

California governor vetoes AB1

Governor George Deukmejian, saying that there is not sufficient evidence of discrimination against gays and lesbians to justify the passage of AB1, vetoed the bill.

The veto ended 12 days of intense lobbying by foes and supporters of the gay rights measure that caused nearly 10,000 letters and telephone calls daily to the governor's office.

In a written veto message, Deukmejian acknowledged that Californians are "deeply divided on this issue."

Assemblyman Art Agnos, author of the gay rights bill, said that the veto is not the end of the struggle for gay civil rights and vowed to introduce AB1 "next year, and the year after that and the year after that until for as long as it takes to become the law of the land."

The last gay rights bill in California, which outlawed criminal penalties for any sexual behavior between consenting adults in private, was signed by former Gov. Jerry Brown in 1975. Every year since then, bills similar to AB1 have failed in the legislature.

Stanford "Gay Liberation" sculpture defaced

"Gay Liberation," a sculpture by George Segal that has been on temporary display at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, was battered by a hammer-wielding vandal last week.

The sculpture, which features a gay male couple and a lesbian couple, is being considered by the San Francisco Art Commission for placement at Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market Streets.

After the attack, Stanford officials removed the sculpture to a secure location. Almost

immediately after the sculpture was removed, students and Stanford resident began placing flowers on the concrete slab which had been the base for the sculpture.

"We feel personally assaulted," said Jeff Williams, speaking for the gay community. "The sculpture as it stands now, with gouges and bits and pieces knocked off, is no longer a monument to gay liberation, but it is tangible evidence of violence perpetrated against gay people."

"Gay Liberation" was commissioned by the Mildred Andrews Fund of New Orleans as a monument to the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Earlier proposals to install the sculpture in New York or Los Angeles caused controversy. A second cast will be installed in Greenwich Village as soon as funds can be obtained.

St. Patrick's not for lesbians and gays

"It's disgusting. It would set a bad example for kids watching the St. Patrick's Day Parade," said Jim Akins, chairman of Denver's St. Patrick's Day Parade in an interview on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Asked if he thought St. Patrick's Day didn't represent everyone, Akins said that, "Yes, St. Patrick's Day represents everyone, but the parade does not represent everyone." Akins said that participation in the parade might be dangerous for lesbians and gays because, "the Irishmen downtown might start calling them names. If you let them in, who's next? Nudists and Hell's Angels?"

Denver's St. Patrick's Day Parade is the largest outside New York. Denver's mayor has been a participant in the parade since its inception, but this year Mayor Frederico Pena elected in 1983, refused to appear in the parade because of the ban on lesbian and gay participation.

In the interview, Akins also made perjorative statements about Pena, Denver's first Hispanic mayor. Akins said that Pena had not been around very long, intimating that Pena was not part of Denver's establishment.

Mississippi gives women right to vote

After giving it "due consideration," the Mississippi Senate last week unanimously approved a resolution ratifying the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

There was no debate on the resolution by the all-male body and it took only five minutes for the Senate to act on the proposition. The 19th amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution 64 years ago.

Ella Fitzgerald honored

Jazz vocalist Ella Fitzgerald, whose 40+ year career has garnered many honors including 11 Grammy awards, is the first woman to receive the Whitney M. Young award of the Los Angeles Urban League. Ms. Fitzgerald was honored for outstanding contributions toward the improvement of racial equality. In accepting the award she said that she will just "keep on singing."



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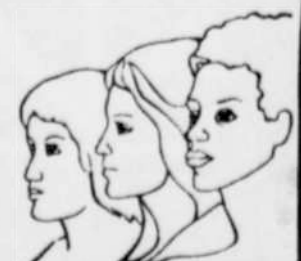
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