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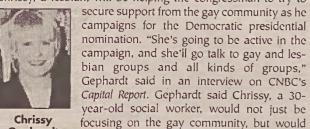
Prison term in assault on gay student

RICHMOND, VA — A 20-year-old man was sentenced to 16 months in prison for attacking two members of a gay student group outside the Virginia Commonwealth University Student Commons. At his trial in March, Roberts admitted hitting Abbott and breaking her nose but said he did so instinctively after being hit in the face with a glass bottle. Richmond Circuit Judge Richard D. Taylor discounted Roberts' testimony. He termed his conduct reprehensible and credited testimony from witnesses that Roberts had said, "I'm not afraid to hit a dyke." The altercation occurred after a confrontation between a gay VCU student and Roberts and two of his friends outside the Commons while a meeting of the Sexual Minority Student Association was underway. Roberts was sentenced to a year in prison for unlawful wounding in the attack on Abbott and to four months in jail for shoving another member of the association.

National

Lesbian daughter will play role in campaign

WASHINGTON, DC — Rep. Richard Gephardt's daughter Chrissy, a lesbian, will be helping the congressman to try to





Gephardt

help his campaign on a broad array of issues, including health care and poverty. "She's worried about welfare programs for poor people that she deals with every day," Gephardt said. Chrissy believes in "a lot of the same things I do and is going to be a big and important part of the campaign."

Gill Foundation awards \$590K in grants

DENVER, CO — The Gill Foundation, the \$200 million Denverbased organization established by Quark publishing founder Tim Gill, has awarded \$590,545 in grants to 44 organizations that support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender efforts. In Colorado, the foundation gave \$60,000 to the Colorado AIDS project in Denver and \$20,000 to the Western Colorado AIDS project in Grand Junction. The largest grants went to the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign Foundation (\$100,000), National Youth Advocacy Coalition (\$40,000) and the People for the American Way Foundation (\$15,000). Also receiving large (\$20,000) grants were the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and OutFront Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Graduates walk out on Santorum

PHILADELPHIA — Approximately one eighth of the graduating seniors at Philadelphia's Saint Joseph's University walked out of commencement ceremonies as US senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), who recently infuriated gay rights groups and others with derogatory remarks about homosexuality, prepared to deliver the keynote address. About 100 graduates got up and walked out — amid competing boos and applause - when students were given an opportunity to leave "nondisruptively" before Santorum was introduced to receive an honorary degree and make his speech. Santorum didn't make any reference to the walkout or the controversy directly. "We are all called to love one another, even people we disagree with, even people who hate us for what we believe," he said.

College blood drive canceled over gay exclusion

ASHLAND, OR — Students at Southern Oregon University in Ashland say they will cancel their blood drive this term because gay men are prohibited from donating. Guidelines established by the US Food and Drug Administration bar males who have had a same-sex sexual encounter since 1977. Some students say that goes against the university's antidiscrimination policy and falsely labels AIDS and HIV as a gay men's disease. Leslie Holness, medical officer for the division of blood applications for the FDA, said officials are "reluctant to change present guidelines if they seem to be protective," Holness said. "You have to balance how much good you're doing with a safe blood supply with the bad feelings you're stirring in groups of people.'

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· PRESERVE PROPERTY AND A

enjoying our weekly swims. Then came a silly bit of controversy when a reporter for the fundamentalist Christian newspaper Charlotte World ran an article implying we shouldn't be allowed to use a county facility. Unfortunately for the Charlotte World, the good folks at the Aquatic Center don't discriminate, and they have welcomed us from the beginning. We certainly weren't going to let a few ignorant people keep us out of the pool!

After "Charlotte World-gate" blew over, we began to talk about finding a coach who could help us improve our strokes. We had a wide range of abilities and we felt the need for an expert to help us get better.

Early this year, we found Coach Steve, a former varsity swimmer for UNC Wilmington, to be our coach. From the first day he directed our practice, he began pushing us beyond our wildest expectations. Now, we have joined International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics, the governing body for gay swim teams worldwide, and we've set a goal to swim at the IGLA meet by August of 2004.

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