

NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Summer 1998

National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals Inc.
NOGLSTP PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109 phone/fax: 626 791-7689

COME OUT COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!

NOGLSTP once again is preparing for a busy fall in celebration of National Coming Out Day. Although National Coming Out Day is October 11, the associated activities are expanded to most of the month of October, and spills over into the adjacent months. This year NOGLSTP members will be represented at the Catalyst Pasadena Pride Festival on September 19. Would you like to represent NOGLSTP at one of your community or gbt employee support group Coming Out Day celebrations? It's easy. Just contact the NOGLSTP office, and we'll send you a stack of brochures to pass out to your colleagues and gbt sisters and brothers.



Photo:

From right to left, NOGLSTP members Tom Wilhelm, Barbara Belmont, Rochelle Diamond, and friends Kate and Kathy staffed an information table at the 1997 Catalyst Pasadena

NOGLSTP at AAAS

NOGLSTP will host its 6th consecutive reception at the annual meeting of the American Association for Advancement of Science in Anaheim CA on Sunday January 24th, 4:30-6:30 pm, at the Anaheim Marriott. The event will be co-hosted by Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists, a founding NOGLSTP chapter and supporter.

Earlier that same day (11am-12noon), members of the NOGLSTP Board will meet to plan and strategize for the coming year. All NOGLSTP members interested in the leadership and administration of the organization are welcome to attend this informal brainstorming session.

Please note that the AAAS Annual Meeting is in the month of JANUARY, instead of its traditional FEBRUARY.

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Homeokineticist Honored

by Thea Iberall

My father Arthur Iberall is a scientist. As a physicist, he developed the theory of homeokinetics, the physics of complex systems, with Dr. Warren McCulloch (MIT) and Dr. Harry Soodak (CCNY) in the 1950's and 60's. Last year, I realized that my father, still very active in science, was nevertheless turning 80 years old this year. And I thought, why have a surprise birthday party when you can have a whole surprise conference to honor him? With the help of my sister, Dr. Eleanora Robbins (USGS) and his colleagues at the University of Connecticut and Trinity College, I organized an incredible 3 day Festschrift for him this past July at the Thomas Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut. We managed to get 18 scientists to present papers on different complex systems, ranging from the Earth to human psychology to anthropology to political science. Over 60 people attended (including other gay scientists). My father (who I eventually did tell before July) ran two panel discussions with colleagues from the Department of Transportation, UCLA, and CCNY. I also started the conference off with a short video that I created describing the essence of his ideas, where they came from, and who contributed to the development. (I guess there is something to be said for working in a film school). On Saturday night, we had a magnificent banquet honoring him at the Museum on campus, complete with tributes, poetry, and good food.

I think I am lucky. Most of my life I have had a difficult relationship with my father. I thought he would never accept my being gay, or even anything else about me. But through both our willingness to reach out over the distance between us, we have created a close bond that has slowly grown over the last 9 years. It is a joy for me that I can give him such happiness today, and I see the relief he now feels, knowing that his work will continue after he is gone.

Dr. Thea Iberall is an expert in brain modeling and human hand function. She is currently the Managing Director of Lab Services and Research at the Entertainment Technology Center in the School of Cinema/TV at USC.

Road Trip Across America and Tales From the City

by Rochelle Diamond

THE ROAD TRIP is my 6-week cross-country trip this past spring. THE CITY is New York, the place around which the world revolves. My cousin Robert was giving us the snapshot grand tour of all the highlights of Manhattan. We were walking in Greenwich Village. (Don't make the mistake of pronouncing the second syllable as "which", or you will be laughed at by New York natives -- it's "grin'-itch"). My partner and I began to exchange knowing looks when we spied rainbow flags, awnings, and neon signs in some of the businesses along the streets. Pretty soon, we couldn't contain ourselves, and began pointing and exclaiming, "There's one." "There's another one!" Robert wondered what we were so excited about. "This must be the GAY part of town!" we replied. "How do you know?" he questioned. So we explained the use of the rainbow flag as a symbol of diversity and of our community. (To really appreciate this story, you MUST know that Robert was the vice-president of communications for a major financial corporation before he recently retired. Furthermore, he is very libertarian and conservative politically). So, anyway, we're walking along, educating Robert on gay pride and its symbology, when all of the sudden we are stopped in awe by what we see: THE STONEWALL BAR, the birthplace of the Stonewall Rebellion and the modern gay civil rights movement! This was very exciting, since The Stonewall Bar was only a place we had heard about in the mythology of the gay rights movement. And then, somehow we noticed the name of the street we were on: Christopher Street. Suddenly, the entire pride parade name in Los Angeles had new and significant meaning. Christopher Street West. (Duh!) AND, Robert learned a lot more than he ever thought there was to know about the gay community. I hope he tells his colleagues and friends at the country club!

Pictured below, Rochelle Diamond, NOGLSTP Chair, poses in front of New York's Stonewall Bar.

Barbara Belmont to Receive Service Award

Barbara Belmont, NOGLSTP Treasurer, is proud to announce that she will be receiving the 1998 Agnes Anne Green Distinguished Service Award from the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society. The leadership and organizational skills she developed through her work with LAGLS and NOGLSTP were put to mainstream use during the past 8 years on behalf of this local section of the American Chemical Society. Over the years, Barbara brought the section into the computer age by setting up a membership database and establishing an internet presence. She organized chemistry demonstrations for National Chemistry Week, and has performed numerous other public outreach activities. In 1996, Barbara was the first of her generation to serve as Section Chair; she is also the first of her generation to receive this very special service award. For more information, point your web browser to <http://members.aol.com/scalacs/sept98.html>.



**NGLTF RELEASES GROUNDBREAKING REPORT:
"From Wrongs To Rights:
Public Opinion On Gay and
Lesbian Americans Moves
Toward Equality"**

"FROM WRONGS TO RIGHTS" , authored by Alan Yang, doctoral candidate in the Dept. of Political Science at Columbia University, examines public opinion polls over the last two decades that measured attitudes toward gay and lesbian people and equal rights issues. Among other facts, "From Wrongs to Rights" shows that strong majorities of Americans now support equality in employment (84 percent); housing (81 percent); inheritance rights (62 percent) and social security benefits (57 percent) for same-sex couples; and gays in the military (66 percent). In addition, disapproval of same-sex relationships dropped a substantial 19 points from a peak of 75 percent in 1987 to 56 percent in 1996. The report also shows the percentage of people opposed to same-sex marriage (and those opposed to adoption by gay and lesbian couples) to be declining. The full report is available to down load or view at <http://www.ngltf.org>

NGLTF is the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Having recently called homosexuality a sin and compared it to alcoholism and kleptomania, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) took a slightly softer position in an appearance July 12 on CBS TV's "Face the Nation." He admitted that, "I'm not an expert on exactly what leads to this sort of, you know, preference or orientation," and said, "People feel like ... this is an area where ... while you want compassion and you don't want discrimination, you also don't want to have ... an activist agenda here which ... practices intolerance of those who have differing views, as a matter of fact. You know, I feel very strongly about my faith, and my beliefs in this area are based on the Bible. At the same time, I don't think you should use that in any way that mistreats people that have a different view."

On the other hand, Lott made clear for the first time that he personally will vote against confirming the nomination of openly gay James Hormel to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg. While not closing the door entirely on finally allowing that long-delayed question to come to the Senate floor in the 36 days before the session ends, Lott emphasized that nominations are on the "back burner" while large funding measures must take precedence. Since at least four Republicans placed "holds" on the Hormel confirmation vote, scheduling it for the floor rests entirely in Lott's hands. Democrats have gathered enough votes to block any possible filibuster on the debate, and it's been believed right along that Hormel's nomination would be approved if it came to a vote. Hormel's nomination passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in November, and all the other nominees approved at the same time have been voted on long since.

Numerous editorials in newspapers across the nation have slammed Lott and other Republicans for trying to make political hay with gay-bashing remarks, a chorus joined by White House press secretary Mike McCurry. Meanwhile, Lott has been exchanging barbs with the White House, each side blaming the other for the dearth of legislative progress this session.

Keep Us Informed

Has your area code changed lately? Some of us hardly even remember (let alone actually REALIZE) that our area code has changed in the last year or so. So you can imagine how oblivious we are here at the NOGLSTP office to all the area code reapportionment that's been going on. Please keep us informed! While you're at it, don't forget to notify us of address and email changes!

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 199807-199810, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 199803-199806, or trial2, it is past time to renew or join, and this will be your final newsletter unless we hear from you. We need and appreciate your continued support. Please fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109. Remember to add \$5US if you are subscribing outside of the US. Thank you. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes.

Check all that apply: New Regular Annual Contribution (\$15-25)
 Update Only Renewal (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)
 Student Contribution (\$10)

Date: _____ Label Code: _____ (inquire about our "starving student" grants)

Name: _____

Address: street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

dont' forget to fill out the other side 

ABOUT NOGLSTP

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbigay scientists and technical professionals, regional and caucus groups, and others interested in technical matters and the gay and lesbian community. NOGLSTP's goals include dialog with professional organizations, providing information, improving our member's employment and professional environment, opposing homophobia and stereotypes, educating the gay, scientific and general communities, and fostering inter-city contacts among our members. National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational organization under IRS section 501(c)3, incorporated in the State of California (TAX ID # 95-4358685). Membership dues are \$15-25 (sliding scale) annually for non-students. Student dues are \$10 annually. After the first \$10, dues are tax deductible. \$5 extra for memberships outside the US for the extra postage. Please, US dollars only. Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web page at <http://www.noglstp.org/>

1997-1998 Elected Board Members:

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Newsletter

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Articles are encouraged and gratefully received. Handwritten, typed, and magnetic (3.5" pc-FD) may be sent to the NOGLSTP office. If you have internet access, articles may be e-mailed the NOGLSTP office c/o_belmont@netcom.com.

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Event Announcements/Calendar

- ▽ September 11-12, 1998: First Regional Lesbian Health Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago (for more info: 773 561-4662)
- ▽ September 22-26, 1998: Web '98 Conference, Boston MA
- ▽ October 11, 1998: National Coming Out Day
- ▽ November 10, 1998: Les-Bi-Gay Neuroscientists Social, Los Angeles CA
- ▽ November 11-15, 1998: NGLTF "Creating Change Conference", Pittsburgh PA (for more info: 617 492-6393)
- ▽ January 24, 1999: NOGLSTP Board Meeting and Reception at the 1999 AAAS Annual Meeting, Anaheim CA



Get a \$200 Discount to Web '98!

The Web Design and Development Conference (WEB'98), sponsored by Miller Freeman, is the premier technical conference and tradeshow for Web professionals, and comes to Boston, MA, September 22-26. WEB'98 provides practical training from leading web development experts in strategy, information design, visual design, usability, programming, and backend. The Expo features the latest tools and technologies from more than 70 exhibitors. WEB'98 gives Web professionals what they need to succeed. Point your web browser to <http://www.mfweb.com> for more information.

Miller Freeman is offering NOGLSTP members a \$200 discount off registration fees. In addition, NOGLSTP members who do not wish to register for the conference may visit the exhibit area free of charge (a \$50 value) To register and/or obtain a free events pass, point your web browser to http://www.mfweb.com/welcome/association_alley/ and enter the source/discount code **BASOI 31** in the appropriate slot. Online registration is available until September 11, 1998. This discount offer may also be applied to onsite registration by bringing a printed copy of this notice with you.

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Techno-Interest/Occupation _____

Most Recent Degree/Discipline _____

Do you want your name and address/phone/email printed on a membership roster to be released to other NOGLSTP members? NO YES

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US WITH? (CHECK ANY THAT INTEREST YOU)
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLD OFFICE AAAS FUNDRAISING

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES EDIT NEWSLETTER PRODUCE NEWSLETTER

NEW PAMPHLET TOPICS GRANT WRITING

LIASON TO OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION _____

LBG Neuroscientists Will Meet in November

submitted by Terrance Ma

The Les-Bi-Gay Neuroscientists' 6th Annual Social will be held from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Tuesday November 10 in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting. It is (by the way) printed in the Society for Neuroscience Preliminary Program and will be in the full Program once it is published. Contact Michael Rogan (mr522@columbia.edu) for more information.

Another Year of Dyke Scientists at Michigan!

submitted by Laura Sanders
via the Lesbians In Science list-serve

About 50 womyn attended a "Lesbians in Science" workshop at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival last week. After introducing ourselves, we had an open discussion on wide-ranging topics. I didn't take notes, but here are some of the topics I can remember discussing.

Some of the participants brought up various difficulties they were experiencing in their bachelor's and graduate programs. Lack of time to study and have a personal life, isolation at work, lack of support from friends, hostile professors, hostile colleagues, and lack of money seemed to be common themes. Some dykes mentioned the importance of having a good support system, and several emphasized the importance of networking.

Editor's note: and of course, one of the goals of organizations like NOGLSTP is to serve as a networking and support system source!

IS THERE A NOGLSTP CHAPTER IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Often times prospective NOGLSTP members want to know if we have a chapter in their geographic area. Alas, we must often respond "no, we do not, but you're welcome to start one up...". NOGLSTP welcomes and encourages its members to network with other queer scientists in their home towns in an effort to create a local NOGLSTP chapter, and will even provide (very) modest assistance with start-up publicity. Contact the NOGLSTP office for more information and inspiration!

In NOGLSTP's infancy, there seemed to be an organization for queer scientists in every port and major city - Boston, Bay Area, San Jose, Houston, Philadelphia, New York, Washington DC, Dallas, Los Angeles, Orange County, and Research Triangle Area are a few that come to mind. Most of these groups and their connections with NOGLSTP dwindled. To our knowledge, the groups in Los Angeles, Research Triangle Area, Philadelphia, and New York are the only ones still in existence, known as Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists (LAGLS), Triangle Area Gay Scientists (TAGS), The Humboldt Society, and Natural History Group, respectively. Each group has something unique to offer, including great friends. Check it out!

Federal Employees Stand Up to Be Counted

submitted by
Rich Clark, President, Salutaris
The NIH Gay and Lesbian Employees Forum

In preparation for National Coming Out Day on October 11, Federal GLOBE is putting together a registry of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees of the Federal Government. You can add your name to the registry by going to the Federal GLOBE home page (<http://www.fedglobe.org>) and following the link to the NCOD Register. There is a form you can fill out online and submit. A representative from Federal GLOBE will contact you by phone to confirm your submission before they actually post your name on the register. After National Coming Out Day, the register will be published in the Congressional Record.

SOCIOLOGISTS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDER CAUCUS

The SLGBTG Caucus facilitated a panel discussion entitled "Sex Panic", as well as met for business and a reception at the American Sociologists Association/SSSP Joint Meetings this past week in San Francisco. For more information on SLGBTG events, contact Program Chair Chris Carrington at 415 338-1466 or topher@sfsu.edu

LGB Chemists at National ACS Meetings

The American Chemical Society holds its national meetings twice a year, and lesbigay chemists got together at both the Dallas meeting in the spring, and the Boston meeting just this past week. To stay in touch with their activities, join their unmoderated email list: toba@psu.edu to subscribe;

lgbchem@bragg.bmb.psu.edu to post.

Pictured below: queer chemists pose after a fast-food lunch in Dallas.



MCVEIGH SETTLES WITH NAVY

You remember the predicament of Master Chief Petty Officer Tim McVeigh, don't you? McVeigh is the guy who's AOL account information was disclosed in violation of the law to Navy investigators probing whether he was gay. According to the July 1998 American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter Newsletter, McVeigh agreed to accept a full retirement from the Navy and a settlement covering attorney's fees and court costs. Earlier this year, the court ruled that the Navy's actions violated both the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. America Online publicly apologized and made a separate settlement with McVeigh for an undisclosed sum. AOL also revised its privacy policy and beefed up its training for customer service representatives on maintaining confidentiality.

Told Ya So....

In the Winter 97/98 issue of the *NOGLSTP Bulletin*, Chair Rochelle Diamond had an editorial entitled "Magic Bullets and Double-Edged Swords". In this editorial, Rochelle cautioned against regarding the protease inhibitor cocktails as long term "magic bullets", and warned people not to change their safe sex habits because we wouldn't be able to forever manage HIV infection as a chronic-but-not-terminal disease. (If you don't remember the editorial, point your browser to the NOGLSTP Home Page <http://www.noglstp.org>, and follow the links).

According to the September 1 issue of *The Advocate*, Rochelle's and other AIDS experts predictions have proven true. At the recent 12th World AIDS Conference it was reported that there is now evidence that drug resistant strains of HIV can be transmitted during unprotected sex. It was also reported that even when HIV levels are too low to be detected in the blood, a reservoir of HIV is retained in semen and other fluids.

So, be careful, dammit!

NOGLSTP and the FEDS

NOGLSTP continues to be a resource to the Federal Government. A few years ago it was the General Accounting Office who wanted our input on security clearance discrimination. Recently, we were contacted by the Department of Health and Human Services to nominate potential members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing. This committee will advise the DHHS on issues associated with genetic testing and genetic test development.

Not that we had anybody to recommend, but it was nice to be asked...

Nature or Nurture Revisited

The "origin" of homosexuality, or shall we politically correctly say, "foundation of sexual orientation", continues to be of interest to the media and general public, especially since the recent controversy over those newspaper advertisements placed by the hetero-converted Exodus people. Like the one featuring the cheery woman, with her nice straight hair-do and neatly plucked eyebrows - "wife, mother, former lesbian" - who overcame homosexuality through prayer, counseling, and will. NOGLSTP was used as a resource referral to several experts and was quoted consulted for an article on this topic ("Argument over nature of homosexuality heats up again") which was published in the August 5th issue of *The Miami Herald* (Knight-Ridder).

It appears that nobody except the people who want to change thinks this conversion stuff is a good idea. The American Psychiatric Association and American Psychological Association consider conversion therapy so dangerous they've passed policy statements discrediting the practice.

Luckily, even the Exodus people acknowledge that their techniques don't work on somebody who is gay and happy and has no interest in "changing".

News in Medicine

Caution with Viagra

Following an April meeting with Viagra manufacturer Pfizer, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association issued a cautionary statement on Viagra's use with protease inhibitors and "poppers".

Viagra and Protease Inhibitors

Specific interaction studies with Viagra and protease inhibitors have not yet been done. Thus, HIV-positive men who are taking protease inhibitors and who are considering using Viagra should carefully review what is known about Viagra with their physician. It is not known how Viagra will interact with protease inhibitors, but it is believed that protease inhibitors could enhance some of the side-effects of Viagra, such as headaches and flushing. When Viagra and protease inhibitors and/or antibiotics are taken together, they could cause an elevation in Viagra plasma concentrations.

Viagra and Nitrates

Consistent with the way Viagra produces its beneficial effects (i.e. by acting through the nitric oxide/cGMP pathway), it may potentiate the hypotensive effects of nitrates in any form (particularly inhaled forms such as amyl nitrate or "poppers") and is therefore contraindicated. "Poppers" act by dilating blood vessels, and the concurrent use of "poppers" and Viagra could result in sudden and marked lowering of blood pressure, which can be potentially serious or even fatal.