

# national briefs

## CALIFORNIA

Glenn Burke, one of the first openly gay athletes to play professional baseball, died recently of AIDS-related complications at the age of 42. Burke—credited with giving baseball's first "high five," during the 1977 World Series—played only four seasons of professional ball, from 1976 to 1980. He was an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland Athletics. According to an Associated Press story, Burke believed he was run out of baseball because he was gay.



California has joined six other states in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Colorado's anti-sexual minority Amendment 2. Citing support for states' rights as the reason, Attorney General Dan Lungren signed on to the brief already signed by the attorneys general from Alabama, Idaho, Nebraska, South Carolina, South Dakota and Virginia. Amendment 2 was struck down by the Colorado Supreme Court on the grounds that it was unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hear the case this fall.



The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association announced on May 19 its support for clinical trials of the therapeutic uses of marijuana for AIDS. The association also advocated access to artificial insemination services without regard to sexual orientation or marital status. In commenting on the group's position on insemination, Policy Committee Chair Jocelyn White, a Portland internist said,



"No one should be denied access to artificial insemination services solely on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered individuals and unmarried heterosexuals can be loving, capable parents. They should not be subjected to a 'family values' litmus test in order to gain access to a medical procedure."

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Although it had to pay \$165,682.90 in penalties to five hotels, the American Historical Association canceled plans to hold its 1995 conference in Cincinnati after voters in that city passed an anti-sexual-minority initiative. According to a story in *The Washington Blade*, although the penalties are less than half those specified in the AHA contract with the Cincinnati hotels, the amount is still a huge blow to the association's budget. AHA President John Coatsworth has appealed to members and friends of the association to donate money to make up the loss.



Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.) has introduced a provision in a Defense Department bill that would force the military to discharge all servicemembers with HIV. Military leaders have said they do not support such a policy. Current military policy allows servicemembers with HIV to remain on active duty as long as they can perform their work assignments.

Dornan, who is a candidate for the Republican nomination for president, is considered to be one of the strongest opponents to gay and lesbian civil rights in Congress.

## KENTUCKY

More than 50 Reconciling Congregations and Reconciling Pastors have written to the president of Lindsey Wilson College, a United Methodist school in Columbia, protesting the firing of Diana Chalfant. Chalfant, the women's volleyball coach, was asked by the school to resign last December. Reasons given were that the school wanted to "take the volleyball program in a different direction" and that there had been "lesbian incidents." Chalfant was fired when she refused to resign.

## MASSACHUSETTS

May 20 marked another date in civil rights history, when an estimated 1,000 gay and lesbian youth and adult supporters rallied in front of the state House in Boston in the first gay and lesbian youth march in the nation. Over 40 gay-straight youth alliances from schools across the northeast also participated in the march.

## MICHIGAN

Speaking at a weekend rally of the Promise Keepers, Dallas evangelist Tony Evans told the 72,000 men gathered in the Silverdome that black and white Christians can unite to put a stop to gay men and lesbians, according to *Wisconsin Light*. Promise Keepers is an international far-right religious group founded by former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney. The group exhorts men to become better husbands, father more children, and become community leaders dedicated to the "return of America from sin."

The group's message is considered by many to be both anti-gay and anti-woman.

## MISSOURI

That bastion of the greeting card, Hallmark Cards Inc., has now added 800-number service for two of its ethnic-oriented card lines. Customers searching for either Mahogany, a card line targeted to African Americans, or Primor, greeting cards specifically for Latino/as, can now dial a toll-free number to find the nearest merchant who carries the desired card line. Consumers looking for Mahogany cards can call 1-800-650-4505. Primor customers should dial 1-800-PRIMOR5.

## NEBRASKA

Activists from around the country demonstrated outside the Richardson County Courthouse last month to protest the murder of Brandon Teena, a female-to-male transsexual, reported *The Washington Blade*. Approximately 40 people participated in the rally, which was organized by a group called Transsexual Menace. Teena and his roommate, Lisa Lambert, were murdered in December 1993. One man has already been convicted in the case. A second suspect was on trial at the time of the demonstration.

## NEW YORK

Beginning this month, America Online Inc. will offer a new on-line service providing news, entertainment and discussions about African Americans. According to a Reuters news service story, NetNoir Inc., a San Francisco-based company, said the new service, known as NetNoir Online, will offer departments in music, sports, business and interactive message boards.

## TENNESSEE

A federal jury in Nashville awarded \$1.6 million in punitive damages to a male employee of Waldenbooks, in a case where the employee alleged that he was fired after being sexually harassed for years by his gay supervisor. According to a story in *The Washington Blade*, the lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of the employee by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, argued that the firing violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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## 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 three times each year
- Possible cleaning every two 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 Rosenstein, Oregon Health Sciences University

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