

News

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adolescents and the elderly. "Healthy People 2010" includes 26 specific objectives, but only discusses gay men and bisexuals in the section on AIDS and contains no mention of lesbians at all.

Cop flunks class

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Law enforcement officials in San Antonio are distancing themselves from a fellow officer who criticized a recent training session on homophobia with anti-gay slurs in a police union newsletter. Despite progress, gays and lesbians still face homophobia in the ranks of the city's law enforcement community, activists said. After attending a mandatory one-hour training session on homophobia and same-sex domestic violence, Officer Marc Gallardo wrote a letter laced with anti-gay comments that was published in the December issue of *Centurion*, the official publication of the San Antonio Police Officer's Association, a law enforcement union. He criticized the class as "worthless," an attack on Christians and a push to influence police with "the homosexual agenda" and an "immoral lifestyle," according to the letter. Gallardo also cited several Biblical references to support his comments.

Mother of TS wins lawsuit

WASHINGTON, DC—Tyrone Michael Hunter, 24, died three years ago and a DC Superior Court jury has now awarded his mother, Margie, nearly \$2.9 million in her wrongful death lawsuit against the city. Hunter died after a car accident and a series of humiliating events, his mother charged in her lawsuit against the DC Fire Department and DC General Hospital. Hunter lived his life as a woman. Eyewitnesses testified that a rescue worker who cut open Hunter's pants at the accident scene recoiled in surprise, made crass remarks and stopped treatment for several minutes after discovering Hunter's male genitals. The jury did not individually blame firefighter Adrian Williams, but held the department liable for \$600,000 for the remarks and for withholding treatment. The jury awarded nearly \$2.3 million to Margie Hunter in her claims that DC General Hospital emergency room doctor Joseph Andre Bastien failed to diagnose Hunter's injuries and follow nationally accepted standards of care. The lawsuit alleged in part that Bastien misread X-rays that are now missing, decided against inserting a chest tube to drain blood that pooled near Hunter's heart and did not give Hunter four units of blood that were available.

Oregon bans bias

SALEM, OR—An Oregon court has banned discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace. The Court of Appeals ruled that the domestic partners of three lesbian employees at Oregon Health Sciences University were entitled to the same benefits given to the spouses of married employees. The "denial of insurance benefits to the unmarried partners" of homosexual employees violated the equal protection provisions of the Oregon Constitution, the three-judge panel wrote. The ruling could require other state government entities to provide benefits to same-sex domestic partners and to the thousands of teachers, police officers and others who work for local governments. Private employers were not specifically required under the ruling to offer the benefits.

TS gets appointment

ST. PAUL, MN—Susan Kimberly, 56, a former St. Paul City Council president who has been in and around city government for a quarter of a century, will be the city's next deputy mayor. Mayor Norm Coleman's choice surprised most everyone. Kimberly, the former Bob Sylvester, is probably St. Paul's best-known transsexual and Coleman has supported removing human rights protection for gays, lesbians, transsexuals and bisexuals from state law. The post is the city's highest non-elected office.

Unfriendly skies

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Civil rights groups and gay San Francisco city officials have launched a "united against United" campaign urging people to boycott United Airlines over its refusal to grant full equal benefits to domestic partners of homosexual employees.

Guilty pleas entered

BOSTON, MA—Two friends accused of beating a Boston man to death pleaded guilty to manslaughter after one turned on the other and agreed to testify against him if the case went to trial. William Dalrymple, 23, admitted his role in the killing of Lee Thompson, 35, on Feb. 23, 1997. He changed his plea after learning his friend Brian Savage, 20, had offered to testify against him in exchange for a lighter sentence. Dalrymple is expected to receive a 14- to 15-year prison term. Savage will receive an 8- to 10-year sentence, according to Suffolk County officials. The third man charged in the case, William Jenner, 22, also pleaded guilty and is expected to receive a 14- to 15-year sentence. The three men were accused of kicking and punching Thompson to death. Though police have described the murder as a gay bashing, Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney James Coffey did not describe it that way in court.

Springer drops Phelps

CHICAGO, IL—The *Jerry Springer Show* has cancelled their planned show on anti-gay Fred Phelps. According to Westboro Baptist Church (Phelps' "church"), Springer's people cancelled the show after pressure from "sodomites" and others. Many Chicago gays, where Springer's show is taped, refused to go on the air to debate Phelps.

Gay lawyer heads bar

PORTLAND, OR—The Oregon State Bar has named Mark A. Johnson president of its board of governors. Johnson has practiced law for more than 10 years in the Portland area. He is the first openly gay president of any state bar association. The Oregon State bar is the regulatory agency that licenses, disciplines and conducts continuing education for all lawyers in Oregon.

Murder over gay guest

BARTLESVILLE, OK—Witnesses in the slaying of a young man gave testimony in court about alcohol-enhanced insults and punches thrown. Mitchell Ray Teehee died following a stabbing that evolved from a fight at former girlfriend LaWanda Clem's apartment. Judge Myrna Lansdown ordered Jeffrey Shawn Crouch, 19, of Norman, to stand trial on charges of first-degree murder. Witnesses testified that the trouble began when Teehee arrived at Clem's apartment. Clem, who is the mother of Teehee's baby, and friends who were at the apartment said Teehee was upset because one of the guests was a gay man. Clem and two friends testified that Teehee had been drinking came in the front door without knocking. After making "derogatory" remarks toward a homosexual guest, Teehee started shouting that he didn't want anyone to hurt his son. When Crouch responded that nobody there was going to hurt the baby, Teehee got angry, witnesses testified. Crouch, who had been cleaning his fingernails with a knife, jumped up from the chair where he was sitting when Teehee threatened to drag him out of it, witnesses said. Punches were thrown between the two men. Clem and two witnesses all testified that they did not see Crouch stab Teehee. But all three testified that Crouch said, "I can't believe I stabbed you" after the knifing occurred.

Men charged in hate crime

PROVIDENCE, RI—Two men have been charged with what Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr. called the worst hate crime in the city since a new statute covering such crimes was enacted last summer. David E. Sheldon, 19, and Taylor Grenier, 18, were charged with simple assault under the new Hate Crime Sentencing Act. According to police, the two got bored at a party and drove downtown looking for excitement. They were stopped at a traffic light when they spotted a man leaving a gay and lesbian bar, the police said. Sheldon and Grenier allegedly yelled homophobic slurs at the man, jumped out of the car, ran after him and knocked him down, twice. The man had gashes above his right eye and on the back of his head, the police said.

Law challenge progresses

HOUSTON, TX—A judge denied motions to quash charges against two men convicted of homosexual conduct, sending a challenge to the state's anti-sodomy law to a state appeals court. See NEWS2 on page 20

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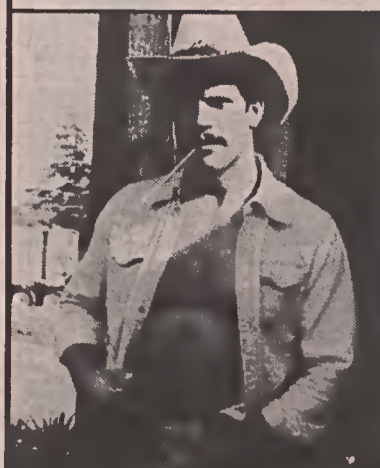
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