DECEMBER 31 . 2005 • Q-NOTES



comes out at a gay Pride rally July 30. At the time, Padilla's disclosure makes this San Diego suburb of 230,000 the secondlargest city in America with an openly gay mayor - right behind San Diego.

Following his announcement Padilla told 365Gay.com, "I've considered myself pretty out since about 1999 but I thought this was an occasion to put any questions to rest."

Qatar's Crown Prince outed

LONDON, England - Al Jazeera magazine outs Qatar's 25-year-old Crown Prince Tameem Bin Hamad Al-Thani in connection with an alleged altercation at one of the U.K.'s most popular gay nightclubs. The magazine, quoting a Qatarbased Islamic website, reports that the prince, heir to the throne of Qatar, and two other Qataris were involved in a bar fight at G.A.Y., a gay club in Soho. The trio, one of whom is described as Al-Thani's partner, were reportedly barred from the club for 30 days by police for exchanging blows with locals, although no charges were filed.

September

Shaq 1, gay bashers 0

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - In the early morn-

ing hours of Sept. 11 Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal (pictured) is cruising through South Beach when he spots the male passenger in a silver Honda harassing a gay couple



walking down the street. The vehicle stops and the passenger jumps out and throws a bottle at the pair, striking one of them. O'Neal follows the car from the scene, flags down a Miami Beach police officer and reports the crime. Eighteen-year-old Michael Gonzalez is arrested for aggravated assault and assault with a deadly weapon. The driver is not charged.

October **TS priest widens Anglican schism**

LONDON, England - The Oct. I ordination of transsexual woman Sarah Jones (pic-



the worldwide denomination at a time when it is already reeling from 2004's election of openly gay Gene Robinson as the **Bishop of New Hampshire**

The Evangelical Alliance, the conservative faction within the Church of England, condemned Jones' ordination. Don Horrocks, a spokesperson for the Alliance, said, "There is absolutely no Christian acknowledgement ... for a person to take charge of their own destiny and to decide what their own sexuality is."

Boy George arrested for drugs

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Eighties pop star Boy George (pictured) is arrested on drug charges in the early morning hours of Oct. 8 after police find in his apartment 13 plastic packets containing about an eighth of an ounce of cocaine. Authorities were responding to a 911 call from the British singer reporting that his home had been

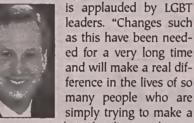
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burglarized, although they found no evidence of it at the scene. George, whose real name is George O'Dowd, was charged with fourthdegree criminal possession of a controlled sub-

stance. He left for England the next day. He is scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 1. November

Mayor protects TG city workers

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The rights of transgender city employees are protected by executive order of Mayor Bart Peterson (pictured). The mandate is an amended version of the executive order he signed in 2004 banning discrimination against gay and lesbian municipal workers. The move



leaders. "Changes such as this have been needed for a very long time and will make a real difference in the lives of so many people who are simply trying to make a

living, support their families, and contribute to the community," said Leigh Anne Richards, president of the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance.

Edited TV kiss sparks protest

BRASILIA, Brazil - "America," the nation's most watched soap opera, drew record ratings in early November for an episode that was heavily hyped to contain a kiss between two of the show's male leads. But Brazil's first televised gay kiss never happened. The Globo

The Legend of Selena!

Network initially told outraged viewers that the kiss was never in the program, but two days later, after the show's producers revealed that the scene had been filmed, officials admitted that it had been edited. Hundreds of outraged gays and lesbians staged a kiss-in at Brazil's capitol building in protest.

December

'Dykes' receive U.S. trademark

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - A group of lesbian motorcycle enthusiasts wins its year-long battle with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. After being turned down three previous times, Dykes on Bikes successfully take its fight to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board who decide that the group's name is eligible for trademarking. The Trademark Office kept rejecting Dykes on Bikes's application because they deemed the word "dyke" to be offensive. The group argued that it is a reclaimed pejorative that has become a term of pride.

Gay prisoners have sex rights

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - By court order gay prisoners in the central province of Córdoba gain the right to conjugal visits from their partners. The ruling stems from a case brought by a prisoner who was punished with solitary confinement after twice being caught having sex with his visiting boyfriend. Judge José María Pérez Villalobos ordered the province's prosecutor, Miguel Rizzotti, to investigate the situation. Rizzotti concluded that it is illegal to deny gay inmates conjugal visits and Judge Villalobos agreed. Gay prisoners can also have sexual relationships with other inmates they claim to be involved with.



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