

News

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seph Bruno allowed it to come to the floor last month, it passed easily and with considerable Republican support. The law stiffens penalties for many crimes if they are motivated by bias against a victim's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age.

Discrimination suit settled

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—An appliance rental company will pay \$2 million in damages to job applicants who were asked questions about their sex lives and religious viewpoints. Rent-A-Center Inc. will distribute the money to more than 1200 of its employees and applicants as part of a lawsuit settlement. The company will also stop administering the questionnaire as part of the agreement. Some employees said they were required to answer 502 true-or-false questions to qualify new-hires and promotions. The test included questions pertaining to the job applicant's bodily functions and religious views. Other questions focused on the applicant's sexual habits, including: "I have never indulged in any unusual sex practices" and "I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex."

Bush opposes gays adopting

AUSTIN, TX—Republican Presidential

candidate and Texas governor George W. Bush has a plan to speed the process for married couples to adopt children out of Texas foster-care system, but says he opposes adoption by same-sex couples or single people. Asked if children currently being raised by GLBT parents should be taken away, he said he had "no idea."

Man gets 40

AUSTIN, TX—The man who brutally stabbed to death an Austin crossdressing gay teen recently pleaded guilty and received a 40-year sentence in a plea agreement. Gamaliel Coria, 29, pleaded guilty to the 1999 murder of Donald Scott Fuller, 18, who was also known as Lauryn Paige. Coria picked Fuller up at a convenience store and eventually stabbed him several times in the head and torso, dumping the body in a wooded area.

More Internet arrests

HASTINGS, MN—A Minneapolis man has been accused of taking a 13-year-old boy he met on the Internet to a park and raping him. Robert W. Nelson III, 48, was charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct. The boy, who said he met Nelson over the Internet, told police Nelson picked him up at a gas station and threatened to harm him if he didn't have sex with him. The boy said Nelson posed on the Internet as a 16-year-old boy. In Piscataway, NJ, a church pastor was arrested at

a fast-food restaurant where he admitted he had gone to engage in a sex act with a teenage boy he met on the Internet. Rev. William Cabell began communicating with "Adam," who was really an undercover agent, in October.

Three leaders resign

FORT WAYNE, IN—Three leaders of a Christian-based counseling agency resigned after its directors voted to ban gays from the board. The decision was made at Hope Alive, Inc. because engaging in homosexual behavior violates Biblical values, said director emeritus Milli Bishton.

Suit settled

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The University of Minnesota agreed to pay \$80,000 to settle a lawsuit by gay university employee Richard Marsden, who claimed he'd been the victim of a hostile, homophobic environment while he was academic adviser in the men's and women's athletic departments.

International Nail bomber convicted

LONDON, ENGLAND—British engineer David Copeland, 24, who launched a two-week nailbombing campaign against minority groups in London has been jailed for life for three murders. Copeland was convicted of three sepa-

rate bomb attacks in the capital's gay, black and Bangladeshi communities. He received six life sentences for his crimes. The three people who died were victims of a bomb attack on a gay bar in London's Soho district. Copeland, who told police he carried out the attacks because he wanted to start a "racial war," showed no emotion as the verdict and sentences were read.

Official gay murder

DUBAI, SAUDI ARABIA—Three Saudi men were recently convicted of homosexual acts and raping children. They were executed. In a statement carried by state media, the Interior Ministry said an Islamic court had found the three men guilty of "committing the extreme obscenity of homosexuality and imitating women," in violation of Islamic ethics which ban homosexuality. The three men were also convicted of raping children and photographing them naked.

Gay vicar in hiding

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, ENGLAND—The vicar of one of England's most exclusive parishes has been forced to flee his vicarage by a hate campaign of intimidation after he disclosed that he was gay. Fr. Neil Follett is now in hiding on police advice. Fr. Follett, 50, recently told the parochial church council that he was gay and is being backed by the congregation. The harassment campaign includes four allegations of blackmail and intimidation through letters and telephone calls. It was later learned that an academic in Germany is behind the blackmail. After Fr. Follett befriended the university professor over the Internet, he visited him at his vicarage. The relationship between the two deteriorated after a dispute over an alleged credit card bill, and it is understood that the academic threatened to expose the vicar's sexuality to newspapers. ▼

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THANKS!

Nasey King



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Have news to share? Aware of someone or something that warrants attention in these pages? Send us the details! Contact: editor@q-notes.com or call (704) 531-9988.



*Charlotte's Gay & Lesbian
Bowling League*

Every Monday night at the
Coliseum Lanes
2801 E. Independence Blvd.
Charlotte

Organizational Meeting

September 11 - 8:00pm
@ Coliseum Lanes

Informational Sessions

August 22 - 9pm-11pm
@ Liaison's
August 23 - 9pm-11pm
@ Hartigan's
August 24 - 9pm-11pm
@ Central Station
August 25 - 9pm-11pm
@ Brass Rail

For more details, call
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