

**AIDS money refused over gays**

KASESE, Uganda — The fallout over the appointment of an openly gay U.S. bishop moves from causing discord within the worldwide Anglican Communion to potentially causing AIDS deaths here. Anglican Bishop Jackson Nzerebende Tembo, head of the diocese of South Rwenzori, rejects a gift of more than \$350,000 to fight AIDS because he says the money is "tainted." The donation was given by the Episcopal diocese of Central Pennsylvania. In 2004 Bishop Michael Creighton voted to make openly gay Gene Robinson the Bishop of New Hampshire.

**May****Mayor embroiled in sex scandal**

SPOKANE, Wash. — Mayor Jim West

announces he is taking a leave of absence to defend himself against claims that he offered city jobs and other perks to men he met in a gay chat room.

In a series beginning the first week of May, *The Spokesman-Review* reveals that an investigator posing as a young man had lured West into chats on gay.com with the mayor offering the "18-year-old school-boy" a City Hall internship, professional sports tickets and other gifts in exchange for a relationship. West says he is the victim of persecution and hysteria, although he admits to the chats and gay sexual encounters. In a special Dec. 7 recall election, he is ousted from office.

**U.S. gay newspaper editor beaten**

AMSTERDAM, Holland — Chris Crain (pictured), editorial director of Window

Media, the gay-owned company that publishes several LGBT newspapers including Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, is beaten by seven men in the early morning of April 30. Crain



and his boyfriend were walking hand-in-hand to their hotel when the attack occurred. Some of the men beat Crain while the others restrained his companion. "It seemed like every direction I turned, I got another punch to the face, and when they kicked me to the ground, time seemed to stop," Crain said.

**June****Heche mom headlines ex-gay rally**

SEATTLE, Wash. — Nancy Heche, mother of actress Anne Heche (who had a high-profile, short-lived romance with Ellen DeGeneres that ended in 2000), delivers the keynote address at an anti-gay rally June 25. Heche was participating in the ex-gay "Love Won Out" conference sponsored by Focus on the Family. The conference was timed to coincide with Seattle's Gay Pride weekend. In 1983 Heche's 50-year-old Baptist minister husband died of AIDS complications after leading a closeted life. Anne Heche publicly condemned her mother's support of the ex-gay movement.

**July****Cop gets life for killing student**

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Steven Rios (pictured), 28, a former Columbia police officer, is sentenced July 5 to life in prison without parole for the throat-slashing death of Jesse Valencia, 23, a gay University of Missouri-

Columbia student with whom he had been having a secret affair. Rios met the victim on April 18, 2004, when he arrested Valencia for a minor infraction. According to testimony, the married officer turned up at Valencia's apartment the following night for sex. Valencia later told family and friends that Rios was becoming rough with him and wouldn't stop following him. Valencia's body was discovered June 5, 2004 about a block from his apartment.

**Lincoln Memorial vid moves right**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Documents secured under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that The National Park Service purchased footage of "conservative — right-wing demonstrations" to edit into the eight-minute video that plays at the Lincoln Memorial in response to complaints that the clip pushes a liberal ideology. The original video, funded and created by high school students, is altered to include footage of President George W. Bush and his dad walking down the Memorial steps together, a demonstration by gun rights proponents and a rally in support of the Iraq war.

**August****Mayor comes out at Pride rally**

CHULA VISTA, Calif. — Confirming what many had known and even more had guessed, Mayor Steve Padilla (pictured)

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