

at the State Division of Human Rights in response to the Law School Career Development Office's practice of bringing the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) to recruit at the law school. JAG Corps seeks to recruit lawyers for the military justice system, but follows the armed forces policy of banning lesbians and gay men from service, regardless of their qualifications and willingness to serve. The State Division initially found that SUNY-Buffalo had violated the Executive Order, but that decision was reversed by the State Commissioner of Human Rights. Lambda filed an emergency action in court leading to today's decision.

The court stated, "As a result of the school's policies and practices, gay and lesbian [law students] have been offered fewer placement opportunities than heterosexual students. They have suffered stigma, humiliation, and the loss of professional and educational benefits as a result of defendants' unlawful conduct." (*Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, The New York Times*)

New Orleans Ordinance Vetoed

New Orleans, LA-At the end of November, Mayor Sidney Barthelemy of New Orleans vetoed the recently-passed legislation granting health care benefits to the registered domestic partners of city workers. No official reasons were given immediately for the veto, but the city's chief administrative officer had testified against the ordinance, saying the city could not afford the expense.

The sponsor of the measure, Councilman Johnny Jackson, moved for an override; activists had expected the council to override the veto because the ordinance had passed by a 5-2 margin. However, after direct lobbying by the mayor, who leaves office this spring, three members switched their votes and voted against overriding the veto. Only Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson, whose

district includes the French Quarter, the heart of the city's gay population, voted with Jackson to override the veto. (*America Online*)

Texas County Denies Apple Tax Incentive To Build Plant

Austin, TX - Calling Apple Computer Inc.'s policy of granting the same health benefits to partners of gay and lesbian employees that it does to heterosexual spouses "wrong", a Texas county has refused to give the computer maker a tax incentive to build a new plant in the county. Apple had reportedly sought about \$750,000 in tax breaks over a seven year period if it built an \$80 million, 700-employee facility in Williamson County, located north of Austin, Texas. The commissioners were not unanimous on the issue, voting 3-2 to reject Apple's request. As a result, Apple spokesperson Lisa Byrne now says it is unlikely Apple will locate in Williamson County. The debate over the tax break has reportedly gone on for several weeks, centered on Apple's domestic partner policy. "I cannot in good conscience extend that benefit to (Apple) because of the conviction I have that same-sex partners is wrong," Commissioner Greg Boatwright reportedly said. Charlie Culpepper, the mayor of the Round Rock, disagreed with the commissioners. "I don't agree with the idea of same-sex marriages, but government needs to stay out of business. Families need jobs," he told the Associated Press. Round Rock is the largest town in Williamson County. When Apple Computer was considering bringing a manufacturing facility to Fountain, Colorado near Colorado Springs, the issue never came up, according to Economic Development Corporation President Robert Scott. The EDC approved some tax incentives for Apple and that plant now manufactures most of Apple's Powerbook systems. (*Associated Press, America Online*) ▼

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

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