

national briefs

CALIFORNIA

Former Rep. Tom Campbell, of San Jose, is heading back to Congress after defeating Democrat Jerry Estruth in a race to represent California's 15th District. Campbell, who served in the House from 1988 to 1992, is a moderate Republican. During his previous tenure in Congress he was a strong supporter of lesbian and gay rights. The Log Cabin Republicans Silicon Valley chapter endorsed Campbell and contributed funds to his campaign.

COLORADO

Charging that a nondiscrimination policy in force at three Colorado colleges violates students' First Amendment rights, a Republican student organization has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the schools. The suit, brought by the group College Republicans, names Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, and the Metropolitan State College in Denver.

Specifically, the group objects to a policy requiring all student groups to sign a nondiscrimination agreement that includes sexual orientation. Although the group's leaders said earlier this year that they did not plan to actually bar lesbians and gay men, they object to having to sign the pledge, reports the *Kansas City News-Telegraph*.

"We really feel the school is violating our freedom of association by shoving someone's sexual preference down our throat," Nate Hall, chairman of the Metropolitan State College Republicans told the *News-Telegraph*. "If a person is gay, so what? Our biggest concern is are you a Republican? But we don't as a club condone homosexual activity."

CYBERSPACE

Lambda Rising bookstore made a great leap forward last year when it opened a branch bookstore on America Online, the nation's largest on-line computer service. The cyberspace location, Lambda Rising Online, is the fourth bookstore in the chain. Other locations include the original store in Washington, D.C., one in Baltimore, Md., and a store in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Subscribers to AOL can access the on-line bookstore by typing the keyword "GAYBOOKS" after logging on to AOL. From the main screen of the on-line bookstore, shoppers can travel to all of Lambda Rising's on-line departments. They can participate in live discussions with authors and other shoppers; exchange messages with other book, movie and music fans; browse the merchandise; or write to Lambda Rising's on-line staff.

Lambda Rising's free out-of-print book search service is also available at the on-line location.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A Washington, D.C.-area HMO that denied coverage for emergency hospitalization to a man with AIDS was ordered by a federal appeals court to gather and review sufficient evidence before making a determination on coverage.

Jeffrey Bernstein was visiting his brother in New York when he had to be hospitalized for CNS lymphoma, a form of brain cancer. CapitalCare HMO denied coverage under a plan provision that excludes coverage for foreseeable care outside the HMO's service area. CapitalCare argued that because Bernstein has AIDS any need for medical care was "reasonably foreseeable."

Catherine Hanssens, AIDS project director at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, noted that the decision was important because of the need to determine the quality of evidence that is used to support a decision that an illness is "foreseeable." She pointed out that CapitalCare's deci-

sion made it virtually impossible for a person with AIDS to travel anywhere.

FLORIDA

A West Palm Beach jury has recommended that Ronald Knight be sentenced to die in the electric chair for the murder of a gay man, according to *The Western Express*. Prosecutors argued Knight killed Brendan Meehan because Meehan was gay.

In September, Knight was convicted of first-degree murder, armed robbery and grand theft-hate crime, the *Express* reported. His accomplice, Sean Stephens, received a 10-year prison sentence in return for his testimony against Knight.



Pete Zecchini, a former Miami Beach police officer, has filed discrimination charges against the Miami Beach Police Department. Zecchini, who is gay, served on the force for six years. He alleges that his treatment within the police department changed after his lover tested positive for HIV.

The police department is charged with violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Federal Rehabilitation Act.

KANSAS

The Olathe school board lost its battle to keep the lesbian-themed book *Annie on My Mind*, by Nancy Garden, off the high school book shelves.

A federal judge found that the school board president, who is also an official at a nearby fundamentalist college, acted solely on his own negative feelings toward homosexuality when he ordered the book removed from the schools.

NEW YORK

The new expanded edition of *Funders of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Programs: A Directory for Grantseekers* is now available from the Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues. The directory provides information on potential funders for organizations and projects working with the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. Included are entries on local, regional and national funders of grants ranging from \$500 to \$50,000.

The Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues is a 14-year-old organization formed in response to the lack of visibility and funding for gay and lesbian issues in the philanthropic community. It is a volunteer organization whose members are individual donors and grantmakers from private, public, community and corporate foundations.

The directory is available for \$10 (plus \$2 postage and handling). To order, contact Nancy Cunningham, Executive Director, Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues, 116 E. 16th St., Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10003, (212) 475-2930, or fax: (212) 982-3321.

TEXAS

Businesses advertising in *The Texas Triangle*, an Austin-based lesbian and gay newspaper, have been targeted by a fundamentalist Christian group, reported the *Southern Voice*. Pickets appeared

outside of First Texas Honda after American Family Association Executive Director Wyatt Roberts read a list of advertisers on his weekly radio show. He called upon Christians to refuse to patronize

companies that "subsidize the homosexual agenda."

The dealership is a longtime *Triangle* advertiser. The company recently renewed its contract with the paper.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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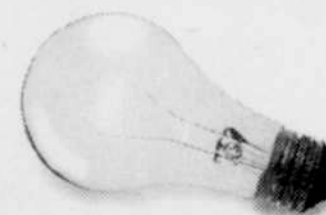


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