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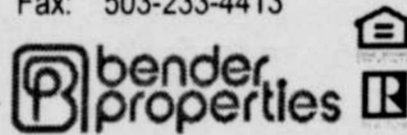
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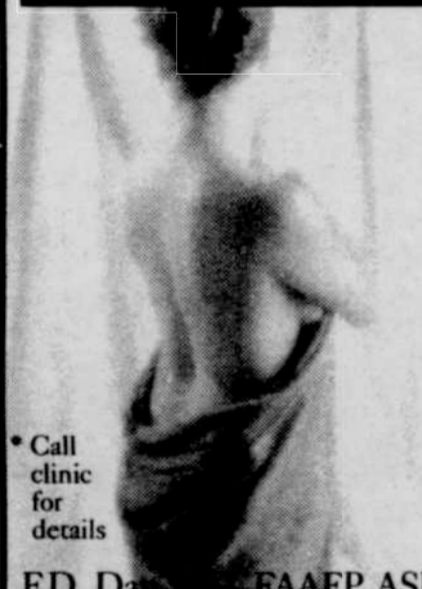
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NATIONAL news

CALIFORNIA

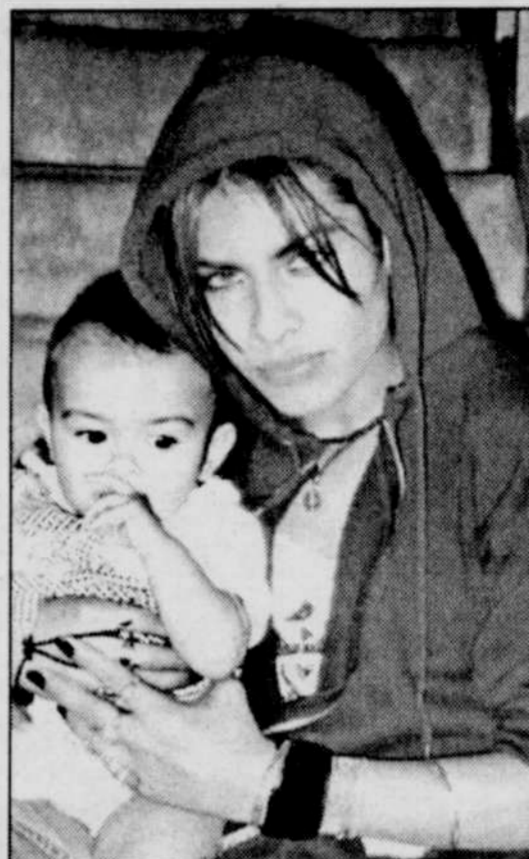
Police have arrested four young men in connection with the murder of a 17-year-old trans student.

Gwen Araujo had been missing since Oct. 3, reportedly after getting attacked during a party at the home of two of the suspects when it was revealed that she was trans. The Associated Press reports that she was found Oct. 16 in a shallow grave near a campground in Placerville, 150 miles northeast of Newark. Authorities have yet to determine the motive for the murder but are seriously considering the possibility of this being a hate crime.

Ironically, the news comes just weeks before Newark Memorial High School will present *The Laramie Project*, a critically acclaimed play examining how hate crimes affect a community. It is based on the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Wyoming.

"Acts of violence are all too common against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth—even in the liberal Bay Area," said Tina D'Elia, Community United Against Violence hate violence director. "Gwen Araujo was a brave transgender youth, simply trying to be herself. There is so much education we must do, or we'll continue to see attacks like this occurring."

News coverage of the incident also has sparked reactions regarding the terminology describing Araujo. Many of the ongoing issues regarding pronouns, as well as language that



Gwen Araujo holds her niece in this family photo

dress I can find. With make-up. His tombstone will say 'Gwen.'"

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston City Council passed a bill Oct. 23 banning discrimination based on gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The margin of victory was lopsided. Nine council members favored the bill, one opposed it, another councilor abstained, and one was not in the room at the time of the vote.

"Boston has affirmed its commitment to ending all forms of discrimination," said Cole Thaler of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. "We've helped Boston become safe for all varieties of gender identity and expression."

A total of 55 other local jurisdictions prohibit bias on the basis of gender identity or expression. Nine of those ordinances passed this year: Salem; Tacoma, Wash.; Philadelphia, Allentown and Erie County, Pa.; Buffalo and New York, N.Y.; Decatur, Ill.; and Dallas.

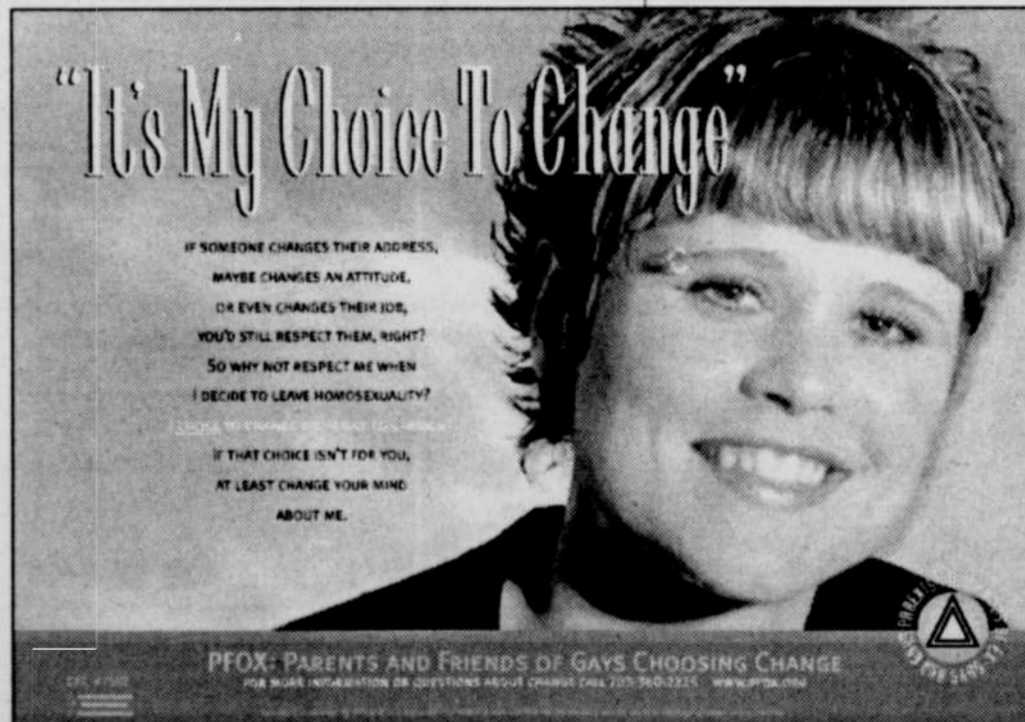
Two states—Minnesota and Rhode Island—have statutory prohibitions on gender identity discrimination in employment. Another four—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York—prohibit gender identity discrimination in employment through judicial rulings or administrative orders.

VIRGINIA

Demonstrators will picket Focus on the Family's traveling road show promoting "ex-gay" ministries Nov. 2 at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield.

The last time seminar leader John Paulk was in Washington, D.C., he was photographed in Mr. P's, a gay bar. Protesters also will demonstrate against ads placed in subway stations by Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays.

A group calling itself the John Paulk Welcoming Committee said the ministries are "moral-



ly, spiritually and scientifically bankrupt.... The anti-gay conference defames gay people, misrepresents gay life and promotes cruel, untrue stereotypes."

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Stonewall Democrats made history last month by playing host to Gov. Jeanne Shaheen, a U.S. Senate candidate.

She met with gay and lesbian Granite Staters for a discussion on civil rights and the fall election during a campaign event Oct. 12 at the home of gay former state Sen. Rick Trombly in Bosawen. Although she previously has played host to gay citizens at state functions, this marked the first time in New Hampshire history that a sitting governor has attended a queer event.

Shaheen has a long history of support for the sexual minorities community. As governor, she

ostensibly "blames the victim," have been used by a number of media outlets.

"Even though these kinds of crimes continue to occur and gain attention from the media, the terminology is still often inaccurate," said Cathy Renna, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation news media director. "A person's sexual orientation and gender identity are distinct, and we will continue to monitor the coverage to ensure that accurate terminology is used."

Michael Magidson, 22; Jose Merel, 22; and Jaron Nabors, 19, have been arrested and charged with murder by "special circumstance," which can carry the death penalty under California law. A fourth suspect, Merel's brother Paul, 25, was released without being charged, according to *USA Today*.

Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, said of her child: "I'm going to bury him in the prettiest