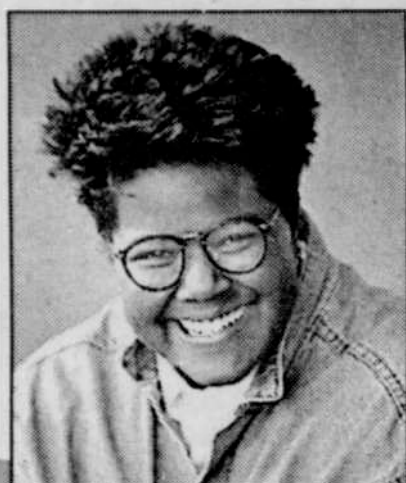


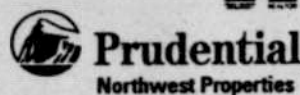
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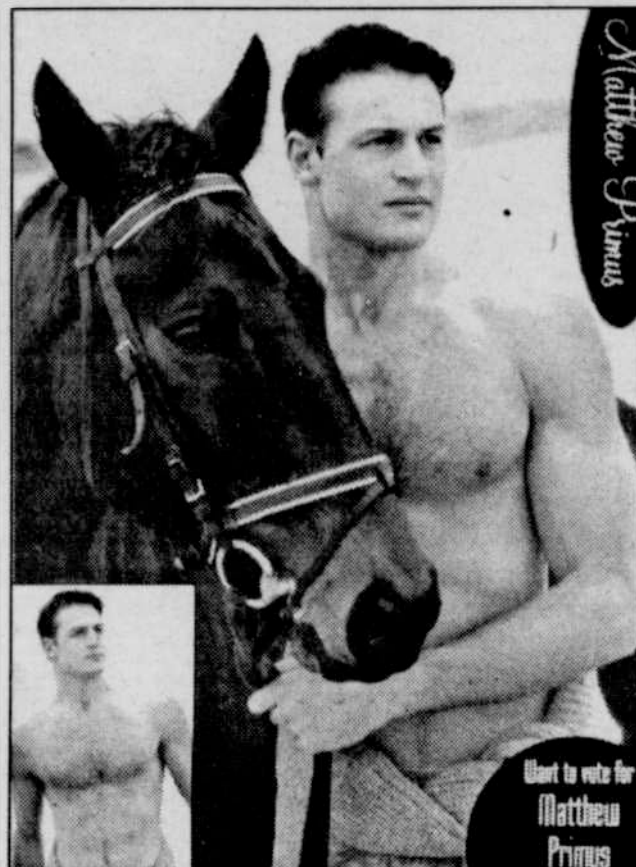
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WORLD news



Gay fans are getting a kick out of Australian Football League hunk Matthew Primus

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Football League is upset about a Web site for gay fans that posted allegedly doctored nude and seminude photos of some players, the *Herald Sun* reported July 17. One victim, Port Adelaide team captain Matthew Primus, insisted a full-frontal shot is not actually him.

"We are quite shocked that this can happen," said his manager, Scott Christainsen. "I'll certainly be talking to our legal representatives."

The site also shows Justin Murphy, when he played for the Geelong team, in a compromising position with fake genitals superimposed, the *Herald Sun* said. It features numerous photos of other AFL players.

A report in the *Australian* said a second group of players is upset that shirtless photos of them appear on the site. Most of the pictures appear to be from swimming sessions or were lifted from AFL beefcake calendars, according to the newspaper.

The Australian Defense Force acknowledged July 19 that it has discharged eight soldiers since 1995 for testing HIV-positive, the *Herald Sun* reported. The Full Court of the Federal Court approved such dismissals in 1998, saying their blood can be dangerous to others.

Military applicants who test positive automatically are rejected, a spokeswoman told the newspaper. People already serving only are tested if they seem to be at risk for HIV or show signs of AIDS, when they donate blood, when they return from deployment in high-risk areas or when they are going to a country where immigration laws require testing.

However, all pilots are automatically tested yearly, the *Herald Sun* report said.

VIETNAM

A 19-year-old man in Vietnam who discovered that the girl he had been flirting with online was really a 14-year-old boy killed the youth July 14. Tran Quoc Dung was arrested for stabbing Nguyen Bui Linh outside an Internet cafe in Vinh City in the Nghe An province, Agence France-Presse said.

GERMANY

The Constitutional Court upheld July 17 the nation's gay partnership law, which had been challenged by three conservative states. About 4,500 couples have gotten hitched since the statute took effect Aug. 1, 2001.

Bavaria, Saxony and Thuringia claimed the law makes gay partnerships equal to marriage in violation of the constitution, which grants special protection to marriage. But, in a 5-3 decision, the

justices said that because the privileges granted by the partnership statute are not identical to those of marriage, it does not contravene the constitution.

The law grants registered gay couples marriage rights and obligations in areas such as inheritance, health insurance, immigration, name changes and alimony. It withholds privileges including adoption, taxation, pensions and social welfare benefits.

ISRAEL

The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews staged its biennial conference July 10 to 14 in Tel Aviv, but only 65 delegates showed up. The turnout was "better than we expected" given the city's increased terrorist activity, president Scott Gansl told the *Ha'aretz* daily newspaper.

SERBIA

The Serbian gay magazine *Boyfriend* continues to be stonewalled in its quest for government registration. The foot-dragging persists despite a Supreme Court lawsuit on the matter filed by the Yugoslav Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights.

"On July 4, 2002, [the committee] found out that after seven months the suit is still in the reception department," spokesman Zarko Petrovic said. "That is long even for the slow Serbian judiciary. [The committee] will submit a complaint to the president of the Supreme Court."

Boyfriend needs the registration document to avoid being double-taxed on sales of the magazine, among other reasons.

RUSSIA

The St. Petersburg gay group Association HS has produced the city's first gay map. "We believe that such edition will not only help structuring and delivering information about gay venues but will also assist the gay community of the city with its unification, will be its 'coming out' and 'equality demand' and will help us all in growing tolerance in the Russian society," editors stated.

SRI LANKA

Government censors have ordered filmmaker Ashoka Handagama to delete scenes from his new movie if he wants it to be screened in Sri Lanka.

Flying with One Wing is based on the true story of a trans person who was jailed without charges last year when the parents of his female partner discovered he was not biologically male. Handagama has refused to alter the film and says he will pursue the matter in court.



Ashoka Handagama

IRELAND

Aidan Gillen, who played advertising executive Stuart in the British *Queer as Folk*, appeared July 18 in Dublin court on charges of refusing to pay a taxi fare, being drunk and abusive, and declining to give police his name.

Documents do not speculate on the reason for the actor's alleged behavior. He was remanded on bail to reappear Sept. 12 at Dublin District Court.

THE NETHERLANDS

The body of Pim Fortuyn was laid to rest July 21 in a huge white marble tomb near his summer home in Provesano di San Giorgio, Italy. The Dutch gay politician, who headed an upstart populist party and might have become prime minister, wanted to be buried there.

He was shot to death May 6, allegedly by a left-wing activist who might have been upset at Fortuyn's support for raising animals such as mink for their fur. The suspect has made no statements to police.