

## Clinton order allows gays clearances

WASHINGTON, DC -- President Clinton officially ended the government assumption that homosexuals cannot be trusted with national secrets by ordering an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation in granting security clearances.

Homosexual rights groups praised the order. Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, called it "an important step toward ending governmentally sanctioned job discrimination against gay and lesbian people."

But Rep. Bob Dornan, a long-shot candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, called Clinton's actions "something else he didn't have to do that's gotten in our face. I wouldn't trust them with a \$5 loan, let alone the nation's secrets." Dornan also labeled homosexuals "promiscuous by definition."

The 13-page order adds the words "sexual orientation" to the non-discrimination clause covering access to classified material. It also states, "No inference concerning the standards in this section may be raised solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the employee." The order establishes the first uniform standards for U.S. agencies in granting security clearances and it requires federal agencies to recognize each other's security clearances. (*Burlington Free Press*)

## Back to school: gay positive and gay negative colleges

NEW YORK -- As students return to classes at colleges across the country, *The Princeton Review Student Access Guide to the Best 306 Colleges* has released the results of a survey of more than 48,000 students about their school's academics, campus life, and other issues. Listed below are the top schools in the categories "Gay Community Accepted" and "Gay Students Ostracized." Rankings are based entirely on how students at the college described it. The ranking means the school ranks *x* out of 306 schools in the category. It reflects a strong consensus of opinion by students at the school.

### Gay Positive

1. Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, CA
2. Bennington College, Bennington, VT
3. Eugene Lang College - New School, New York City
4. Simon's Rock of Bard College, Great Barrington, MA
5. Reed College, Portland, OR
7. Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT
18. Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

### Gay Negative

1. Lafayette College, Easton, PA
  2. Baylor University, Waco, TX
  3. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN
  4. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA
  5. Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA
- (*The Prism Newsletter*)

## Yes, we are indeed everywhere

CHICAGO -- One of the two octopuses was small, graceful, and white. The second octopus was large and dark. The slender white octopus embraced the big dark octopus from above, shifted position, and then delicately inserted its copulatory arm into the big octopus's body cavity. The big octopus acquiesced.

What made their encounter extraordinary? First, it involved two different species. Second, both individuals were male.

In the British journal *Nature*, researchers Janet Voight, curator of invertebrate zoology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and Richard A. Lutz, a respected deep-sea ecologist at Rutgers University, published a one-page report of their observations, which had been recorded by a high-resolution camera.

What followed publication of the article was a media circus with outlets from the TV talk shows to respectable magazines capitalizing on, not the scientific interest of the discovery, but the spectacle of homosexual octopi.

Janet Voight eventually found herself on a radio talk show out of West Palm Beach, Florida, facing a host with a homophobic edge. "Isn't it true," the man wanted her to confirm, "that these animals had retreated to the dark depths of the Pacific because they were so ashamed of what they were doing?" The experience travestied her professional expertise and -- still more important -- violated her personal sense of liberal tolerance. (*The Prism Newsletter*)

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## Lesbian and Gay Families & the Law

A Conference At Vermont Law School on  
Friday, October 20, 1995  
12:45 to 4:30 PM  
in Chase Memorial Center

Our discussion will focus on the formation and protection of families of lesbians and gays, the effects of national and local laws on these non-traditional family units, and how to affect changes in the law to protect these families in the future.

This conference is open to the public and no admission will be charged.

We have been approved to provide 3.75 general hours of MCLE's by the Vermont Bar Association Board of Bar Examiners. To obtain credit, please pre-register by October 17 with the Vermont Law School Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Alliance, c/o Vermont Law School, Chelsea Street, South Royalton, VT 05068. The charge for MCLE's will be \$25.00.

A Program of The Human Rights Campaign Fund



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