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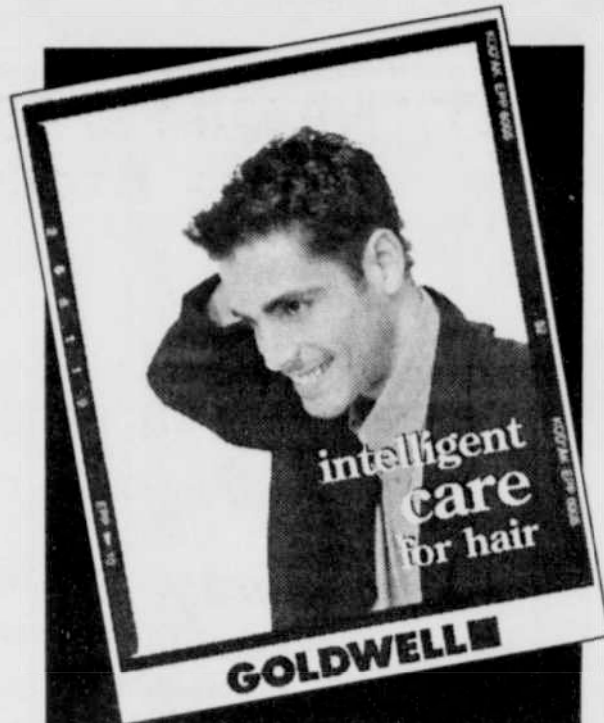


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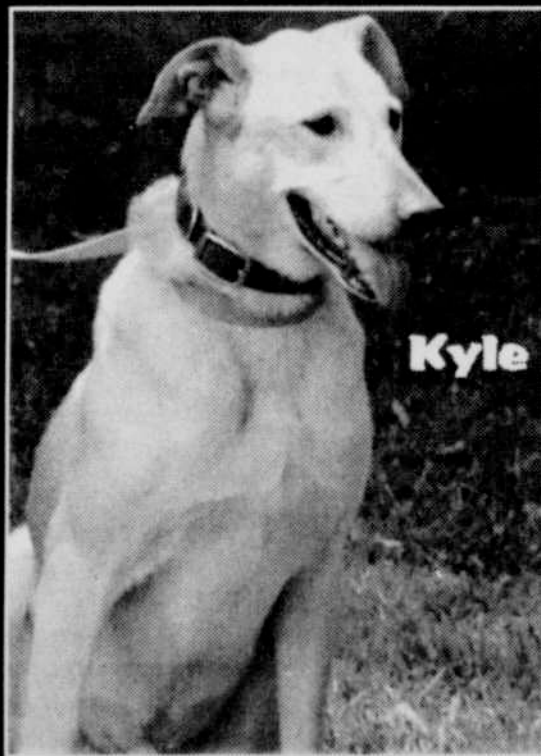
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## Pet of the Week



**Kyle**

This is Kyle, a 5-year-old neutered male. He is a greyhound/Labrador mix. Kyle has been at the shelter since March. He needs a home. Kyle is a friendly, well-behaved dog.

This ad courtesy of **justout**

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## NATIONAL news

### ALABAMA

Two men facing capital murder charges in the beating and burning death of a gay man entered innocent pleas last month.

Charles Monroe Butler Jr., 21, pleaded innocent by reason of mental defect or disease, and Steven Eric Mullins, 25, pleaded innocent, The Associated Press reported May 20.

According to authorities, the two men have confessed to beating 39-year-old Billy Jack Gaither to death with an ax handle last February and then throwing his body atop a pyre of burning, kerosene-soaked tires. Mullins and Butler claim the attack occurred because Gaither made a pass at one of them.

All three men lived in or near Sylacauga, a town approximately 45 miles outside Birmingham.

Gaither's family has expressed the desire to have both men sentenced to the death penalty.

### CALIFORNIA

Jackie Goldberg, a two-term Los Angeles councilwoman who is a lesbian, has decided to run next year for the state Assembly seat currently held by Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, reports a May 14 Los Angeles Times story.

Term limits require that the two Democrats give up their current political offices.

Goldberg is a teacher by training. She began her political career as a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District's board. In 1993, she joined the Los Angeles City Council as the first openly gay or lesbian member.

Goldberg said she decided to run for the Legislature because she views it as an opportunity to continue her work on such issues as education, the living wage, health care, job training and economic development.



For same-sex couples who want to be parents and want both parents legally recognized, some new legal precedence is being set in California.

A lesbian couple recently gave birth to a baby boy. Because of a prebirth legal decree issued by San Francisco family law judge Donna Hitchens, both women were automatically recognized as the baby's legal parents, reports a May 1 story in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

The ruling is based on the women's intent to create a child together. The recognition of intent is part of a legal trend that started with surrogate births. It is now beginning to be applied to same-sex parents.

The prebirth decree eliminates the long, costly and uncertain practice of second-parent adoption. Although Florida is the only state that explicitly outlaws same-sex adoptions, courts in only 20 states have allowed them.

Prebirth rulings, while still rare, have been used to confer parenthood on both gay fathers and lesbian mothers. Intent is the critical element in these cases.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights, headquartered in San Francisco, is working with an alliance of attorneys to develop and test new legal strategies to help lesbian and gay parents.

It would "be our goal to have intention become a very significant factor in determining if someone is a parent," says Kate Kendell, executive director of NCLR.

Under a bill that has passed the California Senate, unmarried couples who live

together would get some of the rights married couples have.

A May 26 Associated Press report indicates the bill, sent to the Assembly by a 23-14 vote on May 25, would allow couples to register with the state as domestic partners. That would give them the right to visit their partner in the hospital, will their property to each other and act as their partner's conservator if he or she were incapacitated.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Kevin Murray, says it "has nothing to do with physical relationships." The measure's biggest supporters are senior citizen groups, the Los Angeles Democrat told the AP.

There are about 500,000 unmarried couples in California and 93 percent are heterosexual, according to a Senate analysis of Murray's bill. The group includes about 35,000 senior citizen couples who would lose pension benefits if they married.

### COLORADO

Several hundred gay men are expected to converge on Boulder from July 29 to Aug. 1 for the Gay Men's Health Summit to launch a multi-issue, multicultural gay men's health movement.

The summit aims to broaden gay men's health efforts beyond its recent focus on HIV prevention to include a wide array of health issues that gay men encounter.

"We are determined to transform health promotion for gay men from HIV prevention to a broader focus on wellness, community building, and multi-issue health advocacy," says Eric Rofes, longtime community organizer and the summit's coordinator.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute will host a forum examining how activists can incorporate health concerns into advocacy at the local and national levels, and how a policy agenda may be moved forward.

A series of sessions will focus on gay men in their teens and 20s and explore the generation's relationship to sexual health and HIV, interactions with older generations, and relationship to gay identity and community.

A plenary session will explore the relationship between masculinity and health in various gay male communities.

Those seeking to register or make housing reservations should download materials from the Boulder County AIDS Project Internet site, [www.bcap.org](http://www.bcap.org), or contact Mark Beyer or Matt Brown at (303) 444-6121 or via e-mail at [summit@bcap.org](mailto:summit@bcap.org).

### NATIONAL

A test long used to detect cervical cancer in women may prove to be effective in the early detection of anal cancer in HIV-positive gay and bisexual men.

The research results appear in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The test in question is the Pap smear, which is used to find evidence of the human papillomavirus, a sexually transmitted disease that can cause precancerous lesions on the surface of the cervix and the anus.

The research reported in JAMA concen-

