

## ➔ the rest of our world

### NEW YORK CITY Gender By Choice

New Yorkers may soon be permitted to change their gender on their birth certificates under a plan supported by the city's Board of Health, the *New York Times* reported in November. The new rule would not require sex reassignment surgery.

Applicants who want to change their gender would have to be born in New York City, must change their name, and provide affidavits from a doctor and a mental health professional, the *Times* said. Also, anyone wanting to change their assigned gender would have to show they have "lived in their adopted gender" for at least two years.

The Board of Health is expected to vote on the matter this December.

### DENVER Lambda Argues Against Discriminatory Adoption Law

In papers filed in court in October, *Lambda Legal* argued that the U. S. Court of Appeals should affirm a lower court ruling that Oklahoma's anti-gay Adoption Invalidation Law is unconstitutional.

"It's dangerous and appalling that state officials seek to jeopardize the safety and well-being of children in Oklahoma," said Ken Upton, Senior Staff Attorney in *Lambda Legal's* South Central Regional Office and lead attorney on the case. "The Adoption Invalidation Law threatens the welfare of children and their parents because it forbids agents of the State such as police, health officials, and child welfare officials from recognizing these families, and it doesn't even consider who would protect these children if the State severs the ties between parent and child."

### PERU Lesbians Targeted by Police

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is deeply concerned about recent arrests of members of the LGBT community by Peruvian law enforcement agents, the IGLHRC said in late October. IGLHRC said it joins Peruvian activists in denouncing abuses against people in gay bars and trans sex workers, perpetrated by Serenazgo officers in December 2005 and March 2006. This time, the victims were lesbians in a Lince district bar.

On October 13, 2006, Serenazgo officers, together with troops of the tactical actions unit (SUAT), and of the National Police, raided the Avenida 13 bar, a place frequented by young lesbians, the IGLHRC said. Activists of Raiz Diversidad have requested a meeting with Lince town officials in connection with this, but they had not received an answer as of the October report.

### WASHINGTON, D.C. National Latino Congress OKs Gender Identity Rights

This fall, the National Latino Congreso passed a resolution calling for equal rights and civil rights protections for all Latinos - regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. The Congreso convened Latino leaders, organizations, and elected officials for the first national Latino meeting since 1977.

Said Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, "Pressures to conform to expectations for masculinity and femininity - and in the Latina/o community to stereotypes for 'machismo' and 'madonna' - are a painful right of passage for many youth. It is especially welcome for a national Latino group to take this strong public stance, and help people recognize the connection between gender and ethnicity."

### WASHINGTON, D.C. \$11.7M Grant to Help Communities of Color Fight HIV/AIDS

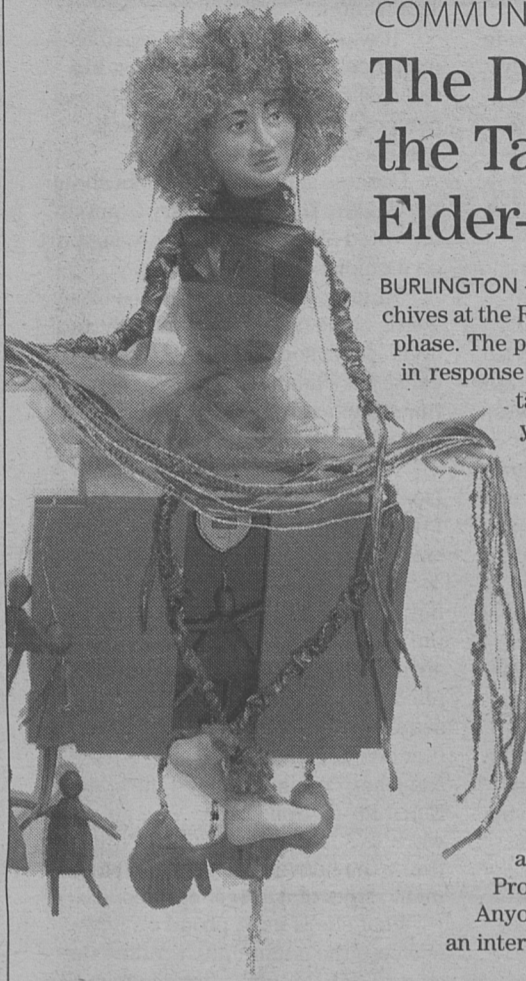
CAEAR Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that provides HIV/AIDS-related training and technical assistance, was awarded a three-year, \$11.7 million grant by the Health Resources Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau to improve the delivery of HIV primary care in racial and ethnic minority communities severely impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The grant will target primary care sites through onsite technical assistance, intensive capacity building, regional meetings, and web-based continuing education. Up to 20 primary medical care sites in hurricane-ravaged areas of the Gulf Region will receive intensive capacity-building assistance.

# in the news...

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### The Dialogue Project Turns the Tables; Expands Elder-Youth Dialogue



BURLINGTON - The Dialogue Project, a program of the Vermont Queer Archives at the R.U.1.2? Community Center, is moving forward into the next phase. The past year's project involved queer elders telling their stories in response to questions from queer youth. This next cycle turns the tables, and gives queer elders the opportunity to ask queer youth about their lives.

When R.U.1.2? intern Heidi Wagner launched the project, she visited queer youth organizations, such as Outright Vermont, and gathered questions that she later used in interviews. Those oral histories were shared with artists, who created works in response to the stories. The resulting works of art, along with items from the Vermont Queer Archives, have been displayed in exhibits at Marlboro College, the Rose Street Artists Co-op in Burlington, and the University of Vermont. These exhibitions have provided a venue for youth and elders to interact; finding new ways to learn and communicate about each other's lives.

Queer elders are now being asked what they would like to know about the lives of queer youth. These questions will be compiled at the R.U.1.2? Community Center, and oral histories will be conducted in 2007. The Dialogue Project will be a true dialogue.

Anyone interested in participating, either with questions or as an interviewee, can contact Brenda Pitmon at [Brenda@ru12.org](mailto:Brenda@ru12.org). ▼

Press release from R.U.1.2?

## ANIMAL TESTING

### Martina Navratilova Slams "Gay Sheep" Experiments

#### Tennis Icon Condemns Tests Seeking to Alter Animals' Sexual Preferences

PORTLAND, OR - Openly gay tennis icon Martina Navratilova is condemning hormone-altering experiments on "gay" sheep at Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) that seek to manipulate sheep's sexual preferences and make them heterosexual, said People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in November. The tests are funded by taxpayers through the year 2008.

In letters faxed to the presidents of both universities, Navratilova wrote, "How can it be that, in the year 2006, a major university would host such homophobic and cruel experiments? ... I respectfully ask that you pull the

plug on this appalling and misguided research. Surely you can find a way to redirect the millions of public tax dollars that are being wasted on these experiments to a more fruitful venture - perhaps by funding a gay and lesbian community center to foster dialogue and acceptance for people of all sexual preferences?"

OHSU experimenter Charles Roselli is drugging pregnant sheep to prevent the actions of hormones in their fetuses' brains and cutting open the brains of rams he calls "male-oriented" (homosexual) in an attempt to find the hormonal mechanisms behind homosexual tendencies so that they can subsequently be changed. Roselli's cohort, Frederick Stormshak of OSU, has surgically installed an estrogen device in rams' bodies in an effort to alter "gay" sheep's sexual preferences and make them heterosexual. According to the grant applications, the experi-



menters plan to extrapolate the test results to humans - with the insidious implication that homosexuality in people can be "cured," PETA said.

Navratilova - who has won nine Wimbledon Women's Singles championships, and with a record 167 titles in singles and 174 in doubles, holds more overall tennis titles than any other player in history - added in her letter, "For the sake of the animals who will die unnecessarily in these experiments and for the many gays and lesbians who stand to be deeply offended by the social implications of these tests, I ask that you please end these studies at once. ▼"

From PETA press release.