



"Darren's Lake" Oil on Masonite

Erotic Male Nudes

Paintings by
Leonard James

Reception:

August 15, 1998 • 6-9pm

Showing

July 29 - August 25, 1998

Open Tues.-Sat. 11-6pm

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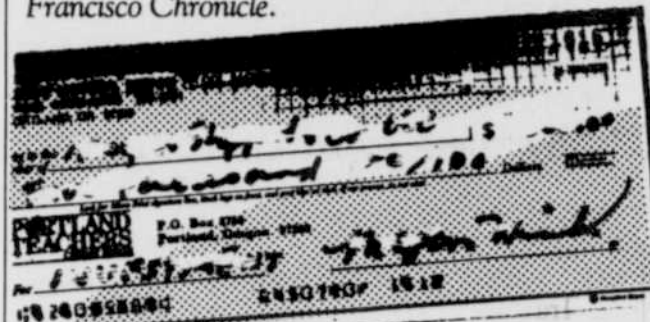


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NATIONAL news

CALIFORNIA

Someone has—thus far—gotten away with siphoning \$28,928.82 from San Francisco's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade organizers' bank account, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



Five bogus checks were forged and made payable to someone the pride committee had never heard of, says committee lawyer Brooke Oliver.

The bank, which was not named in the report, has agreed to reimburse pride officials for the stolen money.

Phillip Feemster's Queer Brewing Co. isn't the first queer-oriented brewing company, but it may be the one with staying power. Three companies have already folded after attempting to market queer-themed beers, but Feemster's pale ale, Q, is off to a great start in San Francisco, reports the July 18 *Fresno Bee*.

Feemster, 39, left his \$165,000-a-year marketing job to enter the beer business and, six months and \$30,000 later, it may be paying off. Sami Bsisso, a market owner who stocks Q, says the beer is his second-best seller, just behind Sierra Nevada.

Feemster is donating 10 percent of all sales to charities, which have so far included Visual Aid, helping artists with AIDS; and the STOP AIDS Project.



Frank Riggs, a Republican congressman representing Windsor, is attempting to block an estimated \$260 million in federal housing money from reaching San Francisco.

On July 16, Riggs told the *San Francisco Examiner* his actions are meant to force San Francisco authorities to re-examine the city's law requiring that companies with city contracts offer domestic partners the same benefits they offer married couples.

While Riggs insists he's not attacking gay rights and that he's not opposed to the city itself offering such benefits, he said requiring businesses to comply was an example of city authorities "trying to force a particular political belief, a doctrine," on others.

Riggs' amendment, should it pass, would become national law, enforceable in the instance of any U.S. city following San Francisco's lead.

COLORADO

Colorado for Family Values, which gained national attention in 1992 by successfully promoting the anti-gay Amendment 2, has recently found a raison d'être in Colorado Springs.

According to the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, Colorado for Family Values maintains that a year-old city resolution sends the wrong message. The resolution, which is nonbinding and unenforceable, simply declares that Colorado Springs opposes discrimination.

According to the Colorado for Family Values newsletter, "The fact the media in Colorado and across the nation were now trumpeting news of a 'gay rights' resolution passed in the home of

Amendment 2, seemed in itself to cry out for clarification."

In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court declared Amendment 2 unconstitutional.

FLORIDA

Nine corrections officers—seven from Fort Myers' Charlotte Correctional Institution and two from Zephyrhills Correctional Institution—were indicted July 10 on federal charges involving the death of an HIV-positive inmate.

According to The Associated Press, the indictment accuses the officers of plotting to "injure, threaten and intimidate" the victim, John Edwards, in retaliation for Edwards biting a guard at the Zephyrhills prison.

The indictment further alleges the guards beat Edwards while he was restrained for three days. Before he died, Edwards was reportedly moved to a psychiatric dorm after a suicide attempt in which he cut his arm; he was chained naked to a metal bed.

An exam showed evidence of a beating, including several cuts and bruises, and indicated Edwards died on Aug. 22, 1997, due to loss of blood as he lay chained.

Each officer faces up to 10 years in prison and fines totaling \$1,750,000.

ILLINOIS

Ken Kopriva has been a very successful drama and honors English teacher at Lake Forest High School for 15 years. And Principal Marilyn Howell tells the *Chicago Sun-Times* she expects nothing will change when Kopriva returns to classes in the fall as a woman.

"He was an outstanding teacher and we expect her to be an outstanding teacher when she returns," Howell says.

Kopriva, who will need to live as a woman for a year before undergoing sex-reassignment surgery, has been carrying out summer duties at Lake Forest as Karen Kopriva.

Kopriva's former student Amanda Witt admits, "It was kind of a shock seeing Karen Kopriva, but once I got over that in about 30 seconds, it was the same teacher I had always known."

MICHIGAN

Detroit's Mayor Dennis Archer has left queer African American groups feeling alienated, reports the *Detroit News*.

The groups, coming together under the umbrella Detroit Black Gay Pride Inc., reportedly hoped to receive a letter of support from Archer, who is African American, for a pride celebration entitled Hotter Than July.



The letter, however, was not to be had.

"The mayor's position is that the theme, Hotter Than July, is inappropriate and suggestive because it brings to mind negative stereotypes that aren't beneficial to the group or the city," said Archer's press secretary, Anthony Neely.

MINNESOTA

Richard Snipstead—a conservative pastor who in 1992 confessed to his congregation he'd been engaging in anonymous sex with other men for two decades and had passed HIV to his wife—died July 16, according to an Associated Press report. The cause of death was not available.