

National News

Organizers say that the conference stands to lose several thousand participants if the current immigration policies are enforced. President George Bush has declined an invitation to speak at the gathering, which is traditionally opened by the Head of State of the host country.

Let the Singing Begin!

The Celebration '90 Festival Chorus associated with the Celebration '90 Gay Games III and Cultural Festival is looking for singers to fill the 1000 voice group. The Chorus is open to gays, lesbians, and their parents and friends - auditions are not required. The Games will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from August 4-11. There will be a registration fee of US \$45 as well as other expenses (travel, lodging, food). To register or for more information, contact Celebration '90 Festival Chorus, Box 61388, Denver, Colorado 80206, or call 303-331-2306.

The Best Way to Send Bigotry

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) announced that it will no longer use the Western Union Corp. to deliver "Speak Out" constituent messages to Capitol Hill, a decision that will cost the communications firm \$350,000 this year. In addition, HRCF announced that it will encourage other organizations and individuals throughout the country to reexamine their business relationships with Western Union.

Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of HRCF, stated that the decision was "based on the company's continued efforts to overturn a twelve-year-old San Francisco ordinance protecting lesbians and gays from discrimination.

"We want to send a clear message to Western Union," McFeeley also stated. "Lesbian and gay Americans do not intend to spend their money with an organization that is fighting to deny our rights to live free from discrimination."

Dialing for Dollars

The Gay and Lesbian Association Political Action Committee (GALAPAC) has put out the call for a national phone campaign to Congress for increased funding for AIDS in the federal budget. The current Bush administration proposal for AIDS funding is an increase of 8% from last year's budget and will cripple local AIDS agencies around the country as they struggle to meet the burden placed on the health care system by a 50% increase in the number of AIDS cases during the same period.

So, call your legislators! GALAPAC suggests that you plan what you want to say before you call. Ask to speak with the legislative staffer who handles health and AIDS issues. Let them know that you live in the legislator's district. Be brief and concise and try to limit the call to five minutes. Be ready to back up your position with several supporting reasons. If you want to state your position on other issues, make a separate phone call for each. Not only will that tally as an additional call on AIDS issues if it is so related, but chances are a different staff person may handle that issue.

Young Leaders Wanted

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is seeking applications for its Board of Directors as part of its Young Leaders Internship Program. Two young adults - ages 19-25 - will serve one-year internships on the HRCF Board. One female and one male intern will be selected to start this summer.

Interns have the same rights and responsibilities as other Board members, including full voting rights. Responsibilities will also include networking and fund-raising with colleges and other young adult communities. Interns need not be active college students, but should have close ties to the academic community.

If you are interested in applying, contact the HRCF Board Intern Program at 202-628-4160.

NAMES Quilt to be Displayed

More than 2800 panels of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in San Francisco from June 21 through June 24 at Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion. Additional panels will be displayed at several other San Francisco locations as well.

As in other cities, all donations collected at the display will be equally distributed to local agencies providing direct services to people with AIDS/ARC/HIV and their loved ones.

New panels are continually added to the Quilt. Those interested in submitting a panel should write NAMES Project Workshop, 2362 Market Street, San Francisco CA 94114 before May 1.

Apparently Not a Parent

Lamba Legal Defense and Education Fund has announced a recent New York Appellate Division ruling that a lesbian who had parented a child with an ex-lover has no legal right to seek visitation after the couple split up. The court held that a prior decision of New York's highest court where a non-biological father lost his claim for visitation bound them to rule against the lesbian non-biological parent.

A strong dissent to the court's ruling was filed by a fourth judge, who said, "(w)here the petitioner has alleged without dispute that she and the respondent lived together as a family unit, planned the respondent's pregnancy...and agreed to participate fully in the support and rearing of the child as 'co-parents,' the petitioner has established that she possesses standing to seek visitation, despite the absence of legal or biological relationship to the child."

Lamba intends to seek an appeal.

Campus Violence Newsletter Available

NGLTF's Campus Project has published a newsletter that addresses the pervasive problem of anti-gay and lesbian violence, harrasment, and defamation at US colleges and universities. "Organizing for Equality" provides a background on campus violence and harrasment; itemizes examples of attacks, graffiti, arson, and death threats against gay and lesbian students; and provides strategies for stopping anti-gay violence and profiles organizing efforts at selected campuses.

Copies of the newsletter and strategies for fighting back are available for \$1 from NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009, Attn: Campus Project; or call 202-332-6483.

Partners in Recovery and Growth, Therapist Erica Marks, B.A.S.A.C. & Giita Clark

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