

making the news

From Associated Press reports

UTICA, N.Y. — Thirty days hath September. Except in the Utica school system, where it has 31 on the 10,000 new 1979 calendars they just bought for \$20,000.

The calendars also have Ash Wednesday falling on a Tuesday, and both the first week of April and October have two Mondays.

Assistant Superintendent Francis Rodio, who supervised the project, said it had not been determined if the errors were made by the firm that designed the calendar, or the typesetter or the printer.

"We had proofreaders go over it and we found some errors and corrected them, but I guess we didn't catch them all," said Ted Graystone, whose firm designed them. "These things happen."

NEW YORK — More than half the teen-age girls using contraceptives supplied by birth control clinics say their parents are aware of it, a new study shows.

The report, released Wednesday by the New York-based Alan Guttmacher Institute, also said that only 11 percent of the 1,442 young women surveyed in 10 states said they would stop having sex if it was required that their parents be notified they sought contraceptives.

BISHOP, Calif. — An earthquake caused minor damage when it shook this Sierra Nevada area today. It measured about 5.7 on the Richter scale.

The 15-second tremor, centered 17 miles northwest of Bishop, was felt throughout the sparsely populated southern and central Sierra Nevada area and much of the San Joaquin Valley.

"It was strong. I was standing up and it made me sway back and forth," said Bishop Policeman Earl McWilliams. Bishop, a town of about 4,000 persons, is 300 miles north of Los Angeles.

The earthquake struck at 9:43 a.m., according to seismologists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and University of California at Berkeley. At least three aftershocks were felt in the next hour.

New gay rights battle heats up in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami area is in for another gay rights battle.

The fight opened Wednesday with petitioners, led by a homosexual rights advocate, forcing onto the Nov. 7 ballot a broad new equal opportunity ordinance that would ban discrimination based on a wide range of factors — including "sexual or affectional preferences."

In including those four words, this proposal would be similar to a measure repealed in a bitter and well-publicized referendum in 1977.

The new proposal, however, would also include other categories of forbidden discrimination — for example, against pregnant women, union members and people whose native language is not English.

Robert Kunst, who helped lead the homosexual rights movement here during the 1977 campaign and helped write the new proposed ordinance, said that "this is not a gay issue or a gay rights ordinance, but rather a full equality of opportunity law ... that recognizes the special problems in discrimination faced by students,

veterans, people in the military, pregnant women and those, particularly in Miami's Latin community, who need to be protected against discrimination due to native language."

"By putting this ordinance on the ballot," he told the commissioners, "Dade voters will have a chance to vote for themselves, for their community, for their families and for their country — protecting everyone."

But it is the so-called gay rights section of the ordinance that appears likely to deliver the most controversy.

For a number of years, the Dade County has banned discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, physical handicap, marital status or place of birth.

In 1977, the commissioners added the category of affectional or sexual preference to that law — and stirred a storm. Singer Anita Bryant gained nationwide attention when she helped lead a campaign to repeal it, and the campaign won with a popular vote of more than 2-1.

Senate signals support

ERA clears major obstacle

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate signaled Wednesday it will extend the ratification deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment and decided that states cannot use the additional time to take back their approval of the ERA.

By a 54-44 margin, the Senate rejected a proposal by Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, to couple an additional 39-month ratification period with an opportunity for ratifying states to rescind their actions.

The vote cleared a major congressional obstacle facing ERA advocates while dealing a severe blow to its opponents.

Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., principal Senate sponsor of the extension, predicted the Senate would approve the ERA extension by a healthy margin when the issue comes to a final vote set for Friday.

Garn conceded that the vote was a major setback for those fighting addition to the U.S. Constitution of the ERA, which would specifically bar discrimination on the basis of sex.

In August, the House passed a measure moving the ERA ratification deadline from March 1979 to June 30, 1982.

The measure does not require the signature of President Carter, who has been a staunch supporter of the ERA.

Sarah Weddington, special assistant to the president for women's issues, said Carter was "gratified" by the Senate's action.

She said the president personally had called five senators Wednesday morning to lobby them and that Vice-Pres. Walter Mondale had called three.

The ERA was initially approved by Congress in 1972. It needs ratification by 38 states to become part of the Constitution.

Thirty-five legislatures have ratified the ERA, but those of Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska and Tennessee have voted to reverse

their stands.

Bayh told the Senate it is up to Congress to determine, after all states have voted to ratify, whether to permit the reversal votes.

Bayh said passage of Garn's proposal "would have effectively killed any chance for final ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment."

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