHS are strongly recommending that all individuals who work in or attend child care facilities be immunized. Moreover, ADHS, in conjunction with MCDPH, is working to make the hepatitis A vaccine mandatory for all children attending licensed child care facilities. This requirement would take effect as early as Nov. 1, 1998.

"Getting vaccinated now will allow people to avoid a rush as the November deadline approaches," Weisbuch said. "Additionally, vaccination will help stem the current outbreak."

MCDPH is in the third month of its vaccine implementation plan which includes provider education programs, post-exposure immunoglobulin administration to hepatitis A case contacts and on-going programs to educate child-care center personnel and parents on how to avoid transmitting the disease and about the recommendation and future rule.

The risk of getting hepatitis A can be reduced by good hand washing practices and a preventive vaccine. If individuals believe they or a family member might have hepatitis A or have come into contact with someone who has hepatitis A, they should consult their health care provider immediately.

Legal Briefs from the National Center for Lesbian Rights

The National Center for Lesbian Rights Spring 1998 Docket: Case Updates

The National Center for Lesbian Rights' docket pursues the agenda of lesbian civil rights in administrative and legal arenas across the nation. Their advice and counseling service provides legal assistance to callers from across the country and technical assistance to attorneys.

Custody & Visitation

Vecchione v. Vecchione;

California Preliminary Victory

In a precedent-setting case involving the parental rights of a transsexual parent, a California trial court made an initial ruling in favor of Joshua Vecchione, a transsexual father involved in a custody dispute over his three-year-old daughter who was born through donor insemination. Joshua's former spouse is attempting to terminate his parental relationship with his daughter by challenging the validity of the marriage on the grounds that Joshua should not be viewed as legally male. Joshua is a female-to-male transsexual who has lived as a male for more than 20 years. In an initial ruling, the trial court rejected this argument

and held that Joshua is legally male under California law.

Piatt v. Piatt; Virginia Decision Pending

NCLR filed an amicus brief on behalf of lesbian mother Donna Piatt, who is appealing a September 1996 trial court order denying her custody of her daughter. Donna has been the child's primary caretaker since the child was born and sought primary custody at the hearing. The trial court awarded primary custody to the father on the grounds that Donna had been involved in two lesbian relationships and had taken a "family portrait" of herself with her daughter and her current partner.

DeLong v. DeLong; Missouri Victory!

In a landmark decision that rejected eighteen years of previous

decisions holding that a lesbian or gay parent is automatically unfit to have custody, the Missouri Court of Appeals reversed a trial court decision that had taken custody away from a lesbian mother. The Court was persuaded by NCLR's argument that a lesbian or gay parent should be held to the same legal standard as any other parent. The mother in this case had been the primary caretaker of her three children (ages 6, 8, and 10) throughout the marriage. Twenty-one witnesses, including neighbors, teachers, baby sitters, doctors, and counselors, testified to the mother's commitment and skills as a parent, as well as to the father's lack of involvement in the children's daily lives. The trial court awarded custody to the father on the grounds that the mother had been involved in lesbian relationships and "had no intention of changing her sexual conduct." The Court of Appeals reversed this decision, holding that sexual orientation should not be

relevant to child custody unless there is some evidence of harm to the child.

Youth

East High Gay/Straight Alliance v. Board of Education of Salt Lake City;

Utah New Case In a groundbreaking case, NCLR has joined the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in the first case to challenge a high school's refusal to recognize a gay/straight student group. The students in this case attend East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, where state legislators passed a state law last year attempting to ban gay student groups throughout the state. NCLR has challenged the school's refusal to recognize the gay/straight alliance as a violation of the federal Equal Access Act, which requires equal treatment of all student groups, as well as a violation of the students' right to freedom of speech and equal protection under the federal constitution.



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Vice-President Gore to speak at HRC National Dinner

From The Human Rights Campaign
WASHINGTON -- The Human Rights Campaign announced today that Vice President Gore will attend HRC's Second Annual National Dinner as a featured speaker and to receive the HRC National Leadership Award.

"We are very excited and honored that Vice President Gore will attend our National Dinner. The Vice President has a long record of advocating equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans. The Vice President's presence reaffirms his commitment to battling discrimination and demonstrates his willingness stand up for what is right," said HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch.

The Second Annual National Dinner will take place on September 19, at the Washington, DC Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In addition to Vice President Gore, the black-tie gala will feature world-renowned poet Dr. Maya Angelou. HRC will also present its first National Family Civil Rights Award to rocker Melissa Etheridge and her partner, producer Julie Cypher. Last year, President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker.

OutVote '98, HRC's second national political convention, will take place the same weekend as the National Dinner, Sept. 17-20. OutVote '98 will help mobilize the vote for fairness and equality and teach members of our community and our allies the campaign skills necessary to have an impact in the November elections. The event will also give activists the opportunity to network and form working alliances

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vets to march in Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade

The Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (PGLBVA) are making plans to join the 1998 Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by the City of Phoenix and the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. It will be the first time a G/L/B contingent has marched in the Phoenix Veterans Parade.

"Veteran's Day is a time to pay respect to all veterans who have served our country patriotically and courageously," according to Phoenix Chapter President Wally Straughn. "Our goal is to show respect for all veterans and to show that we have in fact always been there for our country. We have members who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, so as patriotic veterans we've earned the right to march. The fact that we march behind a Gay and Lesbian banner is no more separatist than the

with the community's brightest leaders from around the nation. OutVote '98 is expected to draw 1,000 lesbian and gay activists to Washington. Like the National Dinner, the political convention will also take place at the Washington, DC Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

OutVote '98 will offer a top-notch line-up of speakers including: Rev. Jesse Jackson, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, Assistant to the President Virginia Apuzzo, White House AIDS Policy Director Sandra Thurman, Representatives Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.), and Connie Morella (R-Md.), Seattle City Council member Tina Podlodowski, Betty DeGeneres, and John and Michael Galluccio and other prominent national leaders.

The weekend will begin early for dedicated activists, who are invited to Washington on Thursday, Sept. 17, to lobby their senators and members of Congress. "We encourage everyone who can spare the time to come to Washington that day and visit their elected representatives," says Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. "Get in touch with us and we'll help you coordinate these visits and provide whatever background materials you might need to talk to your congress people about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, hate crimes, lesbian health, HIV and AIDS or other subjects."

For the latest updates on OutVote '98 and the Second Annual National Dinner, visit the HRC web site at <http://www.hrc.org>.

Vietnam Veterans' banner, or the AMVETS banner."

Straughn points out the irony that this year's parade slogan is "Let Freedom Ring" and still the US Military prohibits freedom of expression with its Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy. "Imagine fighting for the freedom we enjoy in this country, yet having to be careful not to mention any reference to the gender of your partner. We don't want anything extraordinary, but we do want the same freedom we fought to secure for everyone else."

The chapter's first event was this year's Gay Pride Festival where uniformed veterans provided an Honor Guard. Straughn said the April event created a "great deal of interest" in the gay and lesbian community. He hopes their presence in the Veterans Day parade will promote respect and acceptance in the straight community.

IRS: Working on Fairness

By Bob Lind, EA, Camelwest Tax Service

In a letter of response from IRS Exempt Organizations Division Director Marcus S. Owens to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., the IRS has acknowledged that there have been some problems in the way that agents may have dealt with gay and lesbian individuals and organizations. To remedy this, specially trained agents from the EO division in Ogden will be assigned to travel to all IRS offices to talk to agents about the need to be impartial and fair in dealing with all taxpayers, including gays and lesbians.

Lambda Legal Defense spokesperson David S. Buckel responds: "The IRS is taking a meaningful step by addressing antigay bias nationally, through training of all the field agents who first see and act upon applications from lesbian and gay groups for tax-exempt status. We'll keep hoping and pressing for other meaningful action throughout the entire agency."

The original letter came about as a result of a 1997 incident, in which an IRS agent reviewing the exempt organization application of a North Carolina support group for gay teens demanded that the organization show it would not try to "recruit" or encourage teens to become homosexuals. Following a protest from the gay community in NC, the IRS withdrew the agent's request and granted the determination.

There have also been some cases in which EO agents have been hesitant to grant exempt status to an organization that provides services primarily to the gay and lesbian community, and not the general public at large. An example of this happened earlier this year, when an IRS agent incorrectly advised a Rhode Island support group for lesbians with cancer that they could not get exempt status unless they agreed to provide services to all women with cancer, not just lesbians.

Personally, I have been involved in obtaining tax-exempt status for over a dozen organizations, most within the gay and lesbian community,

and can honestly say I have noticed an antigay bias only once. That was over a decade ago, in the negotiations following the application for exempt status for the Phoenix Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee Inc. (now known as Arizona Central Pride.) The EO division chief kept nitpicking the application unnecessarily, and threatened to decline the exempt status unless I would agree to a downgrade from a public charity status (able to accept tax-deductible donations) to a social organization. His "logic" was that the committee's most visible work, the annual pride event, was just a big "party for homosexuals" and had no real educational purpose. I answered with a three-page narrative, talking about a hypothetical organization for left-handed people. In order to make left-handed people more comfortable in a "right-handed world," the organization needed to advise them of the resources and support available to them in the area. The best way to convey that information would be in a fun atmosphere that also makes the left-handed people more comfortable and proud of who they are, and also makes the general public aware of the problems faced by left-handed people in our society. The last paragraph of my fable was "Now, go back and change every 'left handed' to 'gay and lesbian', and it shouldn't make a difference." We were granted the exemption within a matter of days.

Likewise, I have never noticed an obvious anti-gay bias in dealing with IRS personnel locally here in Phoenix or via the phone or mail in Ogden. A few agents did seem a bit uncomfortable when confronted with a return where some of the information is derived from shared income or expenses with the taxpayer's same gender "domestic partner," but it did not prevent them from handling the matter fairly. (If truth be told, their discomfort might have been a benefit, since it made them unwilling to prolong an audit by disagreeing with my proposals!) I have also found local agents to be very accommodating to situations where taxpayers had become delinquent in taxes due to medical reasons, including HIV-related.

Still, there is no doubt that such bias does exist to some extent, and the IRS move is definitely a step in the right direction.

Internet Privacy

by Robin Dee, staff writer

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a recent report in which it states that consumers have little privacy protection on the World Wide Web despite the industry's voluntary efforts.

The report goes on to state that only 14 percent of the 1,400 commercial Web sites surveyed provided any notice of their information collection practices.

If you want to protect personal information about you from public access check out the page that the FTC has set up for you: www.ftc.gov

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What is Goddess Religion?



Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Most Wiccans would agree that Goddess religion is more than a religion; it is a way of life. Followers of the "Craft of the Wise" believe that there is a life force that connects everything -- every rock, every plant, every animal, every person. Wiccans call that life force "Goddess" to make it more personal. (Many also recognize a God. Sometimes the God is seen as balancing the Goddess, sometimes as being her consort.)

The idea of a life force flowing in everyone means that the Goddess is within each of us -- we are Goddess. This is a concept known as "immanence" and contrasts with the external "power over" concept of deity held by contemporary, monotheistic religions such as Christianity. The idea of Goddess within is very empowering but brings with it responsibility. Wiccans must comport themselves in as ethical and life-affirming a way as possible because it is up to each individual to protect and cherish the earth and all her life. This is why Goddess religion is more appropriately called a lifestyle.

One of the common tenets of those who honor the Goddess is that "what you put out comes back to you three-fold". Another guiding principle is that whenever seeking to manifest something in your life through visualization or other forms of "magic" (defined by Margot Adler in *Drawing Down the Moon* as simply "the art of getting results"), it must always be "for the good of all and according to free will."

The above discussion is not intended to imply that Wiccans are a uniform group with a set system of beliefs. Wicca has neither official doctrine nor an official leader. Followers of the Craft are a diverse group of people who hold many different beliefs and follow many different practices. This tremendous diversity stems from the fact that Wicca is polytheistic. As Margot Adler explains, polytheism is "grounded in the view that reality (divine or otherwise) is multiple and diverse." This belief in diversity also means that Wiccans accept all beliefs (including Christian ones) as valid. Wiccans do not claim that Wicca is the "one true" lifestyle nor seek out recruits. You either "come home" to Wicca or it is not for you.

This article is but a brief introduction to Goddess religion. The Selected Reading list includes a sampling of books that provide

detailed information. Before closing, though, it is time to use the other "w" word for followers of the Craft -- witch -- and dispense with a couple of negative (and just plain wrong) stereotypes. First, witches do not practice "black" magic. Given the belief that all life is sacred and the three-fold principle (among others), how could it be otherwise? Further, witches do not worship the devil. Besides the fact that "true" witches do not practice evil, historically the devil could not possibly have a place in Wicca. The devil is a Christian concept and, as Marion Weinstein explains in *Positive Magic*, Wicca has been practiced for over 6,000 years and consequently predates Christianity.

So the next time you hear the term "witch", banish from your mind the image of an old hag stirring a bubbling cauldron and cackling evilly as she hexes some poor, innocent victim, or riding through the sky on her broom frightening little children. Imagine instead an average-looking woman (or man), surrounded by glowing candles sending positive energy to a sick friend; driving to the nearest recycling center to deposit a load of newspapers and glass bottles; or bringing home a stray animal to nurse back to health.

Some Local Resources

Goddess Womyn Network, for information call 266-4111.

Women's Spirituality Group, (an eclectic group that includes Goddess women), see their ad for different activity-related phone numbers.

Crystal Moon, a lesbian-owned retail store with books, supplies and more.

Selected Reading

When God Was a Woman by Merline Stone is an archeological/historical discussion of Goddess religion. *Drawing Down the Moon* by Margot Adler gives an overview of witches and other neo-pagans in contemporary America. *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk explains basic concepts and provides descriptions of the major holidays, exercises and other "how-to" information. *Positive Magic* by Marion Weinstein defines magic, space/time reality and other concepts and includes such "personal applications" of magic as astrology, divination and words of power. *Mother Wit, a Feminist Guide to Psychic Development* by Diane Mariechild provides exercises for deep relaxation, clearing the mind, working with energy and more. *Creative Visualization* by Shakti Gawain is not Goddess-centered but provides excellent how-to exercises for using the power of your imagination to manifest what you want in your life.

Remaining Pride Festivals

From the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. (IAL/GPC). This is the ninth release of the InterPride Global Calendar 1998 of current established dates for gay pride celebrations. The following dates have been released by local Pride organizations. Information, additions and updates

Albany, NY	October 4	Greenville, NC	September 18-19
Allendale, MI	October 5-9	Nashville, TN	September 19
Berkely, CA	September 3-26	New Orleans, LA	September 26-27
Charlotte, NC	October 7-11	Oakland, CA	September 20
Claremont, CA	October 10	Palm Springs, CA	November 7-8
Dallas, TX Black G/L Pride	October 1-4	Pasadena, CA	September 19
Dayton, OH	September 19	Miami, FL	October 18
Erie, PA	October 10	Prince George, BC	September 5-6
Fresno, CA	September 20	Tucson, AZ	October 17
		Wilmington, DE	October 3

"Recruit and Cure" ad campaign

A coalition of conservative organizations sponsored three full-page ads, which ran in the New York Times, the Washington Post and USA Today. Among the claims contained in the texts were the assertions that lesbians and gay men need to be 'cured', and that in order to be a person of faith, one cannot be a lesbian or gay man.

The ads come at a time when well-funded religious political extremists have been lobbying Capitol Hill in an attempt to deny millions of Americans basic human rights. GLAAD contends that the content of these ads is erroneous and disingenuous. As such, they are potentially harmful to a society which treasures personal freedom and aspires to embrace its diversity. Jennifer H. Einhorn, GLAAD's Director of Communications issued the following statement: "These advertisements claim that lesbians and gay men are not--and cannot--be people of faith. This fallacy does a shameful disservice to the thousands of lesbians and gay men who are central to their places of worship. "Diseases require cures--love does not. Each ad relentlessly focuses on the urgency of 'curing' lesbians and gay men, thereby likening sexual orientation to an illness. In 1973, the American Psychological Association (APA) removed homosexuality from its list of identified mental disorders. In 1997, the APA reinforced that finding by issuing a resolution warning about the dangers of the so-called 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy. The entire foundation of these advertisements is one of complete disregard for sound medical and psychological science."

Since these 15 religious-political extremist groups unveiled their full-page "recruit and cure" ads, media attention has centered almost exclusively on the political implications. For instance, Margaret Carlson wrote in the July 27 Time that, "If the right could challenge the growing belief that gayness is innate and not a life-style choice, it could galvanize the troops for the fall elections, all the while looking Christian."

The focus of media coverage widened to such an extent that the effectiveness of the "reparative" therapies was questioned. Journalists examined the claims the ads made about the relationship between religion and homosexuality; and pointed at their effects on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. In the July 27 Newsweek, Mark Miller wrote of one highly pertinent study that among 100 persons who had undergone "reparative therapy," it appears to have effected permanent alteration for only a "handful....Many more, however, were psychologically harmed by the therapies."

More than 30 national faith-based organizations held a joint news conference proclaiming their firm opposition to the Christian right's homophobic and manipulative ad campaign. The groups were attending an unprecedented national Religious Leadership Roundtable convened by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Equal Partners in Faith, a group that opposes the manipulation of religion to promote exclusion and inequality.

"I became a lesbian because of women, because women are beautiful, strong, and compassionate. Rita Mae Brown"

Legal Briefs from the National Center for Lesbian Rights

Gay & Lesbian Adoption

In re: Guardianship of Z.C.W. & K.G.W.; California Decision Pending
In a precedent-setting case that will determine whether non-biological lesbian coparents have any rights to visitation with their children in California, NCLR submitted an amicus brief to the California Court of Appeal on behalf of Kathy Crandall. The lesbian couple in this case lived together for five years and

co-parented two children together. Several years after the couple separated, the biological mother attempted to prohibit her former partner from having any further contact with the children. In May of 1997, a Superior Court judge held that Crandall was a de facto parent and had standing to file a guardianship petition for the limited purpose of seeking visitation. Despite this groundbreaking legal ruling, however, the court did not order visitation. Crandall appealed this decision, and NCLR filed an amicus brief urging the appellate court to hold that a lesbian co-parent should be afforded a fair and equal opportunity to seek visitation with her children.

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Lambda Urges Religious Leaders to Support Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples

Critical weeks ahead in the fight for freedom to marry in Hawaii, Alaska, & Vermont

NEW YORK, August 13, 1998 --Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said Thursday that recent statements by some religious groups on their marriage doctrines are disappointing but do not affect progress towards winning the freedom to marry for lesbian and gay couples under civil law.

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn said, "Marriage is both a civil and religious institution. As courts and legislatures across the country grapple with ending discrimination in civil marriage, religious organizations are also beginning to debate the issue." She added, "This ongoing tug-of-war resembles the back and forth of similar civil rights battles in the past."

Lambda is co-counsel with Honolulu attorney Dan Foley in a Hawaii lawsuit for three couples who want licenses to marry. The couples won a resounding victory in a state trial court in late 1996, and their case, *Baehr v. Miike*, is now before the Hawaii Supreme Court. A case similar to Hawaii's is pending in Vermont.

At the same time, right-wing activists in Alaska and Hawaii are promoting state amendments aimed at prohibiting same-sex couples from ever marrying. With just over 80 days left until the November 3 elections, opponents hope to enshrine discrimination in the states' constitutions.

"Religious leaders have a particular opportunity here to help people understand the difference between civil and religious marriage. They also have a chance to support the important values of love, caring, self-sacrifice, and commitment for all families," said Lambda Marriage Project Director Evan Wolfson. "The disappointing actions by some denominations should not overshadow the steps toward inclusion so many others are taking."

Indeed, while some have rushed to attack this civil rights advance, others are supporting equality in marriage. Coretta Scott King, Episcopalian Bishop Walter Righter, the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), the California Council of Churches, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries, New York City's Riverside Church and its pastor the Reverend James Forbes have already joined thousands of other individuals and organizations in endorsing Lambda's Marriage Resolution.

The Resolution says, "Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage."

In the past week, Methodist leaders ruled against clergy members conducting religious marriages for lesbian and gay couples, and Anglican bishops passed an even broader resolution that gay sex is "incompatible with the Scripture." Both votes are part of the right-wing's efforts to curtail growing public support for ending discrimination in marriage.

"In all 50 states today, lesbian and gay couples are denied the freedom to marry no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationships, and no matter how much they and their families need the protections that come with civil marriage," said Jon W. Davidson, supervising attorney of Lambda's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, adding, "We now are on the verge of ending this discrimination. In religious circles, as in society generally, continuing dialogue is the key."

RESOURCES

(Please note: This is a PARTIAL list of non-profit groups. If your group would like to be included please write or call us at 898-4844. We are looking for groups supportive of and of interest to Lesbians.)

INFORMATION:

Women's Center, Inc. publisher Women's Central News PO Box 26031 Tempe, Az 85285, 898-4844, e-mail address wcn@swlink.net, website <http://www.swlink.net/~wcnews>

Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752

Lesbian Resource Project: P.O. Box 1917, Tempe, AZ 85280-1917, 266-5542 (voice).

Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 24 West Camelback; , Phx 85013, 265-7283

The Gay and Lesbian Community, based out of Flagstaff, (520)526-6098.

Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory, 989 S. Main St. Suite 437, Cottonwood, Az. 86326

520-634-1405 e-mail: martimac@sedona.net

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Desert Adventures: Indoor/Outdoor social activities 266-Camp(2267).

Desert Valley Squares, Ltd.: Lesbian/Gay Square Dance Club, PO Box 34615, Phx 85067. Contact C.J. at 252-0048.

Same Place Same Time Breakfast Club, Sundays at Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa 10AM

Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club: Monthly rides. Deb at 279-9228.

Lesbian and Gay Seniors Group: 241-1604

Camelback Business & Professional Assoc., Business networking, socialization, 225-8444.

Scuba Diving Club, Phoenix, 957-9399 or Tucson digital pager, 261-9602.

Parents By Choice-Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group. Family gatherings 1st and 3rd Sat of every month. Call 252-3393 or 924-9974 for info or e-mail at JKOPRY@swlink.net

Arizona Amazons BD/SM organization. Contact Sheryl Tilley at Bobby

Cook Studio (602) 254-4513 or E-mail at azamazon@juno.com or

Sheyltilley@juno.com find us at www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights.3231

SUPPORT NETWORKS:

Women Veteran's Support Network: VIRAGO!, PO Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.

Rainbow Alliance: meets Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Memorial Union at ASU. Contact 965-9756.

Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America meets the first Monday of every month at the Community Center. For more information contact Wally Straughn at 864-6092 or E-mail PGLBVA@aol.com.

POLITICAL GROUPS:

Arizona Committee For Progress: PO Box 40374, Phx, 85067.

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project: PO Box 60881, Phx, 85082. Call 351-3080.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church: 1029 E. Turney, Phx 265-2831.

CCL/Conference for Catholic Lesbians: Donna 947-8187 (Phx area) or Pat at 326-8379 (Tucson).

Dignity/Integrity: PO Box 21091, Phx 85036. Bill 258-2556.

Gentle Shepherd MCC: Quality Inn, 2nd Ave & Osborn, Phx., 10AM Sundays.

Goddess Womyn Network: Meetings & quarterly newsletter. Call 266-4111.

Healing Waters Ministries: 225 W. University Dr., Tempe 85281, 894-8681.

Lutherans Concerned: Phoenix, Frank 870-3611

Aviv (Jewish lesbian & gays): Call Gene, 996-8622.

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th St, Phx, 265-8400

In His Steps Christian Fellowship, call 209-8155.

Community Church of Hope, Sunday 10AM, Turney & Central, Phoenix, 234-2180.

Affirmations (Mormon), 553-8674

Universal Church of Love, Pastor Joyce Cascio, Chandler, 917-5671

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, 4027 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, 840-8400.

Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th St, Phoenix, 602-264-1470.

NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST:

Rubyfruit Journal, Tucson Wimmin's Community Newsletter. 517 E. Gay St., Tucson 85705. \$15.00.

Flagstaff Women's News: Aradia Bookstore, PO Box 266, Flagstaff, Az. 86002. \$18.00

conmoción, Bi-lingual, bi-cultural, latina lesbian newsletter, 1521 Alton Rd, #336, Miami Beach, FL 33139, \$4 sample, \$13 for 3 issues.

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G.A.S.P. is a success! WCN will continue to run the G.A.S.P. column. The charge for one month will be \$5.00.

Looking for that special someone? Love hiking but don't have a hiking partner? Thought about romance ads but wasn't sure how they work? Well, WCN is announcing G.A.S.P! (Girls in Arizona Seeking People). Here's how it works:

- 1) You send in your submission - limit 50 words, tasteful, clever, discreet. List a P.O. box, e-mail, or whatever for your reply.
- 2) WCN will run your submission for one month in the G.A.S.P! column
- 3) WCN reserves the right to edit, not publish, or otherwise destroy any submissions in poor taste, offensive, or obscene.
- 4) Cost is \$5.00 for up to 50 words, additional \$5.00 for 50-100 words. Send in your submission by the 15th of the month for the next issue. Either mail it or e-mail to wcn@swlink.net.
- 5) Submission **must** have name and address (which will not be printed).

Some hints for writing your ad:

- 1) Be honest. You can't ever meet the dreamboat you are corresponding with if you've told her you are a twin to k.d. lang when you are really a body double for Mama Cass.
- 2) Mention your likes/dislikes. If you love sand movies and hate dogs, say so. That's what interests the kind of person you want to get to know. Include significant details - like allergic to cats.
- 3) Don't babble. Say what you want, and leave it at that.
- 4) Be careful. We can't stress this enough. We wish the world was a safe place (and chocolate had no calories), but the reality is you must be careful. If you meet someone, go to a public place, do a group thing, whatever until YOU feel comfortable. Don't use your home phone. E-mail, P.O. box or pager is not expensive. Use your first name only.

I am tired of the bars, if you are too let's get together. I like to travel, bowling, playing cards. I believe in God, and enjoy going to church when I can. I am honest and hard working and looking for the same. Age, 35 to 50. Call Diana 268-6795 Write 918 W. Mineral Rd. Phx, Az 85041.

I'm in my early 40's and weigh 135. I'm intelligent, sincere, quick witted, and love to laugh. I'm looking for a height/weight proportionate woman between 35-45 who likes movies, plays, exploring, sports, animals. If you're interested in any of this, write me at 7017 N. Litchfield Rd #348, Glendale, AZ 85307

How serious are you? About building a lasting relationship! I am looking for

someone that wants to be friends first, accept one another as is and be willing to work through the differences. If this is you then we have a lot to talk about. I am a fem It/Sp woman, 43 years old, heavy-set, divorced, and have one child(grown). I am not into game playing, bar scenes, one-night stands, or couples. If you enjoy jewels? Page me at 210-2344 - I am the jewel that just needs polished.

East Mesa woman, young 50. I like going to the plays, movies, symphony, sight seeing, gambling on occasion, and women with a bit of a feminine persona. I am professional and love working. I don't drink or smoke, but I like to play.. My e-mail is azkatie@primenet.com.

Butch/Femme anthology call for submissions

Most of us are taught there are only two genders: male and female. We know this isn't always the case. This dichotomy has excluded those of us who identify as something other than male or female, or who identify as both. For those who question the dichotomy, conversations about gender and sex can go in thousands of different directions. Our anthology will narrow the focus of these conversations and explore a dialogue between butch dykes and FTMs who previously identified as butch, including those folks who fall in between or who use different language than the one being provided.

We are looking for work that talks about gender and class,

class and desire, desire and disability, disability and culture, culture and religion, religion and tradition, tradition and race, race and ethnicity, ethnicity and immigration, immigration and home. We encourage all who have a story to tell to submit for the anthology, regardless of writing experience. Deadline for submissions is October 15, 1998

For further information and guidelines, contact Terry at Dickelman@AOL.com or Rocki at raffo001@tc.umn.edu or send an SASE to:

TaygetosConsulting/Anthology Submissions
PO Box 131797
Roseville, MN 55113

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Domestic Violence Shelters

<p>My Sister's Place, Chandler, 821-1024</p> <p>Faith House, Glendale, 939-6798</p> <p>New Life Shelter, Litchfield Park, 935-9161</p> <p>Prehab's Autumn House, Mesa, 835-5555</p>	<p>DeColores, Phoenix, 269-1515</p> <p>Chrysalis Shelter, Phoenix, 944-4999</p> <p>Sojourner Center, Phoenix, 244-0089</p> <p>Chrysalis Shelter, Scottsdale, 481-0402</p>
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Bulletin Board

Astrology - A transformative spiritual/psychological experience. Astrological chart read by well-known west coast astrologer Karen Freeman, M.S. Sedona/Phoenix. Call 520-282-7601.

Marti's Guest Ranch - A nice private cottage yards away from the banks of Oak Creek. A stress free, natural, serene environment. A haven for birds and wildlife. Please call Marti 520-634-4842 or write to Marti McElroy, 989 S Main St, A601, Cottonwood, AZ. 86326 for more information.

Mountain Memories Touring (& parties!) - Our private, outdoor party grounds in the beautiful Desert Hills area are available for any occasion including unions, workshops and our special dinner/dances. We can accommodate 10 to 100 persons at our western theme facility and make your party a unique and memorable one! For further information contact us at 493-2406 or "tour" with us on the web at www.mmtouring.com

For Sale: Solid Oak Futon - \$500, 2 pc. Dresser Set (w/mirror)- \$200 each piece, Cannondale Mountain Bike - \$150, Gas Grill (30,000 btu) \$100. Call M.E. @ 945-9821.

Roommate Wanted for Central Phoenix home. Mature responsible woman. No smoking, drugs or pets. \$275.00 + utilities and some watering. Washer, private yard and carport. AC and Evap. Country Club Park Historic (and friendly) neighborhood. Will want deposit and references. Leave message at home/office voice mail. 241-1441.

Women's Spiritual Quest A Women's Spiritual Retreat Group for any woman who has ever wondered "What's it all about?" and would like the safe and supportive environment of a healing circle of women who are actively seeking answers to life's great questions and challenges. Beginning on Sept 23, 1998, this group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm. For further information and to register, call Denise Daup at 921-3936.

Women helping women heal: a therapy group for lesbians. This is an on-going group for women seeking support for their growth and healing. This group meets on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM. For further information, call Denise Daup at 921-3936.

Roommate for Central Phoenix home, Mature, responsible woman, no smoking, drugs, pets, or chemicals. Call 241-1441 leave message with phone number. Rent \$275 plus all utilities

Bulletin Board notices - \$5.00 up to 50 words and \$5.00 for each additional 50 words.



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