

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Fall/Winter 1998

©National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc.  
NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, <http://www.noglstp.org>

**NOGLSTP salutes Triangle Area Gay Scientists (TAGS) and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists (LAGLS) for their long-term organization continuity. 1999 is the 20th Anniversary of LAGLS' first meeting for gay scientists. TAGS, a little older than LAGLS, recently celebrated its 20 year anniversary also. Hats off to the committed members of these two organizations, who assure continuity in providing nurturing and supportive social environments for their local technoqueers.**

## NOGLSTP Reception at 1999 AAAS Convention

In January, NOGLSTP will be hold its 6th consecutive reception at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Cohosted by Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists, a founding NOGLSTP chapter and supporter, this event will be on Sunday January 24, at the Anaheim Marriott, 4:30-6:30 pm, in the Los Angeles Room. This is your opportunity to meet and greet the movers and shakers of NOGLSTP and the queers in the science world! Snacks/Refreshments will be served. Attire level:



"corporate casual Friday". (Unless you're a chemist, in which case you should put something on without holes in it). Spouses, sothers, companions, all welcome. It is not necessary to register for the AAAS convention to come to this reception only. You will have to register for the convention if you plan

to attend any symposia or the science innovation exhibition. Questions? Call the NOGLSTP office (626 791-7689) or email [bbelmont@access1.net](mailto:bbelmont@access1.net).

There will be a NOGLSTP Board of Directors meeting earlier that same day beginning 11am. Meet in the Hilton Conference 13 and plan on going out to lunch while we plan and strategize for the coming year. All interested NOGLSTP members who want to help with leadership are welcome to attend. Please let the NOGLSTP office know in advance of your

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# News from NOGLSTP Members

**Arnold Zwicky**, professor *emeritus* of linguistics, is pleased to announce that he has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

**Joe Zivny**, Southern

California Chapter Delegate for LEAGUE at NCR, reports that the LGBT employee groups of San Diego area NCR and HP held a joint luncheon in December. In addition, Twelve lesbian and gay employee groups from San

Diego County companies were recognized at a special reception in November hosted by United Way of San Diego County, The Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center and Being Alive San Diego. LEAGUE is Lesbian And Gay United Employees.

## Challenging Economic Myths....

Several years ago (1994) Badgett and the National Gay the USA Today article, NOGLSTP and economics and Lesbian Task Force have marketing executives don't professor Lee Badgett just released a report of similar plan on changing the way they produced an educational content, entitled "Income market to gay people. Maybe pamphlet - "Beyond biased Inflation: The Myth of because they realize how Samples -Challenging Affluence Among Gay, lesbian brand-loyal we can be to Economic Myths About and Bisexual Americans". companies that target market Lesbians and Gay Men". This report, based on data us. The pamphlet described "biased" amassed from seven other A copy of the NOGLSTP/ and "unbiased" surveys, and studies, including a 1998 Badgett pamphlet can be challenged the common myth updating of the 1990 Census, perused via NOGLSTP's home that gay and lesbian people concludes that most marketing page <http://www.noglstp.org>. have higher incomes than their studies have mistakenly Alternatively, send a SASE to heterosexual counterparts. The focused on upscale gays and the NOGLSTP Office, and December 3rd issue of USA do not accurately reflect the we'll mail it to you. Today reported that Dr. gay population. According to

### An End to an Era

High Tech Gays, the San Jose California-based organization for technoqueers, has died a quiet death. In its hey-day of the mid-80's, HTG had a membership base of at least 500 people. Comprised mainly of engineers and computer scientists employed in the Silicon Valley, HTG as an organization was aggressive in its activism in matters of security clearance and employment non-discrimination. In later years, HTG became very influential in the political arena, and many members were instrumental in establishing the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

Some say that the demise of the organization was the natural outcome of having successfully met its goals — it was no longer needed. For a brief glimpse into history, point your web browser to [www.htg.org](http://www.htg.org). The web site will be gone after the Spring of 1999.

### A Victory for the Trans Community

Apple Computer has added "gender identity characteristics or expression" to its anti-discrimination statement, according to the Transgender Community Forum of America Online. The employee group Apple Lambda had been lobbying for the amendment for three years.

## on the internet

After much discussion on the NOGLSTP listserv about who's company offers what Domestic Partner Benefits, an alert member directed us to an extensive listing on the internet at [www.buddybuddy.com/d-p-1.html](http://www.buddybuddy.com/d-p-1.html) This is the most current listing we've seen to date, and is an excellent resource!

Along the Domestic Partner Benefits thread, someone cautioned participants of the tax liability the recipient of such benefits may have. Health benefits provided to an employee's domestic partner are taxed as wages. For more information, check out [www.nvrealtors.org/jan98/law.html](http://www.nvrealtors.org/jan98/law.html)

And finally, in answer to many inquiries regarding where to find LGBT Employee Groups, point your web browser to [members.aol.com/leaguesoca/othergroups.htm](http://members.aol.com/leaguesoca/othergroups.htm)

# Gay Science Teacher Fights Defections from Classroom

Small-minded prejudice prevails at Bakersfield's Rio Bravo-Greely Union School, where parents are demanding that their children be transferred out of science teacher James Merrick's classroom just because he is gay. Merrick "came out" during a highly publicized campaign last spring to recall a member of the Kern County Human Relations Commission who stated publicly that all homosexuals were sick and that he wouldn't want his child to be taught by a gay teacher. By time the September semester began, school officials informed Merrick that many parents had asked their children to be removed from his class. Other parents soon began following suit, succumbing to stereotypical homophobia. Bakersfield is a rural area on the southern end of California's central valley, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles.

Merrick, immensely popular and highly regarded by students and teachers, won the 1996 Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year Award. He contends that the school district's decision to grant wholesale parental requests for student transfers based solely on his sexual orientation is a form of discrimination that is illegal in California. The California Teachers Union agrees, saying that the state labor code prohibits "different treatment in any aspect of employment on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation". James Merrick just wants his students back.

## Matthew Shepard - Victim, Martyr, Catalyst

Editorial by Barbara Belmont

The brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, the Wyoming college student who was killed for no other reason than that he was gay, shocked our complacent community into reality. We tired old activists felt that familiar paranoiac pit in our gut when the news reports first came out about the gruesome discovery of Matthew's near-lifeless body. Cynically, we thought "this is just another fag-beating that happens all the time..", but we were horrified and angered at the hideous disregard the perpetrators had for the life of a human being. We were relieved to learn that Matthew had finally died of his injuries, for life without cognizant brain function would have been no life at all. We were deeply moved, as no doubt Matthew's family was, by the outpouring of indignation, sorrow, and support from people all over the world - gay and non-gay. We, or somebody we knew, went to a Matthew Shepard memorial service, to honor a victim of intolerance who unwittingly had become a martyr to the cause. Young queers who had been enjoying the in-roads made by their predecessors were catalyzed to political action, and spoke inspirationally and eloquently. We can only hope that something good --like increased awareness and tolerance, righteous indignation, and anti-hate crime legislation -- can come from something so bad. And we can do more than hope. We can continue to take action — and teach our successors to do so, too.

## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 199811-199902, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 199807-199810, 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.

cut here

### Membership Form

To renew your NOGLSTP membership or become a member of NOGLSTP, support its activities, and receive a newsletter, complete this form and send it with a check or money order to:

**NOGLSTP**  
**PO BOX 91803**  
**Pasadena CA 91109**

Annual Membership Dues are:  
 \$15-25 (sliding scale) (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)  
 \$10 for students and unemployed\*  
 \*inquire about our limited free memberships to 'starving students'  
 \$5 extra for memberships outside of the US  
 (for the extra postage) (US Funds only, please!)

Renewal  New  Info change only

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (don't forget your zip code!)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/URL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Technointerest or profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Latest Degree/Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your name and phone/email printed on a membership roster to be released to other NOGLSTP members?  
 rYES rNO

Do you want your email/URL to be placed on the NOGLSTP web page?  
 rYES rNO

Don't forget to fill out the other side

# New CDC Guidelines on HIV Reporting

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has published new guidelines recommending that state governments report HIV cases, using either the patient's name or an identifying code. Previously, only actual AIDS cases were reported. Now, thanks to the new medication protocols, many HIV-positive people aren't developing the AIDS-defining infections as quickly as their unfortunate predecessors did, so the CDC is not able to track the disease as well as it did in the past. Some states are also considering the implementation of partner-notification policies. The ACLU has expressed concerns that the proposed CDC guidelines are bad for public health and will deter people from being tested for HIV by threatening their basic privacy rights. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) rejects the concept of partner notification and strongly opposes named HIV reporting. Instead, they recommend expanded government funding of anonymous HIV test sites, as well as the use of encoded tracking. For a full statement on the GLMA's public policy on this matter, point your web browser to [www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org), and follow the links to "public policy".

## Membership/Renewal Form (continued):

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

Special Techno-Interests or Expertise:

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

## 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

G/L/B/T CAUCUS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (which one?)

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT NOGLSTP

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbian 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 [bbelmont@access1.net](mailto:bbelmont@access1.net)

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