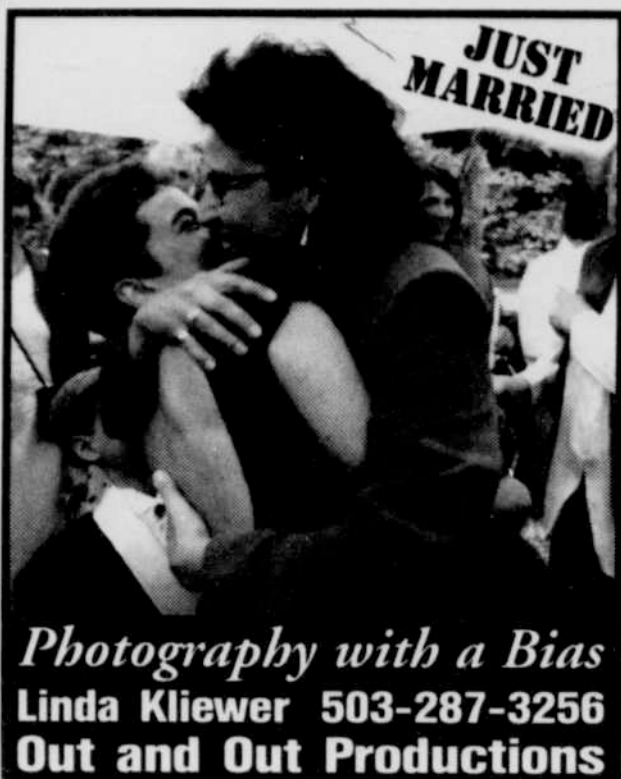


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NATIONAL news BRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

A few-days-old display commemorating queer pride month was removed by high school administrators after it provoked controversy—a move that dismayed the students who created it, says a June 7 Associated Press report.

The display was created by the Diversity Club at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, whose members had believed it would stay up through the end of the school year.



"All of the other displays were up a lot longer," said Meganne Furey, 15, who was one of the beleaguered work's designers.

Mounted along a wall in a glass case, the display included a queer pride month sign, a rainbow flag, a pink triangle and a list of gay and lesbian people who have made significant contributions to society.

One faculty member said he was surprised the display lasted as long as it did.

"Some kids spat on it. Some kids started yelling obscenities about gays," the faculty member told the *San Francisco Examiner*.

During the week, one student circulated a petition demanding it be taken down, and made "Straight Pride" shirts, which several students were reportedly seen wearing.

The Salvation Army says it will no longer take city money and will cut back on some programs because of San Francisco's domestic partners law. The organization said the year-old ordinance conflicts with its Christian beliefs on the importance of family.

Under the ordinance, any business that holds city contracts and provides spousal health insurance to married couples must do the same for the gay or unmarried partners of its employees.

"We simply cannot agree to be in compliance," Salvation Army Lt. Col. Richard Love told the media June 3.

The charity holds \$3.5 million in city contracts, Love told The Associated Press.

With an \$18 million annual budget for services in San Francisco, the Salvation Army is one of the largest nonprofit social service organizations in the city. The organization said it will scale back programs for senior citizens and the homeless.

ILLINOIS

Eleventh-graders in 61 high schools were recently given a health education test that contained questions about AIDS and referred to anal and oral sex, reports The Associated Press.

"Every child in the state of Illinois who took this test has already been mentally molested by the state Board of Education," charges the Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch, director of Concerned Christian Americans.

The Illinois Board of Education has apologized for the explicitness of the test questions.

NEW YORK

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's attempt to enforce strict zoning laws on the Big Apple's sex shops.

The zoning Giuliani is trying to enforce, United Press International reports, would pre-

vent sex shops from operating in residential neighborhoods or within 500 feet of schools, places of worship, child care facilities or other adult entertainment retailers. These conditions would result in the closure of 75 percent of existing X-rated businesses, city officials estimate.

Defendants in the case plan to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

TEXAS

In Corpus Christi, residents seem to love a parade. So much so, reports the *Caller-Times*, that the city's gay and lesbian pride parade started only two hours after 1,200 citizens took part in the much larger March for Jesus.

That both groups marched on May 30 was coincidental, but some participants, like Eva Martinez, who marched for Jesus, found common ground.

"I think that Christian people need to come out of the closet, just like the gays," she said.

Although chaperones and sponsors outnumbered youth attendees at the Rainbow GAYla, the event was still disturbing enough to motivate some people to protest the queer prom at the Dallas Grand Hotel.



The roughly 50 teens who attended the May 30 dance were met by demonstrators carrying signs with anti-gay messages, says United Press International.

Despite the brouhaha, event organizers say the Rainbow GAYla will likely become an annual affair.

UTAH

The East High School Gay/Straight Alliance and the Salt Lake City School Board have agreed to go into mediation in an attempt to settle the alliance's federal lawsuit against the district over its school club policies.

According to a June 9 *Salt Lake Tribune* report, the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Utah Attorney General's Office told U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins they would like to end the case.

"We have told the defendants we would be willing to resolve the case and get it settled in the best interests of students in Salt Lake City," said Jon Davidson, an attorney for Lambda, a national gay and lesbian advocacy organization.

The parties want to complete the settlement before school resumes in late August, Davidson added. Details of the potential settlement were not immediately available, however, and both sides will have to agree on a mediator.

The lawsuit was filed in 1997, two years after the East High Gay/Straight Alliance tried to organize a school-sponsored club. Early in 1996, the Salt Lake City school district banned all noncurricular clubs in its schools.

The lawsuit alleges that the district's decision that clubs must be directly linked to curriculum is arbitrarily applied and unconstitutional.

■ Compiled by WILL O'BRYAN and INGA SORESEN