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World continued from page three

such rage in my life."

Swift

BOSTON – Acting Gov. Jane Swift is trying to maneuver through the political thickets surrounding same-sex relationships.

Her step son accuses of her hypocrisy for opposing marriage by gays and lesbians. Then she decided to extend some domestic partnership benefits to gay and lesbian state workers.

Her administration had already extended benefits for same-sex couples to state social workers, and other workers would get the benefits when their contracts are negotiated over the next two years.

The move was not made in response to criticism that was published in The Boston Globe, Swift said. In an interview with the newspaper, Swift's stepson, Brian Hunt, accused her of hypocrisy.

"She wants to get the votes of the gay community, but when it comes down to it, she doesn't want to lose other

votes over it," Hunt said. "It's hypocritical to me."

Swift said her support for domestic partnership benefits is "a position that I think had been well-established, and a position that I'm comfortable with." But she reiterated her opposition to gay marriage.

"In my mind, the sanctity of marriage requires that it be confined to marriage between a man and a woman," she said.

Gay Highways

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Homophobia won out over clean highways in South Dakota.

Gov. Bill Janklow said the state would put up a sign requested by a gay rights group as part of the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

But Janklow also said all signs in the program, approximately 1,000 of them, will be taken down by the end of the year. They will be replaced with generic signs noting that concerned citizens who care about keeping the roads clean

are responsible for the work.

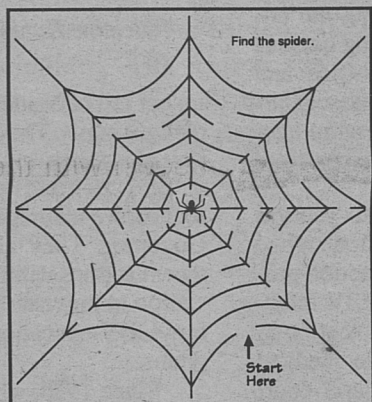
"I do not think government should be used to offend people," Janklow said. He said the state Web site will list all groups involved in the program to clean up roads and highways.

State Department of Transportation officials had said the Sioux Empire Gay and Lesbian Coalition did not qualify for the sign because it is an advocacy group. The group responded this week with a federal lawsuit against the state, seeking to have the sign erected and monetary damages.

Janklow had said he might eliminate the program rather than see it go to court. Both sides claimed partial victory after his announcement.

Coalition president Barb Himmel-Roberts said the group will clean up litter even after its new sign is taken down.

"It is (good) as far as I'm concerned," she said.



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