

news...news...news

No money

MADISON, Wis. - A federal appeals court says universities can't use students' mandatory activity fees to fund political groups students oppose.

The 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled in favor of three Christian students who sued the University of Wisconsin-Madison for using fees to fund 18 groups whose activities they opposed. The groups included those for women and gays.

The court, which upheld most of a November 1996 decision by US District Judge John Shabaz, said UW-Madison's practice violates the students' First Amendment right to "freedom of belief."

"Freedom of speech has a component where you're free not to speak, you're free not to support somebody. And that is what they based their decision on," said Jordan Lorence, a lawyer for the conservative Northstar Legal Center in Fairfax, Va., who represented the students.

No Log Cabin Republican

HONOLULU - The Republican candidate for governor of Hawaii says she's not gay and she's accusing her Democratic opponent of spreading that false rumor.

Linda Lingle's allegation was denied by Democratic Gov. Ben Cayetano, who has been hurt in the polls because of Hawaii's slumping economy. Cayetano called the allegation a smear tactic from a "cheap-shot artist."

A crowd member asked Lingle during a campaign stop Wednesday whether she was gay. "No, I am not," replied Lingle, the mayor of Maui County.

Lingle then told The Honolulu Advertiser that a Democrat had given her a copy of a report from a Cayetano campaign committee that raised questions about her sexual orientation. Lingle campaign chairman Bob Awana declined to release copies.

No sex

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NJ - Here's an odd policy: AIDS prevention apparently cannot include depictions of gay sex.

An AIDS prevention educator has been charged with distributing obscenity to minors for showing them a gay sex video.

Keith Carson, who works for the South Jersey AIDS Alliance, showed the video in February to seven youths aged 15 to 17 at a county youth shelter. The video, produced by the

Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, also urges viewers to use condoms to stop the spread of the virus that causes AIDS.

A grand jury viewed parts of the video before indicting Carson on Tuesday. He faces up to 18 months in prison if convicted.

The video was "clearly inappropriate for educational purposes for young teens," Cape May County Prosecutor Stephen Moore said.

However, the American Civil Liberties Union said the showing of the video is protected by the First Amendment.

South African gays

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Gays in South Africa are testing the bounds of their newfound freedoms.

And one of their goals is winning the right to marry. Two men were secretly married by an Anglican cleric and

now plan to ask a magistrate to legalize it. "We put our hearts into this, and it wasn't a mock wedding,"

Desmond Kleynhans shouted above the din at his wedding reception. "There's no reason why the state can't accept this as a normal wedding and make it legal." The revolutionary changes that have occurred in South Africa since apartheid's demise have not been restricted to race relations. Gay rights also have flourished.

Under apartheid, homosexual sex was a crime and two members of the same sex could not legally kiss or be intimate in other ways in public. Police frequently beat up gays, who led an underground social life.

In 1996, South Africa became the first country to have a constitutional clause preventing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Last May, a high court struck down apartheid-era laws against gay and lesbian sex. And earlier this year, several insurance companies allowed same-sex

partners to be listed as dependents for insurance benefits.

Zambia gays

LUSAKA, Zambia - Gays in Zambia are standing up for themselves.

An activist group has threatened to name government officials with links to gays if they try to arrest homosexuals.

"We don't want to disclose names but if pushed too far, we'll do so," Alfred Zulu, head of the Zambia Independent Monitoring Team, said.

Earlier this month, the government said it would arrest gays and their supporters. Zulu acknowledged that sodomy is an offense in Zambia, but said it is not illegal to declare one's sexual preference.

President Frederick Chiluba, like President Robert Mugabe of neighboring Zimbabwe, says homosexuality is foreign to African culture and was brought to the continent from the West.

more letters

OITM, POB 177, Burlington, VT 05402-0177 or oitm@together.net

◆ 'Skeeter Really Bites

Dear Editor,

This newest columnist, is he also new to the movement? He does readers a great disservice in his last paragraph by inferring the cult is benign, "not worth...getting...worked up over." From all accounts, personal experience and all conventional wisdom on harmful groups I know to turn the other cheek is inadvisable. they are extremely pernicious especially when you're not looking.

To illustrate, as a cult buster/deprogrammer I've gone several times incognito into the lion's den of the Island Ponders. If one ponders, "Silence equals Death" so goes our bumper sticker, then given the great damage done to individuals by such groups how can we just live and let live? Or had we better learn to protect ourselves and help others ward off such religious evils?

Especially given that they practice fanatical very vocal homophobia. As their invited quest one day posing as a curious person I was interviewing an elder when a young man leaped up and said, "I remember you from our recruitment drive in Mass; you said you were a student from Northampton the home of the queers. I say let's slit his wrists right here over the

kitchen sink and see if he has AIDS!" Hardly harmless.

Youth who leave he cult are not allowed even to phone back in except to talk to an elder for fear their new found freedoms may contaminate other youth.

Since the 1980s they've marked 12 NE cities as conversion targets in which they've tried to raise 1000 new devotees each, thus totaling 12,000 fulfilling prophecy of the twelve tribes of Israel.

So as Skeeter advises us to sleep on it they are laboring in fields of unsuspecting souls 24.5 hours per day to gain headshrinking numbers, robots in a world conversion effort. As one elder harangued me, "Someday everyone on earth will live our way—it is for everybody to be better off." I'd just told him his lifestyle being too hard would attract only a few. Even if one eats their good food they've become an economic convert. I say, if the food is free, partake, but between bites tell 'em their dogma sucks. The smile goes right off their faces.

The Cultbuster
Joel Stanley

◆ Bashing in Jamaica

Dear Editor,

At 4:00 PM on July 27, 1998 my partner and I were

brutally attacked with intent to kill and then stalked by five white mails at Hamilton falls in Jamaica State Park. By men who looked no more menacing than your next door neighbor.

The Vermont State Police sent two cruisers and a police dog to investigate, but when they finally got there an hour later (they said they got lost), Trooper David Magdicz and his partner met us and saw that we are lesbians. Suddenly they had no interest in continuing the investigation, even though we furnished them with several leads and assured them we could identify the assailants in a lineup and intend to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. Repeated calls to both Trooper Magdicz and Deputy States Attorney Chris Cady have been to no avail. It took Trooper Magdicz three weeks just to return my calls, although he had assured us at the time of the interview that he would call within two days of the attack. Not surprisingly, we have even been refused a copy of the police report, evidently because there is no report!

Jamaica is a very small community and these young men had a new dark green Ford pickup truck with Vermont Plates. We are convinced they live locally by their knowledge of the country dirt

For
confidential
HIV/AIDS
Information



Call
800-882-AIDS

Measuring Success
One Investor
At A Time

We know that no matter who you are or what you do for a living, you want to see your family secure, your children educated, your retirement assured.

We're ready to help with a wide range of investments and a professionally trained Account Executive who can tailor a program to your needs. At Dean Witter, we measure success one investor at a time.

Ginger Williamson
30 Main St.
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 869-9660
(802) 865-2137

DEAN WITTER
©1994 Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.
Member SPIC

Check
us out
on the
WEB!

http://www.vtpride.org

OITM is always
interested in
new
contributors
and volunteers.

Call today and
find out how you
can help.

(802) 865-9294