Gays plan protest for Perot

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - Gay rights activists vowed to disrupt presidential hopeful Ross Perot's rally on the Capitol steps Thursday.

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Stephen Michael said Wednesday he and his supporters would attempt to submit his own presidential nominating papers at the same time the wealthy Texan tries to file more than 50,000 signatures with the secretary of state. Disruption of Perot's speech will follow, Michael said.

Perot organizers expressed disappointment, but tolerance, and one spokesman said Perot needs to clarify earlier statements about not wanting homosexuals in his Cabinet.

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On an ABC call-in program on Monday, Perot said he would institute no ban on gay Cabinet secretaries, but said "I don't want to destroy someone" in brutal Senate confirmation hearings, suggesting that their sexual preference would become an issue.

Perot rally participants will be asked to provide no resistance to the protesters, and Perot may simply end his speech and walk off, said spokesman Mark Linsey of Seattle.

RU-486 confiscated at airport

NEW YORK (AP) - A pregnant American woman returned from England on Wednesday with a French abortion pill to challenge the United States' ban of the pill as an invasion of her right to privacy.

Customs officials at Kennedy International Airport confiscated the woman's dozen RU-486 pills.

The woman then held an emotional news conference to criticize the Food and Drug Administration's ban on RU-486.

"I feel very strongly that all women have the right to follow their own medical advice," said the woman, who identified herself as Leona.

"This denies my rights. ... It denies

me the right to control my own body.'

RU-486 has been used legally by 100,000 women in Britain, France and China.

Lawrence Lader of Abortion Rights Mobilization said his group would file suit on behalf of Leona in U.S. District Court. He and others at the airport blasted the Bush administration for the pill's ban

"It's very clear under the Bush administration that when women's health needs clash with their right-to-life ideology, women's rights loses," said Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women.

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