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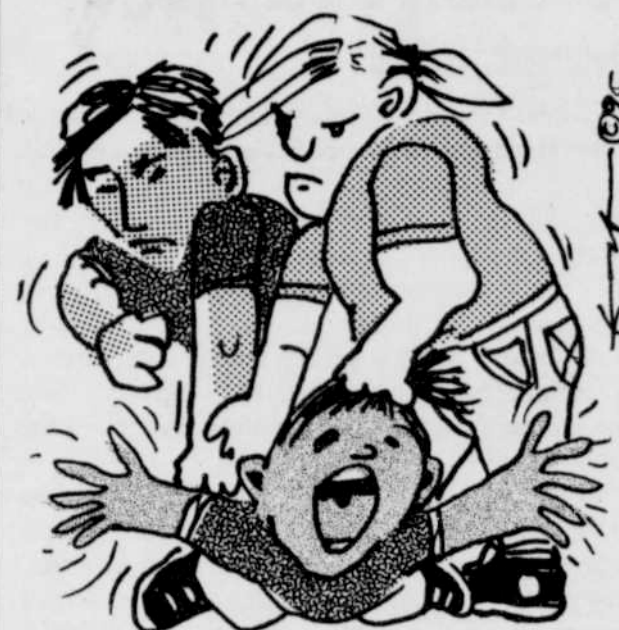
GLAMA gives awards

Boy George and Cris Williamson are the recipients of the first honors to be awarded by the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards.

Williamson will receive the Michael Callen Medal of Achievement, named for the late singer/songwriter/activist and member of The Flirtations. The award recognizes an individual, group, organization or business committed to furthering gay and lesbian music in a spirit of openness, honesty and service.

As a performer, songwriter and co-founder of Olivia Records, Williamson has been a major figure in the women's music movement.

George will receive the Outmusic Award. This honor is given to artists who have advanced gay and lesbian music through their work as out musicians.



Boys Town says 'stop'

Father Flanagan's Boys Town, the famous orphanage in Nebraska, has ordered gay columnist Rex Wockner to change the name of his weekly column to anything but "Boys Town."

For the past five and one-half years, Wockner has written a column for the Chicago gay publication *Nightlines*. The column, called "Boys Town," bears the widely used nickname of Chicago's main gay neighborhood.

Wockner recently received a letter from attorneys for the orphanage informing him that his use of the name "Boys Town" infringes on the legal right of the orphanage to use the mark and name and asking him to stop using the name in his column.

Amendment 2 hits the Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments this week in the Colorado homophobic initiative case. The initiative, known as Amendment 2, was passed by Colorado voters in 1992. Never enforced, the measure was ruled unconstitutional by the Colorado Supreme Court. That court's decision stated that the initiative denied homosexuals an equal voice in government.

The Supreme Court has rarely considered cases involving lesbians and gay men. The last ruling issued by the court was a 1986 decision upholding Georgia's anti-sodomy law. In that case, justices said consenting adults have no constitutional right to private homosexual conduct.

"The track record isn't encouraging," Suzanne Goldberg, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, told the Associated Press. "But win or lose, it's far too late in the day for anyone to think lesbians and gay men will return to the closet."

At issue in this case is whether or not the Colorado initiative deprives lesbians and gay men of the right to equal participation in the political process. The Colorado state court ruled that the measure does deprive gay men and lesbians of that fundamental right.

The Supreme Court's decision is not expected until next summer.

Assaults on gay and lesbian students reported

Eight students in Washington schools said they were gang raped by other students for being gay or lesbian, according to a report by the Seattle-based Safe Schools Coalition.

The coalition reports 27 anti-sexual-minority attacks, including the rapes, in schools since 1990. The attacks ranged from name-calling to violent assaults, according to an Associated Press story. Most of the attacks happened in the past year.

The attacks occurred in 12 school districts, most in the Seattle area. Three attacks, including

one rape, took place at elementary schools, the others at middle schools or high schools.

Information was gathered through telephone interviews with children and teenagers who called a hotline. To protect the student's privacy, researchers did not corroborate the accounts, nor are they revealing where the attacks took place.

Queer center planned for Atlanta Olympics

If gay advisors to Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell get their way, the city will set up a welcome center for gay and lesbian athletes and tourists at the 1996 Olympic Games.

The idea came from a panel of lesbian and gay advisors who meet monthly, reports the Atlanta gay newspaper *Southern Voice*. The panel wanted a way to reach sexual minorities visiting Atlanta for the games.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has agreed to allow the sale of gay and lesbian publications at a newsstand inside the Olympic village, where athletes will be housed. ACOG declined to make arrangements for gay and lesbian tourists, however, stating that hospitality is the responsibility of local and state tourism boards.

The panel hopes to outfit a space with an automated teller machine, information about Olympic events, community information, a concierge service for visitors and, perhaps, housing assistance.

FTM gender conference held

The first international female-to-male gender conference was held in San Francisco in August. The conference drew participants from the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and Germany.

The conference, called "A Vision of Community," featured workshops, caucuses and networking sessions. James Green, director of FTM International, delivered the keynote address. "This conference is an important historical milestone in the development of the transgender movement," said Green. "It signals the rising awareness that people who identify as FTM will not be confined to prescribed behavior roles outlined in theoretical papers published by prejudiced researchers and based upon extremely limited studies. Transsexual men and their issues are usually overlooked at gender conferences, where, as in the larger society, the commonly held view of transgendered people is that they are predominantly male-to-female, or transsexual women."

The conference was hosted by FTM International, a networking and information group for and about FTM transgendered people and transsexual men. The organization is dedicated to inclusion and diversity in gender identity and expression, and to education on gender issues for both transgendered people and the general public.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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