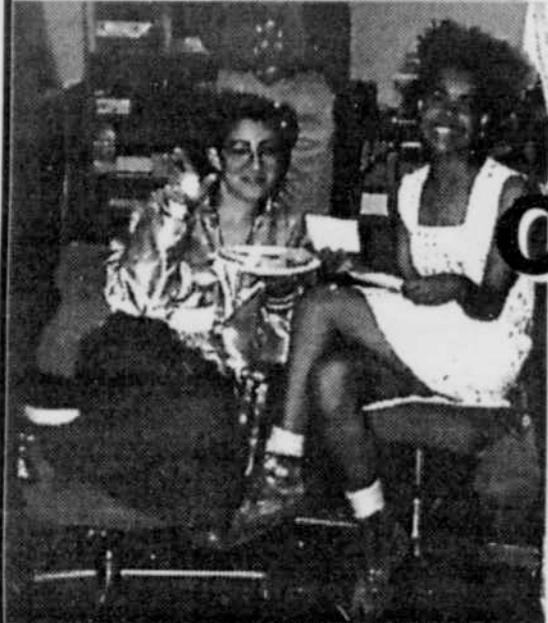
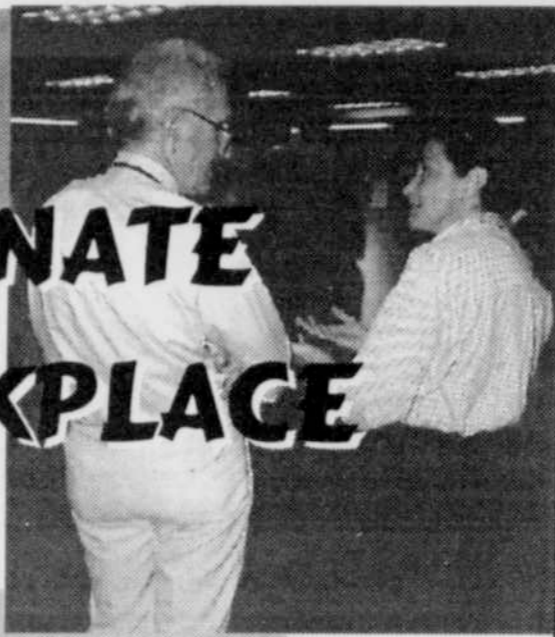


IT IS STILL LEGAL IN OREGON TO DISCRIMINATE IN THE WORKPLACE BASED ON



SEXUAL ORIENTATION. ARE WE READY TO

CHANGE THAT?

Come to a Community Meeting to discuss the pros and cons of taking a proactive stance to put ENDA on the November 1998 ballot.

Hands Off Washington's Jan Bianchi will talk about Washington's ENDA.



Community Meeting
Thursday, August 14
6:30-8:30 pm
Metropolitan
Community Church
2400 NE Broadway



**BASIC
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222-6151

national news

Clinton meets with gay and lesbian activists

President Clinton spent more than an hour with a dozen gay and lesbian activists during a July 22 meeting.

The group discussed a range of issues including gay-related adoptions, homeless gay and lesbian youth, and problems facing gay men and lesbians in rural areas, such as access to HIV/AIDS services.

The group also discussed Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on gay men and lesbians in the military.

"We made it clear there are a number of instances in which the administration has come down on the wrong side of issues that are important to us, not the least of which is the gays-in-the-military issue," says Lorri Jean, executive director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

Clinton, however, pledged his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a federal measure which prohibits firing or discriminating against an employee on the basis of sexual orientation.

According to The Associated Press, Clinton also assured the group he has put forth five nominations of openly gay people for administration jobs that require Senate confirmation.

Maria Echaveste, White House director of public liaison, told AP the president wants gay and lesbian appointees so that his administration can provide an example of how to reduce anti-gay attitudes in the workplace.

New wrinkles in ongoing Hawaii marriage fight

Gov. Ben Cayetano allowed Hawaii's progressive "reciprocal beneficiaries" legislation to become law July 8 without his signature, as a signal to lawmakers that they should rewrite the bill, reports the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

The new law grants gay and lesbian couples, as well as other pairs of adults who can't legally marry, about 50 marriage-associated benefits, including health and vehicle insurance coverage, hospital visitation, joint ownership and inheritance rights.

It does not grant child custody rights or the right to file joint income tax returns.

Cayetano wants the law to be limited to gay and lesbian couples, and claims lawmakers caved in to pressure from the religious right to include other people who can't legally wed.



Part of a two-bill package intended to circumvent court action to legalize same-gender matrimony, the legislation was passed along with a proposed November 1998 ballot initiative requesting a constitutional amendment to confine marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Terrance Tom, the state House's chief negotiator on the issue, told the *Advertiser* he felt no pressure from the religious right and that he didn't opt to limit the bill to gay men and lesbians, because that would amount to discrimination against others who cannot marry.

The Senate's major player in the negotiations, Matt Matsunaga, however, had attempted to restrict the law's scope to same-sex couples and affirmed his willingness to do so via a rewrite.

The Senate had also proposed a one-year residency requirement and a stipulation that the couples must cohabit.

Meanwhile, the broadness of the new law, under which registered pairs need not know each other, live together or even be state residents, is causing some confusion, particularly for business operators.

The state expects thousands of couples to apply over the next few months, and businesses are worried that their medical insurance costs will rise, reports The Associated Press.

That fear motivated the Hawaii Business Health Council, representing 30 of the state's largest companies, to lobby for a gubernatorial veto.

Furthermore, on July 18, a coalition of five companies filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging the legislation violates the federal Employment Retirement Income Security Act's provisions governing health coverage.

HIV risk from 'French' kissing linked to gum disease

Federal health officials are reporting the first documented case of HIV transmission by open-mouth kissing.

The July 10 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes that both the woman who contracted the virus and her HIV-positive male partner had gum disease as well as poor oral hygiene and that transmission occurred via the man's blood, not his saliva.

The CDC says the woman's gum disease weakened and thinned her gums, making it easier for the virus to enter her blood, and the man's gums often bled when he brushed and flossed his teeth, which he usually did prior to sexual activity.



Federal researchers told United Press International that transmission occurred when the woman was exposed to the man's blood-tainted saliva during regular episodes of passionate kissing between July 1994 and July 1995.

The couple say they used condoms faithfully with only one known malfunction, and while they engaged in oral sex, the researchers do not believe that was the cause of the woman's infection.

Dr. Scott Holmberg, a CDC epidemiologist, told UPI the exact route of transmission is unclear, but "the most likely possibility is that the woman was infected through her mucous membrane." DNA tests prove the virus in the woman's blood came from her partner.

Since 1986 the CDC has recommended that couples not kiss deeply if one of the partners is HIV-positive.

The recommendation is based on the bleeding gums scenario, as there are no recorded cases of HIV transmission through saliva, or social kissing, according to the CDC.

Activist butts head with prominent university

After months of correspondence and meetings, author and activist Larry Kramer has withdrawn his offer to bequeath several million dollars to Yale University for the endowment of a permanent, tenured professorship in gay and lesbian studies.

According to the *New York Times*, the university was unwilling to submit to Kramer's stipulations, favoring instead a series of visiting professors from the many disciplines spanned by gay and lesbian studies.