

1993-96 after she won her race by a slender margin of just 54 votes.

In other primary races, openly gay attorney Joel Farley also failed to win the Democratic nomination for Congress from New Jersey's 7th district.

March organizers lower figures

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jun 7) — Organizers of the Millennium March festival have released figures indicating that only about half the number of people reported previously had paid to enter the event.

The reports says only about 73,000 people paid \$5 to enter the festival. Initial reports estimated the number was about 150,000 people. The revised figures means the fees collected would also be lowered from the estimated \$750,000 to what organizers say would be \$366,690 instead.

In all, about \$159,000 appears to be missing, an apparent theft organizers say. Initially estimates of the theft had ranged from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Report: Bush campaign weighs gay GOP support

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jun 6) — *San Francisco Chronicle* Washington bureau reporter Carolyn Lochhead reports that gay and lesbian Republicans from the Log Cabin Club have been meeting with Gov. George Bush's presidential campaign on ways to work with the Texas governor's election efforts.

Lochhead reports that Mary Matalin, a television commentator and deputy political director of President George Bush's failed 1992 reelection effort, is backing the move. Matalin, wife of political consultant James Carville, told the paper "there are a lot of gays and lesbians who have interest in Republican and conservative issues who have not felt welcome before, and I always thought that was just a tragedy and an anathema to what I know conservative values and individualism to be."

Bush spokesman Scott McClellan denied plans for a formal steering committee, saying the campaign is not promoting the use of coalition groups that serve as proxies for the campaign. But he did confirm that the campaign has "an ongoing dialogue about how these individuals can help the governor continue reaching out to people from all walks of life all across America."

The still highly tentative alliance between Bush and gay Republicans is an outgrowth of the Texas governor's meeting in Austin with a select group of gay and lesbian Republicans.

Supreme Court family ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jun 5) — In one of the few instances when far-right anti-gay organizations were in agreement with gay rights advocates, both sides hailed a U.S. Supreme Court decision in a legal challenge to a Washington state law that allows any individual to seek visitation rights with a child.

In striking down the law, the high court described it as "breathtakingly broad" and revoked a visitation order issued under the provisions of the law.

The ACLU agreed with the right-wing Family Research Council in calling the Supreme Court ruling "a victory" for parents and families.

Where the groups differed was on their sense of the impact of the law. Right wing organizations saw the statute as a potential violation of the rights of families by non-family members — rights they termed "sacred."

The court decision was apparently almost as controversial for the Justices who agreed in a four-member plurality with a separate two-member concurring opinion. Three of the Justices dissented.

Killer set to be sentenced

BALTIMORE (Jun 5) — Gary William Mick is scheduled to be sentenced on July 25 for killing one man and nearly killing

another because he believes gay men are "evil."

Mick admitted murdering Christopher Jones, 37, by bashing in his skull with a hammer at least nine times in July 1999.

Just two months later he went home with a Baltimore dentist whom he met in a bar and attacked him with a knife, but failed to kill him when the dentist was able to fend off the attack. Police arrest Mick the next day.

Prosecutors say they will ask Mick be sentenced to two consecutive life prison terms.

Ministers get HIV tests

CHICAGO (Jun 3) — In the growing effort to involve churches with predominately African-American congregations in the fight against AIDS, 50 Chicago-area black ministers were taking their own HIV tests to help overcome "a certain taboo and even a certain shame to AIDS," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was spearheading the effort.

In conjunction with the highly publicized tests of the ministers, Balm in Gilead, a

national group to involve black churches in fighting AIDS, will also begin airing television spots in the Chicago area about involving churches in the battle against the epidemic.

Nationally, AIDS is the leading cause of death of African-Americans 25 to 44 years of age. In Chicago, two-thirds of all new AIDS cases in 1998 were among African-Americans.

Colorado bars marriages

DENVER (Jun 2) — Colorado has officially barred same-sex marriages in the state when Gov. Bill Owens signed a bill into law that defines marriage exclusively as a union between one man and one woman. The law prohibits recognizing same-sex marriages, even if legally performed in other states.

Former Gov. Roy Romer, a Democrat, had twice vetoed similar bills, and Democrats in the legislature had also blocked several bills from coming to a vote since 1996.

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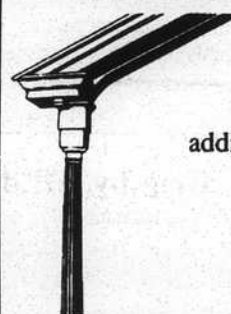
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