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ONLINE Q.POLL
www.q-notes.com

Would you correspond with a gay or lesbian person inmate?
yes . no

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Political turmoil on all fronts

Schwarzenegger vetoes California gay marriage; Roberts sworn in as Chief Justice; anti-gay House leader replaced by other homophobes

by Donald Miller

To many it seems as though the U.S. is caught up in a vitriolic anti-gay war. With homophobic ultra-conservatives in charge of the White House, the Senate and Congress, the Supreme Court about to fall to conservative control and former gay allies caving in to right-wing pressure the outlook for LGBT civil rights appears bleak.

As expected, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill on Sept. 29 that would have allowed gay couples to marry. The bill was passed by California's Democrat-led legislature, but stopped at Schwarzenegger's desk. In a move he signaled earlier in the month, Schwarzenegger said he would leave the issue of same-sex marriage to voters and the courts.

Schwarzenegger pointed out that 61 percent of residents voted for the California Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) — known as Proposition 22 — in 2000. The act spells out that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

"If the ban of same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, this bill is not necessary," the governor explained. "If the ban is constitutional, this bill is ineffective."

Democratic Assemblyman Mark Leno said Schwarzenegger had missed a historic opportunity to stand up for civil rights.

In his veto message, Schwarzenegger said he supports the state's domestic partner laws, which give same-sex couples most of

the rights and obligations of married couples, and would oppose efforts to overturn or weaken those statutes.

"He cannot claim to support fair and equal legal protection for same-sex couples and veto the very bill that would have pro-



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, newly appointed Chief Justice John Roberts, ousted House speaker Tom DeLay and his replacements Roy Blunt and David Drier have all flexed their negative muscle on the LGBT community in the past. With recent developments LGBT leaders are concerned what the future may hold.

see HOW on 24

Tips for breast health, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Susan Gregoire



Breast self-examinations and an annual mammogram are key to maintaining good breast health. (Inset) A mass in the left breast was detected via a mammograph screening.

good overall health as well.

1. Eat a wholesome diet of organic foods as much as possible and drink pure water free of chlorine, fluoride and parasites. Nutrition is a key factor in good health. Organic food does not contain pesticides that are carcinogenic. Avoid refined sugar, refined carbohydrates and trans-fatty acids. Many of our

see TIPS on 19

Gay Iranian tells nightmarish story of beatings

Amir, 22, escaped after he was threatened with execution

by Mark Smith

LONDON, England — The bruised and bloodied body of a 22-year-old gay Iranian, known only as Amir, bears further witness to the brutality of the regime's treatment of gays and lesbians. Despite the horrific images, many gay and human rights groups in the West are sweeping the matter under the carpet.

Amir escaped Iran after the authorities threatened him with execution for being gay — but not before he was subjected to the barbarism of 100 lashes, which left his back covered in huge bloody welts.

"This is a further example of the violent homophobia of Iran's see LASHING on 5



Amir after being subjected to 100 lashes.