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## national news

### Cammermeyer considers House run

Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer says she's inclined to run for Congress, the Tacoma-based *Morning News Tribune* reported Oct. 14.

Democrat Cammermeyer, who drew national attention with her successful fight to stay in the Washington National Guard despite the military's policy of discharging gay men and lesbians, says she's mulling a challenge of two-term Republican Rep. Jack Metcalf. The 2nd District spans Western Washington from Everett to the Canadian border.

According to the paper, Cammermeyer says she wouldn't be bothered by encounters with people who oppose her strictly because she is a lesbian.

She says, "Having to fight an adversary is not something that's new—standing up for what you believe in, standing up for human rights and civil rights and rights of children and the elderly and disenfranchised. I think there are so many transferable qualities [to politics]."

Cammermeyer, 55, recently retired from the military and lives with her partner, Diane Divilbess, in a home they built on Whidbey Island. A native of Norway, she has lived in Washington for nearly 30 years and retired as chief nurse of the Guard.

### Post-exposure HIV drugs available in S.F.

In mid-October, San Francisco became the first city in the nation to begin offering the so-called morning-after treatment for people exposed to HIV.

The focus of the study, being conducted at San Francisco General Hospital and the City Clinic, is not to gauge the effectiveness of the controversial treatment, but rather to learn about the risks involved.

For example, will participants stick to the drug regimen, which actually spans several weeks? Will the antiviral medication produce toxic side-effects in otherwise healthy people? Will the availability of this treatment encourage risky sexual and intravenous drug practices?

Dr. Thomas Coates, the study's principal investigator and director of the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, told the *San Francisco Examiner* there are many misconceptions about the study's purpose, which he compared to behavioral research on RU-486, which determined the morning-after abortion pill did not cause people to abandon traditional forms of birth control.

The program was developed by the prevention center and the city public health department. Participation is open to people who think they may have been exposed to HIV within the past 72 hours; they will receive free antiviral treatment for one month, medical follow-up for more than a year and intensive counseling about prevention. Researchers expect to treat as many as 50 patients before the new year, when the study will expand to accommodate 500 people over a three-year period.

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### Justifiable anger or bruised egos?

Two prominent AIDS researchers quit the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine* to protest the publication of an opinion piece that lambasted federally funded AIDS drug

studies in developing countries, the *New York Times* reported Oct. 15.

Drs. David Ho and Catherine M. Wilfert resigned as the journal's chief advisors on AIDS because they were not consulted prior to the printing of an editorial that compared the AIDS studies to the infamous Tuskegee experiment, in which poor African American men with syphilis were left untreated for years.

The editorial criticized studies involving 12,000 HIV-positive pregnant women in several African nations, Thailand and the Dominican Republic that are designed to develop an inexpensive drug regimen to prevent transmission of the virus from mother to child. While the use of AZT during pregnancy has shown promising results in the United States, the drug is generally unavailable in developing countries because of its high cost.

Wilfert, a pediatrician at Duke University, and Ho, a virologist at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, say the Tuskegee comparison is unfair because participants in the AZT studies are told they might be given a placebo, whereas men in the Tuskegee experiment were never made aware that an effective treatment had become available while the study was underway.

Wilfert said the publication should have presented both sides of the issue and called the editorial "a grievous misuse of the journal's power."

### Naming names leads to name-calling

Anger at a biographer who revealed the identity of a secret lesbian lover unleashed a torrent of threats and harsh words from the lips of feminist author Germaine Greer, reports the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

In early October, Greer, 58, called biographer Christine Wallace a "flesh-eating bacterium," a "dung beetle" and a few other choice names, and reportedly threatened to break her kneecaps.

In her famous book *The Female Eunuch*, lauded as groundbreaking when it was published in 1970, Greer described a teenage affair with an unnamed girl that took place during a five-year period in 1950s Australia.

### N.J. court grants joint adoption to gay couple

Paving the way for an important lesbian and gay rights victory, a New Jersey judge on Oct. 22 granted a gay male couple the right to jointly adopt their 2-year-old foster son, ruling the adoption is in the child's best interest.

Judge Sybil R. Moses of the Bergen County Superior Court in Hackensack issued her decision after a hearing in which the American Civil Liberties Union, represented by cooperating attorney Barbara Fox, said the couple have proven they are good parents and that denying the adoption would harm the child.

According to the ACLU, the couple, Jon Holden and Michael Galluccio, filed a court petition to jointly adopt their son, Adam, after being told by state officials they had to go through an expensive and time-consuming two-step process.

In January 1996, Holden and Galluccio agreed to become the foster parents for 3-month-old Adam, who was born HIV-exposed and cocaine-addicted.

The couple then sought to adopt Adam together, but were told by state officials only one parent could adopt him at a time. The second



Dr. David Ho

PHOTO BY PETER MORGAN/REUTERS