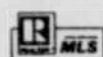




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national news

Gay exhibit at Holocaust museum protested

The Committee for Holocaust Truth, led by anti-gay activist Howard Hurwitz, is protesting the inclusion of gay men and lesbians in an exhibit at the New York Holocaust Museum, reported *Jewish Week*. The museum, under construction in Battery Park City, is scheduled to open next spring or summer.

Hurwitz, chairman of the Family Defense Council, an anti-gay and anti-abortion group based in Queens, said on a local radio show, "This is not a revision of history but a total falsification. The Third Reich and the Nazi Party were founded by homosexuals."

The perception of Nazi persecution of homosexuals, according to Hurwitz, comes from a conflict between Adolph Hitler and Ernst Roehn, head of the "Sturmabteilung," or storm troopers. Hurwitz calls Roehn "a notorious homosexual" who became too powerful. Hitler had Roehn and many of his associates killed in a 1934 purge known as the Night of the Long Knives.

"They were killed not because they were homosexuals but because they were enemies of the state," Hurwitz said.

Michael Berenbaum, director of the Research Institute of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., said there is "undeniable evidence that German male homosexuals were [persecuted]. Thousands were put in concentration camps."

Berenbaum cited the 1994 book *Hidden Holocaust* by Gunther Grau, which lists 104 German documents showing the evolution of Nazi persecution of homosexuals, including the closure of public bath houses and the banning of "indecent" publications and behavior.

Kristine Chatwood

Sullivan resigns, says he is HIV positive

Andrew Sullivan stunned both his own staff and official Washington, D.C., on April 12 with the twin announcements that he is stepping down as editor of *The New Republic* at the end of May, and that he is HIV positive. He will continue writing for the magazine as a senior editor and will work on a second book.

First as a writer, then as editor, Sullivan became one of the most influential voices on gay and AIDS issues in the mainstream press. Among his most notable efforts for *TNR* were "Here Comes the Groom: A (Conservative) Case for Gay Marriage" in 1989; "Gay Life, Gay Death" in 1990, and "Jay America, Straight America" in 1994.

Heads turned five years ago when he was named editor of *TNR*, the venerable and perhaps most influential magazine of political thought in the nation. Sullivan was 28, openly gay, doggedly Catholic and conservative.

He is stepping down after 250 issues.

"I've done it longer, continuously, than either of my predecessors, and it just seemed right," he told *The New York Times*.

Sullivan maintains that his HIV infection has nothing to do with the decision. He has known his serostatus for three years and says it is the result

of "an accident," not reckless behavior. As he told *The Washington Post*, "I really believe I will be in the first generation to survive HIV."

He did not speak earlier of his own HIV status because he felt it would become the defining prism through which many readers would view the magazine. And he confessed to feeling greatly relieved at having the secrecy lifted, comparing it to a second coming out.

Sullivan's next book will be on the subject of "friendship," also from Knopf, the house which published *Virtually Normal* last fall to excellent reviews and sales. It seems likely that, relieved of editorial burdens, he will in fact be writing more often for *TNR* and other magazines.

Bob Roehr

Gay journalists hire first executive director

The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association has become the latest group to evolve into a full-time professionally staffed national organization.

Michael L. Frederickson, 39, was introduced as NLGJA's first executive director at a reception for members and the press on April 17. The event was hosted by Tom Curley, publisher of *USA Today*, at the newspaper's television studio.

Frederickson worked as a journalist in Washington state before moving on to administrative jobs at Shanti Project, the NAMES Project, the Gay Games in New York, and the AIDS Walk of the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. He is "quite excited" by the prospect of combining his experiences in journalism and community activism.

NLGJA has grown to 1,200 members with chapters in 17 American cities and also in Canada. Its fifth convention takes place in September in Miami. Contact NLGJA at PO Box 425, 1718 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Bob Roehr

AIDS Memorial Grove proposed as monument

U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) introduced a bill in March that would designate San Francisco's The AIDS Memorial Grove a national monument. The grove is a 15-acre wooded basin in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It is the country's first living memorial to people who have died of AIDS. It is also a retreat for those living with HIV and their loved ones.

Development of The AIDS Memorial Grove began in 1991. It is supported by private donations and receives no government funds. A 99-year renewable agreement was signed with the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to maintain the grove in perpetuity. The memorial is a project of the Tides Center, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to social justice and stewardship of the natural environment.

Kristine Chatwood

South Asian group selects new co-chair

Dyanthe McDougal has been elected co-chair of Trikone, an international organization for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals of South Asian heritage. McDougal shares leadership of the group with Tinku Ali Ishtiaq; they will serve together until the end of 1996.

McDougal is of mixed Sri Lankan and American descent. She has been active in women's health issues through projects with the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She replaces Dipti Ghosh, who was Trikone's first woman co-chair.

Kristine Chatwood