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Republicans try to unseat Jolin



Republicans proposed a ballot measure Monday that would prevent convicted felons such as Democratic Sen. Peg Jolin from serving in the Legislature.

SALEM (AP) -

House Majority Leader Greg Walden, R-Hood River, said the measure would go on the May 1994 ballot if passed by the Legislature.

He said the Jolin matter is the top issue in the public mind about the Legislature since the session convened Jan. 11.

Meanwhile, the minority Republicans in the Senate officialy asked that Jolin be removed as chairwoman of a Senate committee, but stopped short of asking her to resign.

Jolin, a 12-year legislative veteran from Cottage Grove, re-

sponded that the Republicans had become "extraordinarily vicious'

Jolin was convicted of undue influence for seeking donations to erase campaign debts when her campaign fund actually had a surplus.

State law prohibits people convicted of "infamous crimes" from holding public office. But the state Constitution gives the Legislature the ultimate authority over who is qualified to serve in that body.

That means the Republicans. with 14 of the 30 Senate seats. cannot take any official action against Jolin without help from Democrats. It requires two thirds, or 20 votes, to expel a member.

Senate Minority Leader Gene Timms, R-Burns, said Monday he believed Jolin should resign

Sen. Jolin says the Republicans have become 'extraordinarily vicious'.

her Senate seat. He said he would request that the caucus send her a letter asking her to step down.

Republicans had agreed earlier to put the issue of her resignation aside pending the outcome of her appeal.

Jolin's convictions included misdemeanor theft counts. Bradbury has said Jolin's district deserves full representation as long as the appeal is pending.

Police: Clinton policy contributes to attack



WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) - Three Marines showed no remorse as they were booked on charges that they beat a gay man apparently because of President Clinton's push to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, police said Monday

They were saving things like they hate all faggots and they wish they were all dead and they're not ashamed of it," said Ed Gibson, the Wilmington police desk sergeant when the Marines were brought to the station after the attack early Saturday

Three Marine lance corporals — Colin C. Hunt, 20, Patric G. Gardone, 23, and Walter G. Watkins, 26, all of Jacksonville, N.C. each were charged with four counts of assault. They were freed on \$400 bond each.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers called the incident deplorable and said it lends no credence to military leaders who warned that lifting the ban would lead to violence against homo-

There have always been instances of bigotry against not only homosexuals but against other racial and ethnic minorities," she said Monday. "The president deplores it, but I don't think that is a reason not to take a step forward on a civil rights issue.

The victim, Crae Pridgen, 28, suffered cuts and bruises. He lost a tooth, had a black eye, swollen lip and cut ear.

He told police that the attackers mentioned Clinton.

Three other people who tried to break up the scuffle received mi-

Pridgen came to Raleigh on Monday to meet with representatives of Gov. Jim Hunt, saying he would do whatever it takes to prevent more gay-bashing. Hunt was at the meeting of the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C.

Pridgen credited three witnesses for saving him.

"I believe I would have been dead. I've never felt anything like that before. I mean, I've been in fights before, but nothing like this," said Pridgen, adding that he had never been attacked because of his homosexuality.

He was asked if the attack and his decision to meet with the governor's staff could be compared to the Navy petty officer in California who's championing homosexual rights in the military. "I don't feel like a hero," Pridgen said.

Police Sgt. M.J. Woods said local officials would turn the case

over to the FBI because the incident is a hate crime. Gibson said the Marines apparently wandered into the bar, not

realizing it was for homosexuals. Pridgen apparently was dragged out of the Mickey Ratz bar.

Woods said there was no evidence the attack was provoked. Bar owner Bill Rawls, whose business has been open three years, said he had never had problems with fighting before.

"They (the Marines) made some remark to some gay people about the president and the military," and the fighting started, he

Wilmington authorities could decide to turn over the case to military authorities, said Capt. Cathy Close of the Camp Lejeune public affairs office. If a military investigation found culpability, action against the Marines could lead to a court martial, she said.

L.A. stores prepare for King trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Store owners are hiring extra security guards and drafting elaborate riot plans in preparation for more violence if a federal jury hands out acquittals in the second Rodney King trial.

'I will have to have employees on the roof with guns, I guess," said Bob Bower, owner of Bower Wholesale Inc., a South Central sport gun store that sustained \$700,000 in losses from looters in the spring riots.

Securicorp International Inc., a security guard firm, added 50 guards to bring its force up to about 400 in anticipation of calls from customers. During the riots, Securicorp put 100 extra guards on the payroll.

'We haven't had any additional requests yet, but we're beefing up our force," said Frank Alonso, executive vice president of operations.

The second trial of four white police officers charged with beating the black motorist is scheduled to begin Wednesday with jury selection. The trial, expected to last two months, is in federal court. The defendants are accused of violating King's civil

King was beaten by white officers following a March 3. 1991, traffic stop. A video of the beating taken by a nearby resident was aired repeatedly to an outraged nation and should again be the centerpiece of the prosecution's

The first trial, in state court in suburban Simi Valley. ended April 29 with acquittals on virtually all charges.

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