# Council bans paid trips to Springfield



ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta City Council has approved a controversial measure to ban expenditure of city

funds for travel to Colorado, Springfield and a California city that passed laws prohibiting civil rights protection for homosexuals.

The Fulton County Commission was expected to vote today on a similar measure to boycott county travel to Colorado and the cities of Springfield and Concord, Calif.

The City Council's measure, proposed by council member Myrtle Davis, was approved Monday.

At issue is a state constitutional amendment approved by Colorado voters Nov. 3,

#### 'Voting to boycott Denver falls into the category of blaming the victim.'

 Richard C. D. Fleming, president of the Greater Denver Chamber of Commerce

which prevents the enforcement of laws guaranteeing civil rights protections to homosexuals. Gay advocates said the two cities have similar local statutes.

Officials in Denver, however, say Atlanta leaders are punishing the wrong people.

"I don't know how much due diligence the council did," said Richard C. D. Fleming, president of the Greater Denver Chamber of Commerce. "Voting to boycott Denver falls into the category of blaming the victim."

A conservative group called Colorado for Family Values proposed the anti-gay amendment in response to local laws extending civil rights protection to gays, which were passed earlier in Denver, Aspen and Boulder.

The constitutional amendment won 53 percent of the vote statewide, but was overwhelmingly defeated in the three cities, Fleming said. The Denver City Council voted 12-1 Monday to fight the new law.

# Highway shootings mysterious

PORTLAND (AP) — A third random vehicle shooting on a heavily traveled suburban freeway has forced police/to step up patrols in the areas alongside the highway, officials said Wednesday.

day.

A Hillsboro motorist reported the windshield of his pickup was damaged by a gunshot about 6 a.m. as he was driving into Portland on the Sunset Highway, a section of U.S. 26 that feeds the western suburbs.

The motorist was not injured and drove to his workplace before calling police, said Sgt. Jim Ferraris of the Portland Police Bureau.

A tractor-trailer rig was struck by a bullet last Saturday and a cab driver narrowly escaped injury Monday when his cab was hit by a bullet in the same area.

It appeared the pickup was struck by a .22-caliber builted or a pellet from an air gun that broke the windshield but did not penetrate it, said Washington County sheriff's spokeswoman Sherre Calouri.

Portland police took the report but referred it to Washington County because the incident occurred just inside the Washington County line.

Calouri said she did not know what advice to offer motorists on the heavily traveled suburban highway.

"It's difficult to protect yourself from a type of random thing like this," she said. "Hopefully we'll find the person."

A psychiatrist told *The* Oregonian that the shootings could be the work of someone taking part in initiation rites for a criminal gang.

Police patrols have been increased in neighborhoods bordering the highway.

"We don't know whether the person firing the shots was on foot or in a vehicle," Calouri said. "Either is possible. We are asking area residents to report suspicious activity."

#### Vandals cut 'X' in screen

SEATTLE (AP) — A movie theater here planned to fly a new screen from Los Angeles in time for the evening premier of Malcolm X, after someone slashed a four-foot 'X' in the old screen.

There were no signs of forced entry at the Varsity Theater, where the damage estimated at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 was discovered at about 7 a.m. Monday, police said Tuesday.

No arrests have been made, police spokeswoman Vinette Tichi said.

Bert Manzari, president of Seven Gables Corp., which owns the theater, said from Los Angeles that he thought the incident was a case of random vandalism. He said the 'X' described by police seemed to him to be more like two slashes in the shape of a 'V.'

"There were no messages, nothing to indicate it was anything other than a random act of vandalism," Manzari said.

Manzari said the new screen would be flown from Los Angeles and be installed by showtime Wednesday night. The three-and-a-half-hour movie was scheduled to play on two screens at the three-screen theater near the University of Washington. Evening showings were to begin at 7 p.m.

Manzari and Seattle police said they did not feel special security measures were called for.

## Yew supply unable to meet need

PORTLAND (AP) — Pacific yew is more plentiful in the wild than previously thought, but it isn't enough to satisfy all the demand for a new anti-cancer drug derived from the bark, the government says.

A survey estimated 10.5 million yew trees, including seedlings, are growing on 2 million acres of U.S. Bureau of Land Management forests in Western Oregon, the agency announced this week.

However, the number of trees available for harvest is limited, said Kent Tresidder, the BLM yew manager in Oregon.

It takes bark from at least three 150-year-old yew trees to produce enough of the drug taxol to treat one person.

"Developing an alternative source of taxol is critical to both cancer patients and the yew species," Tresidder said.

An advisory committee has recommended the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approve taxol for ovarian cancer patients who have exhausted other treatments.

However, approval is awaiting completion of an environmental impact statement on harvesting yew bark.

More than 270,000 pounds of green yew bark, enough to provide the drug taxol for 7,000 cancer patients, was harvested from BLM lands this year, the agency said.

Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co. has said it should be able to stop using Pacific yew bark from national forests to produce taxol within a few years. Other promising sources include tissue cultures, synthetics, yew wood and needles, and other types of yew.

The BLM yew inventory was based on examination of 820 plots on 2 million acres in Western Oregon.

A private supplier, Weyerhaeuser Co., has planted 5 million yew trees in nurseries to produce taxol.

The U.S. Forest Service, which provides the bulk of the yew bark harvest, has yet to announce how much yew it has.

### Shoot-out murder charge challenged

BOISE (AP) — Defense attorneys are seeking dismissal of murder and conspiracy charges filed in the death of a U.S. deputy marshal, killed in a shootout that sparked a federal siege of a remote Idaho cabin.

In papers filed in U.S. District Court, attorneys for Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris contend the government acted improperly when it sought grand jury indictments against the two men while a preliminary hearing was under way.

Prosecutors sought the indictments because they knew two key witnesses failed to prove in the preliminary hearing that Weaver assaulted the deputy marshal, wrote Chuck Peterson, one of Weaver's attorneys.

David Nevin, who represents Harris, moved for dismissal on

mlEatime

The government acted improperly when it sought grand jury indictments against the two men.'

 Peterson and Nevin, attorneys for accused men

grounds that federal prosecutors broke a promise to proceed against Harris through the hearing rather than seeking a grand jury indictment.

Both of the recently filed motions ask that the case be returned to a federal magistrate for completion of a preliminary hearing to determine charges.
Federal prosecutors have no

Federal prosecutors have not filed responses to the motions, and no hearing has been scheduled. The U.S. attorney's office here declined comment Tuesday.

Weaver, 44, and Harris, 25, are being held in the Ada County Jail on charges of murder, resisting arrest, assault on a federal officer and conspiracy.

cy.
The charges stem from an 11-day standoff with hundreds of federal, state and local officers after an Aug. 21 shoot-out in which two people were killed: U.S. Deputy Marshal William Degan of Boston and Weaver's son, Samuel, 14.

The dispute is over how criminal defendants are bound over for trial.

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