

# in the news...

## Queer Candidates

WASHINGTON - Rainbow-colored flags could be flying over Congress after this fall's elections.

Voters in seven congressional districts around the country will have an opportunity to vote for an out lesbian or gay man. None of the candidates appears to be relying heavily on her or his sexual orientation to win votes, but no one can or is ignoring it, either.

Congressional candidate Christine Kehoe, 47, insists voters in California's 49th District care more about those issues than her homosexuality. "When people understand what I am about, my sexual orientation doesn't matter," said Kehoe, 47, a San Diego councilwoman and the only Democrat in the race. "My record shows I work for everyone."

Still, Kehoe's sexuality could make history: If elected, she would be one of the first openly lesbian candidate to be elected to national office. Kehoe is one of four lesbians running for Congress this year, as well as three gay men. That number represents the largest group of openly gay candidates to run for national office.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., did not reveal their homosexuality until after they were in office, but the other Congressional candidates disclosed their sexual orientation prior to this year's elections. They are Wisconsin legislator Tammy Baldwin; former Massachusetts legislator Susan Tracy; retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who was discharged from the military in 1992 after revealing her homosexuality; and rancher and oil man Paul Barby.

## Giving up money

SAN FRANCISCO — The Salvation Army apparently thinks money from the city of San Francisco is gay tainted.

The organization says it will no longer take city money and will cut back on some programs because of San Francisco's domestic partners law. The organization said the year-old ordinance conflicts with its Christian beliefs on the importance of family.

Under the ordinance, any business that holds city contracts and provides spousal health insurance to married couples must do the same for the gay or unmarried partners of its employees. "We simply cannot agree to be in compliance," Salvation Army Lt. Col. Richard Love said.

The Salvation Army, with an \$18 million annual budget for services in San Francisco, holds \$3.5 million in city contracts, Love said. The organization said it will scale back programs for senior citizens and the homeless.

## Gay bishop

MORRISTOWN, N.J. — An openly gay man was one of the finalists for bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey.

On the fourth ballot for the post of bishop coadjutor, who will succeed Bishop John S. Spong when he retires in 2000, delegates chose the Rev. John Croneberger, rector of the Church of the Atonement in Tenafly. He was one of six candidates in a field that included the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson, who would have been the first openly gay Episcopal bishop in the nation.

Robinson, 51, an assistant to Bishop Douglas Theuner of the Diocese of New Hampshire and a coordinating leader of the New England dioceses, was once married and has two daughters, but now lives with a man. Conservatives within the church had opposed the possible election of Robinson.

## Hurricane gay

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Tired of blaming El Nino for lousy weather? Now we can take credit. Just ask Pat Robertson.

The religious broadcaster says Orlando, Fla., should beware of hurricanes after allowing Gay Days to be held there last month. Robertson also said the widespread practice of homosexuality "will bring about terrorist bombs, it'll bring earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor."

On "The 700 Club," the Christian Broadcasting Network talk show, Robertson said: "I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes, and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you."

Gay organizations sponsor the annual Gay Days in Orlando, where rainbow flags flew from downtown utility poles.

## Senator Hate

WASHINGTON — Shall we just call him Senator Hate?

The most powerful leader in the US Senate has outed himself as a bigoted homophobe.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi told an interviewer that homosexuality was morally wrong. During an interview on "The Armstrong Williams Show" on the America's Voice television network, Williams asked Lott whether he considers homosexuality a sin and Lott replied, "Yeah, it is."

Lott added: "You should still love that person. You should not try to mistreat them or treat them as outcasts. You should try to show them a way to deal with that problem, just like alcohol ... or sex addiction ... or kleptomaniacs. "There are all kinds of problems,

addictions, difficulties, experiences of things that are wrong, but you should try to work with that person to learn to control that problem," he said.

## Hormel for Ambassador

WASHINGTON — Debate continues to rage everywhere but the US Senate floor over whether James Hormel should be the US ambassador to Luxembourg.

His nomination has been held up by conservative Republicans who object to his homosexuality. Even some Republicans are complaining that they're embarrassed by the debacle that has been created.

In a letter to Majority Leader Trent Lott, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato of New York said he feared James Hormel's nomination to be ambassador to Luxembourg "is being obstructed for one reason and one reason only: the fact he is gay."

"On a personal level, I am embarrassed that our Republican Party, the party of Lincoln, is seen to be the force behind this injustice," D'Amato wrote.

Supporters of Hormel say they have the 60 votes needed to break the hold on the nomination if Lott will allow it to come to the floor.

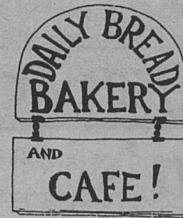
## AIDS notification

NEW YORK — There are new fears in New York now that the Legislature has approved a bill requiring doctors to report the names of people with AIDS or HIV.

Activists condemned the bill as a "a return to the dark ages" of the disease. The measure passed by the Legislature calls for the Health Department to inform the patients' lovers and drug needle partners.

Supporters contend the notification saves lives and that research shows people won't stop seeking help. The bill goes to Republican Gov. George Pataki, who has said he generally supports the concept.

AIDS activists asked Pataki to veto the bill, saying it could curtail testing because of the stigma attached to the disease. "The New York State Assembly seems poised to return to the dark ages of the AIDS epidemic, when ignorance, fear and discrimination surrounding the disease were rife," said Ronald Johnson of the city's Gay Men's Health Crisis, one of the nation's largest nonprofit AIDS organizations.



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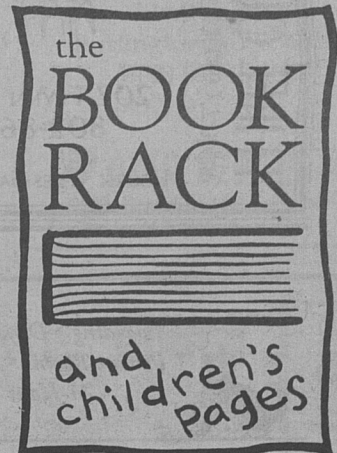
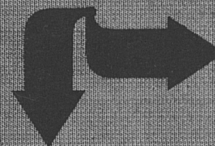
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