

ITALY SPRING '94

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday Sept. 8, 3:00-4:00
251 Bizzell Hall
West



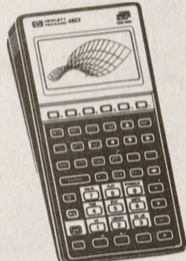
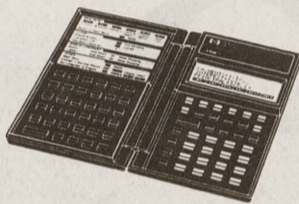
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Lesbian battles court for child custody

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Gay rights advocates are closely watching a potential landmark case in Virginia, where a judge this week will consider whether a woman may retain custody of her lesbian daughter's 2-year-old son.

It is a highly unusual custody battle because it pits a nonparent against a mother whose only alleged parental shortcoming has been her sexual relationship.

Sharon Bottoms, 23, lives with her partner, 27-year-old April Wade. Kay Bottoms, 42, con-

tends that fact makes her daughter unfit to be a mother.

"The question is whether a parent should be disqualified because of sexual orientation or lifestyle," said Donald Butler, Sharon Bottoms' lawyer.

A different answer to the question Butler posed comes from Anne Kincaid, spokeswoman for the Family Foundation, a conservative Virginia group that says it has 30,000 members.

"Is it discrimination based on sexual orientation or is it child protection based on the mother's sexual behavior?" she said.

"It's important to note the difference between sexual orientation and sexual behavior," Kincaid added.

Kay Bottoms' lawyer, Richard Ryder, did not return a reporter's repeated phone calls.

However, he told the Richmond Times-Dispatch in an interview last May that "the lesbian relationship is detrimental to the child and will get more so in the future."

Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Virginia, disagreed.

"There is ample evidence that gays and lesbians make good parents," he said.

Inhalants on the rise among teens, study shows

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — When Ryan Link came home after a night out with his friends, it wasn't smoke or alcohol his parents smelled on his breath — it was gasoline.

Ryan, 17, was a "huffer" — someone who inhales fumes from gasoline, hair spray, butane, or

any number of household products to get a cheap high.

When Ryan's parents sought help, their minister advised them to "make light of" their son's substance abuse.

The family doctor and the high school counselor didn't know how to handle Ryan's problem.

Parents and educators often dismiss the dangers of huffing, despite its prevalence, its increas-

ing popularity among teens and its potential deadliness, said Catherine MacIntyre, the director of the International Institute for Inhalant Abuse in Englewood.

Nearly one-fifth of American high school seniors have tried to get high from some kind of inhalant, according to a 1991 study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Inhalants rank fourth in popu-

larity among schoolchildren, behind alcohol, tobacco and marijuana ahead of Colorado eighth-graders, 21 percent reported using inhalants at least once, according to a survey.

Inhalant institute officials say huffing is attractive to juveniles because it is cheap and the products themselves are legal.

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9/7/93-Tuesday @ 7p.m.: Meet the Men of Omega Delta Phi. 229A-MSO (Shirt and Tie)

9/8/93-Wednesday 8-10p.m.: Billards Night @ Alfred T. Hornbeck's. (Casual Dress)

9/9/93-Thursday @ 7p.m.: Chips and Bones Night

9/10/93-Friday @ 7p.m.: Dinner @ Dos Hermanos. (Collared Shirt/Pullover)

EASY MONEY

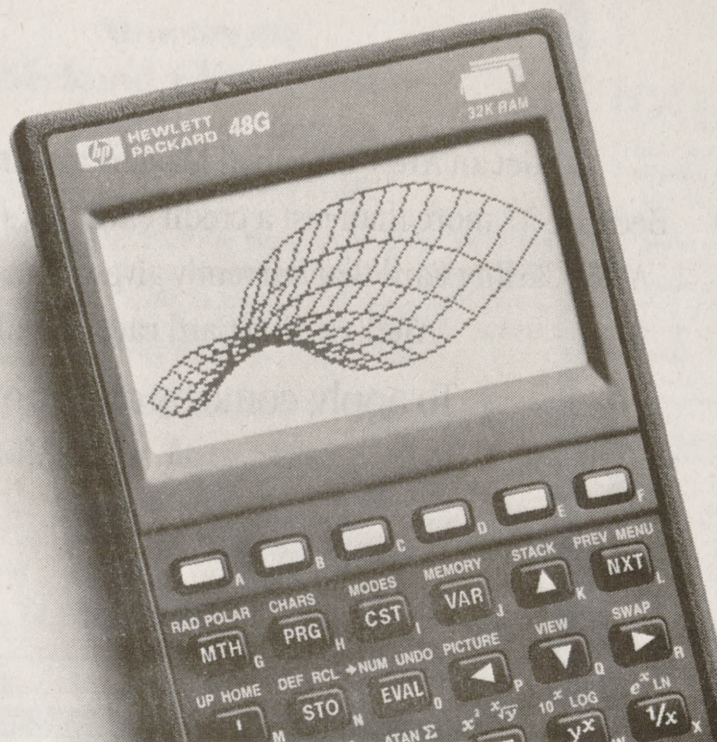
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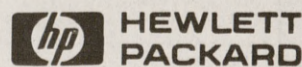
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