

acquired publications will be able to keep their identity as well as their editorial direction. "This is how Window Media allows papers to 'focus' on local news: by replacing women by men, printing misogynist and insulting columns that attack a large part of the community and displacing local talent...with inexperienced and out-of-touch outsiders."

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has voted to reject a ban on holy unions.

Passed by a deeply divided 212th General Assembly in June 2000, Amendment O was intended to ban pastors from conducting same-gender blessings as well as the use of church property in offering such blessings. But 87 of the 173 presbyteries so far have voted against the measure, which many considered an unacceptable intrusion into pastoral ministry.

"If the church is serious about the importance of faith to family life, to wholeness of relationships, it cannot continue to ignore the commitments of same-gender couples," said Mitzi Henderson, More Light Presbyterians co-moderator. "The public blessing of love and fidelity, before family and friends, has a profoundly spiritual significance."

However, Leslie Scanlon of the *Presbyterian Outlook* said the result of the vote does not necessarily indicate a change in stance on homosexuality. Her assessment soon might be put to the test: Many overtures already have been sent to the upcoming General Assembly proposing to lift the ban on the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

KENTUCKY

In a resounding victory for civil rights laws in general—and gay rights laws in particular—a federal court March 21 dismissed a Kentucky gynecologist's lawsuit that sought to strike down a local ordinance he claimed violated his religious liberties and free speech rights.

"This is a total victory for fairness," said Leslie Cooper, staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "Today's decision says that everyone has to obey civil rights laws."

J. Barrett Hyman sued the city of Louisville and Jefferson County two years ago. He claimed that by barring him from discriminating on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity in his medical business, the ordinances would punish him for his Baptist religious beliefs.

Hyman was represented by Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice in a case that quickly became a national focal point in the debate about whether individual religious beliefs "trump" gay rights laws. Similar legal challenges were filed elsewhere, but courts dismissed them on technical grounds. Last summer, the U.S. Justice Department filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Kentucky case, siding with the ACLU and citing concerns that if Hyman prevailed, the government's ability to enforce a broad range of civil rights laws would be jeopardized.

Like similar ordinances nationwide, the ones in Louisville and Jefferson County include exemptions for religious organizations, such as churches, that do not receive government funding. This decision will have no effect on these exemptions.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Appeals Court has decided its first known case involving

domestic violence between gay men.

It ruled that a judge may not issue "mutual restraining orders" without written findings that the orders are warranted against both parties. Although this case involved gay men, the decision applies to all cases of domestic violence.

The case involved Samuel Ayer, who lived for a time with a male couple. He claimed a pattern of abuse culminating in an argument Dec. 26, 1998, caused him to leave the home and obtain restraining orders against them.

Three days later, the couple went to another court and obtained orders against Ayer. The judge ruled there was abuse among all the parties and issued mutual restraining orders without written findings, so the appeals court lifted these orders against Ayer.

Recognizing the teaching function of appellate opinions, the legal rights organization Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders submitted a brief addressing factors to consider in cases involving alleged domestic violence among sexual minorities. The appeals court did not address these issues in its opinion, which disappointed attorney Anthony Mirenda.

"The GLAD brief explained how homophobia can be a weapon of abusers and the myth that just because everyone is of the same sex, they all have the same power," he said. "Trial judges need to be aware of this because these cases occur regularly."

MARYLAND

In a major civil rights victory, the Maryland House voted overwhelmingly March 30 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations and employment.

The Senate approved the legislation after an emotional and often contentious debate March 27. Earlier in the month, the Anti-Discrimination Act of 2001 cleared the largest hurdle for passage when the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, which stymied the measure in 1999, voted 6-5 to pass the bill.

Gov. Parris Glendening, the legislation's most ardent supporter, is expected to sign it into law in mid-April. Civil rights leaders in Maryland said he has made a tremendous contribution on this issue.

"To say that we are elated would be an understatement," said Blake Humphrey, managing director of Free State Justice, the state's gay rights lobby. "The House vote makes this a historic day for civil rights. Maryland's elected officials have listened to their constituents and voted to end discrimination."

This was a personal victory for Glendening, whose passion to pass the measure was ignited by the memory of his brother, Bruce, who was gay and had to conceal his sexual orientation during his Air Force career. He later died of an AIDS-related illness.

"Clearly, the leadership of Gov. Glendening in advocating for fairness and combating discrimination against gay and lesbian Marylanders was key in passing this historic legislation," said Nancy Meyer, Free State Justice board of directors co-chair. "In voting by such a wide margin in both the Senate and the Houses, legislators sent a message that bias and hate will not be tolerated in the Free State." **J**

Parris Glendening

Compiled by Copy Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.

Counter Media

DOWNTOWN AT 927 SW OAK

The NW's best selection of gay erotica, including:

- Every erotic photo book and art book in print
- Every book of erotic fiction and nonfiction
- Foreign and domestic mags, always at 10% off
- Vintage physique photos and magazines

11-6 MON-SAT, 12-6 SUN, 226-8141

Laser Hair Removal

Any Color Hair or Skin

FREE CONSULTATION

Discreet

Trans-Friendly

Ten Skin OK!

No Area Restrictions

Registered Nurse On Staff

Fast, Comfortable, Affordable

1/2 OFF!

First Treatment Discount

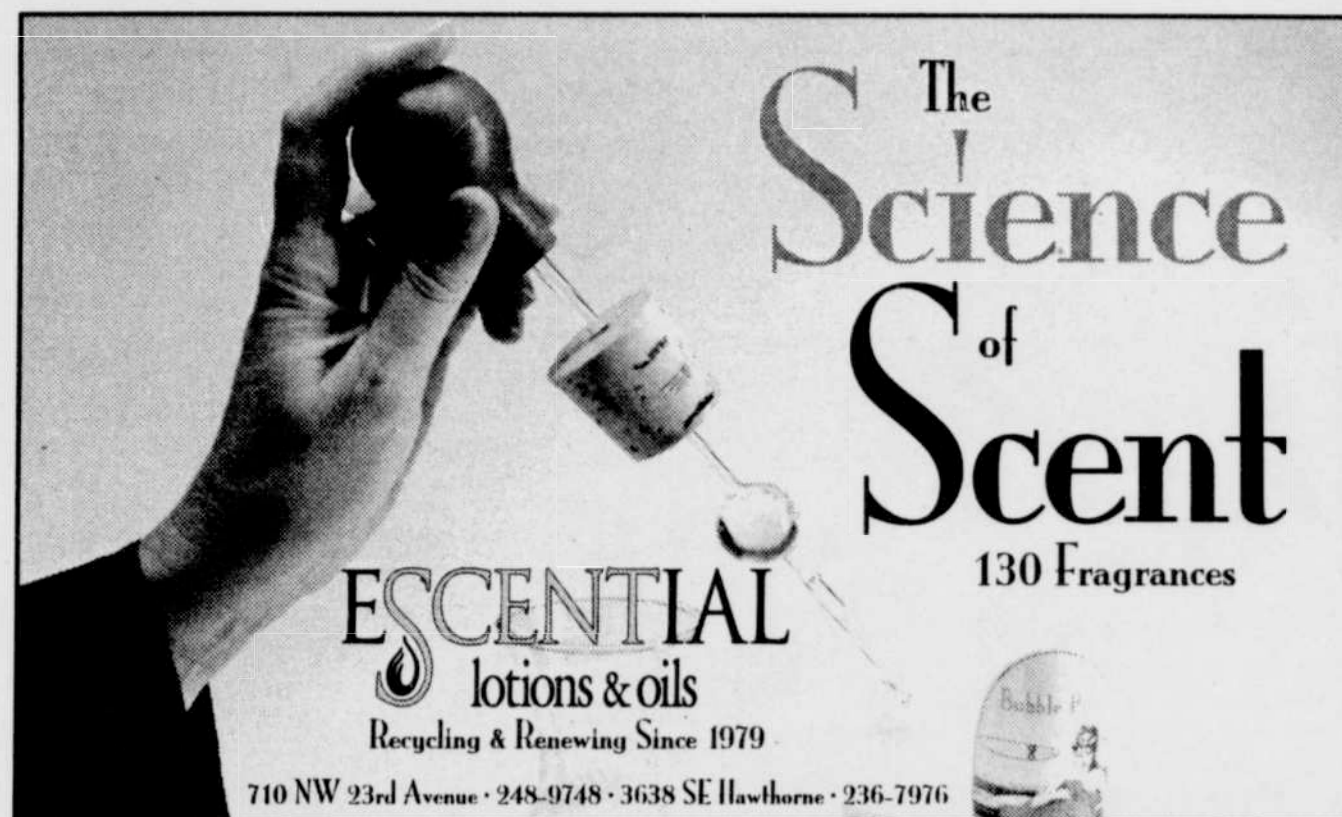
Photo Available

R. Joseph's

www.pma-nw.com

503-223-3369

2128 N.W. Overton in Portland



The Science of Scent
130 Fragrances

ESSENTIAL
lotions & oils
Recycling & Renewing Since 1979

710 NW 23rd Avenue • 248-9748 • 3638 SE Hawthorne • 236-7976

INVEST A LITTLE TIME IN PLANNING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE.

With so many options to choose from, you need solid financial advice from a professional who understands the unique needs of individuals, domestic partners and non-traditional couples.

- Mutual Funds
- IRA Rollovers
- Tax-Advantaged Investments
- Income Funds
- International Funds
- Equity Funds
- Municipal Bond Funds
- Money Market Funds
- IRAs, Roth IRAs, SEP Plans
- College Planning
- Life Insurance*
- Annuities*
- Disability Insurance*
- Medical Supplemental and Long Term Care Plans*

WADDELL & REED
Financial Services®

Investing. With a plan.™

For a personal financial plan, call:

FLOREID WALKER

Senior Financial Advisor

503.238.6036 ext 109

500 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 278

Portland, OR 97232

www.waddell.com

Member SIPC

* Insurance offered through arrangements with insurance companies.

