

national briefs

CALIFORNIA

The California Supreme Court ruled Feb. 24 that a life insurance company must pay benefits on the policy of an HIV-positive man who lied on his insurance application. The court ruled that Amex Life Assurance was too late in claiming fraud because state law makes all paid-up life insurance policies "incontestable" two years after they take effect, reported United Press International. The decision also said the company could have detected the fraud with "minimal effort."

In his 1991 application for insurance, José Morales denied having AIDS and two months later sent another man—four inches taller and 30 pounds heavier than the description he submitted in the application—to take the required medical exam. Morales died of AIDS-related causes in 1993, shortly after obtaining a viatical settlement.

Amex must now pay the policy's proceeds, \$180,000, to the viatical company.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) introduced a proposal on Jan. 7 to prohibit health insurers from using genetic information—including tests showing a likelihood of a person's developing breast cancer—to deny or refuse to renew a health insurance policy. According to a story in the *Washington Blade*, the bill would also prevent insurance companies from classifying genetic predisposition for an illness as a "pre-existing condition" which can be used to deny coverage.

In a statement in the *Congressional Record*, Slaughter said the legislation is intended to enable women to use newly developed genetic tests to help determine their risk of breast cancer without fear of losing their insurance. Slaughter introduced a similar bill two years ago that failed to receive a hearing.



The remains of award-winning gay scientist Todd Hawley will be among the first to rest in peace in outer space. According to a *Washington Blade* report, Hawley's ashes will join those of 22 other deceased persons being blasted off, along with a spacecraft carrying Spain's first satellite, from Gando Air Base in the Canary Islands this month.



The Texas-based company Celestis made the arrangements, under which the ashes will remain in orbit attached to the rocket's launcher before burning up within 10 years. Hawley, a founding member of the International Space University in Strasbourg, France, requested outer space burial shortly before his death from AIDS complications in 1995.



The Human Rights Campaign is looking for people who have been denied job opportunities, fired or otherwise discriminated against in the workplace because of their sexual orientation. The organization wants to use personal stories in its ongoing lobbying and awareness-raising campaign to enact the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which came within one vote of passing the Senate last September.

Anyone interested in sharing her or his experiences should call HRC at (202) 628-4160, ext. 4000, or write to The Human Rights Campaign, Documenting Discrimination Project, 1101 14th St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005 (be sure to include day and evening phone number and e-mail address if available). HRC is also accepting submissions through its Web site, <http://www.hrcusa.org>.

ILLINOIS

Rep. Larry McKeon (D-Chicago), the first openly gay man elected to the state Legislature, introduced a bill Feb. 28 to ban discrimination

based on sexual orientation. Thirty-six lawmakers are cosponsoring the measure, including House Speaker Michael Madigan, which reportedly is the largest number of sponsors of a sexual minority rights bill in state history.

The proposed legislation would amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodations and credit transactions. A similar bill in 1991 won only 40 votes in favor.

An identical bill was introduced in February in the Illinois Senate by Bruce Farley (D-Chicago) with 15 cosponsors.

NATIONWIDE

Lesbian Disabled Veterans of America, a nonprofit group formed to address policy and planning issues in the Department of Veteran Affairs and to serve the needs of lesbian disabled former service members, is recruiting volunteer field representatives to assist with grass-roots organizing and increasing community awareness. The group's mission is to assure that lesbian disabled veterans receive benefits and service on par with male veterans, and encounter no discrimination in their attempts to access those services; and to foster VA participation in general federal initiatives focusing on lesbian veteran and lesbian disabled veterans' issues.



Inquiries and tax deductible donations may be sent to Sharon Daugherty, 3124 Scranton St., Aurora, CO 80011. The organization's e-mail address is lesbian_veterans@homosexual.net; or check out its Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/index.html>.

NEW YORK

On Feb. 28 at the "Inner Circle," an annual \$400-a-plate black-tie dinner where the city's journalists lampoon city, state and national politics, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani stole the show when he appeared on stage wearing a blond bouffant wig and an evening gown and sporting a generous bosom to perform his rendition of Marilyn Monroe's "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" serenade to John F. Kennedy.

After razzing City Hall reporters, he frolicked with actress Julie Andrews, star of *Victor/Victoria*, reports The Associated Press. Giuliani, who is running for a second term this year, told the crowd he is "a Republican pretending to be a Democrat pretending to be a Republican."

OHIO

The Cleveland-based United Church of Christ recently appointed a national staff minister for gay and lesbian concerns, the Rev. Dr. William R. Johnson, who is believed by church officials to be the first openly gay man ever ordained to the Christian ministry.

Since 1990, Johnson has been the organization's HIV/AIDS ministries specialist, reports the *Akron Beacon Journal*. He is also the author of "Affirming Persons—Saving Lives," a comprehensive curriculum for AIDS prevention and awareness designed for use in Christian educational settings.

The 1.5 million-member denomination, formed in 1957, has 6,100 congregations in the United States and Puerto Rico. UCC's General Synod and the church's national agencies support equal rights for sexual minorities in society as well as in the church.

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone



North
Portland

Veterinary Hospital

Like any family member
our pets need good healthcare.
At North Portland Veterinary
Hospital, we provide the very
best medical care along with
big doses of tenderness
and compassion.

285-0462
2009 N.Killingsworth



**JUST POSSIBLY THE
BEST TASTING SUBS,
FRESH CHIPS AND
SALADS
ON THE PLANET!**

Multnomah Village
In John's Marketplace
3535 SW Multnomah Blvd., Portland, OR

Coventry Cycle Works



All 1996 **TREK** models
on Sale Now.

Featuring Portland's largest
selection of recumbents.

Open Tuesday-Sunday
230-7723
2025 SE Hawthorne

Celebrating my 8th year serving our community's real estate needs,
& my 26th year in the struggle for lesbian/gay rights!

Millynn's House "Sold" Word

▼ **Buying or selling real estate? Let me give you a hand...**

As your community professional realtor I can gently & expertly guide you through every step of the buying & selling process ... *Make your Move with Millynn in 1997!*

▼ **BUYERS**, As your experienced **Buyer's Broker**, I'll help you find & buy your dream home! I'll demystify the home buying process for you, explain financing options, & advise you on investment potential & the latest market trends. I will represent **your** interests from your first viewings to the beginning of negotiations & right through to Closing & Moving Day!
▼ **SELLERS**, Take advantage of my 20+ years of **top marketing experience!** I'll give your property the **best exposure in the full marketplace** so that you'll be sure to get "Top Dollar". (Even Nationally on my private tollfree response line!) ..Call to find out about my "cutting-edge" marketing plans. Yes, I'm "high tech", but I'm also "high touch"...you'll always get my full personal attention!

"I Start by Listening..."

▼ **CALL NOW to schedule your
FREE CONSULTATION !**



▼ **OUT on Broadway!**

2100 NE Broadway, Suite 1-B
Portland, OR 97232
503-287-8989, x122 (Office/24 hr voicemail)

cellular 318-1455 ▼ fax 503-284-1618

OUT of the area? Call 1-800-825-9948

▼ **E-mail: Millynnj@aol.com**

▼ **Specializing in classic & restorable homes in Pdx's established "close-in" neighborhoods**
▼ **Thank you, my Lesbian & Gay Community, for your fabulous support & welcome referrals!** You enable my continued support of RTP, Basic Rights Oregon, LCP, HRC, NARAL, CAP, PLC, Phoenix Rising, ONRC, ACLU, NOW, Lesbian & Gay Pride & so much more!

▼ **See me in the classifieds for late-breaking info & listings ▼**



Millynn James, GRI

▼ *Associate Broker, Multimillion \$ Producer*
... is **our real estate professional**