

The Rest of the World continued from page three

already has voted to sever its 49-year-old ties to a Boy Scout troop unless it rejects the national organization's stance on gay membership.

Anglican crackdown

NEW YORK — America's Episcopal Church could be in for trouble for accepting gays and lesbians. Conservative Anglican bishops from around the world are proposing a crackdown on the Episcopal Church.

Traditionally, the 38 national branches in the 77-million-member Anglican Communion, such as the Episcopal Church, manage their own affairs.

But conservatives are pressing for a radical change in church discipline during an international meeting set for March 3-8 in North Carolina.

The conservatives want the leaders, or primates, of the 38 branches to discipline any branch whose policies "exceed the limits of Anglican diversity."

Under the plan, the primates could vote to admonish the 2.4-million-member Episcopal Church if it continues to allow local dioceses to ordain sexually active homosexuals or hold commitment ceremonies for gay couples.

If nothing changes, the primates could recommend that their leader, England's Archbishop of Canterbury, reduce the Episcopal Church to "observer status" in world Anglicanism and switch recognition to a more traditional U.S. group.

The U.S. primate, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, has said in the past: "I cannot imagine any diocese altering its perspective" on homosexuals because of pressure from other nations.

Justice for Teena

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's highest case is considering a lawsuit filed by the survivors of Teena Brandon, who was killed after two men discovered that Teena was a biological woman but had been living as a man.

In the Nebraska Supreme Court, attorney Herb Friedman said former Sheriff Charles Laux should have done more to protect

Teena after Teena was raped by two men.

The sheriff, Friedman said, was more concerned with Teena's sexuality than with keeping her safe. Teena was born Teena Brandon but went by the name Brandon Teena.

"He knew these people were brutal," Friedman said of Laux in state Supreme Court, comparing Laux's inaction to throwing a puppy to the wolves.

Teena, 21, posed as a young man and was killed in 1993 by two men who wanted to silence her for reporting that they raped her after learning her true gender. The men also killed two other people who witnessed Teena's death.

Teena's mother, Joann Brandon, sued Laux for not offering Teena protective custody after reporting the rape and the men's death threats.

A county district judge in 1999 found the county partially at fault for the death and ordered the county to pay \$17,360. Teena's mother had sought more than \$350,000 and is appealing the damage amount.

Australian kissing

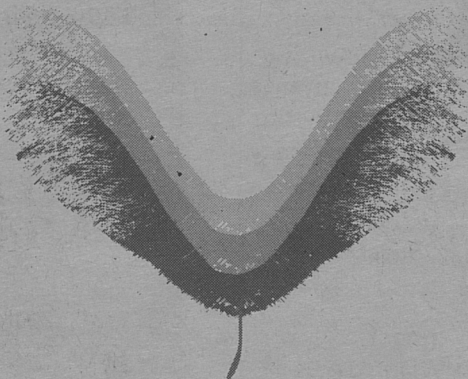
BRISBANE, Australia — A city park is under attack for kicking out two gay men for kissing.

It prompted about 100 protesters to pucker up in public on a recent week to protest restrictions on kissing.

The event was a show of solidarity for the men who were ejected for kissing in the city-run South Bank Parklands.

"We don't see South Bank Parklands kicking off heterosexuals you see at the park, so we don't think there is any reason why gay couples should be not allowed to do that as well," said Mark Pendleton of the National Union of Students.

A spokeswoman for the park said couples of both sexual orientations had been asked to "tone it down" in the park, which is popular with families.



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