

national briefs

ALABAMA

A federal district court in Alabama dismissed a case brought by Auburn University that sought a judgment about the legitimacy of Auburn's gay student group. The court's decision leaves undisturbed the right of the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association to continue to be a recognized student group and to meet on Auburn's campus.

ARIZONA

The City Council in Phoenix, Ariz. voted 5-4 not to vote on an ordinance to add sexual orientation to the city's anti discrimination ordinance. They then voted 5-4 to send it to referendum of the people in September of 1993. The meeting Tuesday night had 3,100 people in attendance, 4-1 favored the ordinance. The City Council did vote 5-4 to add marital status to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

"There has been public outcry from both sides of the debate for the spinelessness of the City Council members," says Peter Crozier of the Human Rights Task Force in Phoenix. "Their inaction has been condemned all across the board. Most people feel they (the City Council) should have made some decision."

The Phoenix Human Relations Commission fully endorsed the ordinance, yet the recommendations of that body were ignored. Churches, businesses, groups and organizations supported the ordinance. The only opposition came from the religious right.

CALIFORNIA

In what is believed to be a landmark ruling, the court has found that Inspector Thomas Cady, a gay San Francisco police officer with AIDS, is entitled to benefits because he was infected with the virus during a 1984 arrest. The ruling is believed to be the first time in the U.S. that a gay police officer has proven that he contracted the virus while on duty. Cady says he was infected when a suspect bit him on both hands during an

arrest attempt. Under the ruling, Cady, who has spent three years trying to prove the case, will receive \$50,547 in disability pay and AIDS medical treatment.

Hilary Clinton became the first spouse of a major presidential candidate to attend a lesbian and gay event when she spoke at the Human Rights Campaign Fund's (HRCF) annual dinner in San Francisco. "My husband is very supportive of a variety of issues important to the lesbian and gay community," Clinton said. She cited increased AIDS funding, ending the ban on lesbians and gay men in the military and enacting gay and lesbian civil rights legislation as being issues important to a Clinton administration.

Pacificia has become the first city in California's history to be governed by an all-female city council. Seventeen men and five women ran for council seats that became vacant after voters recalled four council members in March. Four of the five women running for vacant seats won, and all 17 men running were defeated.

FLORIDA

The Stonewall Library and Archives held its seventh annual "Heritage of Pride" program on June 20. Lesbian and gay authors, columnists, critics and booksellers gathered at Fort Lauderdale's Church of the Holy Spirit, site of South Florida's sexual minorities' community library, to celebrate the region's contributions to lesbian and gay reading and writing.

ILLINOIS

Mayor Richard Daley has reversed himself and endorsed a plan by Chicago ACT UP and Alderwoman Helen Shiller to increase city AIDS spending by \$2.5 million to \$3.7 million. The City Council then passed the measure by a vote of 46-0. "This is a very serious health and emotional problem and we have to recommit ourselves,"

Daley said after more than two months of insisting the city did not have any extra money for AIDS. Two events may have helped him change his mind.

First, Alderwoman Shiller gathered enough Council votes to pass the measure without Daley's support. Then on April 2, about 40 furious AIDS activists torpedoed Daley with vicious insults for 90 minutes as he and 525 gays and lesbians marched through the gay neighborhoods in response to the anti-gay shooting of Ron Cayot near Manhole bar. ACT UP, Shiller and others began hounding Daley for the funds earlier this year after *Windy City Times*, a gay newspaper, discovered Chicago has spent far less on AIDS per case than nearly every other major U.S. city.

A man who regularly picked up gays on a downtown cruising strip and then beat and robbed them was sentenced on May 15 to 30 years in prison for killing one of his victims who he said had made a pass at him. Gay activists criticized the second-degree murder verdict for Johnny Mangum, feeling it should have been first-degree. The jury said the alleged homosexual advance by Randall Eklund mitigated the crime. Judge David Englund handed down a sentence double the maximum for second-degree murder because Mangum's beating of Eklund was particularly brutal, he said.

Living in Leather VII, the annual Leather/SM/Fetish conference weekend will be held in Chicago Oct. 8-11. The Blackstone Hotel will serve as the main conference site. This is the second consecutive year that the conference has been offered in Chicago and registration is expected to exceed 800 enthusiasts. Seminars, workshops, the annual Mr./Ms.NLA Leather Contest, and a vendors and exhibit area are among the offerings at the conference. For more information contact

LIL-VII Co-Directors Sallee Huber at (503) 735-0429 or Nick Long at (312) 404-0478.

Chuck Renslow, producer of the International Mr. Leather Contest, has established a non-profit corporation for the purpose of saving, protecting and displaying leather history. Known as the "Leather Archives and Museum," the board of members is encouraging leather people and any family or friend of a leather person to send leather and S/M memorabilia to the museum. For more information, write to Leather Archives and Museum, 5025 N Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640 or call (800) 545-6753.

NEW YORK

A New York appeals court has upheld the right of gay and lesbian teachers to file for health insurance benefits for their domestic partners. This ruling follows an August 1991 decision by Judge Karla Moskowitz that the city's policy discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation and marital status. The city corporation counsel's office plans to appeal the case in the state's highest appeals court.

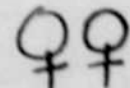
The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hosted a May 17 meeting between gay and lesbian community leaders and Democratic National Committee (DNC) chair Ron Brown and other DNC officials. More than 20 gay, lesbian and AIDS advocates attended the one-hour meeting held in New York City. Among other requests, participants urged the chairman to support specific language in the party platform on civil rights, military reform, and AIDS policy matters; to speak out forcefully in support of gay and lesbian civil rights; and to target gay and lesbian voters for special outreach to communicate the Democratic Party's messages.



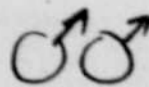
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