

national briefs

ALABAMA

Jumping on the somewhat premature anti-same-sex marriage bandwagon, Gov. Fob James signed an executive order in August banning recognition of same-sex marriages. The order, effective immediately, prohibits probate judges or anyone else authorized to issue marriage licenses from issuing one to a same-sex couple. It also denies state recognition of same-sex marriages performed in any other state or any foreign country.

ARIZONA

Worried that a disgruntled citizen intended to out him, Tempe Mayor Neil Guiliano stated at a City Council meeting Aug. 28 that he is gay.

Guiliano's decision to reveal his homosexuality was prompted by his belief that a local citizen, upset over the city's decision to waive fees for next year's Gay Pride Festival, was planning to announce Guiliano's sexual orientation during the meeting.

CALIFORNIA

Starting in January 1997, the gay and lesbian community can add its very own comics news service to the ranks of publications targeting the gay and lesbian community. The Los Angeles-based Hubris Press will launch *The BaGaL Comic Connection*.

The quarterly comic arts news magazine is intended as a guide and resource for people who buy or sell comic books friendly to gay and lesbian readers, reports publisher Kristen Enos. The magazine will offer reviews, spotlights, news and commentary by professionals and fans.

A yearly subscription will cost \$12. Interested readers can contact Hubris Press, PO Box 5383, Irvine, CA 92616.



In his concern about jeopardizing the city's needle exchange program, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown has decided not to declare a citywide state of emergency to allow the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.



In August the city's Cannabis Buyers' Club was raided and closed by state narcotics agents. San Francisco officials had planned to allow the continued distribution of marijuana by declaring it a health emergency, however, the needle exchange program has been operating illegally for the past three years under the protection of a similar health emergency order. City officials are negotiating with the state attorney general's office to allow another organization to distribute marijuana to people with AIDS, cancer and other illnesses.



The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Aug. 12 to allocate \$1.2 million to buy the property where supporters hope to construct a Lesbian and Gay Center. The City's money is the first substantial contribution received by the project's board. It will fund the purchase of a lot located at Market and Octavia streets.

When the planned 38,000-square-foot building is completed it will house a gay-oriented city store and bookstore, an information desk, meeting rooms, a lounge, a 200-seat auditorium and offices for local gay and lesbian nonprofit organizations.



When the BiNet USA business meeting was held in San Francisco last month, attendees were presented with a mayoral proclamation declaring Aug. 17, 1996 "Bisexual Pride Day in San Francisco." Among the points listed in support of the proclamation: "the contributions of bisexuals in developing AIDS service projects, combating discrimination and advocating for social justice

have long been undervalued or discounted by most of society."



The Advocate, the oldest gay and lesbian newsmagazine in the country, recently named its first female editor-in-chief. Judy Wieder, formerly executive editor of the publication, replaces Jeff Yarbrough, who resigned from the magazine to pursue other interests.

Wieder joined *The Advocate* in 1993 as entertainment editor.



A Santa Rosa Junior College mathematics instructor finally decided he could no longer keep up the charade. Dick Giles appeared in class last month dressed as Diane. For the married father of 10 the time had come to reveal that he is a transvestite.

Over the summer, Giles, 58, decided to come out and began dressing as a woman full time. His wife, who has known about Giles' transvestitism during their entire marriage, supported his decision to stop hiding his true self.

Administrators at the college said Giles can continue to teach as long as his change does not interfere with his duties.

CYBERSPACE

A new World Wide Web page devoted to studying trans-related violence was launched last month by GenderPAC. The Web site contains the full text of the national "Study on Trans Violence." Those accessing the Web site will be able to participate in GenderPac's survey of violence against members of the trans community. The survey is directed to anyone who is trans-identified, gender-variant or gender-queer. Surveys are anonymous and confidential.

The Web site is located at <http://www.cdspub.com/srvy.html>.



The national Deaf Queer Resource Center was honored last month with two five-star Web awards. The organization develops and maintains resource information on the World Wide Web for and about the deaf lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

DQRC was awarded the UK Freedom Award for Excellence and was named one of the most outstanding Web sites by Q Planet.

DQRC, which celebrates its first birthday this month, has received more than 60,000 visitors to its Web site, located at <http://www.deafqueer.org>.

MICHIGAN

An inmate in a federal prison in Milan was indicted last month for attempted murder for allegedly raping two fellow inmates when he



knew he was infected with HIV. Prosecutors claim Jerry L. Morrison, of Springfield, Ill., knew he was HIV positive when he forced the other

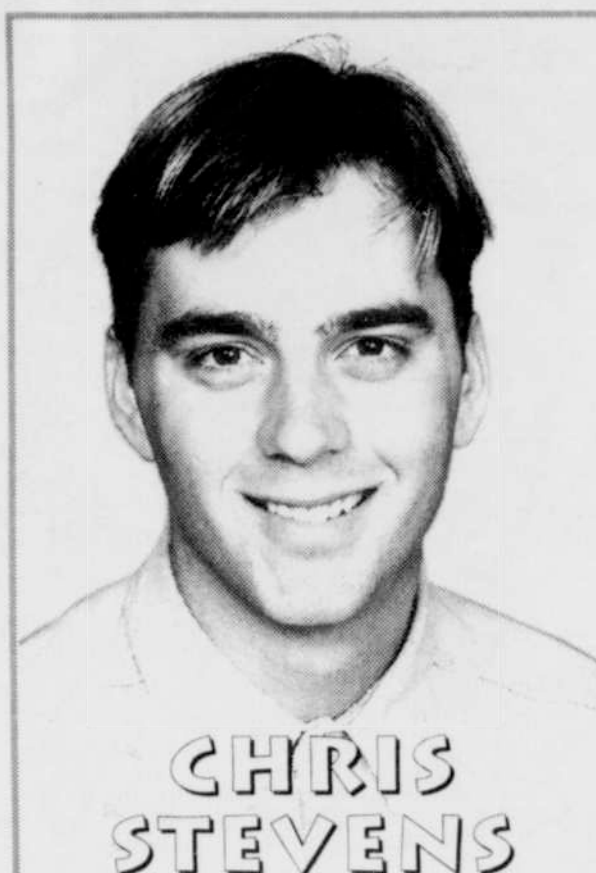
inmates to have unprotected sex with him. One of the inmates has since tested positive for HIV.

Morrison faces a sentence of life in prison.

MISSISSIPPI

Not to be outdone by other states, Gov. Kirk Fordice last month issued an executive order banning same-sex marriages. Fearing that someday, somehow, same-sex couples might be able to marry in another state and then demand legal recognition back home in Mississippi, Fordice announced at a news conference that his action would defend the sanctity of traditional marriage.

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