

NATIONAL

A lawsuit filed Sept. 3 in federal court argues that the State Department illegally prohibits anyone with HIV from being hired as a foreign service officer, regardless of the applicant's qualifications or health status.

Lorenzo Taylor is fluent in three languages, holds a foreign service degree from Georgetown University and easily passed the tough written and oral exams required to be a foreign service officer—but was rejected by the State Department because he has HIV. The 48-year-old federal government employee who lives in the Washington, D.C., area appealed that decision but again was rejected and then worked with Lambda Legal to file an administrative complaint with the State Department late last year.

More than 10,000 U.S. citizens are foreign service officers, assigned by the State Department to serve in embassies, consulates and other diplomatic posts in 180 countries. The State Department prohibits the foreign service from hiring people with HIV in these positions, claiming they might require medical treatment that isn't available in some of the less-developed countries where they might be stationed.

According to attorney Jonathan Givner, applicants should be assessed case by case to determine their individual medical status. Other



Attorneys argue that the State Department illegally discriminated against Lorenzo Taylor because he has HIV

than the military, the foreign service is the only type of federal employment where people with HIV are broadly blocked from consideration.

"This isn't just bad policy—it's also illegal," Givner said. The lawsuit charges that the State Department is in violation of the federal Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the U.S. government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a legal brief Sept. 5 asking the U.S. Supreme Court to let stand a federal appeals court ruling that allows doctors to recommend medical marijuana to their patients with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

"What's at issue is the ability of doctors to speak openly and honestly with their patients about marijuana as a viable therapy option," attorney Graham Boyd said. "Patients deserve access to accurate information about its medicinal value in treating pain, nausea, wasting syndrome and other symptoms of life-threatening diseases."

The ACLU represents 15 doctors and patients in California who have suffered as a result of the federal government's threats to doctors regarding the discussion of marijuana as medicine. Attorneys argued the case successfully before a federal appeals court last year and will argue it before the Supreme Court if the justices decide to review the ruling.

The case arose after California voters passed Proposition 215 in November 1996, which makes it legal for patients to grow and possess marijuana for medical use when a doctor recommends it. President Bill Clinton reacted by threatening to revoke the licenses of physicians who recommended medical use of marijuana, and the Bush administration has continued that policy.

The ACLU and the Drug Policy Alliance successfully challenged the policy in the lower courts, and in October 2002 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld that ruling. In a decision authored by Chief Judge Mary Schroeder, the court said that the government's attempt to bar doctors from recommend-

ing medical marijuana "does...strike at core First Amendment interests of doctors and patients" and that "physicians must be able to speak frankly and openly to patients."

The American Counseling Association has become the first of the major mental health professional associations to boast an openly gay president.

Mark Pope, an associate professor at University of Missouri-St. Louis, was elected by members to serve as their president through 2004. The ACA is the largest organization exclusively representing more than 50,000 professional counselors in various practice settings throughout the United States and around the world.

Pope is serving as president exactly 30 years after the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders. In a recent speech at the APA annual convention, he chided his mental health colleagues for this history.

"By a vote of the board of directors of the American Psychiatric Association in 1973, we were removed from their 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,'" he said. "They waved their magic wand and we were made 'sane' overnight. Do you understand the power that we, as mental health professionals, have to affect people's lives? ...That is why my



Mark Pope

Continued on Page 22



When an ordinary
Realtor simply
won't do...



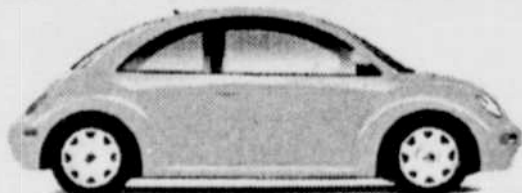
3144 SE Belmont
Portland, OR 97214
office: 503-238-7617

it's ME!
wigs



breast forms, bras & more!
• Cinchers • Gaffs • Padded Panties
trans friendly
susan johnson owner/fitter
2041 ne burnside, gresham
503/491-5110 ~ www.shopitsme.com

Drive with Pride

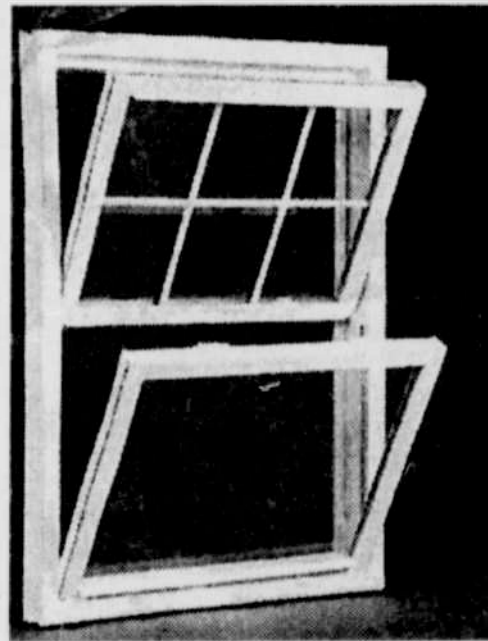


Visit us online at:
www.reyreece.com
or schedule your appointment

503-256-3700

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
VOLKSWAGEN-MITSUBISHI-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com



MILGARD
REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS

Clearly the best

We are a Certified Milgard Dealer
and have been selling and installing
Milgard windows for over 25 years in
the Portland area.

Milgard windows are manufactured right here in Oregon.
An Oregon window made for Oregon weather with lifetime
service direct from the manufacturing plant in Tualatin.
Their guarantee is the best in the business, as we know from 25
years experience.

If you would like to have Milgard Windows installed in your
home at a reasonable price, please call anytime for a courteous
in-home proposal.

Milgard Windows



(503)

283-9481

www.insulatedwindowcorp.com

INSULATED WINDOW
CORPORATION



Garland Horner
Owner
CCB#19095

8124 N. Denver