

national briefs

Video sways vote

Measure M, which passed by only 63 votes in a city of 57,000 registered voters, will strike sexual orientation protections from Concord, California's human rights ordinance. A homophobic videotape is apparently responsible for the narrow vote to repeal the gay rights law.

Mayor Byron Campbell, who chaired the "No on M" campaign, said he would ask for a recount.

The tape, which showed nudity at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Parade along with graphic depictions of gay sex, was distributed city-wide shortly before the election. The Rev. Lloyd Mashore, who was elected to the City Council on an anti-gay platform two years ago and is currently the subject of a recall drive, warns in the videotape that "this will happen in Concord."

The Concord videotape is of particular concern to gay and lesbian rights proponents in Portland because of a similar tape being distributed by the anti-gay Oregon Citizens Alliance.

Election day, Nov. 5, was mostly good to gays and lesbians around the U.S. Three newcomers were elected to public office, no incumbents were defeated, and half of the various anti-gay measures nationwide failed.

In New York City, two openly gay men, Tom Duane and Antonio Pagan, were elected to the city council. Duane, who is also openly HIV-positive, defeated openly lesbian Liz Abzug, daughter of former Congresswoman Bella Abzug. The race may have been the first to pit two openly gay candidates against one another.

Two gay activists were re-elected to city council seats—David Scondras in Boston and Joe Her-

zenberg in Chapel Hill, N.C.

About 54 percent of St. Paul, Minn. voters said no to a measure that would have deleted all references to sexual orientation from the city's human rights ordinance.

In San Francisco, nearly 60 percent of voters said no to a proposal that would have repealed the city's year-old domestic partners law.

Hartwig cleared

The Navy has apologized for wrongly accusing sailor Clayton M. Hartwig of committing suicidal sabotage in the 1989 U.S.S. Iowa explosion that killed 47 crewmen.

The Navy had cast Hartwig as a jilted homosexual lover who caused the explosion in a fit of depression and anger.

For family members and gay activists, even the unusual public nature of the Navy's exoneration was too little, too late.

While the Navy's public apology pleased Hartwig's mother, she said she planned to proceed with her \$40 million lawsuit.

HIV suit

In what could become a landmark case, a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., dental assistant fired for refusing to take an HIV test is suing his former employer, a private dental office.

Allan Terl, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who says Florida law clearly bars discrimination based on HIV status, has filed a complaint with the state's Commission on Human Relations.

Although the dental assistant had received two pay raises and was an employee of the month, he

was terminated in August for refusing to comply with an office-wide policy requiring HIV testing.

AIDS redefined

Effective Jan. 1, 1992, the Centers for Disease Control will expand the definition of AIDS to include HIV-positive people with T-cell counts at or below 200.

This broadening of the definition for the first time since 1987 is designed to help more people with AIDS gain access to health care and social services. It will also further drain limited resources, underscoring the need for additional support from the government.

While the new AIDS definition is generally seen as a step forward, it does not include recent information on HIV disease in women. While the CDC will add cervical cancer and recurring vaginal candidiasis to the "B category" of HIV infection, these conditions currently are not sufficient to qualify women for state medical assistance programs. As a result, many women are dying from HIV disease without ever receiving an official AIDS diagnosis.

Out in LA

Two stars of old TV sitcoms came out of the closet on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, by contacting the Associated Press' Los Angeles bureau.

Dick Sargent, 61, who played Darrin Stephens on ABC's "Bewitched" from 1969-72, said he approached the wire service to show that gays are normal people.

"The whole world contains gays," Sargent noted. "For us to be ashamed to be gay is probably

why the suicide rate of gay and lesbian teens is three times the average for other teenagers."

Actress Sheila James Kuehl, 50, who played Zelda Gilroy on CBS' "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis" from 1959-63 also contacted AP. Kuehl said TV executives figured her out in 1965 and terminated her career.

Also coming out in L.A. Oct. 11 were 25 school teachers and a schoolboard member who held a press conference to proclaim their homosexuality.

"When someone comes out like this, it's exciting and an affirmation that we are everywhere, at all levels of life and careers," said L.A. School Board member Jeff Horton, 43.

"I hope...it will put to rest the most vicious stereotype of gays and lesbians—that they are somehow unfit to work with children."

Rex Wockner

Catalog targets gays, lesbians

A wide range of merchandise—from jewelry and luggage to clothing and designer dishes—is available in the premiere issue of "Shocking Gray," a mail-order catalog produced by and for the gay and lesbian community.

Catalog publishers promise to donate a percentage of all revenues to gay and lesbian causes, from AIDS research to political lobby groups.

The catalog features gay and lesbian couples as models.

Those interested in obtaining a catalog may write to "Shocking Gray," 1216 East Euclid, San Antonio, TX 78212, or may telephone the company toll free at 1 (800) 788-4729.

CHALLENGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Coming out day is not just one day out of the year. Gays, lesbians and bisexuals are the invisible minority. Our silence allows groups such as the OCA to attack us.

The "straight" community inadvertently allows this to happen because they see only images of our community. These images do not put our whole face forward, let alone positive images many times. Of the people you have come out to, how many would vote for the OCA's abnormal behavior initiative? Not many, because you have given them a reason not to. By being who you are, they have become personally connected to someone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual. But you must tell them! Therefore the No on Hate campaign, to stop the OCA's abnormal behavior initiative, is making this challenge to the community:

COME OUT TO ONE PERSON A MONTH FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

Tell them about yourself, tell them about the OCA's initiative, tell them not to sign the initiative. Let's stop this initiative with our most powerful weapon - ourselves! Educate yourself. Educate others. Join the NO ON HATE campaign. Donate your time, your money, your voice. The time is now to stop oppression in Oregon!

A call to action from the
NO ON HATE PDX/Metro PAC
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Portland, Or. 97208-2725
503-230-9430



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women
BY
women



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