

national briefs

CALIFORNIA

A 25-year-old West Hollywood man was assaulted by teenagers in an apparent gay-bashing, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on April 16. The eight youths allegedly kicked and beat the man and made slurs about his sexual orientation. The victim and witnesses said the attackers seemed "jubilant" as they ran from the scene of the beating, shouting that they had just beaten a gay man. All eight teenagers were arrested and booked on charges of interference with civil rights and battery. This attack was the second hate crime reported in West Hollywood in little more than a week.



The San Francisco Human Rights Commission ruled April 15 that California's American Legion is homophobic and guilty of discriminating against the predominantly gay Alexander Hamilton Post, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*. The Commission acted on a complaint filed in 1993 by the Hamilton Post. It found that the California Legion violated laws prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations.

The Legion denied it engaged in any form of discrimination toward the Hamilton Post or any other Legion post.



Effective June 1, Fox Inc. will extend spousal health care benefits to employees' same-sex domestic partners. The more than 3,500 employees of Fox Television Group and Fox Filmed Entertainment will be covered by the new policy. With the implementation of this policy, Fox Broadcasting becomes the second television network to extend health care benefits to same-sex partners. Capital Cities/ABC adopted a similar policy in October 1994.



The California Supreme Court ruled April 9 against a landlord who claimed that state civil rights laws violated her right to free exercise of religion. The landlord had refused to rent an apartment in the complexes she owns to an unmarried heterosexual couple because of her belief that sex outside of marriage, and "facilitating" such sex, is sinful.

COLORADO

The Boulder Human Rights Commission voted April 15 to urge the City Council to approve a registry for gay and lesbian couples, reports Boulder's *Daily Camera*. The council will consider the issue at its May 7 meeting. If passed, Boulder would join the ranks of about a dozen other municipalities around the country that have established registries.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In a surprising move, James Cardinal Hickey, Archbishop of the Washington Archdiocese, rescinded his order that Father Paul Murray end his involvement with the gay and lesbian community or resign from his priestly duties. Hickey told Murray on April 2 that he can continue ministering to both homosexual and heterosexual Catholics, according to *The Washington Blade*.

Murray, who came out as a gay man in 1975, had been prepared to resign rather than stop his work with gay men and lesbians.

FLORIDA

The annual Springtime Tallahassee parade was short one high school band after the North Florida Christian School chose to withdraw rather than march in a parade that included a float sponsored by a gay and lesbian community newspaper.

HAWAII

Right-wing Christian groups, worried that same-sex marriages might actually become legal

in Hawaii, are threatening an economic boycott of the state, reports the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

A newspaper poll conducted in March found that 74 percent of registered voters disapproved of same-sex marriage.

MASSACHUSETTS

By the very narrow margin of just two votes at the Town Meeting, Nantucket became the sixth community in the state to extend some of the rights of married couples to lesbians and gay men who register as domestic partners. This was the fourth time in as many years that the bylaw change had been proposed. The final vote was 214-212.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Mascenic Regional School Board voted April 1 to allow limited use at a New Ipswich high school of three controversial books that deal with "homosexual themes." The books—*Maurice* by E.M. Forster, *The Education of Harriet Hatfield* by May Sarton, and *The Drowning of Stephan Jones* by Bette Greene—will be offered in a proposed upper level elective course called "Literature in Society." Additionally, the books will be on the school library shelves, but will not be required reading in any required class.



Last spring English teacher Penny Culliton was suspended and subsequently fired for assigning two of the books to her students. She has appealed her firing to an arbitrator.

PENNSYLVANIA

The University of Pennsylvania, a private university in Philadelphia, announced that the school will drop all Army and Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps programs on campus because of the Department of Defense's continued ban on gay men and lesbians in the military.

The university says the Defense Department's policy is in conflict with its anti-bias policies. The announcement ends a five-year conflict between the school and the military over the anti-gay policy.

TENNESSEE

Fundamentalist preacher June Griffin has requested permission to file an appeal of a ruling by the Tennessee Court of Appeals that declared the state's same-sex sodomy law unconstitutional, reports the Associated Press. The appeals court upheld on Jan. 26 an earlier ruling by Davidson County Circuit Court Judge Walter Kurtz that private sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex was protected by Tennessee's constitution.

The state of Tennessee has also appealed the ruling.

TEXAS

An East Texas man convicted of unauthorized use of a vehicle in Tyler, was ordered by the judge to obtain written consent from all future sex partners as part of his five-year probation, according to *Southern Voice*. State District Judge Louis Gohmert learned of Thomas Paul McDevitt's positive HIV status from a confidential pre-sentencing report. Questions have been raised as to whether the judge violated state law by revealing McDevitt's HIV status in a public court.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood



LOOKING FOR A FRIEND?

- Friendly Sales
- Fleet Prices
- Huge Inventory
- Excellent Service
- Good Advice

CHRIS STEVENS
"Your friend in the auto industry"

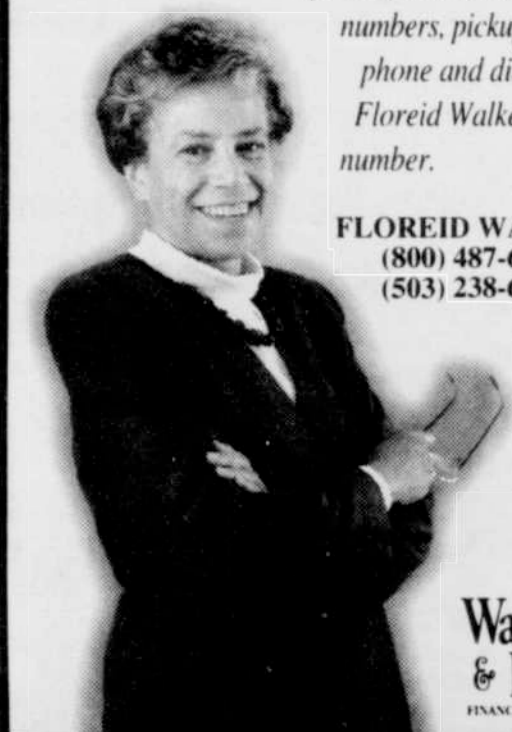
VANCOUVER NISSAN-KIA
 New & Used Cars & Trucks
 Mini Vans & Sport Utilities
 503-226-0006
 1-800-527-7542

The Lottery Is Not A Sound Financial Strategy.

Why leave your financial future to chance when you can trust the solid experience of Floreid Walker? As a Waddell & Reed account representative, she can help analyze your financial resources, needs and goals. Then, with objectives firmly understood, plan and implement a personal program designed specifically for you. The first one-hour consultation is free, so instead of

picking more lottery numbers, pickup the phone and dial Floreid Walker's number.

FLOREID WALKER
 (800) 487-6626
 (503) 238-6036



Waddell & Reed
 FINANCIAL SERVICES

We appreciate our Just Out supporters!

500 NE MULTNOMAH, SUITE 278
 PORTLAND, OR 97232

IN JANUARY OF 1991,

GAIL SHIBLEY BECAME THE FIRST OPENLY GAY

LEGISLATOR IN THE HISTORY OF OREGON,

BLAZING A TRAIL FOR THE 5 OTHERS

WHO HAVE FOLLOWED.

IN ADDITION TO A

STELLAR PERFORMANCE RECORD,

HER TENACITY AND COURAGE

HAVE WON GAIL ACCOLADES

FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL

AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES,

AS WELL AS FROM OUR OWN.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY PAC IS PROUD TO ENDORSE

GAIL FOR PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL.

POSITION ONE.

PORTLAND'S OWN TRAIL BLAZER,

GAIL IS A PERSISTENT EXAMPLE

OF THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

MADE BY INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY

EVERY DAY.

GAIL SHIBLEY FOR CITY COUNCIL.

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY RIGHT TO PRIVACY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE,
 921 SW MORRISON, SUITE 546, PORTLAND, OR 97205 • (503)228-5825