

reporters that the verdict is a message to gay-bashers: "Society has finally realized that homosexuals are entitled to full respect and dignity."

Neither Pinkerton's Inc. nor attorneys representing the company have commented on the judgment or on any plans for an appeal.



The Community Health Awareness Group in Detroit launched the city's first licensed needle exchange program, called Life Points, on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, in an effort to stem the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users and their sexual partners, reports United Press International. City health director Cynthia Tauzeg estimates that as many as half of Detroit's 3,676 cumulative AIDS cases are linked to drug use.



The program is modeled after Chicago Recovery Alliance's needle exchange, which resulted in an 88 percent reduction in disease-transmitting injection practices.

#### MINNESOTA

Steven Schochet, a retired computer systems analyst and graduate of the University of Minnesota, donated \$500,000 to his alma mater to support gay, lesbian and transgender studies and to foster a better environment for sexual minority students, faculty and staff. The gift will be used for the development of educational materials, curriculum programming and research.



"Back when I was in college, the campus climate was hostile to gay men," Schochet told *The Saint Paul Pioneer Press*. "This is my way of ensuring that things continue to get better for [gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered] people on campus."

#### MISSOURI

The Kansas City-based Native American Health/AIDS Coalition is moving out on its own after years of operating from within other AIDS service organizations. According to the *Kansas City News Telegraph*, the nonprofit group, the nation's only culturally affiliated case management organization, was formed in 1992 by current executive director Shirley Hoskins to address the dearth of research and statistics on HIV-positive Native people in Missouri and Kansas.

The coalition has a case load of around 52 people in the two states and operates one clinic and four outreach centers with a staff of five full-time workers and about 50 volunteers. Hoskins says case workers take patients to sweat lodges and dances, and help them use their culture to fight the disease.

#### NEBRASKA

Marvin Thomas Nissen, currently serving a life sentence for murdering transsexual Brandon Teena and two other people in 1993, has requested that the state Supreme Court grant him a new trial due to judicial errors and police misconduct.

Counsel for Nissen is expected to argue that the murder weapon found in his home should have been inadmissible evidence and that police

arrested him for the sexual assault of Teena (which allegedly occurred one week prior to the murder) only as a pretext to keep him in custody pending the arrest for murder.

#### NEW YORK

In a statement released Dec. 1, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund gave failing grades to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and New York Gov. George Pataki for their responses to the AIDS epidemic.

According to a Reuter report, the group criticized Shalala for refusing to endorse needle-exchange programs, not changing federal restrictions on HIV-positive health care workers and failing to ensure sufficient reimbursement rates in Medicaid programs switching to managed care systems. Pataki was targeted for his proposed welfare reforms, which would eliminate some housing assistance for people with HIV, reduce assistance to HIV-positive recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and end assistance to those who test positive for drugs.

Lambda's "report card" hailed Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), for defeating right-wing Rep. Robert Dornan; the New York State Court of Appeals, for a ruling that gave HIV-positive people access to basic health care; and the People with AIDS Health Group, for providing high-quality information.



Donna Shalala



Gay Men of African Descent held an anniversary celebration on Dec. 7 to commemorate 10 years of service to the African American gay men's community. The group's mission focuses on consciousness-raising, advocacy, health and education.

Among those honored for special contributions to the community were producer and director George C. Wolfe, author E. Lynn Harris and New York State Sen. David Patterson.

#### WASHINGTON

In response to the recent court decision on same-sex marriage in Hawaii, Washington Rep. Bill Thompson, a Republican from Everett, has announced plans to introduce legislation banning recognition of same-sex marriages in his state, reports United Press International.



Similar legislation was approved by the state House of Representatives earlier this year, but was not passed by the Senate. The past election turned control of the Senate over to the Republicans, however, and majority leader Dan McDonald has predicted a speedy passage of the bill.

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone

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## Children's Grief Group

A free group now forming for  
children ages 10, 11 and 12  
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Facilitated by Debra Rodgers, MSW  
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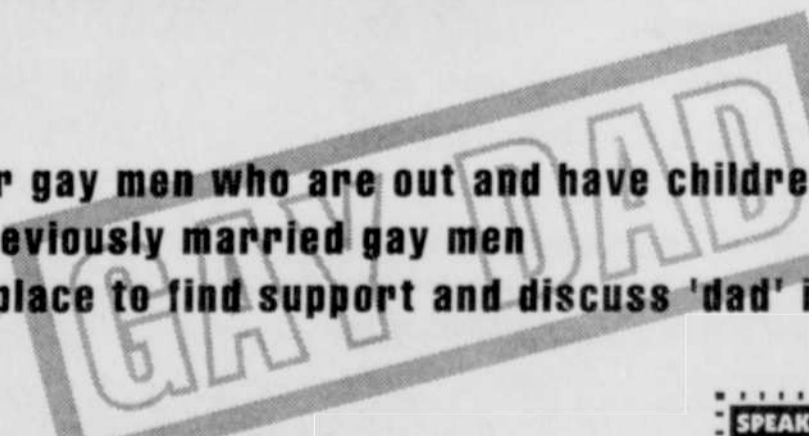
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## GAY DAD'S GROUP

> a support group for GAY DADS is now forming



- > for gay men who are out and have children
- > previously married gay men
- > a place to find support and discuss 'dad' issues



To sign up call Alan at 223.5907, extension 107

Speak to Your Brothers is a program of CASCADE AIDS PROJECT

