

**NATIONAL news**

Provost Nancy Cantor, the university is "completely in support of both professor Halperin's course and his freedom to teach this course."

In a late March news release, University of Michigan Regent Dan Horning said the course "crosses the line" and added that he would ask for a review at the regents' April meeting.

**NATIONAL**

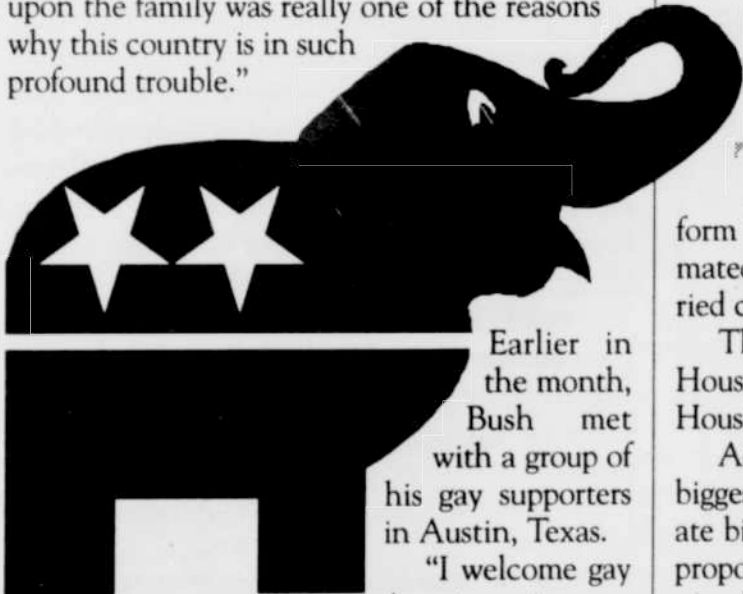
The GOP is in big trouble—so says conservative Pat Buchanan, formerly a Republican booster, who now feels the party has abandoned the American family.

According to an April 16 Associated Press report, Buchanan made the remarks after GOP presidential hopeful George W. Bush met with gay Republicans.

"He's raising the white flag and stacking arms [surrendering] in the cultural war for the soul of this country," Buchanan said on *Fox News Sunday*.

Buchanan, who abandoned his quest for the 2000 GOP presidential nomination in October, is the leading contender for the Reform Party's nomination.

Regarding Bush's April 13 meeting with a dozen gay Republicans, Buchanan said: "He's sending a signal that this really is not a matter that we ought to let trouble us. But you know, what he's doing is he's walking away from the pro-family Republicans. Look, Republicans believe—or used to believe—the idea of preserving the family is critical, and any assault upon the family was really one of the reasons why this country is in such profound trouble."



Earlier in the month, Bush met with a group of his gay supporters in Austin, Texas. "I welcome gay Americans into my

campaign," Bush told reporters after the meeting. "I want the Republicans, conservative Republicans to understand we judge people based upon their heart and soul, that's what the campaign is about. And while we disagree on gay marriage, for example, we agree on a lot of other issues and it's important for people to hear that."

Bush had previously been reluctant to meet with gay Republicans.

Robert Stears, chairman of Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group, said the meeting is "a positive first step in an historic dialogue with a Republican presidential nominee, in an election cycle that has been truly historic for gay Americans."

Those at the meeting included openly gay GOP elected officials such as Mayor Dan Stewart of Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Councilman David Catania of Washington, D.C.

**UTAH**

Two East High School students are suing the Salt Lake City School District. An April 11 story in *The Salt Lake Tribune* reports that the students are claiming discrimination because the district will not allow them to form a club to discuss gay and lesbian issues.

In their suit, Jessica Cohen and Margaret Hinckley contend the school district violated their First Amendment rights to freedom of expression when it denied their requests to form the Rainbow Club in 1999 and PRISM (People Respecting Important Social Movements) in January 2000.

The civil suit was filed in U.S. District Court.

The school district banned all nonacademic clubs in 1996, after students tried to form a support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. Last October, a federal judge ruled that the ban on nonacademic clubs is constitutional.



In their lawsuit, Cohen and Hinckley maintain their clubs have an academic tie to history, sociology, government and biology classes, because they examine homosexual perspectives on those subjects. The clubs would be open to students of all sexual orientations.

Currently, nonacademic clubs can meet after hours on public school property as community groups. They must pay rent for the space, obtain insurance, and they cannot advertise their clubs at school.

Cohen and Hinckley are asking the court to force the school district to allow the PRISM and Rainbow clubs to meet as school-sponsored clubs and to pay their attorney fees.

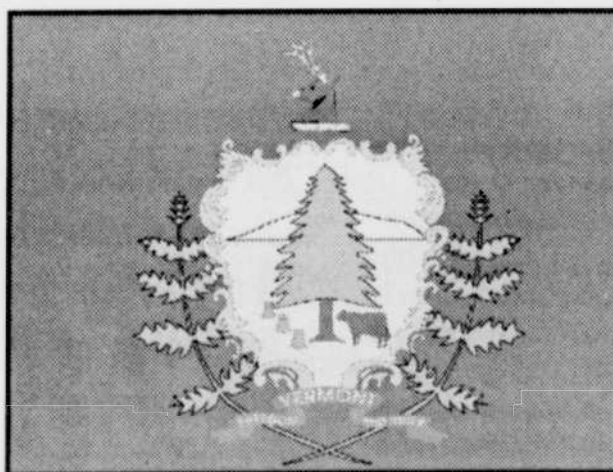
School district officials declined to comment on the lawsuit.

**VERMONT**

The state Senate approved a bill April 19 that allows same-sex couples to form "civil unions," entitling them to an estimated 300 rights and benefits available to married couples under state law.

The vote was 19-11; the bill returns to the House for consideration of changes to the House-approved version.

According to The Associated Press, the biggest difference between the House and Senate bills is the effective date. Under the Senate proposal, civil unions could take place beginning July 1. The House set the date two months later.



Under the bill, gay and lesbian couples could obtain a license from their town clerks and then have their unions certified by a judge or member of the clergy. They then would qualify for the wide array of benefits available to married couples, from being able to make medical decisions on behalf of their partners to qualifying for certain tax breaks. To break up a civil union, couples would have to go through family court to obtain dissolutions, just as when married couples divorce.

Unlike marriage, civil unions might not be recognized in other states.

Democratic Gov. Howard Dean has said he will sign the bill.

Compiled by KRISTINE CHATWOOD, a Portland resident and longtime *Just Out* contributor.

**Are you?**

**Ask yourself, are you building a better queer community?**

Start your queer community today for only \$19.95

Webpride is PDX's ONLY queer owned and operated ISP

1-888-895-9607  
www.webpride.net

**webpride**  
Internet Services International

**MARVIN SALLES**  
Associate Broker

- \* Innovative Marketer
- \* Experienced Buyer's Agent
- \* Attentive Listener

503.320.1271  
www.marvinsalles.com

**John C. Scott**  
REAL ESTATE

**Are you totally satisfied with your Insurance coverages?**

**Does it meet your lifestyle needs?**

Home • Auto • Life  
Business • Disability

For the readers of *Just Out*

Call and find out how we can help you  
Home and office visits  
Evening & Weekend appointments available  
**Call Paul, Randy or Woody**

**SPRING SALE**

**Up to \$100 Off!**

**WINDOW COVERINGS**

\$50 off any purchase over \$600  
\$100 off any purchase over \$900

Now, you can afford some real window coverings. Budget Blinds makes it easy to dress up your home and get dressed in your home with a \$100 discount on any purchase of \$900 or more. This offer is good on every style of window covering and every brand we carry.

Offer good at time of purchase only.  
Not valid with any other coupons.

It's stunning. It's practical. It can only be a Vignette.®

**Hunter Douglas**

WE SPECIALIZE IN WINDOW FASHIONS

**Budget blinds** Free Estimates • Free Installation • 90 days same as cash on approved credit

Serving Oregon & SW Washington

**Call Now! 503-590-4333**

Salem 503-362-1643