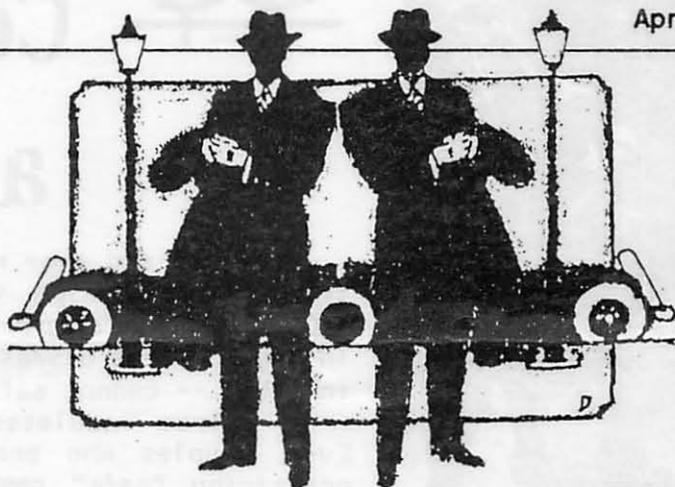


# PARTNERS

The Newsletter For Gay and Lesbian Couples

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## AAA Policy Challenged

A delegation of gay couples attended the annual members meeting of the Automobile Club of Southern California (ACSC) March 9th to protest discriminatory membership policies. ACSC is an affiliate of the American Automobile Association (AAA).

ACSC member dues are \$34. Associate membership for a spouse costs \$12 more. While "spouse" is not defined in ACSC by-laws, same-sex applicants have been denied associate membership rates.

Los Angeles attorney Thomas F. Coleman and his spouse, Michael A. Vasquez, proposed a by-law amendment which would qualify any second adult household member for associate membership. Coleman's proposal is now under review by the ACSC board of directors.

Coleman, who teaches a class on "Rights of Dom-

estic Partners" at USC Law School, says the club's membership policies and screening practices may constitute illegal marital status or sexual orientation discrimination under state and local laws.

According to Coleman, the Los Angeles Task Force on Family Diversity recently reviewed ACSC membership practices, uncovering "a systematic policy of discrimination against gay and lesbian couples."

According to task force member David Link, ACSC routinely denies all obvious same-sex associate applications, but accepts all opposite-sex applications, even if the male-female couples' last names are different.

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