

national news

ALABAMA

"Stupid" was the word Donna Red Wing, national field coordinator for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, used to describe the decision by Huntsville television station WAFF-TV to black out the closing scene kiss in the NBC movie *Serving in Silence: The Margarette Cammermeyer Story*. According to *Southern Voice*, WAFF's program director refused to discuss the blackout with an outraged Huntsville resident. The now-famous kiss is between Cammermeyer, played by Glenn Close, and her lover, played by Judy Davis.

ALASKA

A Fairbanks Superior Court ruled Jan. 11 that it is illegal under Alaska state law to deny benefits to the same-sex partner of an employee. In ruling on a lawsuit filed by two University of Alaska employees, Superior Court Judge Mary Greene found the policy of denying benefits to same-sex partners to be a violation of laws prohibiting discrimination based on marital status. The University of Alaska intends to appeal the decision to the Alaska Supreme Court.

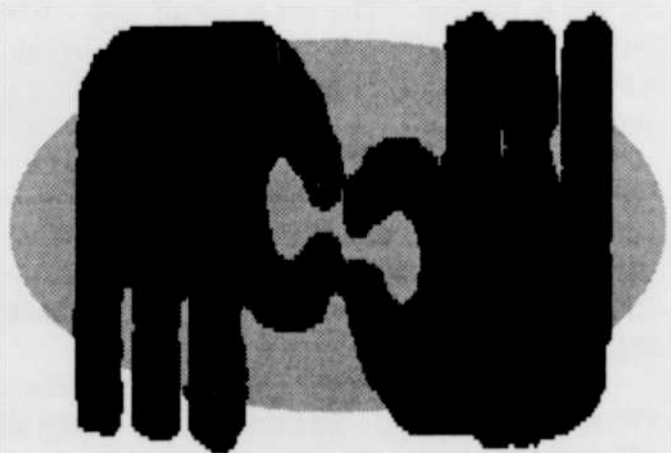
ARKANSAS

Hoping that the third time proves to be the charm, Sen. Vic Snyder (D-Little Rock) is trying once again to repeal the state's sodomy law. Snyder and Sen. Mike Everett (D-Marked Tree) are co-sponsoring a bill that would remove homosexual acts from the criminal offense of bestiality. Snyder's son is gay.

CALIFORNIA

A bank vice president in Los Angeles is suing his employer, charging that he was denied equal employment benefits based on marital status and sexual orientation.

Jeffrey Bagley, who is represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, is suing California Federal Bank for denying him and his partner of 10 years, Peter Lavin, a discounted home loan. California Federal offers a discounted home loan to employees purchasing a home with a spouse or family member. This is the first case to make a claim based on marital status discrimination against same-sex couples under the Equal Credit and Opportunity Act.



The Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco Public Library are working together to form the National Deaf Lesbian and Gay Archives Project. Archive goals are to preserve the history of deaf lesbians and gay men through the collection and preservation of photos, articles, letters, newsletters and other relevant material. Advisory board members are being sought. Interested persons should send a letter by May 1, 1995, to: National Deaf Lesbian and Gay Archives Project, 150 Eureka St., Suite 108, San Francisco, CA 94114.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The American Federation of Teachers Staff Union voted Jan. 31 to include domestic partners benefits in its new three-year contract. Under the new contract, employees can secure health coverage for a same-sex domestic partner. An employee

can also take up to five days leave with pay in the event of the death of a domestic partner.

GEORGIA

In response to the disclosure that Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis knew he was HIV positive when he participated in the 1988 Summer Olympics, Fulton County Commission Chairman Mitch Skandalakis has asked county lawyers to investigate whether the local government can bar athletes who are HIV positive from competing in sports events held in Fulton County.

The 1996 Summer Olympic Games are scheduled to be held in Atlanta, which is in Fulton County. The International Olympic Committee has stated that it will not test athletes competing in the 1996 games for HIV.

HAWAII

Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church) in Hawaii have submitted a petition to intervene in a case currently before the Hawaii State Court that could decide the legal status of same-sex marriages in that state.

According to a representative of the Catholic Church, that religion will file a friend-of-the-court brief in the same case.

ILLINOIS

A gay man was murdered three days after he appeared on *The Jenny Jones Show*, a talk show out of Chicago. Scott Amedure was on the show to reveal his "secret crush." Amedure's crush was on a heterosexual man, Jonathan Schmitz, who also appeared on the show. Three days after the show was taped, Schmitz claims to have been so embarrassed by this public revelation that he purchased a shotgun and allegedly went to Amedure's home and murdered him. Schmitz is currently under arrest for Amedure's murder.



Scott Amedure (left); Jonathan Schmitz

The producers of *The Jenny Jones Show* will not air the episode in which the two men appeared.



Two lesbian couples, denied adoptions by a Cook County judge, have decided to appeal those rulings to the Illinois Appellate Court. This will be the first case concerning adoption by unmarried couples to reach the Illinois Appellate Court.



The Chicago newspaper *Outlines* reports that three "AIDS-phobic" bills have been introduced in the Illinois legislature. House Bill 0195 would require people with HIV or hepatitis to notify health care workers of their status when receiving treatment and require that the information be added to the patient's medical record. HB 0227 would require mandatory testing as a condition of bail bond in all cases where an incident occurs in which a blood-borne virus could be transmitted to a law enforcement officer, court worker, or health care worker. SB 138 requires mandatory HIV testing for those arrested for prostitution. Results would be entered onto the person's record.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

Me and Gary go way back.



Gary Luckey

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