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# Benefits

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## News

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claims a public housing official wanted him out to avoid "contamination" of an apartment complex. Clayton Rawhouser, caregiver for George Watters, is suing the Elm Creek Housing Authority for discrimination at the Maple Manor apartments, a federally subsidized complex. The lawsuit accuses Marilyn Gruntorad, manager of the housing board, of telling Rawhouser and Watters they were "AIDS infested" and she "didn't want Elm Creek or Maple Manor contaminated with AIDS." Gruntorad reportedly threatened Watters and his roommate outside the courtroom moments after her attorney told the judge she never attempted to evict the men. Gruntorad reportedly told Watters and Rawhouser, "I'm going to get your [expletive]" after they filed from the courtroom into an adjacent hallway. Rawhouser and Watters immediately reported the remark to their attorneys. Reporters standing nearby said they overheard Rawhouser and Watters' statements. Gruntorad denied making the remark.

### Man executed for killing gays

HUNTSVILLE, TX-Javier Cruz, 41, was executed October 1 for the 1991 strangulation of two elderly homosexuals, whom he robbed to obtain money to buy heroin. Cruz did not · say anything in the execution chamber. Cruz was convicted in October 1992 of the capital murder of Louis Neal, 71, and James Ryan, 69, who were strangled in their homes in San Antonio in the summer of the preceding year. Friends who later gave evidence against him said Cruz had told them he had been dating homosexual men to get money to support his heroin

## Students, preacher brawl

KENT, OH—Charles Spingola, a street preacher who travels to college campuses to preach against homosexuality, attacked two students in front of the Kent State University Student Center, sending one to the hospital with a broken nose, witnesses said. The attack happened as the students were preparing for a rally sponsored by the campus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual

Union (LGBU). The group, along with the Kent Anti-Racist Action, had organized the rally to protest anti-gay and misogynist messages that Spingola had preached the day before. LGBU reserved the plaza in front of the student center for a noon rally, but Spingola arrived at 11:20am and placed his chair and signs in the middle of the plaza, where he had been the day before. Students moved the items aside several times, explaining that the space was reserved and he would have to move elsewhere. Spingola kept moving his things back to the center of the plaza and threatened several times to beat up the student moving them, witnesses said. Spingola allegedly grabbed a man moving his chair by the back of his shirt. The student tried to back away, swinging at Spingola to defend himself, but lost his balance and missed. Spingola then punched the student in the face, breaking his nose and knocking a tooth loose, said Michelle Touve. Others rushed forward to stop the attack and Spingola allegedly punched another man in the back of the head. Campus police arrived and after questioning witnesses, removed Spingola in handcuffs. Police would not release any information about Spingola. It is not known where Spingola nor his College Community Church are based. Kent campus police later dropped all charges against Spingola, but still charged the students involved with as-

## United ignores promise

SAN FRANCISCO, CA-After three months, United Airlines management has failed to respond to a proposal from employees regarding domestic partner benefits despite a promise to do so. The 29-page proposal outlined ways United currently discriminates against its GLBT and unmarried employees by offering additional benefits to those employees who are legally married, benefits which constitute more than 40 percent of each employee's total compensation. In light of United's new efforts to reach out to the gay and lesbian market by sponsoring events and organizations, their silence seems contradictory. United is the largest employee-owned company in the US and is the first domestic airline to file a formal lawsuit against San Francisco's Domestic Partner Benefits Ordinance. Earlier this month, United was granted an injunction, allowing it to maintain operations until the suit goes to court in January.

### "Poster boy" for AIDS sues

WEST PALM BEACH, FL-A former model who claims he was made to be a "poster boy" for gay men with AIDS has a right to sue over the use of his photograph, an appeals court has ruled. Paul V. Facchina Jr., 27, a straight man, said he signed an agreement in November 1994 with Mutual Benefits Corp. to use his image for advertisements related "solely to the purchasing of life insurance policies." Facchina filed suit a year later, claiming his photograph was published in magazines across the country directed to "sexually active homosexuals" and that the text of the ad implied he was a gay man dying of AIDS. Three different versions of his lawsuit have been thrown out by Broward County Circuit Judge John T. Luzzo. But the 4th District Court of Appeal said that Facchina should be able to sue for use of his photo without authorization, invasion of privacy and defamation. Named in the lawsuit are Viatical Benefits Foundation, which buys life insurance policies on discount from terminally ill patients, and its affiliate, Mutual Benefits, which matches people interested in buying policies with those wanting to sell them.

# International Police protect gay Jesus

UPPSALA, SWEDEN-Swedish police were called in to guard a photography exhibit depicting a homosexual Jesus after a church housing the show received several bomb threats. Six uniform police and five in plain clothes were called in to protect the church as up to 12,000 people visited the exhibition, called Ecco Homo, which shows a gay Jesus in a range of biblical scenes such as surrounded by transvestites at the Last Supper or worshipped by a group of leather-clad musclemen. The photos by Swedish artist Elisabeth Ohlson caused a similar stir when the exhibition opened in Stockholm this summer. One church group took the issue to court to try to block the show, but lost its case when the judge ruled the exhi-

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