

**MAINE**

The Maine Civil Liberties Union and the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders filed a lawsuit asking Maine courts to block an expected referendum on sexual minority rights this fall. The two groups claim the referendum is a back-door attempt to amend the state constitution, according to the *Baltimore Gay Paper*.

The proposed referendum, expected to appear on the November ballot, asks voters to approve changing state law so that classifications not already protected under the Maine Human Rights Act cannot be added in the future. Classifications already protected include age, sex, religion and race.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Republican Gov. William F. Weld was presented with the Flag Bearer award of the Massachusetts chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Weld was selected because of his support for gay and lesbian youth.

Weld established a governor's commission on gay and lesbian youth that has heard testimony throughout the state. He also signed into law the Massachusetts student antidiscrimination law, which added sexual orientation to existing legislation prohibiting exclusion or discrimination in the public schools.



In January, federal District Court Judge Robert Keeton dismissed a lawsuit which contended that a high school AIDS-prevention program violated some students' constitutional rights, reported *The Washington Blade*.



The sexually explicit program was conducted at Chelmsford High School outside of Boston. Attendance was mandatory for all students.

Although Judge Keeton took note of the fact that some students felt humiliated and intimidated by the presentation, he ruled that the students' "unwilling observation" of the program "did not constitute the sort of coercion that violates the First Amendment."

**MARYLAND**

A bill to accept federal funds for rent subsidies for people with AIDS narrowly passed the Baltimore County Council on Jan. 17.

Concerns about accepting the money included the fact that it is specifically for people with AIDS and does not allow assistance to people with other terminal illnesses, such as cancer; and fears that when the federal grant ends after three years the county will be unable to continue the funding.

**MINNESOTA**

In a 2-1 decision, the Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld Jan. 31 Hennepin County District Court Judge Deborah Hedlund's decision that the city of Minneapolis does not have the authority to grant health benefits to same-sex partners of city employees.

The court disagreed with the city's argument that the awarding of employee health benefits is a purely local matter. Instead, the court took the position that the Minnesota legislature has a history of defining the scope of municipal employee's health benefits.

**MISSISSIPPI**

Memorial Day weekend has been set as the date for the "Destination: Overt—Gay Freedom Riders Coalition." Led by Metropolitan Commu-

nity Church founder Rev. Troy Perry and lesbian comic and festival producer Robin Tyler, the interfaith coalition of lesbians and gay men plans a weekend of work at Camp Sister Spirit. Participants will help remodel barns and build fences on the property.

Founded by Wanda and Brenda Henson, Camp Sister Spirit has been under attack from the radical right in southern Mississippi. These attacks have included death threats and lawsuits. The *Southern Voice* quoted Tyler as saying, "We need to let gay-bashers and homophobes know that when they attack isolated gays and lesbians, they aren't just taking on one or two people, they are taking on the entire gay and lesbian community."



**MISSOURI**

*Gateway Heritage*, the quarterly publication of the Missouri Historical Society, published its first lesbian and gay history article in its November 1994 issue. The article, titled "The Seed Time of Gay Rights: Rev. Carol Cureton, the Metropolitan Community Church and Gay St. Louis, 1969-1980," was authored by Rodney Wilson, a high school teacher and leader in the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, reported the *Missouri News-Telegraph*.

**NEW YORK**

State Attorney General Dennis Vacco broke with a 15-year tradition by revoking an executive order that protected gay and lesbian employees in his agency from discrimination, according to a report in *The Washington Blade*.

A conservative Republican, Vacco issued a new executive order Feb. 2 that excludes sexual orientation from the list of protected categories in the Department of Law.

The *Blade* said that some lesbian and gay activists fear that Vacco's actions are a "trial balloon," to test public response in case Republican Gov. George Pataki decides to revoke an executive order protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination in state agencies.

**OHIO**

Deciding that enough is enough, activists have formed the Toledo Gay and Lesbian Coalition. Its first action was a March 1 protest at Toledo's Central Catholic High School, where a student was given detention for wearing a T-shirt proclaiming "Boycott Homophobia."

Clergy, parents, students, and other organizations, including the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, are scheduled to join the protest.

**UTAH**

Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats announced it would oppose House Bill 366 and all other attempts to change that state's laws concerning recognition of marriages performed by other states and countries. HB 366 would recognize marriages performed in other states and countries only if the marriage meets the same requirements as a marriage performed in Utah.

Same-sex marriages are already prohibited under state law.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Republican state Delegate Eric Blass wants to cut funding for West Virginia University office space used by a sexual minority student group. According to the Associated Press, Blass said it is "discriminatory" for the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Mountaineers to have space in the student union.

"You don't see the heterosexuals asking for their own meeting space," Blass said.

Blass said he wants to turn the two-person office space into a day-care center.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

**OUR 15th anniversary**



*Hidden Legacies*  
Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm  
Intermediate Theatre  
featuring  
the Portland  
Lesbian Choir's  
"Sweetwater"

*We're making history!*

The fifteenth season of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus continues with a rich shared history for our choral family. We reflect on the rich dynamic experiences that we have shared and look forward to the future. We invite you to join us in our celebration!

For Portland Tickets  
Please Call PGMC at 699-8586.

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus  
Post Office Box 3223  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3223

PGMC recaptures the joy of the 70's! Join us as we return to this era and highlight the growing visibility of the Lesbian and Gay Community during that time.

We conclude the evening with the magnificent tribute to our struggle with the AIDS epidemic, "Hidden Legacies." It is an evening that will touch your heart as an affirmation of our strength and as a celebration of our collective courage to live.

**FOR HIV POSITIVE ONLY**

A SPECIAL DENTAL CARE PROJECT TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH HIV



Project Dental Health at the Russell Street Clinic needs HIV participants for an Oral Care Project to study the overall health effects of regular dental care for people with HIV.

**Eligibility:**

- HIV positive
- 20 to 45 years of age
- Have a T4 count between 100 and 500
- Have at least 20 teeth

**Participation:**

- Dental exams 3 times each year
- Possible cleaning every 2 months
- Possible daily use of a special mouth rinse

To participate in the Oral Care Project call: Melody Scheer, Russell St. Clinic/Project Dental Health (503) 494-6300

All participants will be paid \$15.00 for each examination and a \$25.00 bonus for the final exam. Participants will help in efforts to improve the quality of life for people with HIV.

Study director: Dr. David Rosenstap, Oregon Health Sciences University.