Same-sex marriages

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The case has been remanded to trial court. A final decision affirming equal rights is expected to be made by the Hawaii Supreme Court within the next two years. HERMP organizers, however, concede that finances may play a vital role in the ability to secure the over 100 legal rights associated with civil marriage. A \$25,000 legal bill continues to mount and organizers anticipate the need for much more backing to help educate Hawaii citizens about the positive implications of same-sex marriage.

"We hope everyone takes this opportunity to come out and support this equal rights movement," says Ninia Baehr, HERMP Co-Chair. "All contributions will do a lot to keep us moving forward," Baehr notes. HERMP tax-deductible contributions can be sent to HERMP, c/o GLCC, 1820 University Ave., #8, Honolulu, HI 96822.



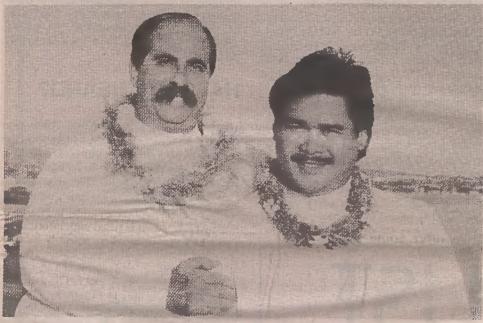
Ninia Baehr and Genora Dancel

After being introduced to each other by Ninia's mother, it was love at first sight for Ninia and Genora, who are going on their fourth year as a couple. Both born in Honolulu, this dynamic couple enjoys kayaking in the beautiful ocean off their Kailua, Hawaii

Genora, after graduating from a local Oahu high school, went to technical school to become the first female engineer to work at a local television station. She now stays extremely busy with two full-time engineering jobs. Next, Genora plans to go back to school in the fall where she will begin premed studies.

Ninia is currently a coordinator of the University of Hawaii Women's Center. Equipped with a masters degree in American Women's History, Ninia uses her talents and education to fight human rights violations both in the U.S. and abroad.

Both Ninia's and Genora's parents are very supportive of their pursuit to marry.



Joe Melillo and Patrick Lagon

Joe Melillo, 46, and his lover Patrick Lagon, 36, have been a couple for 15 years. Together, they own and operate a successful screen printing company in Honolulu.

Patrick is one of ten children in his family to be born and raised in the islands. After graduating from a local high school, he continued his study of art design, and today handles the artistic side of the business he maintains with Joe.

Joe, a native of New Jersey, made Hawaii

his home 28 years ago. His professional endeavors include teaching home economics and culinary arts at the University of Hawaii, working as a chef for the former governor of Hawaii, setting up a real estate brokerage, and creating his own design firm.

Once the state approves their legal marriage, Joe and Pat plan to make their vows immediately. "We're gonna run downtown and grab the first person that will marry us," says Joe. "We've waited too long already."

Overcome" and "This Land Is Your Land" in between speeches by GLPM Co-chairpersons Matt Tischler and Kyira Korrigan. Local resident Ray Parmenter also addressed the

"I think we all understand that this is no change at all," Korrigan told the crowd. "We understand that this is in no way gaining rights in the military."

Korrigan also said that gays and lesbians were not only forced to be fighting for their rights in the armed forces, but for their lives as well.

Parmenter told the gathering the Lambda Legal Defense Fund was preparing a class action suit against the new policy and urged military personnel and reservists to take ac- to help communicate events like the vigil.

tion to make the new policy illegal. He said the fund was hoping to gather up to 25,000 signatures onto the suit.

"With Clinton's policy," he said after the rally, "what has changed? Nothing. So we can hang out with gay friends. Who will be the one who decides who will be investi-

A lone person, who identified himself as a veteran, interrupted Parmenter at the beginning of his speech to complain about the group's presence at the memorial. After he told them that the memorial was considered sacred ground to veterans, he exchanged remarks with members of the audience and left quietly. Some of the vigil attendees shouted "Shame" and started singing during his talk.

Tischler thanked the crowd for their ability to organize so many people in two days and said GLPM was expanding a phone tree

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