

Calvin Klein TRUNK SHOW

SA+. APRIL 25
10 AM-6 PM



eye exams available

TRAVEL AGENTS INTERNATIONAL America's Vacation Store

♂ Commitment ♀ Cruise

"Memories of a Lifetime"

November 29 - December 6

Publicly Affirm Your Commitment
Aboard the *Monarch of the Seas*!

Cruise includes:
Commitment Ceremony
Reception with music, flowers & cake
Discounted air add-ons available

Ports of Call:

San Juan	St. Thomas
Martinique	Barbados
Antigua	St. Maarten

Encourage Your
Friends & Family
to Share In
This Memorable Event

As low as
\$699/ppdo

Space is Limited
Call Today!!



Call 503-223-1100 or 800-357-3194
917 SW Washington
Portland, Oregon • OR REG. #221

NATIONAL news BRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

The San Bernardino Catholic Diocese is courting gay men and lesbians in a dramatic turnaround from years of leveling condemnation, The Associated Press reported April 1.

"We are telling them they are totally welcome," said the Rev. Howard Lincoln, spokesman for the diocese and a priest at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Rialto. "All forms of prejudice are a fundamental act of disobedience against the Lord who creates us.... It is profane to assume God values the souls of homosexuals less than heterosexuals."

The diocese, which includes Riverside and San Bernardino counties, set up a special committee in February to examine the needs of gay people and wants to establish a permanent office of gay and lesbian affairs.

"We think there are gay people sitting in our pews suffering in silence who don't feel part of the congregation," said Joan Gonzales, chairwoman of the diocese's newly formed Ad Hoc Committee on Ministry to Gays and Lesbians. "We want to open the doors to everyone. We want support groups for gays and lesbians. But we are going to go slowly."

In September, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops released a lengthy statement saying people don't generally choose their sexuality but are given it by God. The bishops also called for compassion and love for gay men and lesbians along with an end to stereotyping.

FLORIDA

Miami, home to many a queer, has recently been shaken by anti-gay graffiti, reports the *Miami Herald*.

"Faggots must die" was among the derogatory phrases painted across a gray marble monument that commemorates U.S. veterans. The monument is part of the American Legion Hervey Seeds Post 29, which also houses offices for AIDS Walk.

The vandalism occurred only a few days after William Smatt, a resident of Miami's Belle Meade neighborhood, erected a sign on his property that read: "Belle Mead now city of Sodom & Gomorrah. 'Vengeance is mine' sayeth the Lord."

While his attitude and the proximity of the two events have reportedly added to neighborhood tensions, Smatt denies any involvement with the graffiti.

MASSACHUSETTS

The state is launching the first initiative in the nation designed to protect gay and lesbian students on college campuses. The Safe Colleges Program for Gay and Lesbian Students seeks to raise awareness and protect sexual minority students from discrimination and harassment.

According to United Press International, the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth is behind the effort. Commission member Ed LeMay said officials are finding this kind of program is "even more necessary in colleges because that's when more kids come out" and acknowledge their homosexuality.

The initiative involves a statewide effort on both public and private campuses to protect the health, safety and well-being of gay and lesbian students and faculty members. It includes new anti-discrimination training programs for both faculty and staff members, and the establishment of gay-straight student alliances at many college and university campuses in the state.

Tufts University Dean Bobbie M. Knable said the "college experience for gay and lesbian students isn't the same as it is for straight students."

NEW JERSEY

Asbury Park postman Scott Shortreed decided that if the U.S. Postal Service wouldn't let him wear shorts in 80-degree weather until April, he'd wear the next best thing—a skirt.

Shortreed recently told the *Asbury Park Press* that women have a choice between pants and a skirt all year long, so he asked supervisor



Vincent Daniels if he could exercise the same option. Daniels sarcastically said yes, and that was enough for Shortreed, who then asked fellow postal worker Marise Galgano for help in coming up with a skirt that would fit him.

According to United Press International, she took a pair of his banned-till-April postal shorts, altered the crotch and turned them into a knee-length skirt that Shortreed wore on his route on March 28.

Daniels characterized Shortreed as a malcontent who wanted to make him look bad. Galgano, meanwhile, said she was just concerned with how Shortreed looked and would have tailored the skirt to show a little more leg if he'd modeled them for her.

TEXAS

The Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, the world's largest predominantly gay and lesbian congregation, says it was the target of a bomb threat posted April 2 on the Internet.

The threat, received by the *Dallas Morning News*, is being analyzed by the FBI. It contained condemnations of gay men and lesbians and proclaimed, "You think Oklahoma City was bad, wait until you see this."

The Rev. Mike Piazza, senior pastor of the congregation, said the church would continue to operate normally. "Our stance is that we need to release this information so our members know [and] can make their choice. We're going to have services, but people have a right to know what they are coming to."

Piazza also noted that last year's bombing of an Atlanta gay bar and more recent bomb attacks on women's health clinics have forced the church to view all threats with concern.



Austin's University Baptist Church stands alone following a February vote by the Baptist General Convention of Texas to disavow the tiny 90-year-old congregation.

According to The Associated Press, University Baptist was simply too accommodating toward gay men and lesbians.

The Rev. Larry Bethune of University Baptist explains, "It's not accurate to say we endorse homosexual behavior, but we do embrace homosexual persons as persons beloved of God."

Despite losing its association with Texas' organized Baptists, Bethune says of the church, "As our sign says outside, our doors are still open and they're going to stay that way."

■ Compiled by INGA SORESENSEN and WILL O'BRYAN

SWEDISH MASSAGE • POLARITY • SPORTS MASSAGE

East-West College of the Healing Arts

A Professional School of Massage & Bodywork



Training for Excellence

- Oregon's Only American Massage Therapy Association/COMTA-Approved Massage Curriculum



- Day or Night Classes
- Convenient Financing
- Bookstore and Cafe
- Student Clinic Massage



Enrolling now for classes that
begin July 6 & October 5, 1998



A Referral Brochure is available for Licensed
Massage Therapists in the Portland area

4531 SE Belmont Street • Portland, Oregon 97215-1635

503-231-1500 • 1-800-635-9141

503-232-4087 fax • www.ewcha.com

DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE • ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

SHIATSU • KINESIOLOGY • SWEDISH MASSAGE • PATHOLOGY • SPORTS MASSAGE

SHIATSU • SWEDISH MASSAGE • PATHOLOGY • SPORTS MASSAGE • POLARITY