

# National Coming Out Day 1994 Set For Tuesday

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Every year on October 11, people come out of the closet.

That is, they come out as gay, lesbian, and bisexual people for National Coming Out Day to their friends, families, and colleagues.

The date commemorates the march on Washington in 1987 for Lesbian and Gay Rights, as well as the inaugural visit of the NAMES Project (the AIDS Quilt) to the nation's capital.

Coming out of the proverbial closet has its stages. Those advocating NCOD say the first thing suggested is to accept one's homosexuality before any more change can take place.

Coming out is a very personal process, often the most difficult step for a lot of men and women to undertake.

It takes a lot of courage to come out, especially the younger a person is. Today there aren't many outlets for young people, especially gay and lesbian youth. It means putting one's self at risk for rejection or misunderstanding.

This is why NCOD was created—to encourage people to take their next step in the coming out process and to let the world know who they are. Being honest and up front allows gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to begin destroying the myths and bigotry surrounding homosexuality.

This year, the theme for NCOD

is "Being Out in the Workplace." According to the NCOD national headquarters, "In the workplace, people often establish themselves as employee first, and as a person second. Yet by coming out in the workplace, gays and lesbians can have a rational, respectful dialogue that changes attitudes to neutral or positive."

Some tips for coming out are: make a commitment every day to tell people the truth about yourself to others. Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to include protections and benefits on the basis of sexual orientation. Join a national or local gay and lesbian organization. Write letters to local and national elected officials urging them to support fairness

and equality for gays and lesbians. Support gay and non-gay companies that support the gay community, and help make the identity of the gay community as diverse as possible by getting involved and being visible.

NCOD 1993, the sixth annual observance, set a new record by reaching over two million people in 44 states and three countries. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Association at UNLV has adopted its own theme for National Coming Out Day: "GAY IS OK."

The LGBA asks all people, gay and straight, to show support for all gay, lesbian, and bisexual people who are coming out by wearing pink or lavender on Tuesday.

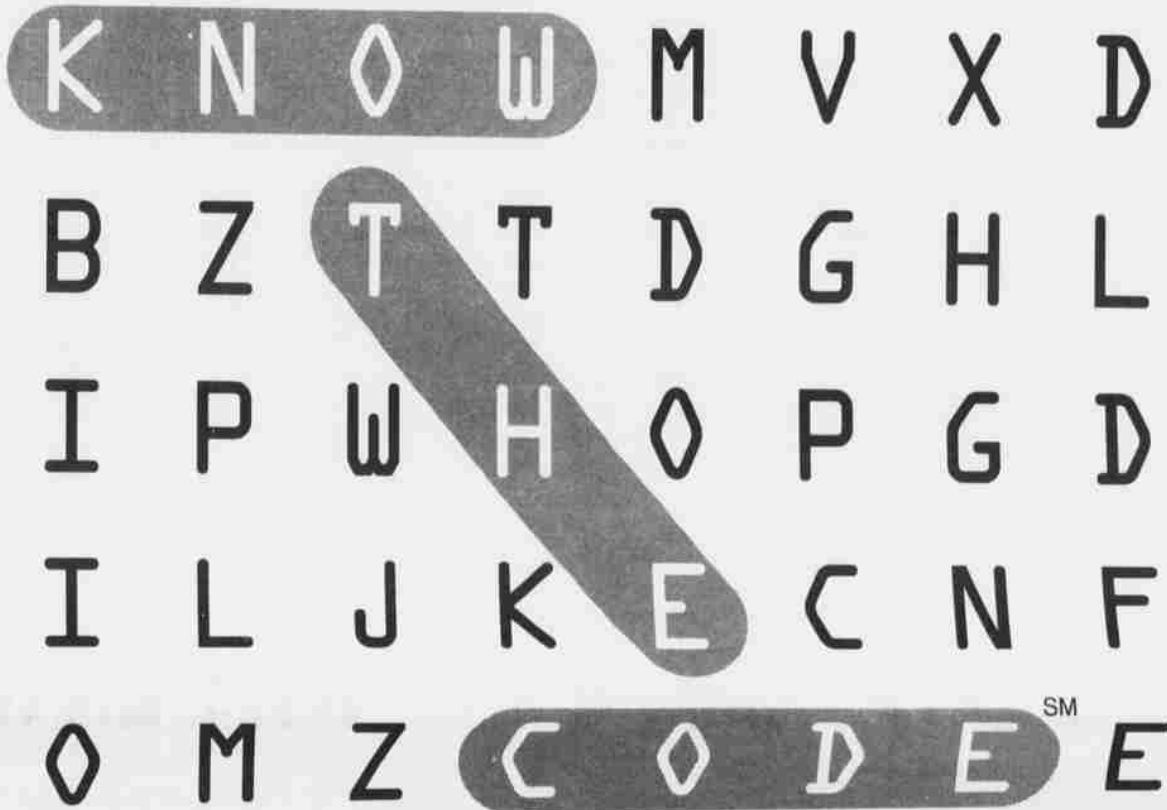
Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity

and Lambda Delta Lambda Sorority, both at UNLV, also encourage their gay and lesbian brothers and sisters to "come out, be heard and be counted."

The Las Vegas Lesbian and Gay Pride Association is the parent group that funds the event. This year's events include keynote speakers Edgar Rodriguez, and Donna Red Wing; female pop/dance group Fem 2 Fem, and local entertainment. The event will make available a handful of information, community service referrals and workshops.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, behind the Sam Boyd Stadium from 12 p.m. till 9 p.m. Admission is \$5.

For additional information contact 369-8127, ext. 7743.



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## Graduate Student Association Announces First Activity

A retreat is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 22-23 at Zion National Park. The cost is \$32, and includes transportation, meals and admission to the park. All graduate students and their families are invited to attend.

For more information please call 895-3993.

The Student Health Center will be offering Flu Shots beginning Oct. 15, 1994. Flu Shots will be available to all faculty staff students for a \$5.00 fee on a walk-in basis only. Please call daily for walk-in hours.

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