

Midwest, its increasing presence in the Washington, D.C., gay community concerns health officials there. The District's Whitman-Walker Clinic said Nov. 7 that 75 percent of its new drug treatment patients report the drug is their primary drug, and five Crystal Meth Anonymous groups have been organized in the city's largely gay Dupont Circle neighborhood to fight the drug abuse.

MAINE

Mainers Support Equal Rights

Although they lost a bid to overturn Maine's gay rights law Nov. 8, organizers of the failed repeal campaign say they will now try to pass a constitutional amendment to limit marriage to unions between a man and a woman. Nineteen states have such laws on the books.

On Election Day, with 35 percent of the precincts reporting, 57 percent had voted against the measure, with 43 percent in favor of it. Twice before, in 1998 and in 2000, voters rejected similar nondiscrimination laws by narrow margins. Maine is the 17th state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the seventh to protect transgender people from discrimination.



Hundreds of people gather Nov. 7 in Portland, Maine, to urge voters to reject discrimination.

"Today's win proves that dogged, grassroots organizing can overcome the lies and smears of anti-gay zealots and the profound unfairness of having minority rights put up for a popular vote," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "After the marriage amendment losses we've experienced over the last 12 months, this is a much-needed victory for our national movement—it proves we can win statewide contests. Every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender American is deeply indebted to the staff and volunteers of Maine Won't Discriminate and to the people of Maine for embracing fairness and rejecting bigotry."

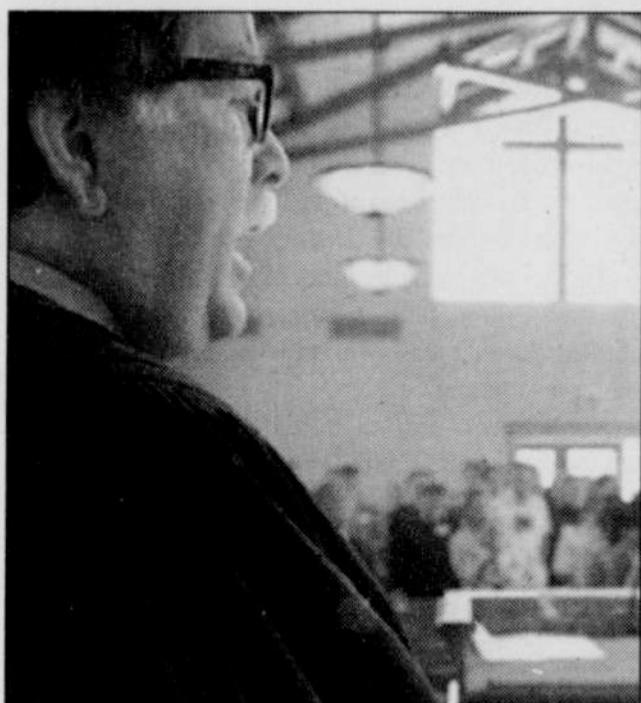
TEXAS

Texas Approves Marriage Amendment

Texas became the 19th state to approve a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples Nov. 8. The amendment, which was supported by a 3-1 margin, also prohibits communities from legalizing same-sex unions.

"Education is a long-term effort that cynical politics can never stop," said Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign president. "These amendments are part of a long-standing effort by the extreme right to eliminate any legal recognition for gay people and our families. The volunteers and hard-working team at No Nonsense in November should be proud of their work against this amendment. This fight for fairness isn't over, and we won't give up."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said in a statement: "All



About 60 Texans, including rabbis, pastors, Buddhist monks and Unitarian leaders, rally together Oct. 26 at Tarrytown Baptist Church to mobilize support against a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

that today's results show is that it is profoundly wrong and profoundly un-American to put the rights of a small minority of Americans up for a popular vote. This is not democracy; this is tyranny of the majority. No one would tolerate this being done to any other minority, but it's still open season on gay people."

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Panel Votes Against Civil Unions

A New Hampshire panel that has been meeting since last spring voted 8-3 on Nov. 7 to reject recommending the state officially recognize same-sex civil unions, with the chairman saying, "If we adopt this, it'll be no more than an experiment that we inflict on our children...I'm not prepared to use the children of this state as guinea pigs."

MONTANA

Montana Town Hires Gay Liaison Officer

Openly gay Missoula, Mont., police Sgt. Scott Oak is adding the job of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex liaison to his already full list of duties. Police Chief Rusty Wickman created the post after an October attack on two students that involved anti-gay slurs, *The Missoulian* reported Nov. 10.

CALIFORNIA

Court Urged to Uphold Marriage Ruling

In a brief filed Nov. 9 in the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union explain why the trial court was correct in ruling that, under the state constitution, same-sex couples cannot be barred from marrying.

"The California Constitution guarantees each of us the right to choose the person with whom we wish to join in marriage. The state is violating this fundamental right by excluding same-sex couples from marriage because of their gender and sexual orientation," the brief states. "Marriage is far more than a bundle of tangible benefits. It is a status of profound personal, social and often spiritual affirmation, expressing the commitment of two individuals to one another 'for better or for worse.'"

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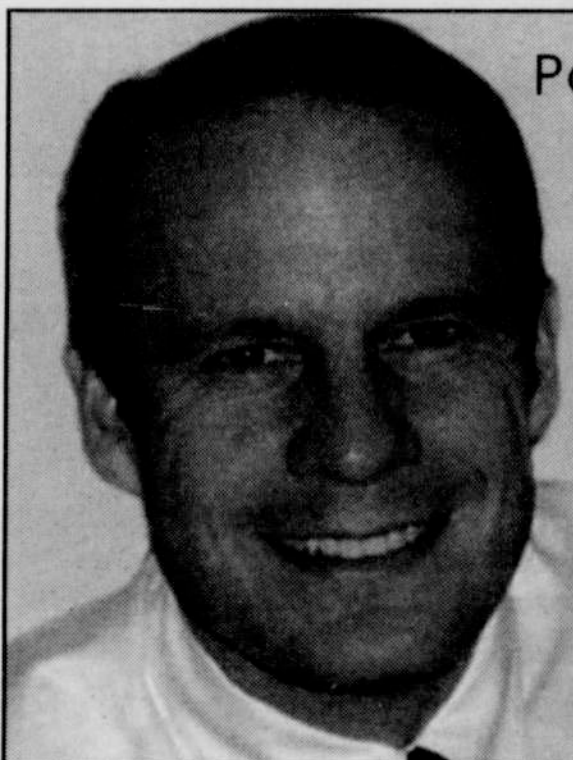
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