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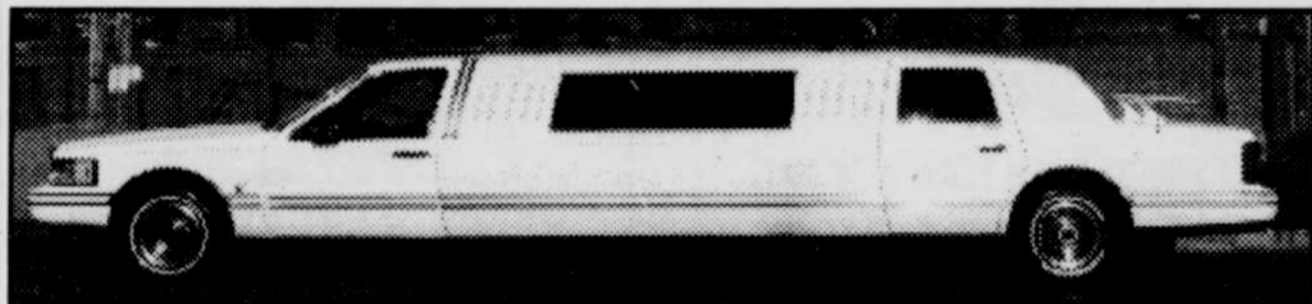
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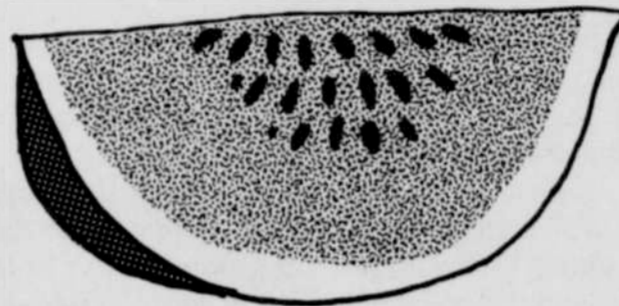
national news

CALIFORNIA

Conservatives are wild about director Cheryl Dunye's new movie, *The Watermelon Woman*. Dunye does not even have a distributor for her lesbian love story, but members of Congress are up in arms because she received a 1995 National Endowment for the Arts grant of \$31,500 for the film.

The cost of making the movie was approximately \$250,000.

The Watermelon Woman won the Teddy Bear award for best gay film at the 1996 Berlin Film Festival, reports *Variety*. It was the opening film at this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.



Dunye describes her movie, which includes a steamy lesbian love scene between Dunye and *Go Fish* star Guinivere Turner, as a pseudo-documentary about a black lesbian's search for the identity of a "black mammy" character in a Hollywood film.

Legislators who are working on the fiscal 1997 NEA budget have asked to view Dunye's movie.



Jeff Horton, a five-year veteran of the Los Angeles Unified School Board and an openly gay man, was elected July 2 to a one-year term as president of the school board, according to *The Los Angeles Times*. Horton was the first openly gay elected official in Los Angeles.

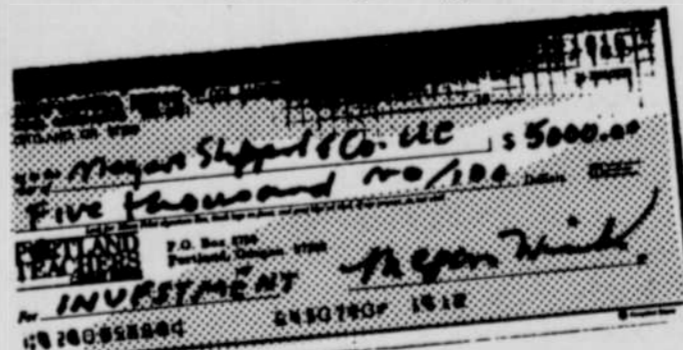
During his tenure on the school board, Horton has been an outspoken advocate of HIV education and prevention programs in the schools. He was instrumental in the adoption of the school district's comprehensive multicultural and human relations instruction plan.

Horton's agenda for the coming year includes actively campaigning for passage of a \$2.4 billion bond measure to pay for the maintenance and construction of local schools. He also intends to push for the expansion of LEARN, the district's educational reform program, to include more schools.



Investors seeking to put their money in companies with progressive policies toward the gay and lesbian community now have a way to do just that.

Meyers, Sheppard & Co., LLC, an investment management firm, has introduced the Meyers Sheppard Pride Fund. The diversified mutual fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by in-



vesting in undervalued, fundamentally sound companies—companies that have specifically stated gay- and lesbian-friendly policies. That group of companies currently includes approximately 325 blue chip companies.

To receive a prospectus and application write to Meyers Sheppard Pride Fund, c/o Furman Selz LLC, PO Box 1694, Scottsdale, AZ 85252-1694, or call 1-800-410-3337.

INDIANA

The Unitarian Universalist Church, at a June meeting in Indianapolis, adopted a resolution urging legal recognition of same-sex marriages. The Boston-based church has a long history of supporting lesbian and gay rights.

The vote by the Unitarian Universalist Association makes support of same-sex marriage the official policy of the church. Each congregation will decide whether to endorse same-sex marriage and whether to conduct such weddings.

OHIO

The Judicial Commission of the Cincinnati Presbytery voted in June to annul a layman's ordination as an elder at Knox Presbyterian of Hyde Park because the elder is gay, stated a Reuter report. The action was taken after another Knox elder complained about the gay man's ordination.



A presbytery official stated that this action marks the first time in the United States that a Presbyterian judicial body has overruled a local church on the issue.

TEXAS

The state Republican Party finally won its battle to exclude Log Cabin Republicans from the state GOP convention.

Just prior to the start of the convention, according to a Reuter story, the Republican-dominated state Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling and allowed the state GOP to ban the gay Republicans from putting up an exhibit booth and advertising in the convention program.



Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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