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A parasite found in drinking water threatens those with weakened immune systems
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RALLYING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

The recent rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square proved that the No on 13 campaign has been successful with its coalition-building efforts. Volunteers are still needed to ensure our victory as we head into the final days before the election.

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Hate crime in Mississippi

A youth is charged with the murder of two gay men in Laurel, Miss.

by Bob Roehr

Two white gay men were murdered Oct. 8 in Laurel, Miss. Robert Walters, 34, and Joseph Shoemaker, 24, were both from the area. Their bodies were found by two women the next morning, sprawled across abandoned railroad tracks. One man had his shorts removed and underwear twisted around his genitals. Each had a single .22-caliber bullet wound to the head. Indications are they were shot at close range.



A 16-year-old African American male, Marvin McLindone, has been arrested and charged with the murders. The sheriff's department received a phone tip and got a taped confession from the youth without a lawyer being present. Many outside the sheriff's department question how the youth could have committed the murders. The coroner's report stated that there had to have been at least two people to carry out the crime.

Lesbian and gay activists label the murders a hate crime. They point to a growing climate of hate stoked by the year-long barrage of rhetoric from homophobic religious leaders and local officials in regard to lesbians Brenda and Wanda Henson and Camp Sister Spirit.

Now the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is seeking "immediate assistance in ending the violence in Jones County." It faxed the request and background information to Attorney General Janet Reno and several lower level officials within the U.S. Justice Department. The NGLTF questions the perspective of the sheriff involved with the investigation, who has made numerous homophobic remarks quoted in national and local media.

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