

# national briefs

## CALIFORNIA

Two San Francisco middle school teachers lost their state teaching credentials for bringing in guest speakers who gave explicit descriptions of gay and lesbian sex to sixth-graders in 1992. The decision to revoke the credentials was made by a committee of the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



The furor arose after speakers from Community United Against Violence gave a talk to two combined classes in April 1992. The speakers came to discuss hate crimes and violence against lesbians and gay men. A question from a student prompted an explanation of dildos and oral and anal sex by the speakers. A student protested, and her father filed a complaint in 1993, alleging that his rights as a parent had been violated because he had not been informed of the class discussion. He was helped by the Rutherford Institute, a conservative legal aid group based in Virginia.

Both the teachers' union and the school district were surprised by the decision. The district may file an appeal.

Since the incident, the San Francisco school district has issued guidelines that make clear what topics guest speakers may discuss with students.



The NAMES Project Foundation, the organization that displays the AIDS Memorial Quilt, is in search of sponsors to fund a World Wide Web site. The website is scheduled to be launched on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. Its purpose is to raise awareness about AIDS and to heighten the visibility and extend the mission of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

vivid studios of San Francisco will create and implement the website. The Quilt website will include information about the Quilt and its display schedule, promote upcoming events, serve as an internal resource and information exchange, act as an educational tool in the fight against AIDS, and contribute to the formation of a digital community to fight the AIDS epidemic.

Sponsorship levels range from the Web Founder Circle (\$100,000) down to the Preservation Circle (\$10,000-plus).

## FLORIDA

The Key West AIDS Memorial Planning Committee has announced a design competition for an AIDS memorial to be sited on a 5,000-square-foot area between two beaches and a pier extending out to sea. The international design competition is open to all. The submission deadline is Nov. 25, 1995. A guideline packet is available by writing to Key West AIDS Memorial Competition, 1113 Fleming St., Key West, FL 33040, or calling (414) 276-6355. All requests must be accompanied by a \$35 entry fee. Send a check or money order made out to Key West AIDS Memorial.

## ILLINOIS

A federal appeals court heard arguments Sept. 22 on behalf of an inmate whose HIV status was

intentionally disclosed to other inmates and corrections officials by prison guards.

Dennis Anderson filed suit against two officials of the Illinois Department of Corrections for violating his constitutional right to privacy and for subjecting him to discriminatory treatment and medically unnecessary "precautions." Anderson has since died. The case, which could set a federal precedent for prisoners and all people with HIV, was heard by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## NEBRASKA

A man convicted of the December 1993 murder of Brandon Teena, a transgendered individual living as a man, was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for two other murders. Marvin Thomas Nissen was convicted of second-degree murder charges in the deaths of Lisa Lambert and Philip DeVine, reports *focusPOINT*, a Minneapolis newspaper. Nissen has not yet been sentenced for the Teena murder. He could receive the death penalty in that case.

Teena was a preoperative transsexual who lived as a man in the small town of Humboldt, Neb. His biological gender became public knowledge after a local newspaper printed an arrest report that identified him as female.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Mike Nelson, a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, has announced his candidacy for mayor of Carrboro, a suburb of Raleigh.

Nelson is the only openly gay elected official in North Carolina. He has served as an alderman since 1993. Previously he served as vice-president of the Orange County Democratic Party. He was also the first executive director of North Carolina Pride PAC.

Two other candidates have entered the mayoral race.

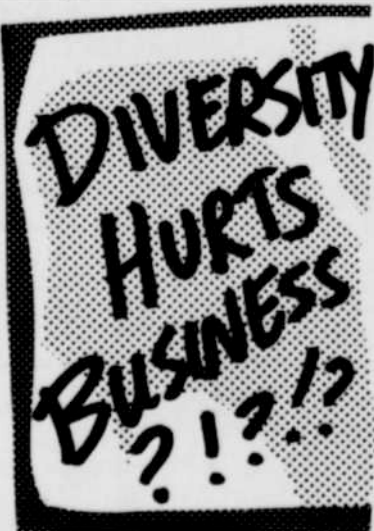
## TEXAS

The Austin City Council will consider action on a 10-point proposal to reduce discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual youth through school and library programs, reports *The Daily Texan*.

The recommendations, submitted by the Austin Human Rights Commission, are based on testimony from state public hearings. Commission officials stated they are striving to eradicate isolation and physical or verbal assault against gay and lesbian students. They are also attempting to combat suicide among these students.

## VIRGINIA

Lamar Advertising, a billboard company in Roanoke, refused to accept an advertisement from the Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. According to a story in the *Baltimore Gay Paper*, Lamar said the two-word message, "Diversity Enriches," which appears on a rainbow background, is too controversial and could hurt the company's business.

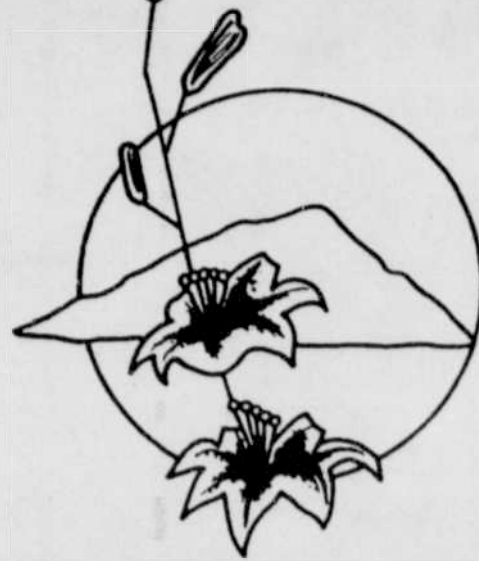


Last year Lamar leased seven billboards to the committee reading "Celebrate Diversity." That message generated a number of complaints, and several letters denouncing the signs were published in the *Roanoke Times*. The company also received compliments about last year's billboards, but decided that the criticism was too great to sell space to the committee again.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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