public if they did not fire the coach. The coach, who was not openly gay, resigned as a result of the incident.

State Bureau of Investigation agent Vance Stone testified during the hearing that Bishop lied about the source of the taped conversations, claiming a tape was left on his desk anonymously. The sheriff scoffed at the state's investigation, Stone said, adding that Bishop, when confronted, asked, "Was one queer football coach really worth all this?"

The agreement with local prosecutors does not shield Bishop from federal charges that could be filed against him.

Still sounding defiant after the hearing, Bishop told reporters, "[E] verything I did at the time was pursuant to an investigation and out of my concern for the kids of Mitchell County." The sheriff, who has held his post since 1992, remains confident that he will win re-election next year.

The buck stops here

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is calling it a historic development—on Aug. 28, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the federal government to pay \$420,000 in attorneys'



Keith Meinhold

fees in the case of retired Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold.

According to an SLDN news statement, Meinhold successfully challenged the military ban on gay men and lesbians in 1992 following the Navy's attempt to discharge him for admitting on the ABC news program *Nightline* that he is gay.

He won the right to remain in the service when the 9th Circuit upheld a district court ruling that the military's policy excluding service by gay men and lesbians had no reasonable basis in fact or law. Meinhold then remained in the service until last year, when he became the first openly gay service member to receive a full retirement ceremony.

SLDN staff attorney Kirk Childress said, "This nearly half-million dollars gives just an inkling of the true monetary expense of the government's attempt to prevent gay and lesbian military personnel from serving."

He estimates the government has spent \$63 million on replacing personnel discharged under the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy.

More importantly, he adds, the government has not revealed how many hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent each year on investigations and administrative discharges of those suspected of being gay or lesbian.

HIV eradication possible?

French doctors say they have detected no resurgence of HIV one year after two patients stopped taking a pair of antiviral drugs, according to Agence France-Presse. Doctors representing several research institutions published these findings in the September issue of the *Lancet*.

"There was no viral rebound when antiviral treatment was stopped for one year after one year's treatment," they wrote.

Both patients had been treated with didanosine (ddI) and hydroxycarbamide. The researchers have been studying the two drugs since 1995.

"These observations may have implications for the possibility of eradicating HIV-1...by treat-



ing with a drug combination which includes ddI and hydroxycarbamide in the early stages of infection," they continued.

While the doctors do not consider these results a breakthrough, other researchers agree they are worth further investigation. Jean-Paul Levy of France's National AIDS Research Agency told Agence France-Presse that preliminary results of similar tests on 120 volunteers would be available in a few months.

If PBS won't do it, Showtime will

After unsuccessful wrangling with PBS executives, producers of Armistead Maupin's More Tales of the City, a six-hour sequel to the controversial 1994 miniseries about '70s San Francisco, have found a more congenial home at Showtime cable network. They've also found a cheaper home in Montreal, where all the indoor scenes will be shot using the original sets, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

The first series, *Tales of the City*, won a Peabody Award and earned strong ratings when it aired three years ago on PBS, but the network recently reneged on plans to help finance the sequel with Britain's Channel 4.

PBS explained it wasn't interested in presenting sequels, but industry insiders suspect the net-



Maupin with original cast members

work feared a reprisal of the conservative backlash against the homosexuality, drug use and casual nudity portrayed in the first miniseries.

Olympia Dukakis and Laura Linney will return to their roles as landlady Anna Madrigal and tenant Mary Ann Singleton, respectively, but several other key roles—including those of Michael Tolliver, Mona Ramsey and Brian Hawkins, first played by Marcus D'Amico, Chloe Webb and Paul Gross—have been recast.

More Tales picks up the thread in 1977, when the previous series ended. According to author Maupin, motherhood is a strong theme in the new series, which is being filmed with the same budget—\$8 million—as the original.

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone

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