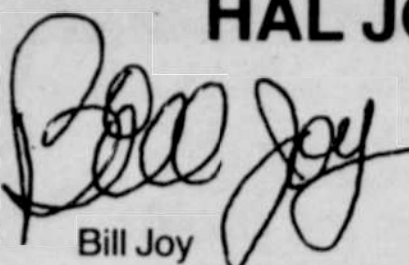
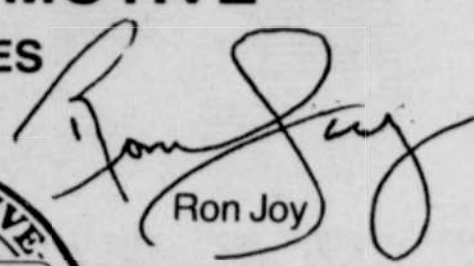
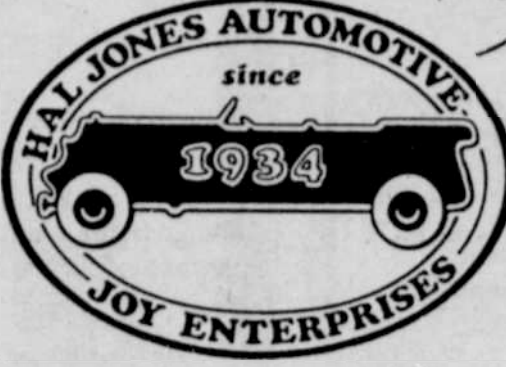


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national briefs

ANNAPOLIS, MD: The Maryland Court of Appeals ruled in October that a state law prohibiting "unnatural or perverted sexual practices" does not apply to oral sex in private by heterosexual couples, married or not. The law does, however, apply to homosexuals in identical circumstances.

BOISE, IDAHO: Three men who faced life in prison for committing "the infamous crime against nature" pled guilty to a lesser charge of indecent exposure in October. An "infamous crime against nature" is any sexual penetration of any bodily orifice other than the vagina.

BURBANK, CA: The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is seeing red over a scene in Harrison Ford's new film *Presumed Innocent* where a cop tells Harrison that the new police chief is a winner because he "cleaned up the park and got rid of all those faggots." Letters to Robert Daley, CEO, Warner Bros., 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522..

DENVER, CO: The Denver City Council voted 8-4 in favor of an ordinance that bans discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing and public accommodations. Also protected are those who face discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, military status, or physical or mental ability. The ordinance was written by gays and lesbians. Denver did not previously have a local civil-rights law.

HOLLYWOOD: "In her frankest interview ever, Cher defend[ed] her lesbian daughter," reports *Star*. Cher said, "It would be a lot more important to me that Chastity be a good person than what her sexuality is.... Chastity is everything I would want her to be—sensitive, smart and talented."

KEY WEST: Activist Edward Seebol and the ACLU have filed suit against the Florida Health and Rehabilitative Services department over a 1977 law that prohibits homosexuals from adopting children. Seebol applied to adopt a 10- to 15-year old HIV-positive child but was told he "didn't meet the criteria." New Hampshire is the only other state that specifically bans gay adoption. In New York and California, on the other hand, it is illegal to consider someone's sexual orientation when making adoption decisions.

MINNEAPOLIS: More than 165 gay and lesbian students from universities around the nation gathered Nov. 9 to swap strategies in their ongoing battles against the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, which bans homosexuals from enrollment in accord with Department of Defense policy.

NEW YORK: Pete Townshend, guitarist for the group The Who, has come out of the closet in the new book *Rock Lives: Profiles and Interviews*. Townshend, and has three kids, said, "[My 1980 song 'Tough Boys' was my] coming out—an acknowledgement of the fact that I'd had a gay life and that I understood what gay sex was about."

NEW YORK: Author and lecturer Vito Russo, 44, best-known for his book *The Celluloid Closet*, died Nov. 6 of AIDS complications, following a five-year battle with the disease. *The Celluloid Closet* traced and analyzed the role of gays in films from the silents to the present day. "I have a much more serious urgency about my writing now [that I've been diagnosed with AIDS], Russo said in an interview this year. "I want to leave something behind to make a statement to my people about how important it is to

pay attention to the ways in which they are portrayed in the media. That's my contribution." Russo was a founder of GLAAD and a member of ACT UP, NGLTF and Lambda.

NEW YORK: *Outweek* magazine ousted novelist/critic Susan Sontag Nov. 14. Columnist Michelangelo Signorile wrote: "How could Sontag have the fucking nerve to pen a book on AIDS—*AIDS and Its Metaphors*— without at least telling us in the introduction what point of view it came from? How could she not see the power in coming out publicly in the media, especially when writing about this disease?..."

SACRAMENTO: The gay rainbow flag flew over the California Capitol for four hours Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, before aides to Gov. George Deukmejian ordered it removed. The Joint Rules Committee of the state Senate and Assembly had okayed the flying of the flag. But Deukmejian's cabinet secretary, David Cafrey told gays that the state had "clear guidelines" on Capitol flag-flying. He later admitted that no such document exists.

ST. LOUIS: County Executive H.C. Milford relented Oct. 16 and said the local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays could join the county's Adopt-a-Roadway anti-litter program after all. P/FLAG's application to the program was rejected this summer because officials did not want to place the words "gays" and "lesbians" on a sign that would have publicized P/FLAG's volunteerism along their stretch of road. Milford then ordered a survey of litter-program participants. To his and others' surprise, 156 surveys were returned with 155 saying the county should allow anyone to adopt a stretch of highway and be honored with a sign. Soon after this incident the North Carolina Department of Transportation rejected a similar application by a Lesbian and Gay Alliance there. Here we go again!

WASHINGTON: Congress Oct. 18 passed a sweeping immigration-reform bill that wipes from the lawbooks the 38-year-old ban on gay and lesbian visitors and immigrants, and paves the way for lifting the nation's ban on HIV-positive foreigners as well. President George Bush plans to sign the entire immigration package into law.

WASHINGTON: Sen. Jesse Helms' (R-N.C.) two-year campaign to ban federal grants to artists who produce erotic anti-religious and certain other types of art ended abruptly Oct. 17 when Congress approved a \$175 million appropriation for the National Endowment for the Arts with no specific restrictions on how the agency may spend its money.

WASHINGTON: Perry Watkins is about to become the first gay American allowed back into the Army after being kicked out for being homosexual. The Supreme Court Nov. 5 refused to review a Seattle federal appeals court decision that granted Watkins the right to serve. The lower court rejected the military's arguments that the presence of Watkins—as an open gay—would undermine morale and discipline, pointing out that the Army had allowed Watkins to reenlist three times since 1967 before it discharged him in 1981 for being gay.

WASHINGTON: The Smithsonian Institution has formally acquired memorabilia from "the cause of gay rights political activism." Included in the artifacts are a photo of 1987's National March on Washington, buttons, and NGLTF's Privacy Project "Never Another Jailed For Love!" placard.