

Democrats

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employee could do for a spouse.

Davis vetoed the bill. In a statement, he criticized it for going "far beyond what any other state has permitted to a relationship outside the family," underlining the words "outside the family."

I had to read that twice to make sure it wasn't a position paper from the Family Research Council. Outside the family? What are <our> families, potted plants?

It wasn't Davis' first foray into anti-gay territory. Earlier this year, he suggested that he might demand the resignations of judges he appoints if they don't share his opposition to gay marriage.

There are sound reasons to oppose employer mandates like a family leave law: they're expensive for business and therefore costly to consumers and employees alike. But there are no good non-homophobic reasons to support family leave requirements for married couples (as Davis does) and oppose them for gay couples (as Davis' veto implies he does).

Yet the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), the statewide gay lobbying group, reacted to the veto by saying the

measure had not been a priority anyway. "We knew the governor was going to veto the bill," said CAPE's executive director, as if that foreknowledge matters. She then characterized as "minor" four other pending proposals for domestic partners, presumably giving Davis a pass on these bills as well.

That was too much for one non-partisan activist, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "our community has been accepting too little from the Democrats, too easily."

Why the double standard? One possibility is that our leaders are willing to sacrifice gay equality on liberalism's altar for the sake of other issues they care about. But that's too cynical.

I suspect it's more like the battered wife syndrome: we keep coming back because we think they won't abuse us again and, after all, they love us.

One of these days we'll have a civil rights movement that doesn't look at partisan labels before deciding what to say and do. That day is not here.

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Sat June 24
Sexy Jean Party
Plus
\$1 Beer Bust (domestics)

Sat July 1
Carolina Bear Lodge Party
Big Bear Party
Super Size Cocktails
Register for Bear Trap

Sat July 8
Capital Leathermen Bar Night
Raleigh's Leather Club

Sat July 15
NC Bear/Cub Contest
contact Brigner for more info

Sat July 22
Underwear Party
cloths check

Mondays
\$2.25 Well Drinks

Tuesdays
\$2 Imports & Wines
Cruiz Nights
(free pool)

Wednesdays
\$1.50 Domestics
Country Dance Nights
lessons 8:00

Thursdays
\$1.50 Bud Bud Light
Comedy Drag Shows

Fridays
Imports \$2.50
THE SHOW

Saturdays
\$2.25 Well Drinks
Special Events
see website

Sundays
\$2 Well \$3.50 Top Shelf
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(free pool all day)

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June 23
SAMANTHA HUNTER &
THE COLUMBIA GIRLS

July 7
"STRICTLY ENFORCED"
MALE STRIPPERS

June 24
AIDS WALK 2000
BENEFIT SHOW

July 8
CLAWS
LEATHER NIGHT

June 30, July 1
"SEDUCTION"
MALE STRIPPERS

July 14
AUNT HANNAH'S
RETURN & B-DAY SHOW