



Gay-focused ads, like these from Diesel, are OK with most U.S. citizens.

the regulation, writing: "There is no correlation between the health, welfare and safety of foster children and the blanket exclusion of any individual who is a homosexual or who resides in a household with a homosexual.... The driving force behind adoption of the regulation was not to promote the health, safety and welfare of foster children, but rather [to promulgate] the board's view of morality and its bias against homosexuals."

Arkansas's Child Welfare Agency Review Board established a policy in 1999 that "no person may serve as a foster parent if any adult member of that person's household is a homosexual." That same year, the ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging the policy on behalf of a lesbian from Fayetteville, a gay couple from Little Rock and a heterosexual man from Waldron

to make a drug from a new class, called integrase inhibitors, available later this summer.

"Taken together, the approval of Prezista combined with access to recently approved and soon-to-be-available new drugs marks a major step forward for people with advanced disease. The result should be that very few people will be 'out of options' any longer," said Brenda Lein, a veteran AIDS treatment activist.

MASSACHUSETTS
Activist and Teacher Mourned

Eric Rofes, a leader, activist, visionary and former board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, died of an apparent heart attack June 26. He was 51.

Rofes started his activism in the 1970s in Boston, where he worked at *Gay Community News*. He was a founder of Boston's first group for queer teachers, two of the first queer youth groups in the country and the first Boston-based group focused on organizing queer voters, Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

From October 1985 to April 1988, Rofes served as executive director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the largest queer nonprofit organization in the world. The center initiated some of the nation's first HIV prevention programs, created a shelter for queer and homeless youth and opened the first and largest HIV testing site in California.

Rofes led the organizing of three national summits focused on the health and wellness of gay male communities, including the most recent summit in October 2005 in Salt Lake City. From 1999 to the time of his death, he was an associate professor of education at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif.

ARKANSAS
State Supreme Court Rejects Foster Parent Ban

In a unanimous decision handed down June 29, the Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a regulation that banned gay and lesbian people from serving as foster parents. The decision ends a seven-year legal battle by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Pointing to the findings of a lower court that overturned the ban, the court criticized the Child Welfare Agency Review Board's reasons for enacting

whose gay son sometimes lives at home. All of them want to serve as foster parents but are automatically disqualified from doing so by the ban.

"There is already a rigorous, individualized screening procedure in place that ensures that only those who can provide a safe, stable, healthy home are approved as foster parents," said attorney Leslie Cooper, who argued the case before the court. "Today's ruling means that gay people will go through the same screening process as any other applicants, rather than be automatically rejected no matter how qualified they are."

ILLINOIS
Test Measures Genetic Resistance to HIV


An independent forensics laboratory announced June 26 that it has developed what is believed to be the world's first test to determine human genetic resistance to HIV.

The announcement by Independent Forensics, a private laboratory based in Chicago, holds out hope that doctors might soon be able to predict how quickly a person infected with HIV is likely to develop full-blown AIDS. Those whom the test shows will progress to AIDS rapidly may elect to treat the infection more aggressively than those who are more naturally resistant to the disease.

The test works by measuring the density of a certain type of receptor, known as CCR5, which is the primary HIV receptor in T cells. People carry varying amounts of these receptors depending on their genetic makeup. The fewer receptors people have, the more likely they are to have a slow progression to AIDS.

"We believe the CCR5 Halotype Test is one of the most important things an individual with HIV can do to help in their treatment," says Jack Keehma, CEO of Independent Forensics.

Karl Reich, chief scientific officer of Independent Forensics, adds: "The development of the CCR5 Halotype Test really puts us on the shoulders of giants. Years of studies by internationally recognized HIV experts have proven the importance of CCR5 receptors in determining HIV progression levels."

For more information visit www.ifi-test.com/ basepair. 

Compiled by MARTY SMITH

Big City Produce

Local Folks, Local Produce

2004 BEST Award winner Best Sustainable Food System

Little Store . . . Big on Diversity.



722 N. Sumner (at N. Albina) • Portland • 503-460-3830

Raines Globe Travel

Person to Person Travel Planning
International Specialists
Vacation Packages • Cruises • Tours • Group Travel



Call Chris for personalized service.



Downtown Salem Since 1948
129 Commercial NE • 503-399-1800 • 800-971-7210

ESQUIRE MOTORS, INC.

Since 1968

COMPLETE FOREIGN CAR SERVICE & REPAIR
EUROPEAN & ASIAN

• Quality Services Guaranteed
• Serving Downtown Portland Since 1968




503.226.6269

www.esquiremotors.com
1853 SW Jefferson • Portland

 **close knit**
the neighborhood yarn shop


For all your knitting and crochet creations!
2140 NE Alberta St (503) 288-4568
www.closeknitportland.com

 **bolt**
A fresh new fabric store offering contemporary fabrics, great patterns & more!

neighborhood fabric boutique
www.BoltFabricBoutique.com
2136 NE Alberta St. 503.287.bolt (2658)

"I'm AVAILABLE when you are!"

Careful and energetic handling of all your home financing needs

 **MORTGAGE Advocates**

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824
E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com



Colleen Weed

Office 503•297•9900 Cell 503•780•1561

Interested in a church where
ALL FAMILIES ARE CELEBRATED?



We're that kind of church.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PORTLAND
2400 NE Broadway, Portland 503 281 8868
www.mccportland.com

