

unions, which is still equal rights under the law," Kerry said of her father, adding "I respect his opinion enormously... but if you want to get into the semantics of it, that's it."

Kerry has the support of most GLBT groups, but his stance on same-sex marriage has been wavering. With Republicans trying to turn gay marriage into a hot potato campaign issue, the convention has adopted a "go softly" approach.

HRC head marries partner

BOSTON, Mass. — After rallying for support of marriage equality at the Democratic National Convention, former senator and Human Rights Campaign (HRC) head Cheryl Jacques married her long-time partner Jennifer Chrisler in a private ceremony on Aug. 1.

"We've been together many years raising two little boys, and I very much felt married in my heart to Jennifer," Jacques said in a telephone interview with the *Boston Herald*.

The couple tied the knot at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Boston in the company of their 2-year-old twin boys, and other close family and friends. The Rev. Miriam Gelfer of Grace Episcopal Church in Newton and Jacques' sister-in-law Katherine, a justice of the peace, officiated the ceremony.

Exodus spreads the word in LA

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — *The Los Angeles Times* has logged over 200 complaints from angry readers, outraged by their acceptance of advertising dollars from infamous

"ex-gay" Christian organization Exodus. The full-page ad appeared in the *LA Times* on July 23 as part of the organization's \$200,000 ad campaign, which spotlights individuals who claim to have been cured of their homosexuality with the help of the organization.

The ad printed in the *LA Times* features Randy Thomas, communications director for Exodus, claiming "Today I am an ex-gay. No, wait ... I don't define myself anymore with a sexual identity. I'm just ... Randy. Because I know that my homosexuality wasn't really a sex issue ... but a heart issue. And what once was broken as a child has now been made whole to the point I have hope one day for a wife, and children of my own."

Readers responded to the ad with angry letters.

"Shame on you," wrote one reader, adding that the ad was a slap in the face to gay readers.

In response, the *LA Times* has stated that all advocacy ads must "meet our advertising standards and communicate their points of view legally and responsibly. This particular ad met those requirements."

Exodus was founded nearly 30 years ago in Florida by two men who eventually fell in love with each other and then abandoned the group.

International >

First HIV survey launched in China

BEIJING, China — Due to increased infection rates, China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention has launched its

first-ever national survey of HIV-positive citizens. The project is part of a joint effort between the U.S. and China aimed at helping the world's most populous country learn how to monitor, control and prevent the spread of infection. The China CDC decided to focus their efforts on a website since it is hard to accurately research gay people in the closet, and has so far received over 1,300 online questionnaires.

China has been predicted to become one of the world's leading epicenters of the disease in the years to come, and a UN report has suggested that as many as 10 million Chinese could be infected by the year 2010.

O'Cathain steps down

LONDON, England — House of Lords peer Baroness O'Cathain has stepped down from the board of British Airways after the company was threatened with a boycott from gay lobby group Stonewall. The threats came after the Baroness reportedly made anti-gay comments and tabled a movement that would extend Britain's Civil Partnerships bill to siblings and caretakers.

Stonewall Chief Executive Ben Summerskill called on consumers to make an "ethical choice" about which airline they choose for future flights, and said that thousands of supporters have signed up for the Boycott BA campaign.

Despite recently being re-elected, O'Cathain has decided to step down from the board because her position in the House of Lords has made her "no-longer independent."

Stonewall was pleased with the decision, quoting it a "triumph for consumers."

Elder worries about spread of marriage

ACCRA, Ghana — Khalid Ahmad, Greater Accra Regional President of the Majlis Ansarullah (Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders' Association) made an appeal at the 16th-annual regional rally of the association to view recent attempts to legalize same-sex marriage in the U.S. as a threat to the African country. He claimed that gay marriage issues are likely to reach Ghana in the name of human rights and urged his fellow elders to take a stand: "If we fail, we will fail, not only the future generation but also the nation and shall be answerable before God."

'Gay' to 'icon' in stroke of a brush

MELBOURNE, Australia — Objections from conservative community groups has forced artists to change part of a controversial public collage that labels Olympic gold medallist swimmer Ian Thorpe as gay. The artwork featured a photograph of the record-holding swimmer and the word "gay" with a big arrow pointed at his head, and has caused a stir both with both Australian family groups and Thorpe's management.

Artists Natalie Starr and Alexandria Sanderson opted to change the label from "gay" to "icon," and denied the change was in response to public outcry.

"The work does change," Starr told the *Melbourne Herald Sun*, "it's being transformed the whole time"

Thorpe's manager, David Flaskas, said that Thorpe was not offended and no legal action would be taken.



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