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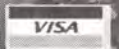
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Spokane - Mayor James E. West, accused of molesting two boys decades ago and of recently offering a City Hall internship to someone he met in a gay online chat room, is leaving two youth group boards, *The Spokesman-Review* reported May 6.

West, 54, a former Senate Republican majority leader and gay rights opponent, denied the molestation accusations but acknowledged he has had relations with men and resigned May 5 from the executive board of the Inland Northwest Council of the Boy Scouts, said Tim McCandless, a scouting executive.

West has been affiliated with the group for at least 30 years, including a brief period as the council's endowment director in the early 1990s, but his registration would have been revoked if he had not resigned, McCandless said. "The Boy Scouts does not recognize as volunteer leaders avowed homosexuals," McCandless said.

West also appeared set to resign from the board of Morning Star Boy's Ranch, which operates a state-licensed residence for 18 boys from troubled backgrounds and a transitional residential facility for five young men, public relations and funding director P.J. Watters said. West was sched-

uled to meet with the Rev. Joseph Weitensteiner, Morning Star director and founding counselor, and "what I believe is that Jim West is going to tell us he's going to step down," Watters said.

On May 5, the day the newspaper reported on the molestation accusations and West's more recent involvement with young men, the mayor acknowledged that he visited the website Gay.com and "had relations with adult men. I don't deny that."

West said he intended to serve out the three years left in his term despite calls for his resignation from City Council member Cherie Rodgers and a longtime Republican activist, Shaun Cross. "I am a law-abiding citizen," West said during a brief news conference in which he did not take questions.



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

Later in the day he skipped a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance observance in the City Council chambers but attended an evening Holocaust remembrance service at Spokane's Temple Beth Shalom, where he made a brief apology without saying what he was apologizing for and then read a city proclamation.

Rodgers and Cross, a conservative Republican who ran for Congress last year but lost in the primary, said West was no longer fit to hold office. "He can't survive as mayor," Rodgers said.

"There's no way, given the gravity of the allegations and his admission of Internet activity, that he can effectively lead the city," Cross added. Cross is a partner in the city's largest law firm. "I think it's a sad day for Spokane and a sad day for Jim West," he said. "I hope he can get the help he needs."

State Senator Bob McCaslin, a longtime GOP colleague of West, said he should remain as mayor because he has been effective. "Let's say he is gay," McCaslin said. "If he's a good mayor, he should continue. On (charges of) pedophilia, that should have to be proved in court."

The May 5 *Spokesman-Review* article included photographs of Robert J. Galliher, 36, of Seattle, and Michael G. Grant Jr., 31, of Spokane, convicted felons with drug problems who say West molested them when they were in the Boy Scouts in the late 1970s and early '80s.

"I categorically deny allegations about incidents that supposedly occurred 24 years ago as alleged by two convicted felons and about which I have no knowledge," West said. No criminal investigations are under way, according to the sheriff's office and police department.

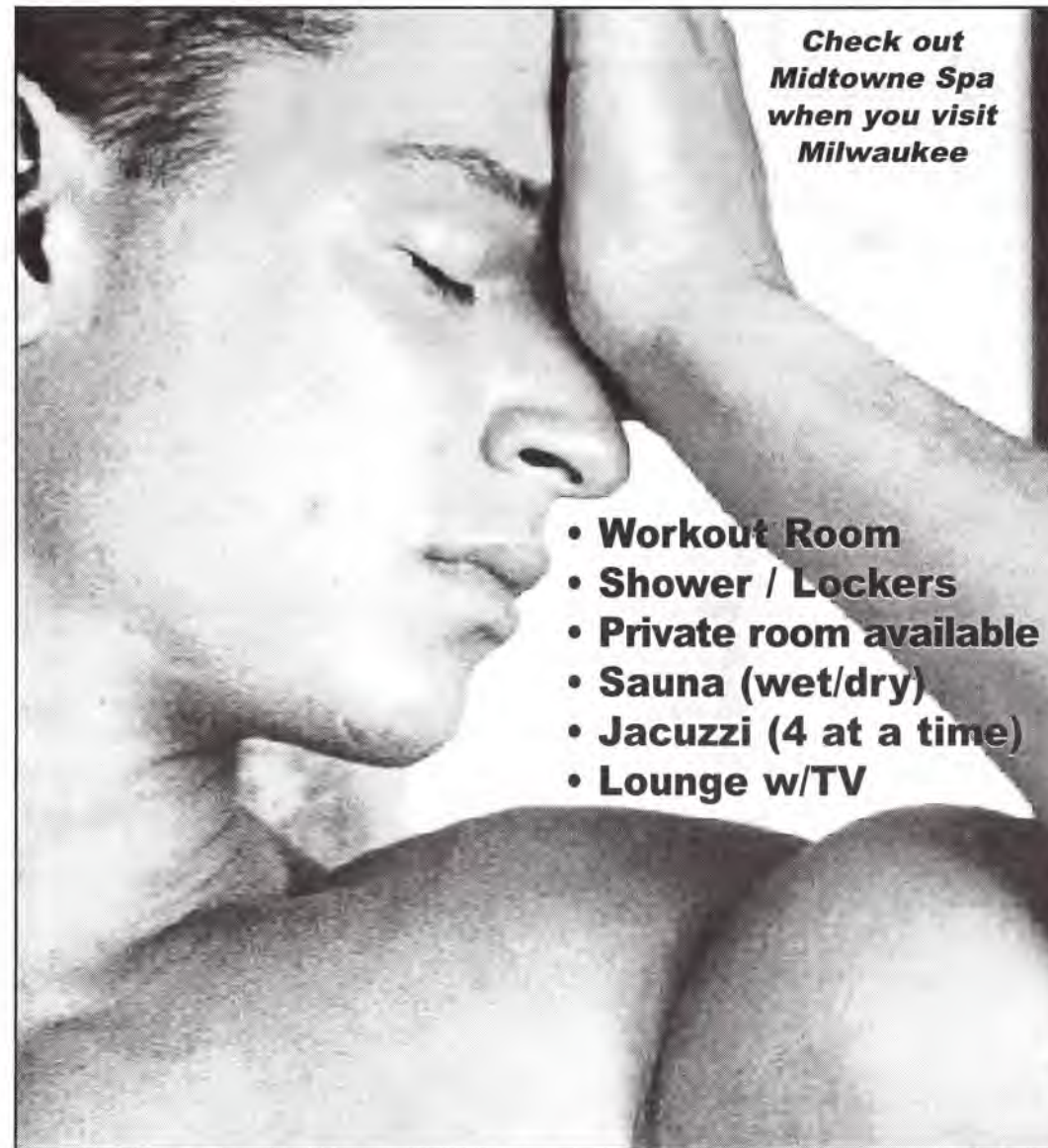
In an e-mail issued to city employees, West apologized for bringing embarrassment to the mayor's office. "I stumbled and let you down," West wrote. He also said he considered his private life off-limits.

In the past year Spokane has been rocked by dozens of claims of past sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane has filed for bankruptcy protection because of legal claims from the abuse. The newspaper, which endorsed West for mayor in 2003, said its investigation stemmed from tips received in 2002 during its investigations of the Catholic sex abuse.

which the safety for children was unknown.

The research was conducted in at least seven states: Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Colorado and Texas and involved more than four dozen different studies. The foster children ranged from infants to late teens, according to interviews and government records.

Several studies that enlisted foster children reported that patients suffered side effects such as rashes, vomiting and sharp drops in infection-fighting blood cells, and one



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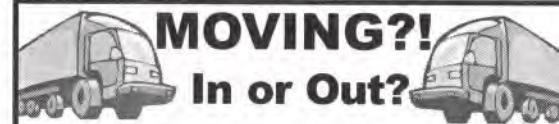
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reported a "disturbing" higher death rate among children who took higher doses of a drug, records show.

The government provided special protections for child wards in 1983. They required researchers and their oversight boards to appoint independent advocates for any foster child enrolled in a narrow class of studies that involved greater than minimal risk and lacked the promise of direct benefit.

Some foster agencies, including those in Illinois and New York, required researchers to sign a document agreeing to provide the protection regardless of risks and benefits. However, researchers and foster agencies told the Associated Press that foster children in AIDS drug trials often weren't given such advocates even though research institutions many times promised in writing to do so.

Illinois officials believe none of their nearly 200 foster children in AIDS studies got independent monitors. New York City could find records showing 142 less than a third of the 465 foster children in AIDS drug trials got such monitors even though city policy required them. The city has asked an outside firm to investigate. Likewise, research facilities including Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore said they concluded they didn't provide advocates for foster kids. Some foster children died during studies, but state or city agencies said they could find no records that any deaths were directly caused by experimental treatments.

Researchers typically secured permission to

enroll foster children through city or state agencies. And they frequently exempted themselves from appointing advocates by concluding the research carried minimal risk and the child would benefit directly because the drugs already had been tried in adults.

"Our position is that advocates weren't needed," said Marilyn Castaldi, spokeswoman for Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. If they decline to appoint advocates under the federal law, researchers and their oversight boards must conclude that the experimental treatment affords the same or better risk-benefit possibilities than alternate treatments already in the marketplace. They also must abide by any additional protections required by state and local authorities.

Arthur Caplan, head of medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said advocates should have been appointed for all foster children because researchers felt the pressure of a medical crisis and knew there was great uncertainty as to how children would react to AIDS medications that were often toxic for adults. "It is exactly that set of circumstances that made it absolutely mandatory to get those kids those advocates," Caplan said. "It is inexcusable that they wouldn't have an advocate for each one of those children. When you have the most vulnerable subjects imaginable kids without parents you really do have to come in with someone independent, who doesn't have a dog in this fight."

Those who made the decisions say the research gave foster kids access to drugs they otherwise couldn't get. And they say they protected the children's interest by

carefully explaining risks and benefits to state guardians, foster parents and the children themselves. "I understand the ethical dilemma surrounding the introduction of foster children into trials," said Dr. Mark Kline, a pediatric AIDS expert at Baylor College of Medicine. He enrolled some Texas foster kids in his studies, and doesn't recall appointing advocates for them.

"To say as a group that foster children should be excluded from clinical trials would have meant excluding these children from the best available therapies at the time," Kline said. "From an ethical perspective, I never thought that was a stand I could take."

Illinois officials directly credit the decision to enroll HIV-positive foster kids with bringing about a decline in deaths from 40 between 1989 and 1995 to only 19 since.

Some states declined to participate in medical experiments. Tennessee said its foster care rules generally prohibit enlisting children in such trials. California requires a judge's order. And Wisconsin "has absolutely never allowed, nor would we even consider, any clinical experiments with the children in our foster care system," spokeswoman Stephanie Marquis said.

Officials estimated that 5% to 10% of the 13,878 children enrolled in pediatric AIDS studies funded by NIH since the late 1980s were in foster care. More than two dozen Illinois foster children remain in studies today. NIH, the government health research agency that funded the studies, did not track researchers to determine whether they appointed advocates. Instead, the decision



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was left to medical review boards made up of volunteers at each study site.

A recent Institute of Medicine study concluded those Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) were often overwhelmed, dominated by scientists and not focused enough on patient protections. The U.S. Office for Human Research Protections, created to protect research participants after the notorious Tuskegee syphilis studies on black men in the 1930s, is investigating the use of foster children in AIDS research. The office declined to discuss the probe.

A review found that if children were old enough usually between 5 and 10 they also were educated about the risks and asked to consent. Sometimes, foster parents or biological parents were consulted; other times not. Research and foster agencies declined to make foster parents or children in the drug trials available for interviews, or to provide information about individual drug dosages, side effects or deaths, citing medical privacy laws. Other families who participated in the same drug trials told the Associated Press that their children mostly benefited but parents needed to carefully monitor potential side effects. Foster children, they said, need the added protection of an independent advocate.

"If they did not fulfill that requirement, how

can you be sure the community participant really got the benefit and the informed consent that is needed," said Michelle Lopez, a New Jersey woman whose daughter has participated in drug trials. "I was very concerned about that because the argument we are getting is the kids are getting better and we are enhancing their lives, but none of these drugs save these kids lives."

Many studies that enlisted foster children involved early Phase I and Phase II research the riskiest to determine side effects and safe dosages so children could begin taking adult "cocktails," the powerful drug combinations that suppress AIDS but can cause bad reactions like rashes and organ damage. Some of those drugs were approved ultimately for children, such as stavudine and zidovudine. Other medicines were not.

Illinois officials confirmed two or three foster children were approved to participate in a mid-1990s study of dapsone. Researchers hoped the drug would prevent a pneumonia that afflicts AIDS patients. Researchers reported some children had to be taken off the drug because of "serious toxicity," others developed rashes, and the rates of death and blood toxicity were significantly higher in children who took the medicine daily, rather than weekly.

At least 10 children died from a variety of

causes, including four from blood poisoning, and researchers said they were unable to determine a safe, useful dosage. They said the deaths didn't appear to be "directly attributable" to dapsone but nonetheless were "disturbing."

"An unexpected finding in our study was that overall mortality while receiving the study drug was significantly higher in the daily dapsone group. This finding remains unexplained," the researchers concluded.

Another study involving foster children in the 1990s treated children with different combinations of adult antiretroviral drugs. Among 52 children, there were 26 moderate to severe reactions nearly all in infants. The side effects included rash, fever and a major drop in infection-fighting white blood cells.

New York City officials defend the decision to enlist foster children en masse, saying there was a crisis in the early 1990s and research provided the best treatment possibilities. Nonetheless, they are changing their policy so they no longer give blanket permission to enroll children in preapproved studies.

"We learned some things from our experience," said Elizabeth Roberts, assistant commissioner for child and family health at the Administration for Children's Services. "It is a more individualized review we will be conducting."

Opinion:

A Catholic Culture Of Death

By Rosemary Neill (from the May 7 edition of *The Australian*)

Pope John Paul II was known for his unwavering belief in the "culture of life", his conviction that euthanasia and abortion infringed the sanctity of human life. Yet the late pontiff allowed a culture of death - and it seems likely his successor, Benedict XVI, will do the same - in relation to the AIDS pandemic raging through the developing world.

It is widely assumed that Benedict, the former doctrinal enforcer, will maintain John Paul II's ban on contraception, which included the use of condoms to combat AIDS. Benedict said recently that the Catholic Church was at risk from a "dictatorship of relativism", the notion that moral principles have no objective standards. At his inauguration mass, he said his "program of governance is not to do my own will ... but to listen, together with the whole church, to the word and the will of the Lord".

Last Sunday, May 1, Sydney's Cardinal George Pell warned Australians that "for those hoping for radical change, there is no reason for optimism in Benedict XVI".

But - not before time - an increasing number of senior church figures are speaking out against the Vatican's deadly condoms ban.

Last February, pontifical household theologian Cardinal Georges Cottier said condoms could be used where there is "a risk of transmitting death" in poor areas of Africa and Asia. In those cases, reasoned Cottier, the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" applies.

Cottier is the most senior Vatican figure to have argued this. But he also stressed his views were "strictly personal". Days earlier, Spanish bishops had been forced by the Vatican to retract similar statements supporting the use of condoms to protect against AIDS in developing countries.

So it seems the Vatican will maintain its cast-iron opposition to condoms, even in cases where faithful spouses are at risk of being killed. As a result, many poor, Catholic wives will become infected and give birth wondering who will die first: they or their babies.

If the Vatican persists with its condoms taboo in AIDS-ravaged countries, it will eventually be accused of crimes against humanity that will dwarf the sex abuse scandals that plagued the church during the John Paul II era.

Prominent clergy from South Africa, which has one of the highest HIV infection rates, have expressed their frustration that Benedict seems unlikely to lift the condoms ban. One bishop spoke of the "crucifying" experience of seeing young women and their babies dying, "in terror and fear and totally rejected". Former Anglican archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu said he had hoped for a pope with a "more reasonable position with regards to condoms and HIV-AIDS".

About 40 million people worldwide are HIV positive and most are from sub-Saharan Africa. In South Africa, where more than 20 per cent of the population is HIV positive, people spent more time at funerals than they did shopping or having barbecues, according to a 2004 survey cited by the AIDS charity AVERT.

The church's culpability is compounded by the fact it has not simply opposed condoms, it has demonized them. In 2003, a senior cardinal in the Vatican told the BBC that condoms were unsafe because they have holes in them that could allow the HIV virus to pass through.

Brazil's government-backed AIDS prevention body, the National HIV-AIDS Program, responded that the church's position could be "a crime against humanity", as it could lead millions to mistrust condoms and contract a life-threatening disease.

The fact is, condoms - along with behavioral change - are the cheapest and most effective means of stopping the spread of the virus. Through condom promotion and free anti-retroviral drugs, Brazil's AIDS death rate has dropped dramatically since the mid-1990s. In Australia, safe-sex messages coupled with condom use have had a radical effect in reducing the AIDS death toll, especially among the gay community.

Yet even in countries where the death toll is rising, the Vatican continues to privilege unfeeling dogma over compassion. It is interested only in abstinence, making no allowance for cultures where a wife doesn't have the right to refuse her husband's sexual demands. While in India years ago, I heard about a woman from a poor, rural village who contracted HIV from her husband. Yet it was she, rather than he, who was ostracized and thrown on to the streets.

Despite the ostentatious Catholic ritual on show in Rome during the past month, Italians openly defy the Vatican's contraception ban: they have one of the world's lowest birthrates. But in poorer, more religiously observant countries, contraception

isn't merely a lifestyle decision; it's a life and death dilemma.

Within hours of his death, the clamor for John Paul II to be canonized was almost deafening. But how can a leader whose moral rigidity has contributed to innocent men, women and children contracting a fatal disease be considered saintly?

This view of the late pontiff is only possible if AIDS victims in dusty shantytowns are abstracted to the point where their individual humanity is erased. Rather than belonging to the culture of life, they are condemned by religious zealots to the culture of awful, premature death.

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Thank You SIR:

by Jeff Hicks

Thank you Sir, May i have another Sir !

This time the old title for this column is appropriate, because, this week's subject is the last letter of bdsm. Yes, Masochism. Many modern day passive, submissive, servants, boys, girls, slaves, & bottoms, deny the exquisite pleasures of this part of our lifestyle. But it is at the root of much of what we do. Many people don't think about a good Firm hug as pleasurable pain. In reality it can often be exactly that, albeit, a rather mild pain. From there we can move into more and more intense "stimuli/pain". This does cause the human body to produce endorphins. They are released into the circulatory system whenever a significant stimulus/pain is applied to the body. This can be some accidental injury, or the carefully controlled use of stimulating or abusive devices on the body of the willing recipient. The following is an excerpt from the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Endorphins:

"any of a group of opiate proteins with pain-relieving properties that are found naturally in the brain... Endorphins are distributed in characteristic patterns throughout the nervous system, with beta-endorphin found almost entirely in the pituitary gland. Endorphins have been found to be clearly involved in the regulation of pain... Such substances are also believed to have some relation to... the release of sex hormones through the pituitary, with the adverse effects of shock. There is strong evidence that endorphins are connected with "pleasure centers" in the brain..."

It has been my experience, that if a person knows that they will be experiencing painful stimuli very soon, the anticipation, in and of itself, can trigger the early release of endorphins. If that is not the case, a Master must start slower with the person to trigger the endorphins. Once started, the level of activity can usually keep increasing. Starting with simple paddle strokes or flogger usage, it can be steadily increased to levels that neither player expected possible. Often the recipient will suddenly feel pain beyond their capacity to endure. A good Master, at that point will be able to tell from the sounds/body language/erratic movements/safe-word/etc, that a peak has been reached and must be drawn back from to settle onto a plateau briefly. Then both players can again build to greater levels of stimulus and endurance of what we might otherwise believe to be excruciating pain. For the masochistic subject of such controlled activity, The 'endorphin/opiate' high, becomes a major reality for the duration of the action. Hence the subject endures pain to the degree of being VERY erotic. Devices for this can include the use of rigid objects, i.e. paddles of wood/metal/plastic/or any material of your imagination. There are companies that do an extensive business developing/making/and marketing paddles of every size and type they can think of. Just imagine, you too could work as a test subject for those companies. (OOPS!, Did i say that?). DEFINITELY ! Then there are what is known as

Floggers. A simple description would be: A handle, 6 to 10 inches long. Attached to that will be anywhere from 12 to 36 strands, or a hundred + in the case of hairs. of cowhide/bull hide(full thickness)/rubber/horse hair/vinyl threads/beaded synthetics/&/OR any other material you might like. Those strands might be only 6 inches long. Some are up to 36 inches long. Each has its own properties, providing its own unique stimulus. Only on rare occasions will Knotted-end-strands be used. These are for the very advanced practitioners, because of the risk of severe damage to the skin. [Ancient Sailors didn't worry about that]. The softer floggers, deerskin / split hide / garment leather, are good for sensitive areas of the body, i.e. nipple areas, under the crotch, and both male and female genitalia.

All considered, Masochism, much misunderstood, denied, abhorred, often reviled, is a very valid part of our Leather scene. One which can be the source of pleasure beyond the imagination of many people. When you have a Master/Sir/Dom, who enjoys the exhilaration of inflicting pain, and watching a "Masochist", writhe in ecstatic painful pleasure, because of the Dom's ministrations; you have an exquisite interplay of power positions that can exceed almost all 'casual' sexual interactions.

When A Masochist comes to know his/her true nature, there is no pleasure so satisfying as to present their body to an accomplished Dominate, to welcome them to stimulate their body beyond average pain, and enter the arena of an exquisite, High, Head space, or Zone of pleasure, knowing, that while they are there, the Dominate is also reaching the same plane of enhanced gratification !

To the Dominants we know : Thank you SIR ! Enjoy your time of Leisure and effort. Let this last longer each time. With each Stroke, we feel, we peak, we recover, and then beg for :

"May i have another SIR? ! Again, Thank you SIR !

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Castaways ; June 11-12,
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Argonauts/Castaways :
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ANGELS OF HOPE MCC MAY / JUNE CALENDAR

Angels of Hope MCC church is holding Christian religion classes, Thursday, May 12, and Thursday, June 23, 7pm at the Green Bay church, 3607 Libal St. The Christian religion classes will also be held on Thursday, May 26, and Thursday, June 23, 7pm, at the Appleton Church, 815 N. Richmond St. Classes are hosted by the Rev. Elaine Thomas, Master of Divinity. Classes are free.

Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, Angels of Hope MCC with is having a HUGE rummage sale at their Green Bay church (3607 Libal). There will be men and women's clothing, household goods, and many more items.

Saturday, May 21, 1:05 pm, join Angels of Hope, MCC at a Timberrattlers baseball game. Tickets are \$5.00 with a pot-luck at the Appleton church following the game. Contact tvermor@newrr.com for tickets or more info.

As always, Angels of Hope MCC hosts
alcoholic anonymous meetings;

6:30 pm Tuesdays, Appleton church
9:30 am Sundays & 6:30 pm Wednesdays, Green Bay church.

ON OUR COVER

MEN'S VOICES MILWAUKEE'S JOHN FRANCIS: ADDING SPIRIT TO THE MUSIC

Interviewed by Mike Fitzpatrick

Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM) will present their Spring Concert at 8 PM Saturday, May 14 at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. This year's theme is "A Journey Through a Man's Life." Artistic Director John R. Francis will conduct the 40 voice male chorus. The concert will mark Francis' final production as Artistic Director.

Advance tickets are now on sale for \$15 each. Group rates are available. Tickets are available from MVM members and the Zelazo Center Box Office. Major credit cards accepted at the box office. For more information, call 414-229-4308.

Men's Voices Milwaukee is a choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence by performing a broad range of men's choral music. Formed in June 2001 and originating with 30 singing members, MVM continues to grow. Every member of MVM believes in the most important element of the chorus-the music. And MVM shares this philosophy by entertaining audiences at every performance.

By its very existence, MVM represents a positive image of the LGBT community. MVM showcases its dedication to music by providing quality entertainment accessible to everyone. MVM is committed to broadening and strengthening the LGBT choral movement in southeastern Wisconsin (and beyond) through performance, education and outreach activities. Men's Voices Milwaukee currently performs two scheduled concerts each year in southeastern Wisconsin: in the Spring and during the December holiday season. In addition, MVM performs at various community events, fundraisers and ceremonies throughout the year.

The concert will mark Francis' final production as Artistic Director. Though he has only been at the reins for a short time, Francis feels he had added a spiritual dimension to the choir's performances. *Quest* had the opportunity to speak with Francis just prior to one of the final rehearsals for this year's show.

Quest: The theme of this year's concert is "A Journey Through A Man's Life." How was the theme selected and what is its significance?

Francis: When I started to compose something for the concert, I started of how a gay man's life from infancy through death and after can be expressed through music. I wanted

to come up with a theme rather than to put a bunch of pieces together and say "Okay, we're singing this!" I wanted to tell a story to the audience and allow ourselves to communicate something about the gay experience.

I saw (a concert) in Montreal that inspired me to talk about my son in music because he's a gay man as well. He an artist. So the piece that I wrote for the concert is called "Paint Me A Picture Of Your Life." I knew that there were other pieces written for male choruses that talk about childhood, social relationships, personal struggles, celebrations, deaths of dear ones and the like.

Some of the music is standard repertoire for gay choruses around the country. That's kind of exciting for us because we're learning pieces we hadn't done before.



At the December concert, we put a survey in the program and asked people for their comments on how (MVM) was doing. Among the comments coming back was one that said: "You are who you are - why don't you use that to communicate thoughts, experiences and issues."

Quest: How has the group grown in the four years since it's inception?

Francis: When MVM first started we had about 32 guys showing up for the rehearsals and wondering what kind of group this was going to be. During the first three years under the direction of Ken McMonagle, he pulled together a unified sound. His concern was that we didn't grow too fast before we had developed a sense of collegiality - the dynamic of being one group.

We worked on the sound - the vowel sounds, the phrasing. Under Ken's direction it became a powerful, lush sound. It's something the choir soon became known for.



Quest: So you're saying the group became a musically accomplished choir, developing a "quality sound." But you took MVM to the next step with the development of thematic concerts?

Francis: Well, I rely on what Ken put in place for us. What I think I've brought is the dynamic of "spirit" within the group: putting ourselves into the meaning of the music. I also wanted to bring more visual arts to the stage. We've always used (ASL) signers on stage. But I wanted to do more with the scenic, with drama perhaps, even hopefully moving into dance at one point. But I never got that far. The goal is to create something satisfying visually as well as aurally.

Quest: How many voices are in MVM now?

Francis: I think for this concert we will have 38 singers. It's pretty powerful and has good balance across the (vocal) sections. That's critical for a quality sound.

Quest: How supportive has the community been towards Men's Voices?

Francis: Well, its something we've always got to work on. I think the last concert drew the largest crowd we ever had. I believe it was over 700 people. The singers themselves got more into the actual sale of tickets.

Also, (the Milwaukee chapter of) PFLAG has become supportive of MVM. They're advertising the concert in their newsletters. For this concert, they decided to sponsor a song entitled "Michael's Letter To Mama." The song is based on a story from Armistead Maupin's *Tales of The City*.

It's one of the standard repertoire for gay choruses, but we've never sung it before.

When PFLAG heard about the song, they said "We'd like to buy the music for the choir." The song is about coming out to your parents.

Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Friday, May 13

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Robin's Birthday Extravaganza featuring Karaoke Rose free Tap Beer & snacks while they last!
Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Family Safety Night (6-8). It's not about luck...it's about what you know. A FREE night of demonstrations, hands-on activities & freebies all in honor of keeping you and your family safe. Followed by old-time classic songs by Uncle Giles, 7:30 pm

Shelter (Green Bay) Show Time! Featuring Whitney Paige, Anita Shelter, Cass Marie Domino, Jennifer Alyce, Tammy Faye, Desiree Mathews & Lee Bradford. Show time: 11 pm

Saturday, May 14

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Fetish Night - All Welcome
Jo'Dee's Int'l. (Racine) "May"-hem spectacular show, 11 pm
www.jodees-intl.com

Men's Voices Milwaukee Spring Concert A Journey Through a Man's Life, 8 pm, Helene Zelazo Center-Peck School for the Performing Arts, UW-M, 2419 E. Kenwood Blv'd. Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 at door or \$15 w/ 4 non-perishables donated to the Hunger Task Force. Tickets: Avail. from MVM members & at the Zelazo Box Office (414) 229-4308

Oh Zone (Rockford) Miss Borderline WI USofA Pageant
Sunday, May 17

Jo'Dee's Intl. (Racine) Gay Movie Nite *every Sun.*, 8pm; snacks provided

Wednesday, May 18

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Paper Castle film showing, 7 pm. View the 30-min. award-winning independent film, followed by a Q&A discussion, facilitated by its writer and creator, John Patterson. An event for the entire family.
STD Specialties HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at **Fluid** (also June 15)

Thursday, May 19

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) TEEN NIGHT! 18+ includes Drag Show
Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open Mic, hosted by the Goddess of Song, Galyne Goodwill, 7 pm

Friday, May 20

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Susan Howe, 7 pm, will sing heartbreaking & heartwarming selections. Followed by **The Geezers**, with old time rock 'n roll, 8:30 pm

Fri.-Sat., May 20-21

Angels of Hope MCC HUGE RUMMAGE SALE at the Green Bay church site, 3607 Libal St.

Saturday, May 21

Madison Gay Video Club - Bear Cub (Spanish) & Lost, 8 pm.
www.mgvc.org / (608) 244-8675 evenings
Shelter (Green Bay) It's Hoedown Night (come ride a cowboy!): \$2 Bud Light bottles, \$2 Jack shots
Transgender/Genderqueer In-Service presentation, at **OutReach**, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 1-3 pm. Open to all. Interested? RSCP w/ Harry by 5/14 @ (608) 255-8582 or at prgrams@outreachinc.com; space limited.

Wednesday, May 25

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Closing Reception...a celebration honoring local Lawrence University art major, **Sandra Schwert**, ending her month long art show at Harmony Cafe, 7 pm
STD Specialties HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at **Woody's** (also June 22)

Thursday, May 26

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open Mic, hosted by the WeisMeyer Fusion...pianist Bob Weis and flutist Bill Meyer, 7 pm

Friday, May 27

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Live Music: Ticket 251, 7 pm. Local jazz band that sets the cafe on fire with their sizzling jams and cool jazz

Sunday, May 29

Blue Lite (Sheboygan) A Rainbow Over Wisconsin Benefit - Brat Fry/T-Dance & Show, (3-7, food & dancing, show at 9...no cover) sponsored by Brian J. Stoffel Trucking LLC

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ideas for defeating the ban. Let AW know if you can attend the event by emailing Josh Freker at: josh.freker@actionwisconsin.org.

OUTREACH TO HOLD TRANSGENDER IN-SERVICE

Madison: - There will be an in-service presentation at OutReach, on transgender/genderqueer issues for agency volunteers and the broader public on Saturday, May 21 from 1-3 PM at the agency's offices at 600 Williamson St. The informal panel will discuss gender identity/expression issues from the vantage point of definitions, experiences and resources. If interested in attending, please RSVP with Harry by May 14 by phone at 608-255-8582 or by email at: programs@outreachinc.com. Space is limited.

OVERCROWDED LGBT LIBRARY NEEDS SHELVE

LaCrosse: - The 7 Rivers LGBT Center is experiencing a population explosion - of gay and lesbian books and media. According to the Center's Jan Wulling, recent donations have created a second need: for shelving and storage. "We need more good-quality bookcases so we can display them all," she said.

Wulling is looking for either direct shelving donations or someone to make the

needed units. Contact her at 608-784-0452 for more information about the center's needs.

NEW LGBT GROUP TARGETS YOUNG ADULTS

Appleton: - A new group for LGBT young adults 18-30 has begun meeting weekly at the Harmony Cafe here. Etcetera - Beyond The Rainbow held its first social May 2, an early Cinco De Mayo celebration. The group is holding events every Monday beginning at 7 PM. Advocacy issues will be discussed on May 16 and a presentation on transgender experiences is slated for May 23. The second Monday of the month has been set aside as a support group night. When fifth Mondays occur, Etc.(the group's informal name) will sponsor fund raising events. For more information about Etc., call the Harmony Cafe at 920-734-2233 or email Rebecca at harmonycfe@gwicc.org.

VOLUNTEERS & ADVERTISERS SOUGHT FOR 5TH ANNUAL RAINBOW HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Milwaukee: - The Milwaukee LGBT Center is seeking interested volunteers for the 5th Annual Rainbow Home and Garden Tour to be held on Saturday, June 18. Six

homes and gardens in the Walker's Point neighborhood will be featured. Walker's Point is a historic area and one of the three original villages that eventually grew into the City of Milwaukee. Volunteer greeters, tour guides and general helpers needed for several hours. Advertisers are also being sought for ad placement in the Home Tour Guide. For more information, please call Angie Guerra, Director of Development at 414-271-2656, Ext. 121 or email her at aguerra@mkelgbt.org.

RAINBOW OVER WISCONSIN BENEFIT BRAT FRY BENEFIT PLANNED

Sheboygan: Rainbow Over Wisconsin will be the beneficiary of a Memorial Day Weekend Brat Fry, Tea Dance and Show to be held at the Blue Lite, 1029 N. Eighth St. here from 3-7 PM, May 29. Food will be available for purchase from 4-7 PM. Showtime will be 9 PM. Proceeds from brat sales, raffle and performer tips will benefit Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc. the charitable foundation serving the central, eastern & northeast Wisconsin LGBT community since 1996.



Quest: What are some of the other songs to be performed in the concert? Even though they may be standard gay chorus pieces, will these be their Milwaukee debut?

Francis: For a lot of the pieces, yes. Some of the pieces come from the Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas. I first heard another song, "Everything's Possible," on a recording by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. It is very emotional for me, because it was something that I would have liked to know about when my son was a little boy. I would have sung to him. I do believe that piece has been done here before by Cream City.

We're also having an original narration with this concert that Carmen Mungara and Gary

Mitchell are writing. It will weave the story together for the audience.

Quest: Will people be able to purchase tickets for the concert the night of the performance?

Francis: Yes, the can. They're \$20 at the door. If they bring two cans or boxes of non-perishable food items, they can get a coupon for \$5 off. Tickets in advance are \$15. There will also be a reception on site for the first time after the concert. A cash bar will be open and desserts and coffee will be available.

Quest: I understand that this concert is going to be your "swan song" as Artistic Director.

Francis: I have moved to North Carolina because I have a full time church music position down there. It's something I've been looking for for years as my background is in sacred music. I finally found one earlier this year by looking on the Internet. So This will be my last concert with MVM.

It's sad because I love the group. And this is my home - I was born in Wisconsin and went to school in Milwaukee. MVM is something that I wanted to be a part of for many years, before I even came out. When Men's Voices started up - well, that was great. MVM has so much to offer the community musically. It's been a great experience for me. I just want MVM to keep growing as it is.

q n u

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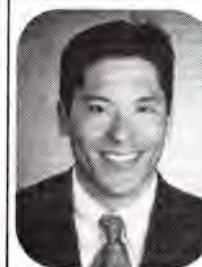
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GOVERNOR GIVES NO CLUE ON SIGNING GAY RIGHTS BILL

Colorado: - Colorado Governor Bill Owens is not saying if he will sign or veto an LGBT civil rights bill passed this week in the legislature. The legislation would protect gays and lesbians against bias in the workplace. Similar bills have failed in the Legislature eight consecutive years.

In 1992 proposed civil rights protections were put to voters. The measure was narrowly defeated, but when the Colorado-based Coors Brewery announced its opposition to gay rights LGBT groups across the country boycotted the company, forcing it to eventually reverse its position.

Republicans fought the current bill as it made its way through the legislature. In the Senate, when it became clear they did not have the votes to defeat the legislation GOP lawmakers attempted to have protections for the transgendered removed. House Republicans argued there was no need for the law, saying that businesses should have the right to fire an employee if the company fears the employee "could drive away customers."

Conservative groups have appealed to Gov. Bill Owens, a Republican, to veto the bill. On May 4 an Owens spokesperson said that the governor had not made a decision and would have nothing to say on the issue.

House Majority Leader Alice Madden of Boulder urged Owens to sign the bill. Owens said Coloradans have changed and LGBT civil rights should no longer be an issue. "The more that people learn about an issue, the more comfortable people are with diversity," Madden said.

Earlier this week a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage died in the legislature. Republicans on May 3 failed to get a constitutional ban on gay marriage on the November ballot after opponents called it an attempt to write discrimination into the state Constitution.

GOP Representative Kevin Lundberg said recent attempts by gays and lesbians in other states to get legal recognition of their civil unions threaten the institution of marriage, which Lundberg said is clearly defined as a union between a man and a woman. He said voters should make the final decision. "It's a referred ballot measure because we should let the voters decide. I'm not asking you to make the decision, I'm simply asking that we put this before the people of Colorado," Lundberg told the House Judiciary Committee.

The committee killed the measure on a 6-5 party line vote after Democrats said it was unconstitutional and would cost taxpayers to defend in court if it passed. Last year, Lundberg also failed to get a majority of members in the Republican-controlled House to back GOP Rep. Marilyn Musgrave's proposed gay marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Cathryn Hazouri, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, said the measure would probably face a court challenge if lawmakers tried to put it on the ballot. "It's just plain wrong to write discrimination into the constitution," she told lawmakers.

Hazouri also noted that the title of the referred measure men-

tioned nothing about civil unions, which would also be excluded. "Clearly this is a deceptive title," she said.

Michael Brewer, spokesman for Equal Rights Colorado, said the state already has a statutory ban on legal recognition of gay marriage. In 2000, lawmakers and Gov. Bill Owens approved a "Defense of Marriage Act" restricting marriage to between one man and one woman.

VETERAN GAY ACTIVIST JACK NICHOLS SUCSUMBS TO CANCER

Florida: - Influential gay leader and activist Jack Nichols died May 2 in Cocoa Beach after a battle with leukemia. He was 67 years old.

"Jack helped launch the movement in the mid '60s, when the federal government would not hire gays and lesbians, the American Psychiatric Association

considered gays per se mentally ill, and

many states had criminal sanctions precluding gays from congregating in bars," said Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Philadelphia gay rights organization Equality Forum. "Jack was among the gay pioneers who stepped out of a debilitating closet and helped crack the cocoon of invisibility."

Nichols helped plan one of the first organized and annual gay and lesbian civil rights demonstrations in Philadelphia, Washington DC, and New York City from 1965 to 1969, prior to Stonewall. The first of those demonstrations was held on July 4, 1965, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

He co-founded a Mattachine Society in Washington, D.C., and Florida in 1961 and 1965, respectively. In August 1963, Jack and nine other members of the Washington, D.C., Mattachine Society openly participated in the civil rights demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. Nichols helped organize the first gay and lesbian protest at the White House on April 17, 1965.

Nichols was among the first gay activists to challenge the American Psychiatric Association's position that homosexuality was a mental illness. In 1967 he appeared as a self-identified gay male in an interview with Mike Wallace. It was the first CBS documentary ever broadcast about homosexuality.

From 1969 to 1973, Nichols and his partner, the late Lige Clark, were editors of *Gay*, the first gay weekly newspaper in the country. Together they wrote the first nonfiction memoir by a gay male couple, "I Have More Fun With You Than Anybody." Nichols authored several other books, including *Men's Liberation: A New Definition of Masculinity* and *The Gay Agenda: Talking Back to the Fundamentalists*.



BAR BRAWLERS FOUND INNOCENT OF HATE CRIME CHARGE

Sturgeon Bay: - After deliberating for three hours, a jury of eight women and four men found father and son Mark and Joshua Sawyer guilty of misdemeanor disorderly conduct but innocent of serious battery charges. The younger Sawyer was also found innocent on the hate crime penalty enhancer.

Originally five men were charged with a variety of crimes, and four had the hate crime enhancer attached to their charges. Adam Bley pleaded guilty to a minor offense. Two others, Robert Wagner and Andrew Ostrand, pled guilty to lesser charges in plea deals that dropped the hate crime penalty. The elder Sawyer's hate crime charge was also dropped in pre-trial negotiations.

The week long trial was held in front of a courtroom packed with spectators supporting both the defendants and gay victims Bryon Groeschl and Darrin Day. The "not guilty" verdict on the more serious charges brought near pandemonium from the Sawyer's supporters and an admonishment from presiding Judge Peter Diltz.

From the beginning the jury heard two widely divergent versions of what happened June 6, 2004 at Bley's Tavern in rural West Jacksonport. Prosecutor Joan Korb attempted to lay out a scenario of terror caused by intolerant men who could not accept the fact that several gay men had chosen to be themselves in a rural tavern. Photos of the bloodied Day were offered in evidence. The gay men's story was supported by Tina Ostrand who alleged Mark Sawyer's use of the word "fag" triggered the fight.

Defense attorneys Michael Fitzgerald and William Appel weaved a story that could only be described, according to one court watcher, as the gay version of the "uppity nigger" syndrome: openly gay men flaunted their lifestyle in front of intoxicated straight men, thus causing a fight that got

way out of hand. A defense witness claimed Day ripped off his shirt as if he were professional wrestler Hulk Hogan and started the fight. Photos of Mark Sawyer's severely brutalized face caused by a single defensive punch by Day were also shown to the jury.

The prosecution did get the younger Sawyer to admit he barred the door, preventing the victims from leaving the fray. However, Sawyer's reasoning for blocking the exit was because he did not want Day and Groeschl to leave before the police arrived.

In the end, Groeschl and Day's failure to follow up with the police after the incident appeared to confirm the defense's allega-



tions, made most effectively by fellow assailant Ostrand, that the gay couple incited the brawl. Jury foreman William Sturdevant, speaking to the *Green Bay Press Gazette*, summed up his impression of the brawl as an liquor-infused affair. "I think it was just a matter of too much alcohol. The guys that were supposedly victims were just as culpable in starting the fight as anyone else," Sturdevant told reporter Paul Brinkman.

LGBT FILM FESTIVAL TO FEATURE SHORTS MINIFEST AT PRIDEFEST

Milwaukee: - The Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival will offer a program of "edifying and entertaining shorts" at the LGBT History Project booth at PrideFest June 11-12. The mini-festival hopes to call attention to the 18th Annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival to be held at the UW-M September 29 through October 9.

Festival director Carl Bogner announced the projects at the recently held "Coming Out Party" for the new Cream City Foundation executive director Maria Cadenas, and the new CCF board president Kevin Loos, held May 3 at the Bella Cafe. Bogner has credited CCF's early support of the film festival for the event's nearly two decades of success.

ACTION WISCONSIN SETS CAPITOL BASED ACTION GROUP

Madison: - According to many political strategists, the state's LGBT community cannot win the fight against the constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage without winning big in Madison. Action Wisconsin has begun planning for a local coalition of amendment opponents. Stop the Ban-Madison will focus on educating and mobilizing voters in Dane County area about the ban.

The first meeting of the Stop the Ban coalition will be on Thursday, May 12 from 3-5 PM at the SEIU office--148 E. Wilson in the conference room on the first floor.

Action Wisconsin is inviting LGBT activists, faith groups, non-gay progressive allies, and supportive local elected officials and expect this to be the first of many gatherings through November 2006. At the meeting, Action Wisconsin will share more information about AW's campaign and give activists a chance to share and brainstorm

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ARCHBISHOP TELLS CHURCHES TO REFUSE COMMUNION TO PRO-GAY CATHOLICS



Minnesota: - Allegedly responding to a directive from the Vatican, Archbishop Harry Flynn has advised all parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to deny communion to anyone wearing a rainbow-colored sash.

For the past four years, supporters of the Rainbow Sash Alliance USA -- a group of

Catholics who are active in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community -- have worn the sashes to receive communion at the St. Paul Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, the anniversary date of the group's founding in 1998. Last year the service was disrupted when a group of 40 laymen protested the activists receiving communion by kneeling in the aisles in an attempt to block the path to the altar.

The sashes are worn as a symbol of celebration of God-given sexuality, according to Brian McNeill, an organizer of the alliance, who lives in Minneapolis. He said the sashes also represent an invitation to the church to open dialogue on the issue of human sexuality. As he has in the past, McNeill wrote to Flynn in early April to advise him of the group's intended presence at the Pentecost service on May 15.

In a reply sent May 2, Flynn told McNeill that he had received a directive from the Vatican declaring that wearing the sash during communion is unacceptable. Flynn said the sash has increasingly been perceived as a protest against church teaching, and asked that group members remove their

sashes before receiving communion.

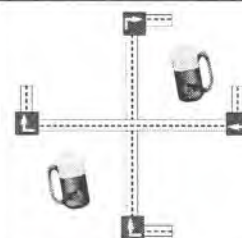
"The request to take off the sash makes no sense," McNeill said. "The church is saying it only wants closeted gay people going to communion. That's troubling to me as a gay man. I think God would want me to be proud of who she created me to be."

Flynn's letter emphasized that the policies of the Church and the archdiocese will continue to welcome baptized Catholics of all backgrounds, including those with same-sex orientation.

"The central issue is that we can't let the holy communion be used to make a statement or as a forum for dissent," said archdiocese spokesman Dennis McGrath. He said the change from tolerance to refusal was made because of the way the annual rite has "deteriorated and unraveled" in the past year.

"It has become patently a protest," McGrath said. "You can see that from their website, the way they've been recruiting. To use the celebration of the eucharist, that which we consider most sacred, to use this as a protest or a rallying cry is inexcusable."

David Pence, who organized the Ushers of the Eucharist, the group that tried to block members of the Rainbow Alliance from receiving communion last year, was pleased with Flynn's directive. "We did



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perceive the wearing of the sash as a clear attempt to integrate homosexual relationships into the sacramental life of the church," said Pence.

Pence had publicly criticized Flynn last year, calling him a good but extremely weak man for allowing the group to receive communion. He has since written Flynn an apology. He's also promised that his group would not interfere at this year's Pentecost service.

POLL SAYS STATE'S VOTERS BACK SAME-SEX MARRIAGE 55-40%

GARDEN STATE EQUALITY

LGBTI and straight New Jerseyans united in political action

New Jersey: - New Jersey voters favor allowing same-sex couples to marry and oppose any attempts by lawmakers to constitutionally ban gay marriage, according to a poll commissioned by a gay rights group and released May 4.

According to the poll, 55% of those surveyed favor allowing same-sex couples to marry, while 40% were opposed.

The archbishop's letter notwithstanding, McNeill said, he and other supporters plan to wear their sashes to the cathedral on May 15. If denied communion, they will return peacefully to their pews and remain standing, he said.

"We'll show up and hope that the archbishop changes his mind," he said. "I've said many times that the rainbow sash is a symbol of celebration, not dissent."

Additionally, 61% said they disagree with having a constitutional amendment blocking gays from marrying. Respondents overwhelmingly said the Legislature has more pressing business to handle. In New Jersey, an appeals court has been asked to decide whether the state Constitution's equal-protection provisions allow gays to marry. Any ruling in that case is expected to be taken to the state Supreme Court.

The Garden State Equality-Zogby telephone poll of 804 voters was conducted April 12-14 and has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Garden State Equality is a statewide political action organization that advocates equal rights for gays. It commissioned Zogby

International, a worldwide polling company, to conduct the survey.

Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality, said the poll was commissioned to track voter sentiment on gay marriage following its hot-button status in the 2004 election, and to assess the prospects of gay political candidates statewide.

"We found that New Jersey is as strongly supportive of gay marriage as it has ever been," Goldstein said. A Zogby poll on the subject released in July 2003 found nearly identical results.

The Garden State Equality-Zogby International poll also suggests a comeback is possible for former Gov. James E. McGreevey, whose political career was dashed by his announcement last year that he is gay and had engaged in an extramarital, homosexual affair.

49% of the respondents said they would consider voting for McGreevey if he ran for office again; 6 percent said his sexuality is a reason they would never vote for him. An additional 43 percent said he has forever lost their vote but that his being gay didn't contribute to their decision.

Goldstein said McGreevey was a good test case for vetting the potential success of other gay candidates because the former governor comes with "more baggage than

Gay and lesbian rights groups welcomed the decision. "Microsoft is a world leader in technology, and we're pleased that the company has also chosen to be a world leader in supporting equality for (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people," Equal Rights Washington Executive Director George Cheung said. "We're also looking forward to working with Microsoft and other business leaders to pass this legislation next year, ensuring that all Washingtonians enjoy the protection that Microsoft provides for its own employees."

Multiple attempts to reach Hutcherson for his reaction failed.

NEW FDA SPERM DONATION RULE UPSETS GAY CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS

Washington DC: - Food and Drug Administration guidelines barring gay men from donating their sperm anonymously have raised the ire of gay rights groups who say that the recommendations are without scientific merit. An FDA rule that goes into effect in late May says that all sperm banks must screen out anonymous donors who are at increased risk for HIV.

It's a concomitant "guidance" document that critics oppose: It says men who have had sex with men in the last five years are at such an increased risk. Critics of the guidelines said



they are not enforceable by law, unlike FDA rules. But some are still outraged.

"It doesn't make scientific sense," said Hayley Gorenberg, deputy legal director at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "And the fallout from it is stigmatizing and unnecessary because we have the testing procedures and protocol in place to protect people receiving donor sperm."

At the Sperm Bank of California in Berkeley, donors are tested and screened, the sperm is quarantined for six months, and then donors are tested again, said Alice Ruby, the executive director. "It's incredibly safe," Ruby said. "In 23 years in business, we have never had an incident of disease transmission."

There are a few documented cases of HIV transmission through sperm donation, but those cases arose in the early stages of the epidemic before current procedures were in place, Gorenberg said.

"They're asking all the wrong questions," said San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno, who has protested similar rules that prohibit gay men from donating blood. "It's not with whom you are having sex, it's what kind of sex you are having. Heterosexual men engaging in risky heterosexual behavior are not denied the opportunity to donate sperm. This is not about protecting the public."

Both Ruby and Leland Traiman -- director of Rainbow Flag Health Services and Sperm Bank in Alameda, CA which has a large gay and lesbian clientele -- said they plan to continue to accept sperm from gay donors because they do not consider the FDA guidelines legally enforceable. Many lesbians eventually want to know the identity of their donor, and "a lot of them feel they will find more acceptance of their families from gay donors," Traiman said.

Many sperm banks won't be affected by the new guidelines because they already reject gay donors. Also, the new rules affect only anonymous donors, not "directed" donors, who give sperm to someone they know.

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Other Supreme Court justices have argued the Constitution is a living document. Scalia, who has been on the court since 1986, described himself as an "originalist," someone who thinks the Constitution means the same thing now as when it was first drafted. Calling the idea of the living Constitution "terribly seductive" for judges, Scalia said originalism is the "only game in town."

"You either tell your judges to be bound by the original meaning of the Constitution or

you evolve our Constitution the way you think is best," he said. "That is not a road that has a happy ending."

Scalia also criticized the increasing politicization of nominating and appointing federal judges. "We want a moderate judge. What in the world is a moderate judge?" he said. "What is a moderate interpretation of the Constitution? Halfway between what it really says and what you'd like it to say?"

MICROSOFT FLIP FLOPS AGAIN ON GAY CIVIL RIGHTS

Washington: - After weeks of controversy over the issue, Microsoft has decided to return to a position of legislative support for gay and lesbian rights, at both the state and federal level.

In a May 6 letter to employees, Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer said that the company would support antidiscrimination legislation, after backing off support for a Washington state bill on the issue last month.

"After looking at the question from all sides, I've concluded that diversity in the workplace is such an important issue for our business that it should be included in our legislative agenda," Ballmer wrote in the email. "I respect that there will be different viewpoints. But as CEO, I am doing what I believe is right for our company as a whole."

The issue exploded into public consciousness several weeks ago after Seattle newspaper *The Stranger* reported that Microsoft had backed off support for a state antidiscrimination bill after being contacted by a conservative local pastor, the Rev. Ken Hutcherson of the Antioch Bible Church.

Hutcherson, a leader in conservative religious organizations' opposition to gay marriage equality and nondiscrimination legislation, said he had threatened Microsoft with a boycott of the company's products if it supported the state bill. Microsoft executives later said their position on the bill was not related to the pastor's pressure, but connected to a broader company policy of avoiding taking divisive positions on "social issues."

The Washington bill subsequently failed by

a single vote. Gay and lesbian organizations, which previously had applauded the company's internal policies of support for nondiscrimination, criticized the company widely over the situation. At least one prominent gay employee resigned this week from the company, according to *The Stranger*.

In his May 6 e-mail, Ballmer said the company would join other companies in supporting federal legislation barring employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. If the Washington state bill comes up in next year's legislative session, the company will support that as well, he added.

Ballmer said he was not prepared to pursue similar legislative goals overseas, where other countries have "different political traditions for public advocacy by corporations." Nor would the company take a position on most other public policy issues, aside from those such as free trade, intellectual property rights and Internet safety, which directly affect the company's business.

"It all boils down to trust," Ballmer wrote, explaining his decision to change the company's direction and articulate a clear policy. "Even when people disagree with something that we do, they need to have confidence that we based our action on thoughtful principles, because that is how we run our business."

Terminal C at Newark airport."

"If only 6% say they wouldn't vote for Jim McGreevey because he is gay, and half the electorate say they would consider voting for him, then consider how well a lesbian or gay candidate would do without his baggage," Goldstein said.

Nearly a year ago, the state enacted a law recognizing domestic partnerships and granting those couples joint rights in filing state taxes and exempting them from inher-

itance taxes in the case of a partner's death. The law also extends the benefits given to state employees to cover domestic partners.

At least 13 states have statutorily and constitutionally banned same-sex marriage. A similar measure is working its way through Texas' Legislature. President Bush supports conservative advocacy groups pushing for congressional approval of a federal constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Scalia said if the American people want to ban or uphold issues like abortion, the death penalty or gay rights, they need to convince their fellow citizens to do so and not leave it up to judges.

"The Constitution has nothing to say about it either way," said Scalia, who has discussed his stance in many other speeches.

When the public supported the right of women to vote, Scalia said, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Scalia said that would not happen today, but instead judges would simply read in such a right into the Constitution's equal protection clause, which doesn't address the subject.

"You should not use the Constitution as a means to enforce your own social views," he said.

The crowd at this generally conservative university greeted the speech with cheers and applause, which though paid for with public tax dollars, almost had all the trappings of a GOP political rally. Former President Bush, Barbara Bush, and three justices from the conservative Texas Supreme Court attended the speech. The former president introduced Scalia.

"Am I totally preaching to the choir here?" Scalia joked.

SCALIA'S THINKING ON CONSTITUTION "SET IN STONE"

Texas: - Parroting current Republican partisan rhetoric, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said the public - not the courts - should make decisions on controversial issues such as abortion, the death penalty and gay rights. He said too many courts are interpreting the Constitution as a document that evolves with society, but that he believes it should be interpreted as it was written.

"The Constitution is not a living organism. It is a legal document ... and like all legal documents it doesn't change," Scalia told about 1,000 people during a 30-minute speech May 5 at the George Bush Presidential Library Center at Texas A&M University.



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