

Faith Leaders Take Sides

YES on 36

continued ▲ from Front

"We do not have the right to marry our brother or sister or any of our children. None of us have the right to marry who they choose," he said.

Bethel says his opposition to same-sex marriage is deeply rooted in his morality.

"I don't see the morality of males being with males and females being with females. That's where I stand. I do not condone any homosexual act," he said.

He added that he does not approve of violence against a person because of their "sexual preference." Bethel is also against civil

On Constitutional Amendment 36

unions for gays.

Approving marriage for same-sex couples is a slippery slope, opening the door to non-traditional marriages of all sorts, according to Bethel.

"If we would say it's okay for same-sex marriage, we're opening the door for marriage between a female or male with any other type of being, a dog or what have you. I don't think that cost is payable," Bethel said. "The price is too high."

NO on 36

continued ▲ from Front

rights issue at all," said Hennessee, who is African American. "Where did our civil rights come from? The Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and in there it doesn't say these people versus those people. It says all. If you start opening the door to say it's fair to discriminate against any one group of

people, you're leaving that door open to discriminate against another group of people as well."

While Hennessee says he will cast a vote against Constitutional Amendment 36, he would prefer that same-sex marriage be up for discussion, not a vote.

"I certainly see and understand the concern of the gay and lesbian community as it relates to whether this is justice or not, affecting their liberties or not," Hennessee said. "Those are fair questions in my opinion and need to be looked at. I'd rather say, 'let's have a debate and a discussion rather than have a vote.' What we all need is to be better educated."



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Civil Rights Icon in Frail Health

Attorney tells judge she can't testify

(AP)—Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks has dementia and should not be forced to answer questions in her lawsuit over a rap song named for her, her doctor has told a federal magistrate.

Parks, 91, rarely has been seen in public since 2001, when she canceled a meeting with President Bush.

Her lawyers said this summer that she has been in frail health, but last week's court filing is the first public description of her health problems.

Parks lawyer Gregory Reed confirmed that she has dementia, or severe mental impairment.

"It comes and goes," Reed said. He said Parks is well cared for and receives care at her Detroit home.

Parks' lawsuit says that the 1998 song "Rosa Parks" by OutKast violated her

publicity and trademark rights and defamed her. It also says that OutKast and record company BMG exploited her name for commercial purposes. OutKast has been dismissed as a defendant.

Lawyers for the defense have asked to interview Parks to explain her claims that she suffered emotional and mental distress because of the song.

Defense lawyers will be able to question Parks' doctor Joel Steinberg about her medical condition in early October.

Parks was 42 when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955. She was jailed and fined \$14. Her arrest triggered a 381-day boycott of the bus system organized by a then little-known minister, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. She became known as "the mother of the civil rights movement."



Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks in 1998. (AP photo)

Alcohol Abuse Kills Thousands, Shortens Lives

A new study estimates that more than 75,000 Americans died in 2001 from excessive alcohol consumption—including more than 1,000 in Oregon alone.

The research led by Dr. Jeffrey Fellows of the north Portland-based Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research found that excessive drinking shortened the lives of those who died by an average of 30

years, resulting in 2.3 million years of potential life lost.

According to Fellows and his co-authors, "These results emphasize the importance of adopting effective strategies to reduce excessive drinking, including increasing alcohol excise taxes and screening for alcohol misuse in clinical settings."

Excessive drinking is the third lead-

ing preventable cause of death in the United States, topped only by smoking and obesity. In the U. S., excessive drinking for men is typically defined as an average of more than two drinks per day or more than four drinks per occasion; for women, it is an average of more than one drink per day or more than three drinks per occasion.

The study shows that deaths

attributable to excessive drinking were almost evenly divided between chronic conditions such as liver disease and acute conditions such as car crashes.

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