

## News

Continued from page 26

the City Council. Under the agreement, the group can continue to lease its office space until January 31, 2001. The \$1-a-year rent will jump to \$800 a month beginning in February 2000. By raising the rent, the city eliminates the stigma of subsidizing a group that openly discriminates against homosexuals and atheists. The vote came after more than a year of pressure from a wide range of organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Organization for Women.

### Brothers accused in murders

REDDING, CA—Brothers Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 29, believed by police to be white supremacists, were arrested in the shooting deaths of a gay couple whose car was found abandoned about 130 miles from the crime scene. The brothers were booked in the slayings of Gary Matson, 50, and Winfield Scott Mowder, 40, whose bodies were found in the mobile home they shared in Happy Valley, a rural community about 15 miles southwest of Redding. There was no obvious sign of forced entry and nothing of value inside the home appeared to be missing, police said. Matson's Toyota station wagon was gone. The car was later found near the airport in Oroville. Police said in a news release that evidence in the car, along with other leads, led to the Williams brothers. Officers served search warrants on the brothers' home and found "information and literature" that suggests the brothers have racist beliefs, the release said. The two were arraigned on charges of receiving stolen property. Prosecutors did not identify the alleged stolen property, but said it was connected to the killings. The brothers are also being investigated in the arson attacks at three synagogues in Sacramento. Their arrest led officials to discover a list of 32 names linking the brothers to the arsons.

### Partners plan rejected

BOSTON, MA—The state's highest court has invalidated the city's plan to give health insurance coverage to gay partners of city workers. The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruled that an executive order issued last August by Mayor Thomas Menino was "inconsistent" with the state law that gives cities the authority to provide health insurance to employees, their spouses and dependents. The SJC, in a 19-page opinion, rejected arguments by gay activists that the state law could be construed to allow the city to pay benefits for domestic partners.

### Infant HIV prevention

WASHINGTON, DC—Researchers have developed a new low-cost, double-dose, infant HIV prevention drug that is being hailed as the most significant medical breakthrough in AIDS since the protease drugs.

### Fairness Amendment passed

LEXINGTON, KY—The Urban/County Government Council voted 12-3 to approve an amendment to its human rights ordinance that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, real estate transfers, and credit on the basis of sexual orientation and sexual identity. The ordinance is the most comprehensive in Kentucky.

### Missouri protects gays

JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan has signed into law a hate crimes bill that includes sexual orientation, gender and disability, making Missouri the only state this year to take such action. Missouri is the 22nd state to enact a hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation and only the fourth to include transgendered people through the definition of sexual orientation.

### Gay man attacked

FORT WAYNE, IN—A teenager accused of beating and robbing a gay man has been formally charged with aiding in a robbery. The charge was leveled against Daniel Smasal, 19, after the state dropped a charge of robbery. If convicted, Smasal faces up to 20 years in prison. Jimmie Costerlow told police Smasal and two other young men approached him and demanded money after he left a gay bar. When they found he had only \$2 in cash, Costerlow said the trio attacked him, beating him unconscious and stripping off his clothes. Costerlow said later he believed he was attacked because he is gay. Police and prosecutors did not classify the attack as a hate crime.

### Lesbian wins, again

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The state Supreme Court rejected the West County school district's challenge to \$360,000 in damages for

a lesbian who said she lost her job after telling her supervisor she is gay. The district had argued it fired Jan Overholtzer in December 1995 for improper conduct, but a jury found she had resigned because of discriminatory treatment.

### Maximum sentence

LANCASTER, PA—Two young men who nearly stabbed to death a Franklin & Marshall College student last year were sentenced to the maximum penalty of 20 to 40 years in prison in Lancaster County Court. Anthony S. Delgado, 20, and Brian K. Byrnes, 18, attacked Thomas Coleman while he was walking home from a city tavern the night before his college graduation. The two men stabbed him 21 times in the face, neck and back. When the two suspects were arrested and confronted by detectives, police said Byrnes told them the reason they stabbed the young man was because they thought he was gay.

### International

#### Heart surgery for Elton

LONDON, ENGLAND—Sir Elton John, 52, had surgery to fit a heart pacemaker saying he hopes to resume a "normal lifestyle." He had the operation after tests revealed he had an irregular heartbeat. His heart condition came to light when he was taken ill as he was flying out to perform at Posh Spice and David Beckham's wedding near Dublin.

### Rapist jailed

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND—A taxi driver who raped a lesbian, making her pregnant, has been sentenced to a nine-year jail term. Shafiqat Javed Ranjha, 41, attacked the woman after picking her up from a pub. At the High Court in the city, Judge Lord Kingarth described the attack as "prolonged and degrading."

### Family murdered

CLYDACH, ENGLAND—Detectives are investigating a lesbian link in the killing of Amanda Power, her two young daughters and their disabled grandmother. Power, 34, had had both male and female lovers since divorcing her husband two years ago. Officers are searching for a motive for the savage attack on her in which her daughters Katy, 10, and Emily, eight, and her 80-year-old mother, Doris Dawson, were also battered to death before their house was set afire. Forensic tests have shown that Power was sexually assaulted as well as repeatedly struck about the head with a hammer. Power's lesbian lover, Alison Lewis, later jumped from a window in an apparent suicide attempt. Lewis, 29, a former police officer and Welsh women's rugby player, had told friends she could not face life without Power.

### Gays run for Parliament

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND—More out gays and lesbians will stand for Parliament. See NEWS2 on page 30

*Kerri Nichols*

*Pageant begins at 10:00pm*

*Tracy Morgan*

*Jamie Monroe*

*Boom Boom LaTour Pageant MC*

*Miss Saturday*

*Charlotte*

*July 31*

**SCORPIO**

18 and over welcome; 4 acres of supervised parking; No cover before 10pm; Nightly drink specials  
Information & Bookings call (704) 373-9124; 2301 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, NC

### Sleepy Poet Stuff Antique Mall

"No Rhyme or Reason"



Custom furniture,  
primitives, pottery,  
glass and  
collectibles.  
Estate Liquidations

"Lots of really cool stuff  
all over the place."

3609 South Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
(704) 529-6369  
Mon.-Sat. 10 - 5  
Sun. 1 - 5

