

CONTACT:

January 13, 1984

PRESS RELEASE

Deborah L. Johnson and Zandra Z. Rolon, lesbian life-mates, reserved a sheer-curtained, semi-private booth in Papa Choux Restaurant on January 13, 1983 to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. After having been seated, the two were refused service because it is the restaurant's long-standing policy not to serve persons of the same sex in its semi-private booths.

The couple filed a lawsuit with their attorney, Gloria Allred, against Papa Choux Restaurant for discrimination against its customers on account of their sex or sexual preference. The lawsuit was filed because the plaintiff customers and their attorney believe that every person has the right to associate with the person of their choice, and it is wrong and illegal under the Unruh Civil Rights Act to deny them the right to service in certain sections of the restaurant for solely arbitrary reasons, such as sex, sexual preference or race.

Since the filing of the lawsuit, the restaurant has on several occasions in the printed media publicly stated its policy of denying service to same sex couples and has even gone so far as to publicly announce that the management will gladly go to jail before obeying a court order to serve two people of the same sex in those booths, if so issued.

A boycott campaign against the restaurant has been launched by the plaintiffs under the name of STOP DINING DISCRIMINATION, 8306 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 841, Beverly Hills, California 90211.

At 6:00 P.M. on January 15, 1984, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a candlelight vigil will be held in front of the restaurant in protest of the restaurant's discriminatory seating practices.