

CYBER



SHARK

# A Midsummer Web Roundup

BY MIKI THOMAS

**A**h, summer! Yes, we've hit that time of the year when for two months or so, it doesn't snow, slush, or sleet, and days are spent lazily soaking in the sun. Of course, that means certain household items such as computers get ignored. However, if inclement weather puts a crimp

in your plans to go the beach, here are some new and not-so-new Web sites for you to check out.

The NationalGayLobby.Org is a new organization of Internet users pushing for equal rights for the GLBT community. What is unique about this group is that it is almost entirely Internet-based. That means those who may not be comfortable taking on an

activist role in public can do so via the Web. The site offers links to both state and federal government Web sites. There are also news updates about relevant legislation and Religious Right shenanigans. Chat rooms on the site allow for networking. The NationalGayLobby.Org is currently on a membership drive to attract at least 28,000 members to help raise \$1 million for an advertising campaign prior to the 2000 elections.

The more established GLBT political organizations have a Web presence as well. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has just released a "comprehensive resource" on domestic partner benefits. It includes information on what companies and communities offer domestic partner benefits and the pros and cons of such benefits. You can download this publication at the NGLTF site.

Larry Hines is an HIV-positive gay man with a Web site. Big deal? As a matter of fact, it is. If you visit his site, you'll see why: he's running for the office of President of the United States in

2000. He's out, pardon the pun, for the Libertarian Party nomination, and that means going up against the party's 1996 candidate, Harry Browne. His heavily wired campaign already has the attention of the mainstream media and quite a bit of support from Libertarians.

The Millennium March on Washington is less than a year away and it has already attracted controversy on all sides, especially from those who question the necessity of the March itself. However, at the March's official Web site, such concerns are obviously absent. Instead, you have the opportunity to get discounts on hotels and restaurants in the DC area by signing up for the March as well as read up on the March itself.

The summer is usually the time when one curls up under the beach umbrella to read the latest potboiler from Danielle Steele or John Grisham. However, if your tastes are more, say, epicurean, then check out the Blithe House Quarterly site, an online literary journal for GLBT short fiction. Like most literary journals, you

get your pretentious twaddle and failed experiments, but there are quite a few gems as well. Eight issues are available online for your perusal. You can also submit stories to the Blithe House Quarterly; submission guidelines are available at the site.

The inimitable Quentin Crisp is now online, and you can get a free email account at his site. If you sign up for an email account, you'll receive a Quentin Crisp lapel pin and be eligible for monthly draws for cartoon prints and t-shirts. Of course, the site is more than just free email — somehow, I can't picture Mr. Crisp spending his time on something as mundane as that. So, there's a gallery of Quentin Crisp pictures and sound bites, a guest book where one can submit a story about an encounter with him, and a schedule of personal appearances.

Here is where I am supposed to make a cute pun about surfing either on the Web or otherwise considering the time of year. Much to the relief of us all, I won't. I will, however, wish everyone an enjoyable summer! ▼

## THE HOT LIST

NationalGayLobby.Org  
www.nationalgaylobby.org

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force  
www.nglft.org/pub.html

Larry Hines' campaign site  
www.gaywired.com/larryhinesin2000

Millennium March on Washington  
www.planetout.com/mmow/front.html

Blithe House Quarterly  
www.blithe.com

Quentin Crisp  
www.quentincrisp.com

## ENDA

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ENDA. A survey by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Center for Lesbian Rights, and the national transgender lobby group GenderPAC found that 28 percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual respondents reporting job discrimination said that discrimination was based in part on their gender expression. Because of this omission, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force this year did not endorse ENDA, in what may be the first time a national gay rights group has withheld support from the bill because of the transgender issue.

NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel said in a statement earlier this month, "We do not oppose ENDA, but advocate adding language that is more inclusive. We intend to do no harm to ENDA, but just as our African-American colleagues in several states have refused to move forward on hate crimes legislation that covers race but not sexual orientation, we too feel obligated to move forward together." Lobel said this was "not about political pragmatism, it's about progressive principles," and emphasized that NGLTF amended its mission statement in 1997 "to include the struggle for equal rights for transgendered people."

HRC was "saddened" by NGLTF's stance, and did indicate that if an amendment were offered to add gender identity to ENDA, HRC would support it. But in the words of HRC's David Smith, "This bill is where Congress is," and HRC does not believe a transgender-inclusive bill would pass.

A bipartisan 1998 poll conducted for the Human Rights Campaign by Lake Snell Perry and Associates and American Viewpoint shows that 58 percent of Americans support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

ENDA would not cover small businesses with fewer than 15 employees. There is an exemption for religious organizations, including educational institutions substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. Under this legislation, preferential treatment and quotas are explicitly forbidden, and the legislation clearly states that affirmative action programs may not be imposed as a remedy for sexual orientation discrimination. ▼

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# R.U.1.2?

## J U L Y   E V E N T S

12 MONDAY, 6-8PM

### GOOD COOKIN' POTLUCK PICNIC

Join local GLBT people at Battery Park (Battery Street) in Burlington for for a sunset feast. Please bring your plates and utensils, a tasty dish to pass or a non-alcoholic beverage. All are welcome. Free.

(Rain location: Rhombus Gallery - corner of Bank & Church)

24 SATURDAY, 11-4PM

### BAKER'S DELIGHTS BAKE SALE

Share your culinary masterpiece or throw together mom's tollhouse recipe for a good cause. R.U.1.2? volunteers sell your goodies on Church Street to benefit the future Burlington Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center while building awareness in the greater community about our mission. Stop by and support the center while you shop, sun or stroll! Contact R.U.1.2? about donating goodies.

*Burlington R.U.1.2? Community Center is a charitable organization with the purpose of providing venues for the social, cultural, artistic and educational endeavors of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied communities through, visibility, awareness, and community-building.*

BURLINGTON R.U.1.2? COMMUNITY CENTER, PO BOX 5883, BURLINGTON, VT 05402  
ru12ccenter@hotmail.com 802.860.1044  
homepages.together.net/~lerpad/ru12/index.html