

Southminster Presbyterian Church
Companions in Action



Sunday Worship 10:00am
 12250 SW Denney Road (at Hall Blvd.)
 Beaverton, OR 97008
 www.southmin.com | 503.644.2073

The Joseph Landry Salon



502 SE 38th Ave.
 Portland, OR 97214
 503.231.3922
 Wed - Sat **PAUL MITCHELL**


Westside Florist



Our professionals will arrange your delivery

(503) 642-9992
1-800-356-1884
 Aloha Market Centre
 20455 SW TV Highway
 www.westsideflorist.net

Don Duncan owner
 Teleflora



Talk with us. We can help.

Pacific University's
Psychological Service Center
 511 SW 10th Avenue
 Portland Oregon
 503-352-2400

Effective Treatment
 Depression • Anxiety • Groups
 Relationships • Families • Children
 ADHD • Learning Disabilities
 Conveniently located near MAX and bus lines
 Affordable sliding scale fee

NATIONAL news



Attorney Mary Bonauto is fighting a racist 1913 law that prevents out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS

A day after the one-month anniversary of the first same-sex marriages in Massachusetts, two lawsuits were filed June 18 in Suffolk County Superior Court challenging the constitutionality and discriminatory enforcement of a 1913 law denying licenses to out-of-state couples.

Section 11 of Chapter 207 is being used to prohibit clerks from issuing licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples. Both suits charge that it is unconstitutional as applied to gay and lesbian couples.

One lawsuit represents 12 cities and towns, and the other represents eight out-of-state couples. According to the legal action, the state directive issued to clerks as well as the attorney general's May 21 cease-and-desist order are unenforceable because the law is being discriminatorily enforced against same-sex couples.

"We believe that Section 11 violates both the liberty and equality provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution," said Mary Bonauto, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders civil rights director. "This was a law that clerks were instructed to ignore for decades, yet the governor pulled it off the shelves just to deny marriage to some gay and lesbian couples."

In addition, the suits charge that the 1913 law was passed in an era of race discrimination to prohibit out-of-state interracial couples from coming to Massachusetts to marry and is being used in the same manner today against gay and lesbian couples.

"This 1913 law was enacted to prevent the state from becoming a haven for interracial couples attempting to escape anti-miscegenation laws in their home states," said Randall Kennedy, a professor at Harvard Law School and the author of *Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage, Identity and Adoption*. "That authorities today would seek to cabin the Supreme Judicial Court's landmark Goodridge ruling by resuscitating a statute tainted by racism is profoundly disturbing and regrettable."

PENNSYLVANIA

The American Civil Liberties Union has denounced University of Pittsburgh for asking a Pennsylvania court to strike down all laws in the state against sexual orientation discrimination. The ACLU's statement came as it filed a brief June 24 in Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in a suit related to its litigation against the university for equal employment benefits for gay employees.

In its brief, Pitt argues that the city did not have the authority to ban anti-gay bias because sexual orientation was not covered by state civil rights protections. Such reasoning would invalidate civil rights ordinances in other cities—including Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Lancaster, York and Erie—that also cover sexual orientation.



Witold "Vic" Walczak

The ACLU initially brought a discrimination claim against the university before the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations. Trying to avoid a hearing on the bias charges, Pitt brought this lawsuit in the Court of Common Pleas seeking an injunction to bar the commission from hearing the case. The court sided with Pitt. The case is now before the Commonwealth Court, which will decide whether the commission can hear the case.

"It's astonishing how much time and resources the university has sunk into this lawsuit, just so it can cheat a small percentage of its employees out of the compensation they're due," attorney Witold "Vic" Walczak said. "It's precisely this type of behavior that proves why we need ordinances like the one in Pittsburgh that protect gay people from discrimination."

NATIONAL

President Bush gave a lengthy HIV/AIDS speech June 23 in Philadelphia that made no mention of men who have sex with men. The Human Rights Campaign, while heartened that he acknowledged the urgency of the domestic crisis, emphasized that the only way to stop the epidemic is to give people—especially youth and communities of color—the truth about prevention.

"The president supports abstinence-only-until-marriage education—programs that time and again have been proven ineffective in stopping the spread of sexually transmitted diseases," HRC president Cheryl Jacques said. "Even the Ugandan programs that President Bush cited



President Bill Clinton reflects on "don't ask, don't tell" in his new autobiography, My Life

today incorporated information about condoms as an essential part of the A-B-C model—that is, Abstain, Be Faithful, Condoms."

Bush promised to immediately release \$20 million to alleviate the crisis conditions that exist in many state AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs. Jacques applauded the provision of these critically needed funds.

"We hope that this is just the beginning of increased financial support for state ADAPs," she said. "Experts estimate that more than double that sum is needed to eliminate the emergency conditions faced by thousands nationwide who are on wait lists for lifesaving drug therapies."

In his new autobiography, *My Life*, President Bill Clinton recalls the public and congressional debate concerning his promise to the lift the military's ban on gay, lesbian and bi service-members.

He writes that he met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of whom opposed changing the policy. "They maintained that letting [queers] serve openly would be, in Gen. [Colin] Powell's words, 'prejudicial to good order and discipline,'" Clinton writes. In a new revelation, however, he adds that the chiefs, despite their personal opposition, "made it clear that if

I ordered them to take action, they'd do the best job they could."

He also recalls meetings with members of the influential Senate Armed Services Committee, many of whom also opposed lifting the ban, including Chairman Sam Nunn. Clinton writes that he believed the Georgia Democrat's arguments, and the opinions of others opposed to allowing open service, "could have been used with equal force against [President Harry] Truman's order on integration."

While Clinton notes that a slim majority of U.S. citizens backed his position on lifting the ban, most members of Congress viewed the support as insufficient.

"Congress thought it was a dead-bang loser for them," he writes. "With congressional defeat inevitable, [Defense Secretary] Les Aspin worked with Colin Powell and the Joint Chiefs on a compromise," which became known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Though not stated specifically in *My Life*, Clinton's opposition on the policy has only strengthened since leaving office. In October 2003 he said, "Simply put, there is no evidence to support a ban on gays in the military."

A new 39-page draft report shows that despite official Defense Department assertions that the military takes anti-gay harassment as seriously as bias against women and racial minorities, policies and practices reveal markedly different enforcement and deterrent efforts for these three forms of abuse.

Senior Pentagon officials repeatedly have insisted that the military seeks to deter and punish all forms of abuse. Former Assistant Defense Secretary Kenneth Bacon, for example, noted in 1999: "There's no room for harassment in the military. And this applies to harassment based on race, harassment based on sex and harassment based on sexual orientation.... Just as racial harassment is inappropriate, harassment based on sexual orientation is inappropriate."

However, the Pentagon's policies and practices regarding training and education,

measurement, reporting, processing of complaints, anti-retaliation and accountability all demonstrate far more meaningful efforts to prevent racial and sexual harassment than anti-gay bias. In the report, titled *The Practical and Conceptual Problems with Regulating Harassment in a Discriminatory Institution*, author Sharon Terman shows that regardless of military leaders' intentions, the gay ban itself prevents the armed forces from deterring anti-gay abuse.

According to Tobias Barrington Wolff, assistant professor at University of California at Davis Law School, the findings are "disturbing but not surprising. Harassment is a form of discrimination, and the military continues to pursue an official policy of discrimination toward soldiers who are gay or lesbian. We won't eliminate the harassment until we eliminate the inequality."

A prominent right-wing group has attacked *Shrek 2* for what it says are "subtle sexual messages."

The Traditional Values Coalition recommends that parents reconsider taking their children to see the animated movie, denouncing Dreamworks for what it calls "promoting cross-dressing and transgenderism." Specifically cited are scenes featuring Cinderella's "ugly sister" depicted as a hefty bar-