



Pro Lab N.W. Inc.
133 SE Madison
Portland, OR 97214

503-231-1599

FULL SERVICE
CUSTOM PHOTO LAB



PALM SPRINGS
Serving your real estate needs for...

GREG GRAY
(760) 833-5434

Tarbell REALTORS
211 E. Palm Canyon
Palm Springs, CA 92264

**CONDOS
VACATION HOMES
HOTEL PROPERTIES
APARTMENT BLDGS.**

"MAKE YOUR DREAMS
COME TRUE TODAY!"

STOCK CRASH?
Relationships? - Health? - Work?

PSYCHIC
1-900-740-6500
EXT. 8238
\$3.99 per min.
Must be 18 yrs.
Serv. U.S. (619) 645-8434

NATIONAL news BRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

Claiming Oakland is flouting a state labor commission ruling by continuing to offer domestic partner benefits only to same-sex couples, firefighter Allen Edwards filed a complaint against the city Feb. 13 seeking benefits for his female domestic partner.

Despite last year's ruling in a similar case by state Labor Commissioner Jose Millan that Oakland's policy was discriminatory, the city has refused to budge—prompting the threat of a lawsuit by the state, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Millan told reporters he expects to make a ruling in Edwards' case within 60 days.



ILLINOIS

Chicago's domestic partnership ordinance, which provides health benefits to partners of gay and lesbian city employees, withstood its first court challenge with a favorable ruling Feb. 10 from Cook County Circuit Court, the *Chicago Tribune* reports.

The challenge was mounted by the pastor and several members of the Israel Methodist Community Church, who claimed the city had exceeded its home rule rights by offering the benefits. They also called the policy a threat to marriage.

Judge Thomas Durkin ruled the city has the right to grant such benefits. The plaintiffs plan to appeal.

The state of Illinois plans to require doctors and clinics to report the names of people who test positive for HIV, according to a Feb. 12 *Chicago Sun-Times* report.

Some public health officials say mandatory reporting, which will be implemented over the next three to four months, will ensure that those living with HIV receive proper counseling.

Activists, however, argue that reporting will discourage people from getting tested for fear their names will be made public and they will be discriminated against.

NEW JERSEY

The Boy Scouts of America's ban on admitting gay members violates New Jersey's laws against discrimination, a state appeals court ruled March 2.

According an Associated Press report, the court said the Scouts' decision to dismiss Eagle Scout James Dale because he is gay should be overturned. An attorney for Dale said this is the first time any appeals court has ruled against the Boy Scouts in challenges to their exclusion of sexual minorities.

OHIO

With donations from area residents and a contribution from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the people responsible for a hate crime attack on two Miami University students has been increased to \$6,000.

According to United Press International, the January incident involved two unidentified men armed with baseball bats who shouted racist and anti-gay epithets while attacking black sophomore Christopher Kindinger, 19, and his white friend Robert Waite, 20, who attend the college in Oxford.

Waite escaped and alerted authorities, but

Kindinger was injured and later hospitalized. The FBI is investigating the attack as a criminal violation of the students' civil rights.

PENNSYLVANIA

On Feb. 10, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia formally condemned three proposed city ordinances that would grant health and pension benefits to same-sex domestic partners of city employees, Reuters reports.

Calling the legislation "destructive to our city's moral and social structure," Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua urged Mayor Ed Rendell and the city council to reject the measures when they come up for consideration later this year.

The ordinances, which were introduced in November, would add the term "life partner" to the language of existing laws governing pensions and other benefits, hirings and promotions, and exemptions from the city's real estate transfer tax.

Bevilacqua called the terminology coded language that is being used "to promote and protect homosexual relationships." Rendell reportedly supports the proposals.

TEXAS

The executive board of the statewide Baptist General Convention of Texas voted Feb. 24 to disassociate itself from Austin's University Baptist Church because of that church's support of sexual minorities.

"We cannot approve of churches endorsing homosexual practice as biblically legitimate," Fort Worth pastor Charles Davenport, head of the committee that drafted the motion, told The Associated Press.

The church has had a tenuous relationship with the convention since it ordained an openly gay deacon in 1994. It also drew fire for sponsoring Open Circle, a ministry for gay men and lesbians.

The motion asks University Baptist to remove any claim of affiliation with the convention from its literature and Internet site. The convention also will no longer accept money donated from the church for missionary programs.

University Baptist Pastor Larry Bethune said the congregation will likely do as the convention asks.

Houston Mayor Lee Brown signed an executive order Feb. 16 banning discrimination in city government on the basis of sexual orientation.



"I have issued this order because I truly believe that the City of Houston should not discriminate against anyone," the mayor said in a written statement. "This is the right thing to do."

According to the *Houston Chronicle*, Brown established the new policy through his executive order authority, which does not require a vote by the city council.

In 1985, Houston voters overwhelmingly repealed an ordinance granting job protections to gay and lesbian city workers. Brown said Houston has changed since then.

Compiled by CHRISTOPHER D. CUTTONE

Why settle for 2nd best when you can have the original?
Precor invented the concept.
Precor holds all the patents.
Precor is suing all the imitators.
Precor is in all the clubs.
Only Precor has power elevation
Only Precor is silky smooth and completely quiet.
Only Precor lets you keep your foot flat throughout the range of motion.

ELLIPTICAL FITNESS CROSS-TRAINER

PRECOR USA
EFX5.21s
The Standard by which all others are judged.

NO IMPACT
Walking
Running
StairClimbing
CrossCountry
Skiing

SALE \$2695 Reg. Price \$2900

"you feel weightless, like you're walking on the moon."

Your Fitness Experts
Exercise Equipment
Available Exclusively At
NORTHWEST
1-800-659-0421

659-4055 11211 SE 82nd Ave. Ross Center
286-1292 1206 N. Hayden Mds Dr. Delta Park
444-0616 11865 SW Beav.-Hilledale Hwy. Beaverton Town Square