

## Colorado transsexual gets 90 days

Sean O'Neill, a 21-year-old female-to-male preoperative transsexual, was sentenced on Feb. 16 to 90 days in jail and six years of closely supervised probation by a Colorado Springs judge. O'Neill was charged with several counts of statutory rape and sexual assault, for which he could have received 48 years in prison. He pleaded guilty to one count of felony sex offense in exchange for the lighter sentence.

The charges stem from sexual relationships O'Neill had with four girls. Two of the girls were under 15 years of age—the Colorado age of consent—at the time they were involved with O'Neill. O'Neill was 18 at that time.

The girls testified that, although they had had sexual relations with O'Neill, they did not notice that he had female genitals and breasts.

*Kristine Chatwood*

## A New Hampshire Valentine

"Dear Mr. Michael," began the letter to the gay AIDS candidate for president. "Kids Voting—New Hampshire would like to invite your wife to attend our Sweetheart Event."



The letter said the Valentine's Day activity will focus on "what it is like to be a candidate's spouse, and what she would see her role being if you are elected." The purpose, it said, is "to bring the electoral process down to a more personal level for these youngsters."

The pilot program will be held in elementary and junior high schools on the west side of Manchester. The nearby school district of Merrimack is controlled by right-wing conservatives who have banned anything that has the "purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

Wayne Turner, Michael's partner of four years and also his campaign manager, responded that he "would be delighted to attend."

*Bob Roehr*

## Voter fraud alleged by anti-gay leader

Carolyn H.T. Cosby, the leader of Concerned Maine Families, has charged that the voting last November on Question 1, an anti-gay-rights ballot measure, was marred by fraud. Cosby claimed that referendum opponents from outside Maine registered and voted illegally in the election, and that elections officials obstructed attempts by CMF members to monitor and challenge ballots.

To bolster her claim of misconduct by election officials, Cosby presented affidavits from four CMF members.

Commenting on Cosby's claim, Maine Secretary of State William G. Diamond told the Associated Press, "The obvious thing to me was it wasn't

fraud at all. She ended up with four people from her own group talking about their dissatisfaction with the way they were treated at polling places."

Cosby requested an investigation by the Maine attorney general's office.

*Kristine Chatwood*

## High HIV-infection rate in young men found

A survey conducted by investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed alarmingly high rates of HIV infection among young gay and bisexual men. Six urban areas are being targeted by the study. Those areas are Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, and the three San Francisco Bay Area counties of Santa Clara, Alameda and San Francisco. Baltimore will be added to the study.

Public health workers went into the streets, bars, clubs and coffeehouses of these areas to interview men between the ages of 15 and 22. Those who agreed to participate were interviewed by the public health workers and had their blood tested for HIV. The study found that 5 to 9 percent of the men tested were infected with the HIV virus. The rate of infection for the study group was approximately 70 times higher than that of men from the general population entering the military.

The rate of infection among young black gay and bisexual men was 11 percent. The rate of infection among white men was 4 percent.

The survey is ongoing, and the results are preliminary.

*Kristine Chatwood*

## Baboon marrow transplant fails

Last December, doctors at San Francisco General Hospital transplanted baboon bone marrow into Jeff Getty in the hope that the infusion would help Getty's immune system fight off the AIDS virus. Recent tests have not found any signs of the baboon marrow in Getty's system, and his doctors believe the operation failed.

For reasons as yet unknown, baboons are able to fight off HIV. It was hoped that, if Getty's body accepted the baboon immune system, the baboon cells would provide that same protection to his immune system.

Despite the apparent failure of the transplant, doctors say Getty's health is better than it has been in months. He has gained weight, some AIDS-related skin conditions have improved, and a persistent asthma problem has almost disappeared.

Doctors speculate that the blast of radiation Getty received prior to the transplant may have something to do with his improved health.

*Kristine Chatwood*

## Hotel apologizes for latex gloves

The general manager of a Minnesota hotel where employees wore latex gloves to serve dinner to people attending a conference of gay, lesbian and bisexual activists, apologized for the behavior of the employees.

Greg Parsons, general manager of the Radisson Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, read a letter of apology to those participants at the 1996 "OutFront" conference, an annual event sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council of Minneapolis. Parsons also agreed to provide AIDS/HIV and anti-homophobia education for hotel staff.

Hotel employees said they were given the option of wearing the gloves when serving dinner at the conference's Saturday evening banquet. Those who chose to wear the gloves did so because of their fear that they could contract HIV from the conference attendees.

*Kristine Chatwood*



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