

Good News *Continued from Page 27*

powder. U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., announced in August that he would not seek re-election, and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, he of "Barney Fag" fame, did the same in December.

Pat Robertson's resignation from the Christian Coalition came in December between those two political bookends. Both he and Jerry Falwell had earned the antipathy of most people in the United States when they tried to blame the terrorist attacks on gays and liberals.

Maryland became the 12th state to pass a gay civil rights bill in May. Members of the religious right wing began a petition effort to send it to a voter referendum, but gay rights advocates found they violated the legal process in gathering those signatures, and the law took effect in November. About 40 percent of U.S. citizens now are covered by similar state or local ordinances.

Texas passed a hate crimes act. California passed domestic partner legislation conferring many of the benefits of marriage to same-sex partners. Vermont's experiment with gay civil unions continues to be carried out as people adjust to that new reality.

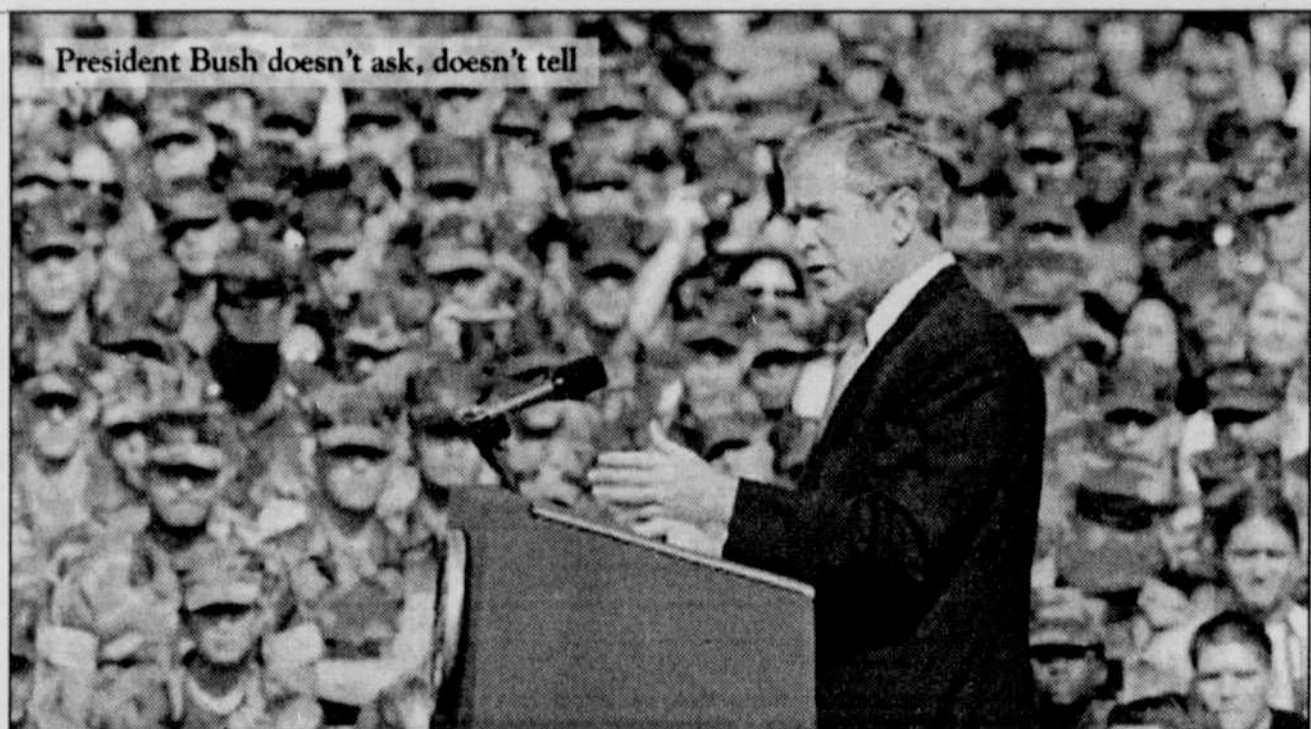


Cathy Woolard became the first openly gay person elected Atlanta City Council president in November

Three anti-gay ballot measures in Michigan went down to defeat in November, while one barely passed in Houston, and two pro-gay measures breezed through in Miami Beach, Fla. Another anti-gay petition failed to qualify in Miami, and some of the leaders of that effort are being investigated for violation of election regulations.

Republican candidates for major office whose campaigns were tainted by anti-gay activities were routed in off-year elections in Virginia and New Jersey, putting another nail in the coffin of that failed tactic. The poor showing contributed to the departure of Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore from the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee after only a year in that position. His successor is former Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, who had a record of inclusiveness on gay issues.

The number of gay and lesbian elected officials continues to grow incrementally. Atlanta Democrat Cathy Woolard pulled in 55 percent of the vote to defeat the son of local legend Julian Bond and become the first woman and the first openly gay person elected City Council president. In New York City, re-elected Councilor Phil Reed is maneuvering to be chosen by his peers in January as speaker of that body. □



President Bush doesn't ask, doesn't tell

Say What? *Continued from Page 27*

to picking people to fill an administration."

—President Bush to the *New York Times*, Jan. 14.

"The president believes every person should be treated with dignity and respect, but he does not believe in politicizing people's sexual orientation."

—Spokesman Scott McClellan, explaining President Bush's refusal to proclaim Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, June 2.

"In all honesty, I think all gay issues are just going to be shelved for the duration of the Bush administration."

—Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, to the *Miami Herald*, Jan. 21.

"I have no muzzle on. If people don't see me as frequently as they did my predecessor, that means that we need to do a better job on the publicity side. But the fact is that no one is telling me what to say or where to go or what to do."

—AIDS czar Scott Evertz, to the Wisconsin gay newspaper *In Step*, Sept. 20.



Scott Evertz, token fag

"Evertz is a throwaway. He's low-level....I doubt Bush has met him more than once. There's no sign he has any influence about anything."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., in a Nov. 9 interview with Wockner News Service.

"Unfortunately, [the *Dr. Laura* talk show] never even had a chance for the audience to decide...because the advertisers were intimidated and threat-

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