
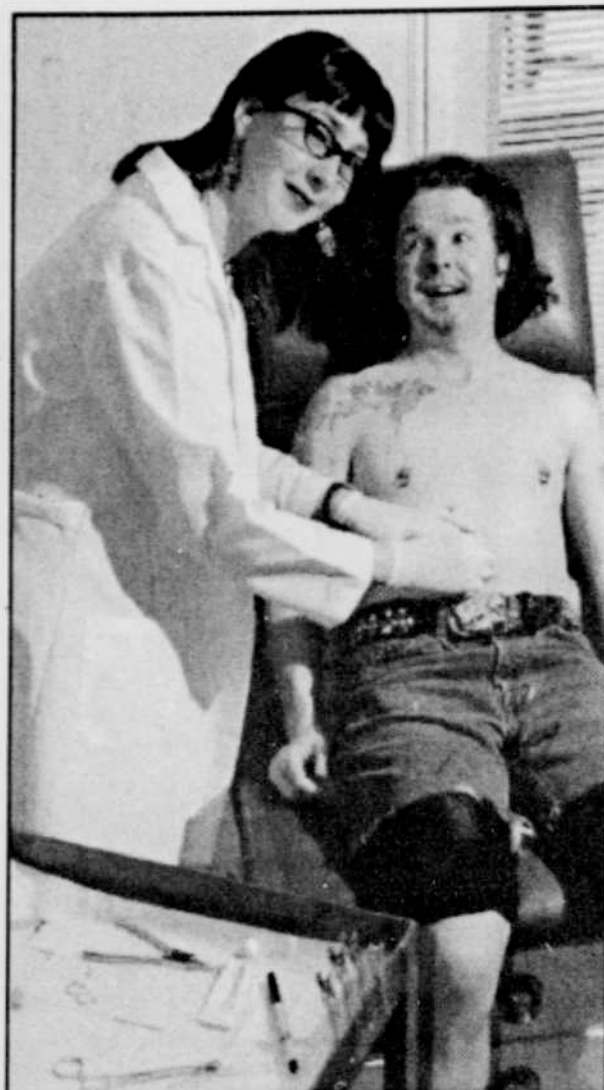


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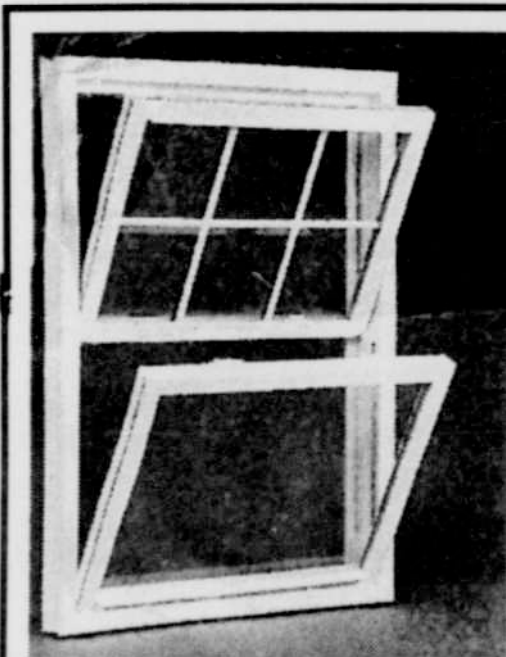
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## NATIONAL news

### CALIFORNIA

Voters in the Super Tuesday election March 7 voted overwhelmingly in favor of Proposition 22, a measure that amends the state's family code to say "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."



According to exit polls, those who voted in favor of Proposition 22 claimed they did so to preserve the traditional family.

Supporters of the measure, aka the Knight initiative—after its sponsor, Republican state Sen. Pete Knight—insisted the initiative was needed to protect California from having to recognize same-sex marriages contracted in other states. (No states currently allow such marriages, however.)

Support for the ballot measure came from both men and women and from voters of all races and incomes. It was opposed by Democrats 2 to 1, but backed by Republicans nearly 6 to 1.

Proposition 22 supporters insisted the measure was not an attack on lesbians and gay men, but rather an effort to protect the state's right to define marriage.

Opponents of the measure believed it was an attempt to promote anti-gay discrimination. They argued that defining same-sex relationships as second class would promote fear and violence toward gay men and lesbians.

Not all the news was bad in California. According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, four lesbian candidates won their state primary races on Super Tuesday.

Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, a Democrat, resoundingly beat a well-funded opponent in a very competitive race and is now on her way to becoming California's first openly gay state senator. The Golden State's first openly gay state legislator, Kuehl was elected to the Assembly in 1994 and re-elected in 1996 and 1998.

Jackie Goldberg, a Democrat, prevailed overwhelmingly in her bid for the Assembly representing the Los Angeles-area 45th District. Goldberg was the first openly lesbian elected official in Los Angeles. She recently spearheaded passage of the city's new domestic partnership legislation.

Christine Kehoe also came in well ahead of her nearest Republican opponent in an open primary bid for the San Diego-area 76th District seat in the Assembly. Currently in her second term on the San Diego City Council, Kehoe was the first openly gay person elected to office in San Diego County when she won her first race in 1993. Among her many other accomplish-

ments, she is credited with leading the successful effort to secure domestic partner benefits for city employees.

Toni Atkins was the top vote-getter in the race for the San Diego City Council's 3rd District seat, securing her position as the leading contender in the November general election. A longtime senior aide to Councilwoman Christine Kehoe, she is widely respected as an effective consensus builder.

### COLORADO

The Laramie Project, a play about the murder of Matthew Shepard, premiered in February at the Denver Center Theater and runs through April 1.

The play is a collaboration between the New York-based Tectonic Theater Project and the people of Laramie, Wyo.

According to a Feb. 27 Associated Press story, the nearly three-hour performance grew out of 18 months of preparation. Members of the theater company made six trips to Laramie for interviews with the friends and relatives of Shepard, a gay college student murdered in October 1998.

The thoughts and opinions garnered on those trips were stitched together by the troupe, working under the direction of founder Moises Kaufman and Leigh Fondakowski.

The opening was attended by people from Laramie and members of the media.

Said Matt Galloway, bartender at the Fireside Lounge, where Shepard met his killers: "To actively step back and sit and watch everything unravel is surreal. I had so much anticipation. It is interesting to undo the wound that you think is healed, but it hasn't."

### LOUISIANA

Students at McKinley High School in Baton Rouge wanted to start a Gay-Straight Alliance at the school. Seniors Martin Pfeiffer and Leslie Spillman had promoted the idea at recent meetings of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, according to the Baton Rouge Advocate.



One morning in February, the students' efforts were met with resistance from other students opposed to the formation of the club. Protesting students held up signs, while others ran through the halls banging on doors. The demonstration began and ended several times, starting up again when the media appeared.



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