

national notes

Compiled by Dan Van Mourik
Q-Notes Staff

Republican aide joins HRC

WASHINGTON, DC—The chief of staff for a conservative congressman who opposes same-sex marriages has resigned to become a lobbyist for a leading national gay rights organization. Tracey St. Pierre quit as chief of staff for Rep. Charles Canady, a Florida Republican, to work on employment discrimination issues for the Human Rights Campaign, a lobby spokeswoman said. Canady has pushed for legislation barring same-sex marriages and has also led the drive to ban so-called 'partial birth' abortions.

Out may be out

LEWISVILLE, TX—The library board is recommending that a magazine geared toward gays and lesbians remain on the shelf despite some complaints. About a half-dozen residents have formally asked that *Out* magazine, available in the library since July, be removed. The advisory board's unanimous recommendation that *Out* remain has been forwarded to the City Council, which is likely to consider the matter this month. The board said pulling the magazine would be censorship and a violation of the First Amendment. The city attorney's office issued a 15-page opinion that says removing the magazine based on its content and viewpoint would be "the very thing the First Amendment was put in place to protect against."

Ellen won't change for ads

BEVERLY HILLS, CA—Don't look for the sitcom *Ellen* to back away from exploring gay issues during the fall season — despite the skittishness of some advertisers, ABC programming chief Jamie Tarses said. If some advertisers don't like it, there are others willing to take their place, Tarses told television executives and other members of the Hollywood Radio and TV Society.

Gay men can't touch

LOS ANGELES—Movo Media, Inc., one of the nation's largest telephone dating services, has stumbled upon a solid wall of resistance to their gay-oriented advertising efforts by the New York Metro Transit Authority's (MTA) outdoor agencies. The advertisement, which features a male couple embracing, was turned down by the MTA as unacceptable. "The MTA requested putting clothes on the shirtless couple and we complied," said Movo Media CEO Mark Terwilliger. Terwilliger termed the rejection as discriminatory and homophobic.

Gays lose school policy fight

DETROIT, MI—Wayne-Westland school officials don't appear in a hurry to reconsider their decision to omit the term "sexual orientation" from harassment policies despite pleas from community members. School board members this summer unanimously approved adding specific wording to protect gay and lesbian students from harassment. However, as school board elections approached, it was made public that then-board president Trish Brown is a lesbian, and a campaign was launched against her and the policy's wording. The board voted 6-1 in August to remove the wording from the policy, but any board member can ask for its return.

Louganis leads AIDS walkers

MILWAUKEE, WI—The familiar Olympic theme music played as Greg Louganis took center stage once again, this time to urge Wisconsin AIDS Walk participants to "be your own heroes" in the battle against the disease. "Don't look further than yourself for heroes," said Louganis, the only man to sweep diving gold medals at consecutive Olympics (1984 and 1988) and to score consecutive perfect 10s in an international competition. Dressed in khaki shorts, a gray T-shirt, a black zippered jacket and trail shoes, and accompanied by one of his dogs, a Jack Russell terrier pup named Nipper, Louganis rode in a black convertible to start the eighth annual 6.2-mile walk along Milwaukee's lakefront. A total of 10,178 people took part in the walk, organizers said. The event raised \$808,461, including a new record for corporate sponsorship — \$150,000. The proceeds benefit organizations around Wisconsin that help those affected by the disease.

People may veto gay law

AUGUSTA, ME—A rarely used "people's vote" may be employed in Maine if enough signatures have been submitted to force a veto vote on the gay-rights law the Legislature passed this year. By seeking a people's veto, organizers have prevented the state from implementing the gay-rights law — at least for now. The secretary of state has until Oct. 18 to determine whether the petitions contain the signatures of at least 51,131 registered voters. That's the minimum required to force a referendum. If the petitions fall short, the gay-rights law will go into effect the day after the secretary of state announces his count. If the petitions contain enough valid signatures, the law will remain in limbo until voters decide whether to implement or veto it.

AIDS groups oppose money?!

WASHINGTON, DC—Ironically, the nation's leading AIDS advocacy groups recently asked the US House of Representatives to oppose two amendments calling for more AIDS program funding. A coalition of AIDS groups that includes the DC-based National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) said it could not support the amendments because they called for taking the funds from health programs earmarked for migrant workers, refugees, homeless people and family planning centers. The House defeated both amendments, one in a roll call vote and the other in a parliamentary procedure. The House debate on AIDS funding took yet another unexpected turn when Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC) suggested that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention give AIDS prevention grant money to groups like Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX). PFOX has begun a nationwide campaign to encourage gays to "change" their sexual orientation to heterosexuality. Inglis said groups like PFOX would promote sexual abstinence as the best means of AIDS prevention. Rep. John Edward Porter (R-IL.), who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee on health issues, said that the appropriations measure would not restrict PFOX or similar groups from receiving CDC funds as long as they meet standard eligibility requirements for CDC AIDS prevention grants. Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, called the prospect of CDC funding for PFOX "appalling," saying the group is promoting an anti-gay "political agenda" rather than efforts to curtail AIDS.

Police sued by gay groups

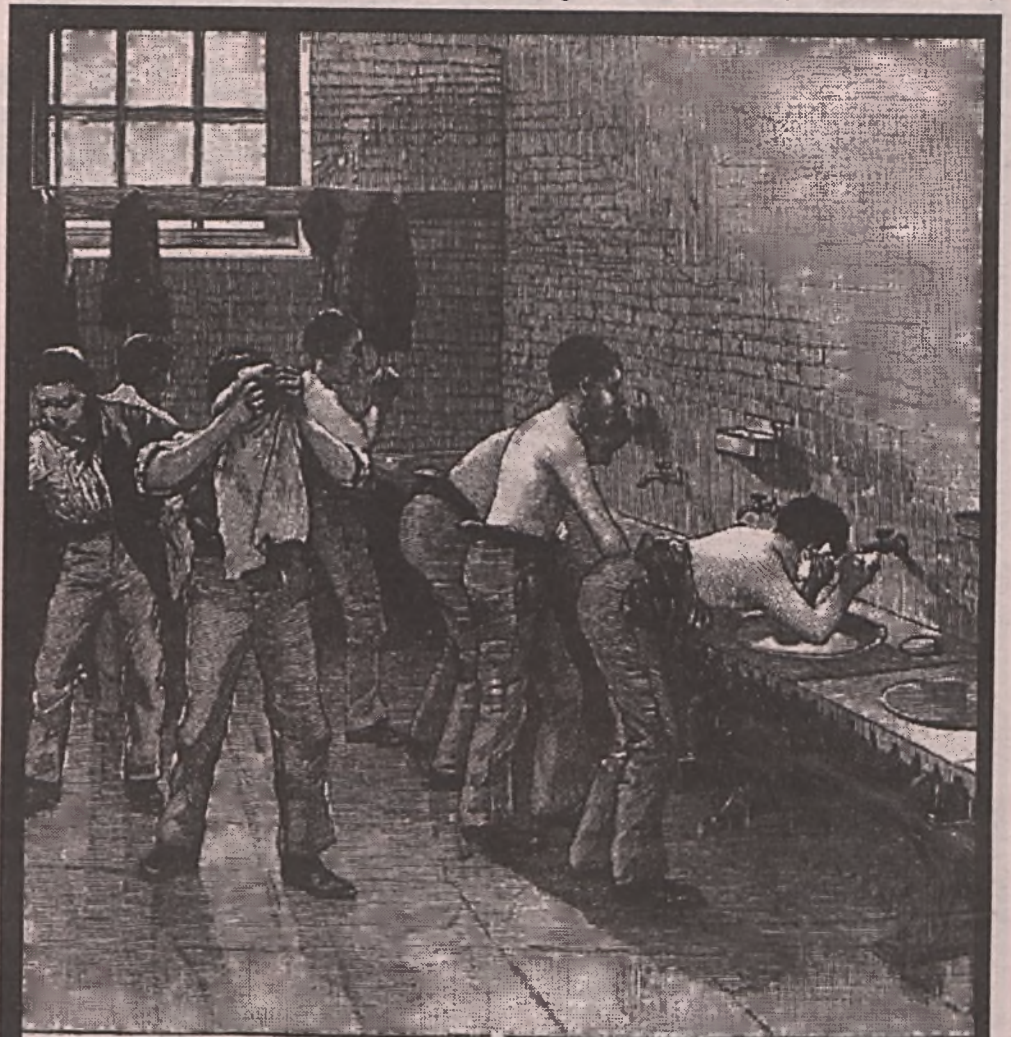
PROVIDENCE, RI—Two gay and lesbian groups recently filed a lawsuit against the city police, accusing the department of violating the state public-records law by withholding reports of people arrested for alleged illegal sexual activity along River Drive on the East Side. Over the past year, the groups say, they have repeatedly asked the state's largest police force to supply the arrest reports, and narrowed their original request to help the police. Still, they have received no reports. Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a Boston-based legal-advocacy group and one of the plaintiffs in the Superior Court lawsuit, and the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights want to inspect the records because gays have complained that police officers arrested them in Blackstone and Paterson Parks even though they were doing nothing wrong. According to the state attorney general's office, police departments must allow the public to see, at a minimum, records reflecting the initial arrest of an adult, including the name, address and age of the defendant, the place of arrest, the name of the arresting officer and the charge.

Gay leader succumbs to AIDS

NEW YORK—Irving Cooperberg, one of the guiding forces behind the creation of two major institutions in New York's gay and lesbian community: the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, died August 20 at his home in Manhattan. When he died, he was with his life-partner of 25 years, Lou Rittmaster, who announced the cause of death as complications due to AIDS, noting, "Irving lived with HIV for 12 years. He chose to be public about his HIV early so that others could learn that the diagnosis was not an immediate death sentence."

AIDS now second

ATLANTA—AIDS has lost its place as the
See NATIONAL on page 14



"The boys prepare for their visit to..."

NEWSSTAND INTERNATIONAL

BOOKS • MAGAZINES • NEWSPAPERS

5622-128 E. Independence (704) 531-0199

"FAMILY" CRUISE TO Key West & Mexico

from Miami on

The "Fun Ship"
Ecstasy

June 8-12

See
Cancun

PRICES FROM

\$365 pp

Spectacular
Beaches

Visit
Mayan
Ruins

Plus port and taxes. Some restrictions
apply. Subject to availability. Quad rate.
Registered in Liberia.

Snorkle

Call Ellie at Putman Travel

1-800-678-8626

**\$50 by November 1
holds your spot**