

## World Briefs continued from page three

Peyrefitte was born in Casters, in southwestern France. He attended private religious schools and went on to earn a degree in diplomacy from the elite Institute of Political Science in Paris.

A diplomat in the 1930s, Peyrefitte was an administrator during the pro-Nazi Vichy regime. He was dismissed after World War II and reinstated in 1960, but never returned to government service.

### Gay shooting

ROANOKE, Va.—A man who's charged with shooting up a gay bar has been indicted for first-degree murder and firearms violations.

Ronald Gay, 54, is charged with killing Danny Lee Overstreet, 43, and wounding six others at the Backstreet Cafe on Sept. 22.

Gay reportedly was upset because he was harassed over his last name. He told police he was upset that his three sons had changed their last names, and family members have said he was also upset because his ex-wife had once experimented with lesbianism.

Family members also said that Gay suffered from post-traumatic stress from his service in Vietnam and that he had other mental problems.

Gay's lawyer has said he may seek a psychiatric evaluation for his client, who remains jailed without bond.

The trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 22.

### Voter fraud

DES MOINES, Iowa—A gay columnist has pleaded guilty to fraudulently voting in the Iowa caucuses.

Dan Savage, 36, had been charged with two counts of voter fraud for casting a ballot using a Des Moines hotel address.

By pleading guilty, Savage was spared a trial on a felony voter fraud count. He could have faced up to six years in prison.

He was sentenced instead to a year's probation, 50 hours' community service and a \$750 fine.

Savage wrote an article for the online magazine Salon.com recounting how he had infiltrated Republican Gary Bauer's campaign to protest the candidate's anti-gay platform.

Savage said one of his goals had been to reveal the vulnerability of the caucus process, used as an early test of a candidate's strength.

"The process is so open to abuse," he said.

### Kissing virus

BOSTON—There's some

new scientific evidence that draws a link between kissing and contracting AIDS.

A form of the herpes virus that causes an AIDS-related skin cancer appears to spread through kissing.

Herpes virus 8 was discovered six years ago and causes a skin cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma. In the United States, the cancer occurs almost exclusively in people with AIDS.

Some had suspected that the virus was transmitted through sexual intercourse, but the new research from the University of Washington, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, contradicts that idea.

Dr. John Pauk and others tested 39 gay men who were infected with the virus but did not have Kaposi's sarcoma. They found the virus in 30 percent of their saliva samples and mouth swabs, compared with 1 percent of anal and genital samples. When present, the virus levels were also much higher in saliva than in semen.

"The important thing is it suggests that oral-oral contact plays some role in transmission, although more study is needed to confirm that," said Pauk.

The study also found that homosexual men who engaged in "deep kissing"—kissing that involves a lot of contact with saliva—appeared to be at substantially higher risk of catching the virus.

### German couples

BERLIN—German lawmakers have taken a first step toward giving legal recognition to gay couples.

Lawmakers from the governing Social Democrats and Greens used their majority in the lower house to push through legal changes expected to give gays and lesbians the right to sign "life partnerships" by the middle of next year.

The changes would allow gay couples to exchange vows at local government offices and require a court decision for divorce. Same-sex couples would also receive rights given heterosexual spouses in inheritance and health insurance.

"The long years of discrimination are over," declared Greens leader Kerstin Mueller, whose party led the push for the changes. "Lesbians and gays today get their rights."

Justice Minister Herta and Däubler-Gmelin said the aim was to support lasting relationships between people regardless of their sexual orientation.

But conservatives, who have denounced the plan as "Marriage Light," could scuttle parts of the bill when it reaches the upper house of parliament, and are weighing whether to

ask the country's highest court to rule the plan unlawful.

### Gay reservist

PHOENIX—A state representative who disclosed he's gay during legislative debate won't be permitted to stay in the Army Reserves.

Major Gen. John L. Scott, the commanding general of Rep. Steve May's unit, backed a military panel's recommendation that the lieutenant be honorably discharged for violating the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

In a letter, Scott said he based his decision on a review of the separation board's records and an analysis by military lawyers. He said he also took into consideration the arguments in May's appeal, which included a letter signed by 108 members of Congress who opposed the dismissal.

"My review of that document found no grounds to disapprove or alter the findings and recommendations of the board as submitted," Scott wrote.

May, a Republican who was re-elected last week, had been open about his homosexuality since his first campaign for elected office in 1996.

He acknowledged his sexuality during legislative debate in February, 1999, while arguing for extending health benefits to same-sex partners. He was an honorably discharged civilian at the time but was called back to the Army a few weeks later, during the Kosovo crisis.

### Anti-gay Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Britain plans to scrap its anti-gay laws in its Caribbean territories, even though local politicians and residents oppose the move.

"There is nothing we can do about it," said Orlando Smith, a legislator in the British Virgin Islands.

London has tried for years to cajole the territories—Anguilla, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos—into changing the anti-gay laws themselves. But facing opposition from residents of the islands, the British government has decided to go ahead and make the change itself, officials say.

Roger Cousins, the deputy British governor in Anguilla, said he expects the British Parliament to change the territorial laws around the end of the year. And the British Broadcasting Corp. reported this week that London is preparing to make the move before Christmas. It quoted

from a letter written by Overseas Territory Minister Patricia Scotland to a member of Parliament.

The laws in question make homosexual intercourse illegal, and the punishments vary from territory to territory. The laws are rarely enforced, though the Cayman Islands turned away a cruise liner chartered by gays last year.

Britain's government says the anti-gay laws violate international human rights agreements it has signed. It has the power to unilaterally revoke the statutes, but had avoided doing so in an effort to be diplomatic with its territories.

### Gay midshipman

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—A former midshipman will not have to repay his tuition at the U.S. Naval Academy after disclosing he's gay.

The decision means that Tommie Watkins, 25, will not have to reimburse the Navy the \$86,000 that covered his training and tuition, plus interest.

Watkins, president of his class and an aspiring Navy pilot, said he was pressured to resign and did so because he feared homophobia would prevent him from receiving a fair trial. After leaving, he acknowledged being gay.

Officer trainees who drop out or are expelled during their junior or senior years are required by Pentagon policy to repay the government for their education, either in cash or through enlisted service.

The Navy's Board of Correction of Naval Records said last year that he was a victim of "error and injustice," and recommended the academy waive the payment. ▼

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