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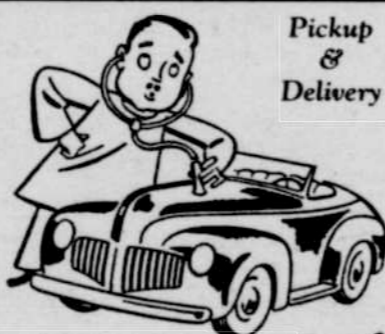
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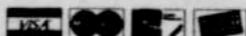


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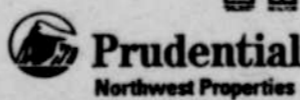
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## NATIONAL news

### MARYLAND

In a historic vote Nov. 25, Baltimore became the state's first jurisdiction to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit practices based on gender identity or expression.

The vote was unanimous among the 19-member City Council without abstentions. Mayor Martin O'Malley had requested that it consider the bill to investigate the prevalence of discrimination against trans people and to ensure equal rights for all Baltimoreans.

"The city of Baltimore and its mayor have finally recognized the injustice and prejudice faced by its transgendered citizens," said psychologist Terry Sapp, who worked on the effort to pass the ordinance. "For the first time in this city's history, transgendered men and women are no longer second-class citizens."

Council Bill 02-0857 was introduced Aug. 12 at the request of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission, which investigates claims of discriminatory practices. The Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee heard testimony Oct. 17 from trans people who related their personal experiences of being the victims of discrimination solely because of their gender identity or expression. No one offered testimony in opposition.

"Tonight's vote is a great victory for the Baltimore transgender community," said Jean-Michel Brevelle, Free State Justice interim director. "It is the culmination of years of effort by many transgender people and our supporters and clearly demonstrates the goodwill and understanding that Baltimore city government has developed for the transgender community."

The ordinance represents an important achievement for the state's trans community, which suffered a bitter emotional defeat in early 2001 when the Legislature enacted a civil rights bill covering sexual orientation but left the gender identity portion on the cutting-room floor. "Tonight's action, while a huge step forward, is only the first step," said Donna Cartwright of the Gender Rights Advocacy Association of New Jersey.

A total of 53 U.S. jurisdictions now prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression, including the states of Minnesota and Rhode Island. This year alone, 14 jurisdictions have passed similar ordinances.



Jean-Michel Brevelle

campaign skills, and he's running for the right reasons," political director Bob Kearney said.

### PENNSYLVANIA

Andrew A. Chirls was elected Dec. 10 as vice chancellor of the 13,000-member Philadelphia Bar Association. After filling that post for one year, he will become chancellor-elect in 2004 and automatically move up to chancellor in 2005, making him the first openly gay attorney to lead the nation's oldest chartered metropolitan bar association.



Andrew A. Chirls

"It is an honor to be elected to this post at such a challenging time," Chirls said. "Leaders of the legal profession will have to articulate our concern for an open justice system and individual rights while we fight terrorism. On a more local basis, we want to grow as a profession along with our city's economy, and our bar association has to help shape policies that will make people want to live and work here."

A native of Maplewood, N.J., Chirls successfully tried the first jury trial in Pennsylvania based on HIV/AIDS discrimination. He was active in the association's work with its insurance plan aimed at making domestic partner benefits available to Philadelphia's legal workers.

Chirls, 46, has shared his life for 24 years with Larry Frankel, 47, American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania legislative director. They live in Center City.

The Legislature voted Nov. 26 to expand Pennsylvania's hate crimes law, making it the 28th state with a statute covering sexual orientation and only the fifth, as well as the District of Columbia, to include gender identity.

"The lesson to be learned from this success...is that no one has to sacrifice their integrity in an effort to pass inclusive legislation," said Stephen Glassman, Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition co-chairman and the first openly gay member of the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission. "In a state which mirrors the conservative and rural nature of many states, we built a coalition of groups and individuals...which was able to educate elected officials on the importance of passing a bill that benefits all of the citizens of Pennsylvania."

House Bill 1439 passed the state Senate in June 2001 by a vote of 32-15. It then was sent to

### ILLINOIS

If he wins in February, Rick Ingram would make history as the first openly gay candidate elected to the Chicago City Council.

His challenger, 44th Ward Alderman Bernie Hansen, stepped down three months prior to the primary election, citing health concerns. News reports now indicate Hansen's hand-picked successor, gay restaurateur Tom Tunney, is likely to be appointed to fill out the term.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a Washington, D.C.-based political action committee that supports openly gay candidates for office, announced Dec. 2 its endorsement of Ingram. "He has a stellar record of community service and involvement, he has sharpened his



Rick Ingram