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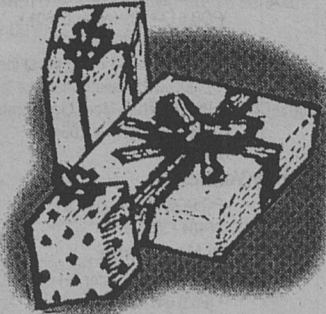
Natural Gift Ideas

AT THE ONION RIVER CO-OP.

The Onion River Co-op has supplies for making a wide variety of natural gifts from lip salves to bath oils. Here's a sample:

Lavender Hand Cream

- 2 tsp grated beeswax
- 3 tsp Shea butter
- 1 tsp cocoa butter
- 2 tsp avocado oil
- 2 tsp vegetable glycerin
- 1/2 tsp liquid lecithin
- 800 I.U. vitamin E
- 2 drops lavender essential oil
- 1 drop rosemary essential oil



Melt the beeswax, butters & oil together in a double boiler. Remove from heat when melted. Add lecithin & vitamin E. Add glycerin, stirring with a whisk as you pour. When the mixture is cool and almost set, add the essential oils. Store in a wide-mouth jar.

Other holiday gifts include gourmet teas and coffees, fancy chocolates, cookbooks, and lots more!



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in the news...

Marines

WASHINGTON — A gay bar near the U.S. Capitol was the site of a tear-gas bombing and police believe five U.S. Marines were responsible.

The military equivalent of a civilian grand jury has been established to look into the incident, which happened in July.

A tear gas canister was thrown into the bar on Pennsylvania Avenue. Several dozen patrons were evacuated after smoke from the canister filled the bar. No one was seriously injured, but the bar's owner said it scared off customers for about two weeks.

The bar is about a half-mile from the Marine Corps barracks near the Capitol where the five servicemen are based.

The Marines suspected of involvement in the incident are still on the job but their off-duty movements have been restricted.

California benefits

LOS ANGELES — California Gov. Pete Wilson tried to block it, but gay and lesbian employees in the University of California system now have domestic partnership health benefits.

The university's Board of Regents approved the plan by a 13-12 vote with one abstention. The vote came after the governor made two last-minute appointments to the board, provoking charges he was trying to stack the board.

Both appointees voted against extending the benefits to gays and lesbians.

The plan applies to 130,000 employees on the UC system's nine campuses.

No marriages

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If gay and lesbian couples can't get married, neither can straights.

That's the new policy of the Edgehill United Methodist Church.

The Edgehill congregation decided that until the United Methodist Church begins allowing gay marriages, it will not permit marriages of any kind in its chapel.

So Suzanne Prince married Hunter Allen at a friend's home.

"If the United Methodist Church wasn't going to allow gay people to get married in the church, I agree that straight people shouldn't either," said Prince, who's been married nine months.

There have been similar protests elsewhere. The Rev. Jan Nunley, rector of St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Providence, R.I., will preside over church weddings for straight couples, but she won't sign marriage licenses for them.

"I was in considerable anguish over the fact that I can create a legal relationship for mixed-gender couples, but couldn't do that for same-gender couples who've lived together for 25 years," she said.

Gay ambassador

WASHINGTON — James Hormel is being forced to wait to become the United States' first openly gay ambassador.

Two Republican U.S. senators have blocked Hormel's confirmation vote and one of them plans to meet with him in December.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., said he was not implacably opposed to Hormel's appointment as ambassador to Luxembourg.

"The senator wanted to make sure this didn't get pushed through at the last minute," said spokeswoman Susan Hensley. "He definitely has concerns about Mr. Hormel's activism."

Hormel, a businessman and an heir to the Hormel Meat Co. fortune, is on the board of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's leading gay-rights organization.

The other senator opposing Hormel's appointment is Republican James Inhofe of Oklahoma.

Clinton-Hate

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has endorsed expanding the definition of hate crimes.

The president says he supports a plan by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to expand current hate crime laws to make it illegal to injure someone because he or she is gay, disabled, or a member of the opposite sex.

"All Americans deserve protection from hate," Clinton said at the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes. "We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm."

According to Justice Department statistics, of the 8,759 hate crimes reported last year, sexual orientation was a factor in 12 percent. Race was in the lead, accounting for 63 percent of all reports.

Clinton-HRC

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton became the first sitting president ever to address a gay and lesbian civil rights group when he keynoted the Human Rights Campaign's annual dinner.

The president urged Congress to pass legislation protecting gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. And he also lobbied for the confirmation of Bill Lann Lee, his embattled nominee to head the Justice Department's civil rights division.

Clinton said the nation must open its arms to all its citizens.

"We have to broaden the imagination of America," he said.

"What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way," Clinton said. "When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal."

Jeffords-ENDA

WASHINGTON — Vermont's Senator James Jeffords is pressing his legislation that would end discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace.

The so-called Employment Non-Discrimination Act was the subject of a major hearing before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which Jeffords chairs.

The panel heard testimony about people who were blocked from job promotions or were fired for their homosexuality.

Jeffords said he modified the bill before he introduced it this year to address concerns raised last year, when it lost by a single vote, that it would clog the courts with new lawsuits, give gays preferential treatment or force companies to send the government statistics on the sexual orientation of their employees.

"The bill now prohibits the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) from collecting such statistics and from compelling employers to do so," Jeffords said.

A study released by Congress' General Accounting Office found that discrimination lawsuits have not increased significantly in the 11 states, including Vermont, that have passed their own anti-discrimination laws.

Conservative Cincinnati

CINCINNATI — A federal appeals court has given the city of Cincinnati freedom to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a ruling allowing Cincinnati to implement a 1993 voter-approved city charter amendment barring enactment or enforcement of any law aimed at ending bias based on sexual orientation.

The U.S. Supreme Court had ordered the appeals court to reconsider its decision based on last year's case throwing out Colorado's anti-gay rights initiative.

The lawyer representing gay rights advocates who sued Cincinnati said the case was based on "very specious reasoning."

"This is a renegade decision approving a clone of the Colorado ballot measure thrown out by the Supreme Court," said Patricia Logue, a Chicago attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Washington-Anti-Discrimination

SEATTLE — Voters in Washington refused to extend workplace protections to gays and lesbians.

An initiative on the November ballot in Washington asked voters whether anti-discrimination provisions covering the job should be extended to gays.

The proposal would have prevented employers from making hiring and promotion decisions based on a person's sexual orientation.

But the measure failed, along with four other citizen initiatives on the Washington ballot.