

Though the law probably will be used by the state to argue against same-sex marriage in court later this summer, the case's attorneys, including Evan Wolfson of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, have said they don't expect it to significantly alter the case. (Outlines)

WHO estimates 4 million with AIDS

GENEVA -- The number of AIDS cases worldwide has risen to 4 million this year, a 60 percent jump over last year's 2.5 million. Asia has the highest infection rate, rising from one percent of the world's cases to 6 percent this year. An estimated 2.5 million cases are in sub-Saharan Africa, where 10 million are HIV-positive. Worldwide, 16 million adults and 1 million children are HIV-positive. Half of the 3 million new adult infections are in women. (Outlines)

European gays show pride

AMSTERDAM -- A large number of European gay men and lesbians turned out for the various pride events held across the continent in June. An estimated 100,000 attended EuroPride in Amsterdam, director Hans Verhoeven told Reuters. The people gathering in the city hoped to send a strong message against the rise of ultra-right-wing activism and violence in Europe, Verhoeven said. EuroPride, which moves to a different country every year, offered over 300 events. One of the more unusual events this year was a nighttime bicycle tour of cruisey parks. In other European nations, between 100,000 and 150,000 people marched in London's gay-pride parade and attended the festival June 19, according to various estimates. The march began at

Hyde Park and ended at Brockwell Park, where pop stars Jimmy Somerville, Boy George and others entertained. Between 35,000 and 40,000 gays and lesbians turned out for pride celebrations in Paris June 19. (Frontiers)

Sharon Bottoms May Wait for Son's Return

VIRGINIA -- Although lesbian mother Sharon Bottoms has won custody of her two-year-old son, appeals may prevent the child's reunion with his mother for a year or more.

On June 21, a Virginia appeals court ordered Bottoms' son, Tyler Doustou, returned to her, ruling that she is "a fit and nurturing parent," and that the fact that a parent is gay or lesbian "does not per se render a parent unfit to have custody of his or her child."

But on June 24, Bottoms' mother Kay, who is battling for custody of Tyler, filed a notice of intent to appeal before the Virginia State Supreme Court.

Virginia law mandates that child custody decisions cannot take effect until all appeals have been decided. The initial decision of September 1993 awarding custody to Kay Bottoms will thus remain in effect until the state Supreme Court rules on the case. If the court decides not to hear the case, Tyler could be returned to his mother in a month or two. But if the case is appealed, a decision may not be issued for a year or even two years.

Evan Wolfson of the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund called the requirement that Tyler be kept away from his mother a "kidnapping" based on "anti-gay prejudice." (The Washington Blade)

October Declared Lesbian & Gay History Month

CHICAGO -- Several national lesbian/bisexual/gay organizations, educational associations and prominent historians have jointly declared each October as National Lesbian & Gay History Month. Modeled on successful celebrations such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, Lesbian & Gay History Month is designed to promote the teaching of LesBiGay history in secondary and post-secondary academic settings, as well as within the LesBiGay community and mainstream society.

A National Coordinating Council has been formed to raise awareness and assist in the development of grassroots activities. The National Council has resource materials available to individuals and organizations interested in helping to celebrate Lesbian & Gay History Month. To obtain resource materials, send a SASE with 52¢ stamp to: LGHM, c/o Gerber/Hart Library & Archives, 3352 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60657. Call (312)883-3003 for more information. ▼

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