

News notes

from around the nation & globe

the law. The agency removed references to sexual orientation from its website and complaint forms in late February. An outcry from Democrats in Congress and gay-rights groups over the rule change prompted a public rebuke by the White House.

Project to complete health survey

CHICAGO, Ill. — Officials with the Chicago Department of Public Health are aiming to complete the city's largest health survey of gay and bisexual men through the yearlong Chicago Health Assessment Project, commonly called Project CHAT. The survey, which will be given to more than 1,000 gay and bisexual men, covers matters related to sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use, and HIV, among other topics. Participants in the 15- to 20-minute surveys are paid \$25 for their involvement. The project is part of a nationwide effort by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in more than two-dozen U.S. cities to reduce the country's annual HIV infection rate by 50 percent.

N.J. gay marriage rally held

WESTFIELD, N.J. — Proponents of same-sex marriage want New Jerseyans to push for legislation that would make it legal. A standing-room-only crowd came out to show their support and hear from several people involved in the cause, including New Paltz, N.Y., Mayor Jayson West, who performed weddings for 25 same-sex couples in February and now faces misdemeanor

charges for officiating. Other speakers included eight same-sex couples who are plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking recognition of gay marriage in New Jersey. In January, New Jersey joined Massachusetts, Vermont, California and Hawaii in recognizing civil unions. The law, which takes effect in July, gives same-sex couples many of the same legal rights of married heterosexual couples.

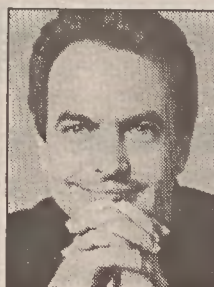
International >

Zanzibar to outlaw homosexuality

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania — Zanzibar's parliament has unanimously passed a bill to outlaw homosexuality, with jail terms of up to 25 years for gay relationships. It will have to be approved by President Amani Karume to become law, but a close aide to Karume said the president would assent to the bill. Islamic groups have been calling for a more puritanical approach to running public affairs on the Tanzanian Indian Ocean island, which is overwhelmingly Muslim. The bill was adopted by members of both political parties in the House of Representatives, the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi and the opposition Civic United Front — a rare occasion when the sides agreed. The bill has been supported by the Society for Islamic Awareness (UAMSHO).

Government to legalize marriage

MADRID, Spain — Spain will legalize homosexual marriages and grant equal rights to gay couples, incoming Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said. The move is likely to stir controversy in one of Europe's most Catholic countries as the Vatican condemns same-sex unions and homosexuality



Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero

was banned under Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Spain's Catholic bishops have already spoken out strongly against the adoption of children by homosexual couples. Nine other European Union countries already have some provision for recognizing those in committed same-sex relationships. Britain said it would give legal recognition to gay partnerships. Homosexuality was banned during Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship. Spain's liberal 1978 constitution outlawed sexual discrimination and homosexuality was legalized shortly afterwards.

Same Love,
Same Rights

Your Online
GLBT
Wedding
Resource

RainbowWeddingNetwork.com

CAROLINA GEM
LAB

The Only Thing More Precious
Than Your Jewelry is Your Appraisal.

704-341-5886
(By appointment only)
www.carolinagemlab.com

A.W.O.L. BALL
2004

COMING IN JULY

LIAISONS
video bar

316 Rensselaer Ave. 704.376.1617
New Memberships On Sale

pinkhouseinc.com

Sordid Lives Sunday
MAY 30

Watch it Again &
Dress in Character!!!!
\$1.75 Coors Light

retro trivia
Every Wednesday
\$1.75 Miller Lite

Will & Grace
every thursday
\$1.75 Bud Light