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## THANK YOU, LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY

*for standing together against the OCA,  
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**Millynn James, GRI  
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Your generous support of my business has enabled my continued and increasing support of community organizations such as (but not limited to) Lesbian Community Project, Right to Privacy, SOCPAC, Friends of Gail Shibley, ACLU, March on Washington, No on 9, PETA, Greenpeace, Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1000 Friends of Oregon, NOW and Stonewall NW.

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## national briefs

### ALASKA

The city of Juneau's school board has voted to keep *Daddy's Roommate*, a children's book about gay men, in the district's elementary school libraries.

Access to the book will be restricted to the libraries' family section and not the more accessible picture book section. The school board's 6-1 vote to keep the book upheld a ruling by Superintendent Bob Van Slyke after he held public hearings on the subject.

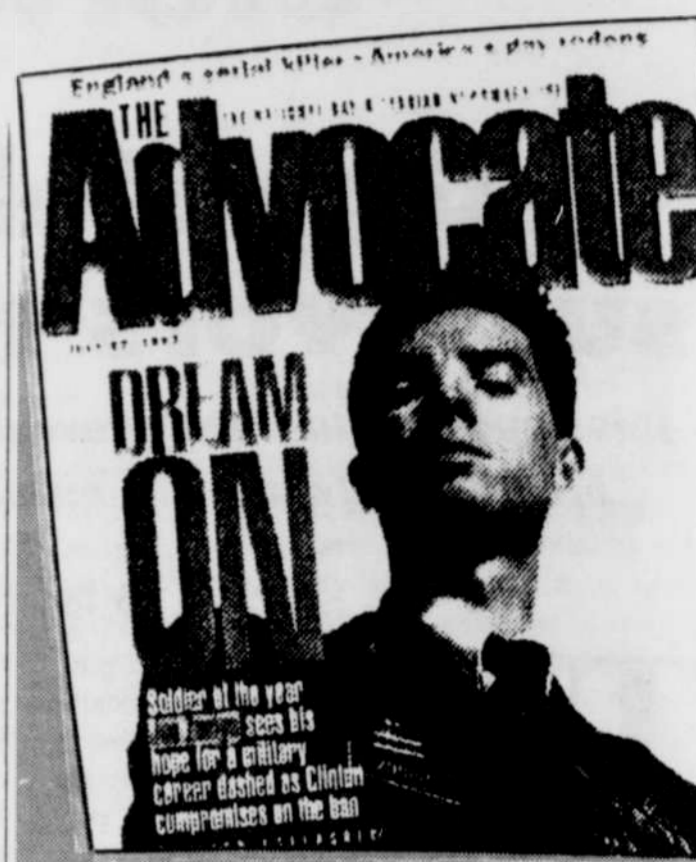
### CALIFORNIA

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has released two brochures aimed at educating young gay and bisexual men about HIV transmission and the increasing use of designer drugs. "Good for Life" ("Buen Provecho"), a brightly colored, twelve panel brochure offers information about safer sex in English and Spanish to junior high and high school-age youth who think they might be gay and/or are experimenting sexually. The brochure features photos of seven teens of all races, and opens with a "Testimonial" section that offers sex-positive messages aimed at young men who may be questioning their sexual orientation.



The second brochure, "What About Ecstasy," gives clear, non-judgmental information on the drug Ecstasy, a chemical compound in the amphetamine family. The literature details its history and its effects on how users of the drug negotiate sexual situations. It also outlines condom use, HIV testing and gives phone numbers for help and information. Studies in San Francisco show that currently "nearly 900 youth 12 to 25 years of age are estimated to be living with HIV infection in San Francisco, representing almost 1 percent of the city's youth population."

San Franciscans recently honored the memory of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay member of the city's Board of Supervisors. Former policeman Dan White assassinated Milk 15 years ago on Nov. 27. A plaque was unveiled in front of the store where Milk once owned a camera shop in the city's Castro District. It contained the inscription, "You Gotta Give 'Em Hope," a familiar line from many of Milk's speeches. Supporters staged a candlelight march from the Castro to City Hall in the evening.



In its 27th year of publication, *The Advocate* has been honored with an Editorial Excellence Award as the country's best newsmagazine. The award, formerly sponsored by the trade journal *Magazine Week*, is now backed by *Folio*, an industry periodical. A panel of 29 mainstream magazine editors and publishers including those from *The New York Times Magazine*, *Working Woman*, *The Village Voice* and *Health*, chose *The Advocate* among its competition which included *Time* and *Newsweek*.

### COLORADO

A University of Colorado researcher has found another possible biological link to sexual orientation in men. Dr. Martin Reite of UOC's Department of Psychiatry presented his findings at a meeting of the Society of Neuroscience in Washington, D.C. His research studied how different areas of the brain respond to a sound stimulus in heterosexual men and gay men. Reite found after testing 17 men—eight gay men and nine heterosexual men—that different areas of the brain responded to a sound stimulus for each group. The right, front portion of the brain was more often stimulated by sounds in heterosexual men while the reaction was more generalized throughout the brain in gay men. Reite hopes to follow up with a larger study in the future. Currently he is testing his hypothesis on children to see if the differences show up at an early age.

### HAWAII

The legal arm of a far-right Christian organization has announced plans to set up a Pacific office. The move by the Rutherford Institute, a Virginia-based organization, is reportedly in response to the state Supreme Court's recent decision regarding same-sex marriages. The international nonprofit group identifies itself as a civil liberties organization specializing in the defense of far-right Christian values. The group favors prayer in public schools and opposes both women's right to abortion and "homosexuality" as violations of biblical teaching.

### IDAHO

Chief Deputy Attorney General Jack McMahon has twice said that the state would not defend a homophobic initiative, if passed, because it violates basic rights. In response to this, state democrats are coming forward to oppose an initiative, similar to Colorado's failed Amendment 2, currently sponsored by the Idaho Citizens Alliance. Senate Democratic Leader Mary Lou Reed added that the initiative was a waste of money. She estimated that it could cost the state up to \$300,000 to defend the measure if it passed and was challenged in the courts. ICA founder Kelly Watson said the issue was important enough to warrant the possible expense. The ICA needs 31,000 signatures for ballot access.

Compiled by Lee Norwood