

Senate disappoints gay-rights activists

SAME-SEX marriage bill falls short of Congress approval, but proponents say their work is "far from over."

By MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Democratic leader threw cold water today on gay rights activists' hopes to revive a bill prohibiting job discrimination against homosexuals. Another bill placing federal curbs on same-sex marriages is going to President Clinton for his signature.

In a double blow to gay-rights activists Tuesday, the Senate voted 50-49 to kill the anti-discrimination bill and to reject same-sex marriage in federal law, 85-14.

Heartened by the closeness of the

vote on job discrimination, activists said they would lobby supporters to pass the bill before Congress adjourns this fall.

When asked whether Senate supporters would try again, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said, "I don't think so. I suspect that given the time that we have and the realization that it's not likely to pass in the House, that we'll try to find more votes and make an even more concerted effort next year."

Earlier, Candace Gingrich, the lesbian half-sister of House speaker Newt Gingrich, said congressional battles over gay rights are far from over.

"In the long run, the things that have transpired over the past two months are going to produce a whole new generation of active, involved gay and lesbian Americans and our allies," she said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Twenty-six of the Senate's 47 Democrats joined Republicans in voting for the marriage bill, but also voted

"This bill does nothing to defend marriage."

MATT COLES
director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project

for the job discrimination measure — underscoring the political predicament faced by senators who have supported gay rights.

Across the country, meanwhile, a lawsuit went to trial that could lead Hawaii to become the first state to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. Supporters of the same-sex marriage bill said Tuesday's vote was a preemptive strike against such action by states.

The Senate's overwhelming approval of the Defense of Marriage Act sent it to Clinton, who said he would sign it. The House passed the same bill by a 5-to-1 margin in July.

"This vote is a deplorable act of hostility," said Matt Coles, director of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. "This bill does nothing to defend marriage."

Clinton cautioned that congressional approval "should not be cause for any sort of discrimination or gay-bashing," adding that he regretted the discrimination bill had failed.

The Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage in federal law as a legal union between one man and one woman and allows a state to refuse to honor a same-sex marriage performed in any other state.

3 found guilty for roles in assassination

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, already convicted of murder, was found guilty Wednesday of conspiring to kill the prime minister and to attack Palestinians.

Yigal Amir's brother Hagai and friend Dror Adani were convicted of the same charges. The three will be sentenced Oct. 3, each facing a maximum of 29 years in prison, Adani's attorney said.

Lawyers for the three said they would appeal the convictions.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, Yigal Amir and the two other men were found guilty of illegal weapons possession.

Yigal Amir, 26, already is serving a life term for the Nov. 4 assassination of Rabin at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

Hagai Amir denied he conspired to kill Rabin. He told the Tel Aviv District Court that while he knew of his brother's wish to kill the prime minister to stop the peace process with the Palestinians, he never thought Yigal would go through with it.

Hagai Amir — a weapons buff whom prosecutors say made the hollow-point bullets used to kill Rabin — also told the court he disagreed with the logistics of his brother's plan.

Drunken death theory be nevermore; facts suggest Poe died of rabies

NEW YORK (AP) — Edgar Allan Poe didn't die drunk in a Baltimore gutter, according to the first scientific study of the writer's final days. The telltale facts suggest rabies instead.

R. Michael Benitez, a cardiologist who practices a mere block from the writer's grave, says it's true that the master of the macabre was seen in a bar of Lombard Street on a dreary elec-

tion day in October 1849, delirious and possibly wearing somebody else's soiled clothes. But Poe wasn't drunk.

The author of "The Raven" and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" entered the hospital comatose, but by the next day was perspiring heavily, hallucinating and shouting at imaginary companions. The day after that, he seemed better but couldn't remember

falling ill. On his fourth day at Washington College Hospital, Poe again grew confused and belligerent, then quieted down and died.

To further discount the story that Poe was drunk, accounts have shown that alcohol made Poe violently ill.

That's a classic case of rabies, said Benitez, whose diagnosis appears in

the September issue of the Maryland Medical Journal.

Although there's no evidence that a rabid animal bit Poe in the days before he succumbed, that doesn't cast much doubt on Benitez' theory. About a quarter of rabies victims can't remember being bitten at all. And once a person is infected, the symptoms of rabies can take up to a year to appear.

Hortense death toll at 14; half of victims children

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Hortense smashed the island of Grand Turk with torrential rain and 90-mph winds Wednesday as it picked up speed and headed toward the United States, leaving 14 dead in its wake.

It was the third direct strike in two days for Hortense, which pounded Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic on Tuesday.

Search helicopters found four bodies Wednesday in Puerto Rico, where afternoon thunderstorms threatened more of the flash floods and mudslides responsible for most of the 12 deaths in the U.S. commonwealth.

Authorities in the Dominican Republic found two bodies Wednesday, bringing the death toll for the two islands to 14, half of them children. Many others were missing and presumed drowned.

The hurricane hit Grand Turk at 2 p.m., lashing the capital of the British island chain with gusts up to 90 mph while churning up the Atlantic Ocean with 105-mph winds.

Because telephone lines were down on the island, it was impossible to determine whether there were any deaths or injuries.

Rain and wind preceding the hurricane knocked out power and

telephone service to the island of 3,200, leaving residents without state television or radio.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said there was a slight chance the hurricane would cross the Bahamas and come within 65 miles of West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce on Florida's east coast Friday.

But forecasters think it's more likely a weather trough in the mid-Atlantic states will keep the hurricane offshore, pushing the storm north and possibly targeting the Northeast and New England by Sunday.

Also on Wednesday, a tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch for Hurricane Fausto were in effect in the Pacific Ocean south of La Paz on the southern tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the National Weather Service said.

Maximum sustained winds were reported at 86 mph with strengthening expected. Gusts were reported as high as 103 mph.

Hortense's sheets of blinding rain did the most damage in Puerto Rico on Tuesday, when highways that had been transformed into rivers swept away cars and rivers burst their banks, carrying away people and destroying more than 650 homes.

Pentagon prepares for possibility of renewed hostilities with Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warning Iraq that America is "not playing games," the Pentagon ordered a pair of B-52 bombers and eight radar-evading F-117 jets to the vicinity of the Persian Gulf on Wednesday to prepare for possible new hostilities with Iraq.

Defense Secretary William Perry, using uncharacteristically harsh language to discuss an Iraqi attempt to fire on U.S. aircraft in the region, pledged a U.S. response to Saddam Hussein "disproportionate to the provocations which were made against us."

At a campaign rally in Arizona, President Clinton spoke in similar terms.

"We will do what we must to protect our people," President Clinton said. "The determination of the United States to deal with the problem of Iraq should not be underestimated."

The confrontation between the United States and Iraq began after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent troops into his country's northern areas in support of one of two contending factions of the country's Kurdish minority.

In retaliation, Clinton sent 44 Navy and Air Force cruise missiles to destroy southern Iraq radar sites that might pose a danger to U.S. pilots flying missions to enforce a southern "no-fly" zone barring Iraqi flights.

Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp blamed the Iraqi problem on vacillation by Clinton in formulating foreign policy.

"Our alliances are in disarray, and support for our mission is at risk because President Clinton's policy is vague and uncertain," Kemp said in a statement he issued while campaigning in Georgia. He issued the statement also in the name of GOP presidential challenger Bob Dole.

When asked if the administration is worried that Iraq is becoming a political issue, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said he had heard of Kemp's comments.

"I'd say, as we've said in the past, that when we're facing provocative behavior by Saddam Hussein, the

Iraq update Wednesday, September 11



- 1 In Sulaymaniyah, the KDP celebrated its victory. The KDP's yellow flags and streamers were visible all the way up to the Iranian border, indicating the faction's dominance in the region.
- 2 About 20 miles northeast of Sulaymaniyah, KDP fighters looted everything they could carry from the headquarters of the Iranian-allied Patriotic Union.
- 3 Around 5,000 refugees, arriving on foot or crammed into cars, buses and trucks, crossed into Iran at Bashmaq. A few thousand more are believed to have entered at other border points.

AP/Terry Kole, Wm. J. Castello

Daily Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER: 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1996 DAILY NEBRASKAN

United States will fulfill its mission in the region best when we speak with one voice," McCurry said.

Earlier Wednesday, an Iraqi missile battery fired an SA-6 surface-to-air missile at two U.S. F-16s patrolling the "no-fly" zone in northern Iraq.

"Very foolish" is how Perry characterized the Iraqi decision to fire.

"Iraq air defense crews were playing some kind of a game. They will

very soon learn we are not playing games," Perry said.

The normally soft-spoken defense secretary, clearly irritated, said it was lucky the Iraqis activated their radar only long enough to wildly dispatch one missile.

"If they'd had it on any longer than that," he said, "they would have had an anti-radiation missile down their throats."