

scorching 91-degree heat. Some passersby were surprised as the procession chanted and danced its way from Shinjuku to Shibuya, two commercial areas packed with young couples and families. Others waved and took pictures. The three-mile route took nearly three hours. The turnout pleased organizers who said they had originally received only 300 applications. Lesbians outnumbered gay men by a substantial margin and no negative incidents were reported. Some parade-goers were dressed in drag and one lesbian couple wore matching wedding dresses. "Up until now, it was hard to come out and say you're gay," said parade chairman Teishiro Minami. "But changes in our society have made it easier to be open about it." Minami said he's waited 20 years to organize a gay march. "This is a landmark day for us," said a 28-year-old lesbian painter who gave her name only as Mizuko. "We are able to prove that we're alive and that we exist in this society." Sponsors for the parade included companies such as Tower Records. Marchers carried signs with such slogans as "Mother, Your Son Is Gay" and "Stop Homophobia". Awareness of gay issues has increased in recent years but homosexuals are still excluded from many aspects of Japanese society and most gays hide their sexual orientation. (Frontiers)

Anti-Gay Measure Will Be On Oregon Ballot

OREGON -- The Oregon Court of Appeals on September 1 unanimously reversed a lower court decision that an Oregon Citizens Alliance-sponsored anti-gay measure unconstitutionally contains more than one subject. As a result, the "Son of Measure 9," a revised version of its more harshly worded progenitor defeated by Oregon voters in 1992, will be on the November ballot. Should it pass, the initiative would bar the use of public funds to in any way promote or express approval of homosexuality; prohibit teaching children that homosexuality is a classification similar to race, religion, gender, age or national origin; and allow adults-only access to library books on homosexuality. The gay community was not surprised by the appellate ruling and has been preparing for the battle to defeat the amendment, said Julie Davis, campaign manager for the Campaign to Defeat Ballot Measure 13. "We have a very good chance of defeating this measure. It won't be an easy task - we have our work cut out - but we do have the ability to win," Davis said. But win or lose, she said, the "OCA will continue to do these initiatives time and again." The radical right's real goal, Davis said, is to "ultimately legalize their moral beliefs." (Frontiers)

The Anti-Gay Record of George Pataki

NEW YORK -- Gay and Lesbian Activists/NYC decry a series of Pataki votes during his ten-year tenure in the State Assembly and Senate, including votes against a bill barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing; against a bill ensuring confidentiality of AIDS information; and against every AIDS funding measure during his legislative tenure. In an interview on the gay cable program GAY U.S.A., Pataki was asked his position on the Non-Discrimination bill which was killed by the New York Senate for the second year in a row. He parroted the rhetoric of the radical right by stating that the legislation would create "special rights". When asked if the same reasoning might apply to civil rights protected under state

law, he replied by saying, "I remain unconvinced that the legislation is necessary and don't support it at this point." (The Prism Newsletter)

Scrabble P₃U₁R₁G₂E₁

GREENPORT, NY -- A "dyke" and a "faggot" are fine, but a "lezzie" and "poofah" will be prohibited. Not to worry - this isn't some strange new ballot initiative. The new rule is part of a purge of offensive Scrabble words to take place by the end of the year. About 75 to 100 words will be eliminated from the next edition of the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, according to John D. Williams, Jr., executive director of the National Scrabble Players Association. The purge will effect only the 10,000-some Scrabble players who play in tournaments or clubs, said Williams. Casual players in the country can use any dictionary as long as it is agreed upon before the game begins. The move was prompted by Anti-Defamation League complaints and a desire by the game's manufacturer to draw more young people to the game, said Williams. Scrabble, a crossword game, is manufactured by Milton Bradley and marketed to people ages eight and up. Some of the offensive words to be deleted include racial and ethnic slurs such as "spic", "darkie", and "kike"; terms for body parts such as "cunt"; and derogatory references to gays, according to Williams. Gay-related words that Williams said will be deleted include "faggotry", "faggoty", versions of "poof" (a British word for a male homosexual), "lez" and "lezzie". Words such as "gay" and "lesbian" will remain. The

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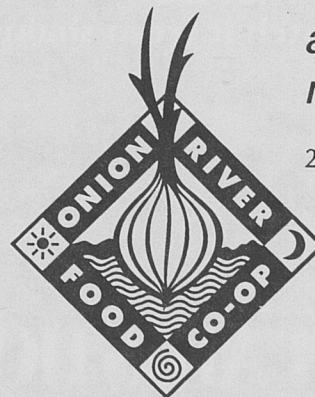
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