

against a wall and started taking off his pants, saying he was going to rape her.

Bob Chenoweth, attorney for the Spencer County schools, said school officials did what they could to stop the harassment. In his closing remarks at the trial, Chenoweth said the offending students were "talked to."

"But there is no guarantee that once students are told to stop doing something, that they will stop," he said.

McGowan's attorney, Oliver Barber, claimed that those who taunted and harassed McGowan were never punished.

"There was nothing done to any of these kids anywhere at any time. It is outrageous," he said. "It is deliberate indifference. Either that, or they are so totally incompetent that they shouldn't be running a school system."

Spencer County school officials say they are considering an appeal.

**NATIONAL**

Primary election voters were very good to the Victory Fund and its candidates this year. A Sept. 9 Victory Fund press release touts the wins of all three Victory Fund candidates who faced elections in Sept. 8 primaries.



Tammy Baldwin, for example, proved victorious in a hard fought four-way battle for the Democratic nomination for Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District seat. If Baldwin beats her Republican opponent in the November general election, she will be the first person elected to Congress who came out before going to Washington. (Well-known gay members of Congress, like Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank, did not reveal their sexual orientation until after taking their seats in the House of Representatives.)

In the race to fill Baldwin's seat in the Wisconsin Assembly, Mark Pocan, a gay man, won the Democratic primary. In Arizona, Republican Steve May, who also is gay, came out on top of seven opponents seeking two seats in the state House. Pocan's district is a very Democratic district, and May is running in an overwhelmingly Republican district, so both are in excellent positions to win in the general election November 3.

Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District, meanwhile, has a slight Democratic edge, giving Baldwin an apparent advantage over her Republican opponent.

Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund, is optimistic but cautious.

"We're on the brink of making history," he says, "but never underestimate the power of bigotry.... If fair-minded voters stay home on Election Night, we could lose everything we've worked so hard to achieve."

Women beware! Nonoxynol 9, long touted as a weapon against sexually transmitted diseases, failed to protect women from infection in a study of 1,292 sex workers in Cameroon, reports an Aug. 19 United Press International story. The study appeared in the August issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.



According to researchers, led by epidemiologist Ronald E. Roddy, "Nonoxynol 9 film did not give the women in this study any additional protection against infection with HIV, gonorrhea, or chlamydia beyond that provided by condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases."

N-9, which has been used for nearly 40 years, is available in gels, creams, suppositories and films. The film product was used in this study. Researchers do not know why the N-9 film failed to protect the women.

Researcher Nash Herndon says, "The good news is we didn't see N-9 hurting people. What concerned us is we did not see it helping people."

**TEXAS**

Whoever wins election to the Texas House of Representatives from District 51 will be a gay man, reports the Sept. 6 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*.

That's right, both candidates—Democratic incumbent Rep. Glen Maxey and his Republican opponent Fred Ebner—are gay.

Not surprisingly, this type of electoral match-up is a first in Texas. Although Maxey has been assailed in past elections for his sexual orientation, the subject is rather a moot point this time around.

**WASHINGTON**

Congressional candidate Grethe Cammermeyer won the Sept. 15 Democratic primary for Washington's 2nd District seat by a margin of more than 2 to 1.

A retired Army colonel who served as chief nurse of the state National Guard, Cammermeyer will face Republican incumbent Jack Metcalf in the swing district during the Nov. 3 general election.

Cammermeyer earned a Bronze Star in Vietnam, but was discharged in 1992 after disclosing her sexual orientation in a 1989 interview for a top-secret security clearance. A federal judge later ordered her reinstated and the government did not appeal.

■ Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

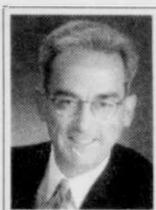
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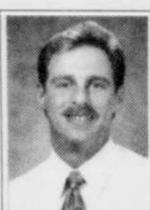
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