

doctrine of speaking in tongues. Bahr added that the newspaper had faced censorship issues for years.

'Out' with the new...

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Aaron Hicklin (pictured) has been named editor-in-chief of "Out," the nation's most prominent gay general interest magazine. Since April 2003 Hicklin has served as editor-in-chief of "BlackBook" magazine. Prior to that, he spent five years with "Gear," which he helped to launch in 1998. His "Out" appointment is effective April 24.

"The gay community has always been at the forefront of defining pop culture and fashion, and never more so than today," said Hicklin. "While magazines like 'Details' are gay only when it suits them, we are unequivocally gay and forward-looking."

"Out" also seems poised to be more edgy in Hicklin's hands. "The magazine will not be afraid to push buttons, to be provocative and counter-intuitive



when it seems right and necessary," he said. "Sometimes that might upset people, but I think the readership is ready and eager for a real debate about what it means to be gay in the new millennium."

International >

TG activist elected to parliament

ROME, Italy — When the results of this month's national elections were an-



nounced, five queer candidates had won seats in parliament. One of them, Vladimir Luxuria (pictured), is believed to have broken through a significant barrier in becoming the first transsexual elected to a European parliament. Perhaps surprising to American voters, Luxuria's victory was no surprise at all.

"I'm going to be the first transgender to get into a parliament in Europe," she said confidently when filing to run earlier this year. "It's a way to say to people: don't judge me by the way I look, don't judge me by my sexual orientation. Please, judge me by my ideas."

Luxuria, who ran as a Communist, is a well-respected member of Rome's LGBT community. She is a cabaret performer and in 1994 organized Italy's first gay pride march. Riccardo Gottardi, co-chair of the International Lesbian and Gay Association - Europe Board, said, "This is a very important victory not just for Italy, but for all Europe."

Caribbean vacationers gaybashed

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten — Two CBS journalists were attacked April 6 outside a bar on the Dutch side of this Caribbean island. Dick Jefferson, 51, and Ryan Smith, 25, both visiting as tourists, were with friends when three men approached the group and began hitting them with tire irons. Jefferson said the attackers had yelled anti-gay slurs at them earlier in the evening.

Both men were flown to Miami for medical treatment for severe head injuries. Jefferson, a senior broadcast producer for "The CBS Evening News," was released from the hospital April 9, while Smith remained there at press time, receiving treatment for possible brain damage.

Jefferson faulted authorities for not properly handling the situation, charging that "the police were and are still trying to ignore this situation." Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese also criticized the St. Maarten police for its response in a letter to the Dutch ambassador in Washington, D.C. St. Maarten is shared by France and the Netherlands.

Iranian refugees stay put for now

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands — Acting counter to the wishes of Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk (pictured), parliament has decided to keep in place a moratorium on the deportation of gay asylum seekers from Iran. Extraditions of gays to Iran were stopped last year after two gay teens were hanged for their sexual orientation.

Verdonk sent a letter to lawmakers in January announcing her intention to overturn the policy. She acknowledged that gay sex was punishable by death under Islamic law, but said an investigation of the hangings in question revealed that the teens were killed because, according to Iranian officials,



they robbed, kidnapped and raped a minor.

The claim was disputed by many human rights groups. Most members of Dutch parliament agreed that the accusations were dubious and opposed Verdonk's position. With little support from the government, she conceded but said she would "reassess" the situation in the fall.

Repressive gay law moves ahead

ABUJA, Nigeria — In defiance of widespread international opposition a proposed law mandating prison time for same-sex couples who marry has been toughened by the Nigerian Senate to include anyone who attends a gay wedding, participates in any ceremony involving gay or lesbian couples or is a member of any LGBT organization.

The new version of the bill, arguably the most repressive gay measure in the world, was proposed by President Olusegun Obasanjo. Last month, 16 human rights organizations jointly called for the withdrawal of the original bill arguing that it contravened international law and undermined efforts to control the spread of HIV.

At press time the measure had received its first reading in the Senate and was expected to pass easily. Unfortunately, relief efforts may be hampered by the new law. Humanitarian aid organizations are concerned that gay or lesbian aid workers who go to Nigeria from countries where same-sex marriage is legal will be sentenced to prison.

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south eastern regional conference
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Time Out Youth presents; Charlotte 2006 Southeastern Regional Conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth & allies

May 12 - 13
Best Western Hotel
201 S. McDowell St., Charlotte

Workshops: Friday 3pm-6pm, Saturday 9:30am-5pm
Registration fee: **\$50** for youth (under 24), **\$75** for adults

Keynote speaker luncheon - tickets **\$30** (luncheon only)
Turner's Friday night - tickets **\$15** (show only)

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Visit our web site: <http://conference.timeoutyouth.org> for updated information, registration forms, and ways to donate!

Time Out Youth proudly presents: Keynote Speaker Kate Bornstein

Kate is an incredibly powerful transgender activist and the acclaimed author of Gender Outlaw, My Gender Workbook, and co-author of the online novel Nearly Roadkill (with Caitlin Sullivan). She is a nationally-known playwright and performance artist and has written, produced, and toured North America and Europe with three solo shows: Virtually Yours: A Game for Solo-Performer with Audience, The Opposite Sex is Neither and Cut 'n' Paste.



Friday night entertainment: Scott Turner Schofield

"Underground Transit" is the acclaimed one-person show by Scott Turner Schofield (formerly Kt Kilborn). The show has toured the United States, taking the experience of one (almost) homecoming queen turned gender renegade up from underground.

Turner is a former youth of Time Out Youth and we are excited to welcome him back!

