

# national briefs

## FLORIDA

Court officials say a palimony suit underway in West Palm Beach has the potential to become a landmark case for sexual minorities in Florida, reports United Press International.

Craig Burns Eberhardt, 40, was adopted by John Henry Eberhardt, 72, because they could not be legally married. Now Burns Eberhardt is suing for a share of the \$1.48 million mansion the couple shared for 13 years before their relationship soured.

Burns Eberhardt claims he was to inherit everything in the event that Eberhardt died, and that he was dependent upon him and worked to keep his business profitable.

## IDAHO

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit July 31 alleging that the Idaho Board of Education violated the First Amendment when it rejected a professor's grant proposal because it deals with sexual minority issues.

The ACLU says the board infringed on the academic freedom of Dr. Peter Boag, a historian who submitted a proposal to research gay and lesbian communities in the Pacific Northwest between 1870 and 1920.

According to the ACLU, the proposal was the only one of 16 not to be approved, despite the recommendation of the board's higher education council.

Since the board's decision involves public funds, the ACLU says the First Amendment's free-speech protections apply.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Harvard University enacted a policy in July allowing students, employees and alumni—though not the general public—to hold same-sex marriage ceremonies in its main chapel, Memorial Church.

The school is believed to be the first major university in the country to endorse same-sex unions by allowing marriages on its Cambridge campus, reports United Press International.

Conservative groups responded quickly and negatively, accusing Harvard of condoning sinful sexual acts.

According to the Rev. Peter Gomes, the openly gay pastor of Memorial Church, clergy of any faith will be free to conduct the ceremonies.

## NEW MEXICO

A woman who claimed to have been attacked in her home after her name appeared on an anti-gay "hit list" has been arrested for allegedly faking the crime.

Police in Portales told The Associated Press they believe Miranda Prather, 23, a graduate student at Eastern New Mexico University, distributed fliers displaying the list herself and later staged the attack.

Prather faces charges of making a false report to the authorities and seven counts of harassment—one for each person named on the fliers (all professors and graduate students at her school). The fliers urged people to "beat up a queer," "harass a queer" and "kill a queer."

If convicted, Prather could be sentenced to nearly eight years in prison.

## NEW YORK

Stunning other members of New York's AIDS advisory panel, Dr. David S. Hodes suggested at a July 2 meeting that gay organizations urge "their followers" who are HIV-positive to have sex only with other HIV-positive people, the *New York Times* reports.

Hodes, a pediatrics specialist in infectious diseases, added that he supports mandatory HIV

antibody testing and feels more emphasis should be placed on personal responsibility. "Most public health measures that are successful are not voluntary, but mandatory," he said. "The current approach hasn't worked for 15 years. It's time for some new direction."

Gay Men's Health Crisis is calling for Hodes' resignation from the panel, while Gov. George Pataki, who appointed Hodes to the panel in 1995, said through a spokesperson that he does not agree with Hodes' statements.

## OHIO

An Ohio appeals court ruled June 16 that a parent's sexual orientation has no relevance in child-custody cases and that judges must "disregard adverse impacts on the child that flow from society's disapproval of a parent's sexual orientation."

According to the *Washington Blade*, the case in question involves Herbert Inscow, an openly gay father who in a lower court lost custody of his 12-year-old son.

A gay New Jersey couple and a family advocacy group, meanwhile, are challenging a state law that forbids joint adoptions by same-sex couples. The *Philadelphia Gay News* reports that Michael Galluccio and Jon Holden of Maplewood, N.J., filed suit in state Superior Court on June 19.

## TENNESSEE

During its national convention in Memphis in July, the National Organization for Women passed a transgender-inclusion resolution.

"Transgender people are now doing the pioneering work in exposing artificial constructs of gender and breaking down the stereotypes and barriers which divide us all," declared NOW member and longtime activist Rosemary Dempsey.

The resolution states, in part, "NOW and its sub-units encourage education and dialogue within NOW and other organizations on gender and sex stereotypes including those who are transgendered and transsexual people."



## TEXAS

One week before he would have qualified for full retirement benefits, the Army discharged Lt. Col. Steve Loomis, 50, for engaging in "conduct unbecoming an officer," including homosexual acts and use of "force, coercion or intimidation."

In an Associated Press report, Loomis claimed Army officials were being vindictive because of his sexual orientation.

Furthermore, Loomis' attorney, David Sheldon, says evidence used to establish Loomis' orientation, namely a videotape which showed Loomis participating in "homosexual acts," was improperly obtained via civilian authorities who confiscated the tape during the investigation of an arson at Loomis' home.

## VERMONT

Three same-gender couples filed suit July 22 in Chittenden Superior Court seeking the right to marry.

According to a press statement from Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the couples are suing the State of Vermont as well as the municipalities of Shelburne, South Burlington and Milton, because town clerks there refused to issue marriage licenses to them.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs maintain "the refusal to allow our clients to marry violates both state marriage laws and the state Constitution, which require that all citizens and families have the same access to the legal protections and obligations of civil marriage."

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone

## THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

What's stopping you from planning for your financial future right now? No time? All it takes is one hour to get started. Too confusing? I'll explain all the options clearly, in language you can understand. No huge pool of cash available? You don't need thousands of dollars to start. As little as \$50 a month can provide big returns. Make today the day you stop making excuses. Call Floreid Walker and make an appointment instead.



FLOREID WALKER  
(503) 238-6036  
1-800-487-6626  
Voicemail: (503) 291-7713  
<http://www.waddell.com>

Waddell  
& Reed  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

We Appreciate Our Just Out Supporters!

500 NE Multnomah, Suite 278  
Portland, OR 97232



It's My Pleasure,  
Community  
Resources  
& more!

4258 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland OR 97215 236-0505



## ▼ Buying or Selling...? Let Our Family Help Your Family into the Home of Your Dreams!

"We start by listening..."

- ▼ ...to your hopes
- ▼ ...to your wishes
- ▼ ...to your dreams"

▼ Millynn James  
Associate Broker, GRI  
multimillion dollar producer  
Karen Sorensen, Assistant



photo by lindsay kliever

▼ Blue, Karen, Millynn & Belle

▼ OUT on Broadway...  
2100 NE Broadway, Ste 1-B



Office & Voicemail/pager:

▼ 503-287-8989 ext. 122  
318-1455 cellular

OUT of the area? Call our  
24 hour Nationwide Powerline:

▼ 1-800-825-9948, #555

e-mail: [millynn@aol.com](mailto:millynn@aol.com)

▼ Proudly CELEBRATING 8+ years serving our Community's real estate needs, & Proud SPONSOR of the AMAZON DRAGONS!

▼ See us in the classifieds for the latest listings & info!