

star community

CORRECTION

Southern Star reported (15/04) Jewish gay group Aleph was “excluded” from the Jewish Community Council of Victoria’s GLBT reference group. There are currently three members of Aleph on the reference group. Aleph convenor Michael Barnett was excluded.

POLITICS

A new group which aims to get the GLBTI community more involved in politics has been established by three well known gay community leaders. Set to shine a spotlight on issues that matter to the community, Poofs’n’Politics has started with a survey to canvass community views. To complete the survey, visit www.poofsnpolitics.org.au

BEATS

Victoria’s Anti-Violence Project is urging beat users to be vigilant about safety after an armed robbery at a Port Melbourne beat (SS 079). Senior Constable Gabrielle Tyacke has requested victims of beat violence to come forward. Victims can report to their local police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer or report anonymously through the AVP website. Contact GLOs on 9247 6944, or visit www.antiviolence.info

TRANSGENDER

A revised version of the *Gender Questioning (GQ)* booklet is now available, providing a comprehensive resource for young people questioning their gender. The booklet is aimed at people aged 16 to 25 years, and is a joint project of the Trans Melbourne Gender Project, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria and the Rainbow Network. The booklet is available on the Rainbow Network and GLHV websites. Email r.ward@latrobe.edu.au to receive a hard copy.

CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 18th International AIDS Conference in Austria, July 18–23. The push for universal access to HIV treatments is set to be the major topic, along with the challenges facing HIV prevention, treatment and support. The International AIDS Conference is the leading gathering for those working in the HIV sector. Delegates who register by May 5 will avoid a last-minute fee surcharge. Visit www.aids2010.org



Hot seamen on screen

The Channel 9 publicity department sent us this picture of *Sea Patrol* star Conrad Colby this week, saying they thought “it might appeal to your readers”. Who are we to argue? Conrad joins Lisa McCune, Ian Stenlake and the rest of the cast for season four of the show, screening Thursdays at 8.30pm. Let’s hope Colby keeps that shirt off all season.

Bisexuals form new alliance

ANDIE NOONAN

Putting the ‘b’ back in the GLBTI acronym, two online bisexual support groups have joined forces to create a new advocacy group — Bisexual Alliance Victoria — to increase public awareness of bisexuality.

The group has joined members of monthly chat group Melbourne Bi Chat and Victorian Bi Activists to establish an 80-person alliance with a four-member executive.

Bisexual Alliance Victoria president James Dominguez told *Southern Star* it was time to develop a credible face to speak out on issues affecting the bisexual community.

“People outside in the heterosexual mainstream tend to think only ‘gay’ or ‘lesbian,’” he said.

“It’s a problem of visibility... If you’re looking at sexuality from a binary perspective, you can see a straight person, or you can see a gay person because they’re holding hands or kissing the same or opposite sex.

“You can’t really see a bisexual.”

Dominguez said the group, which is still in the set-up stage, aims to provide a public voice and go-to point when issues arise affecting the bisexual community, including speaking out in the media when bisexual people are misrepresented.

Dominguez, who is married to a woman, said bisexual people can be marginalised by the gay and lesbian community for “not making up our minds”, and often find themselves in a social



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limbo.

Dominguez said it was “very disappointing” to hear insults like “stop sitting on the fence” hurled at the bisexual contingent in a recent Pride march.

“I’ve had friends who’ve lost their entire friendship network because they’ve told their friends that they’re not gay but bisexual,” he said.

“It can be very hurtful.”

Dominguez’s experience is backed by both local and international research which shows bisexuals have higher rates of depression.

In four Australian Research Centre for Sex Health and Society (ARCSHS) studies this decade, bisexuals showed poorer mental health than homosexuals.

Empirical research also suggests bisexuals face a negative attitude from heterosexuals and homosexuals for being ‘unreliable’.

“It’s about visibility,” Dominguez said.

“If we’re out there and that helps one person realise there are other people out there like them, then it’s worth it.”

Dominguez said the Alliance will work with social support group Bi-Victoria which has been running for more than 15 years.

Position Vacant - News Journalist

Australia’s oldest and best-read gay and lesbian news publication, the *Sydney Star Observer*, is on the hunt for an experienced news reporter.

The successful candidate will have:

- Excellent reporting, writing and editing skills
- Sharp news judgement
- An ability to work to tight deadlines.
- A solid understanding of best practice in online media and content
- Online multimedia skills would be highly regarded
- Exceptional community regard and focus

In return we can offer you the opportunity to work in a relaxed and central location with a fun and passionate team.

If this sounds like the role for you, email your application, brief CV and three examples of your work to: jobs@starobserver.com.au. Applications close Wednesday April 28 2010.

For more information contact Scott Abrahams on (02) 8263 0513



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