

Alphabet Soup

Upcoming Events!

- Meetings Every Thursday @ 5:30 in the Women's Center
- "Too Afraid to Ask" with Kiki Bellafonte Wednesdays at 10 pm

Women say S.A. mall cops arrested them for kissing

San Antonio

Jessica Garcia intends to prove in court that security officers at Rolling Oaks Mall unfairly targeted her and her girlfriend when they were arrested in December on trespassing and other charges.

Garcia said the officers — a Bexar County sheriff's deputy and an employee from a private security company — began har-

assing them Dec. 26 because her girlfriend gave her a kiss on the cheek while sitting inside the mall on a bench. Mall officials said the women, both 22, were acting inappropriately and were told to leave because they were not complying with the shopping center's code of conduct.

Garcia said that after her girlfriend gave her a kiss on the cheek, the officers

approached them and warned them to stop. In the end, she was charged with trespassing, resisting arrest and assault on a peace officer, while her girlfriend was charged with trespassing.

For full article, got to:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6243685.html>

California Supreme Court to Consider Cases on Gay-Marriage Ban

By Karen Gullo

Feb. 4 (Bloomberg) -- The California Supreme Court will consider on March 5 whether to overturn a voter-approved ballot measure that repealed its ruling legalizing same-sex marriages, a court official said.

The court scheduled oral arguments in three lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 8, said Lynn Holton, a spokeswoman for the Supreme Court, in an e-mailed statement yesterday. The court issues rulings within 90 days of arguments.

The California Supreme Court legalized gay weddings in May 2008 in a 4-3 ruling. The ruling was overridden by Proposition 8, which amended the California constitution to define marriage as

only between a man and woman. The measure was approved by 52 percent of California voters on Nov. 4. Same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Lawsuits filed by the city of San Francisco, the American Civil Liberties Union and gay-rights groups claim Proposition 8 so fundamentally changes the rights of a protected minority that it amounts to a revision, not an amendment, to the constitution. Revising the California constitution requires a two-thirds vote by the legislature before it can put before voters, the lawsuits claim.

Proposition 8 also violates the constitution because it prevents the courts from protecting minority rights, the complaints claim. Supporters of Proposition 8 say the measure is legal because it amended the constitution, and they argue same-sex marriages

performed before Proposition 8 are no longer valid.

Revision, Amendment

The court will consider whether Proposition 8 is a revision rather than an amendment of the state constitution and whether it violates the separation-of-powers doctrine of the constitution, according to the statement from Holton. The panel also will hear arguments on whether gay marriages performed before the measure passed in November should be voided.

About 18,000 same-sex couples have married in California since June.

The cases are *Karen Straus v. Mark Horton*, S168047, San Francisco v. *Mark Horton*, S168078, and *Tyler v. California*, S168066, California Supreme Court (San Francisco).

See Bloomberg.com for more info

Pulse of Equality Telephone Survey: Results

Three-quarters of U.S. adults (75%) favor either marriage or domestic partnerships/civil unions for gay and lesbian couples.

Only about two in 10 (22%) say gay and lesbian couples should have no legal recognition. (Gay and lesbian couples are able to marry in two states, and comprehensive civil union or domestic partnership laws exist in only five others and the District of Columbia.)

U.S. adults are now about evenly divided on whether they support allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry (47% favor to 49% oppose).

Almost two-thirds (64%) of U.S. adults favor allowing openly gay military personnel to serve in the armed forces. (The current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law bans military service by openly gay personnel.)



About six in 10 (63%) U.S. adults favor expanding hate crime laws to cover gay and transgender people. (Hate crimes laws cover gay and transgender people in 11 states and the District of Columbia, and an additional 20 states' laws cover sexual orientation but not gender identity.)

A slight majority of U.S. adults (51%) favor protecting gay and transgender people under existing laws that prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. (Existing non-discrimination laws cover gay and transgender people in only 12 states and the District of Columbia, and eight other states' laws cover sexual orientation but not gender identity.)

Nearly seven out of 10 U.S. adults (69%) oppose laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children. (In several states, gay and lesbian couples are banned from adopting.)

Quote of the Week.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Alphabet soup is a student run LGBTQA bi-weekly newsletter for college students.

Would you like to voice an opinion or suggest an article topic?

Email your thoughts to eslewis@smu.edu