

NATIONAL news

He led the Colorado Stonewall Democrats and, through fierce grassroots campaigning, was elected secretary of the Denver Democratic Party in 2001.

The election will be held May 6. If no candidate garners a majority of the vote, a runoff election will be held June 3.

OHIO

John Farina is making a second run for the 4th Ward Lakewood City Council seat—this time against a vulnerable incumbent.

In 1999 he was 104 votes away from winning the seat. Now he is armed with valuable campaign experience and name recognition.

Ohio has just four gay elected officials. Farina would be the first in the northeastern part of the state.

Farina has been involved in numerous queer causes in the Cleveland area, including an effort to pass domestic partnership benefits in Lakewood. Additionally, he has led the fight to make the Ohio Republican Party more inclusive of gay men and lesbians. Professionally, he is the public policy director for the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland and has worked to increase state funding to fight the epidemic.

The primary is Sept. 30, and the general election is Nov. 4.

GEORGIA

2004 presidential candidate U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., will be the keynote speaker of the 16th annual Atlanta Human Rights Campaign Dinner and Silent Auction on May 10. The theme for this year's fund-raiser is "Building Our Future."

"We are honored by Sen. John Edwards' acceptance to speak at this year's dinner," event co-chairwoman LeeAnn Jones said. "As a U.S. senator, John Edwards has demonstrated his support of issues that impact the lives of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered Americans as reflected by his 100 percent rating on the HRC scorecard for the 107th Congress."



Shock jock Michael Savage visits what he calls the "Wax Museum of Hollywood Idiots" (also known as Madame Tussaud's in Las Vegas)

NATIONAL

On his radio program Feb. 27, talk show host Michael Savage threatened to shut down the organizations that are asking MSNBC to reconsider its decision to give him a television series beginning in mid-March.

He noted that in today's political climate, he would invoke the power of the federal government to shut down groups that took issue with his homophobic, racist and sexist attacks. He also claimed that in order to secure the votes of his audience in the next election, President Bush would need to do him a "favor" and order an investigation of his critics.

In one of his diatribes Savage said: "You think I'm Dr. Laura? You think I'm gonna roll over like a pussy? You're wrong.... If you continue this, we're going to go after your funding sources. And we will do everything we can with-

in the legal realm to cut off that funding! We are also going to go to the U.S. Justice Department under John Ashcroft! What you are doing is illegal! You think it's 1965 and I'm South Africa?"

Later in the program Savage said: "I have millions of people who vote. Mr. Bush wants to get re-elected, and just consider me a politician at that point. I'm going to ask for a trade in favor. If they keep it up, my favor is going to be I want these groups investigated."

MSNBC's decision to give Savage his own talk show coincided with its abrupt firing of Phil Donahue, one of the few hosts who fairly and responsibly covered gay issues, and hiring of former House Minority Leader Dick Armey, who consistently opposed equal rights for queers while in office. He also caused a media firestorm in 1995 when he called gay U.S. Sen. Barney Frank, D-Mass., "Barney Fag" at a radio press conference.

"These programming changes by MSNBC call into question their commitment to journalistic integrity—are they willing to give blatant bigotry a national platform in a desperate bid to improve ratings?" said Cathy Renna, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation news media director. "We are shocked by their lack of understanding and their apparent willingness to bottom feed in an attempt to improve their bottom line."

The current issue of *International Security*, a prestigious military journal compiled by Harvard University, has published an analysis of the privacy rationale, the argument that lifting the gay ban would undermine heterosexual privacy in military barracks and showers. According to the study, lifting the gay ban would not undermine heterosexual privacy for several reasons, including a new barracks construction program providing almost every member of the military with private bedrooms and facilities.

The president of Gay-Lesbian Service Members for Equality, a group of about 15 active queer soldiers, told researchers that when folks "join the military, we make a personal decision to deny ourselves the privacy that, say, a college student might reasonably expect. All members of the GLSME are known by at least some of their heterosexual peers to be gay or lesbian. We have developed enough of a bond to trust each other with our lives. And given these bonds, changing, showering and sharing personal space is simply not a problem."

CALIFORNIA

Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego, introduced legislation Feb. 24 to establish the California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veterans' Memorial.

"I am privileged to author this historic legislation," she said. "Countless lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender veterans have given their lives to protect and serve the United States and the freedoms we all enjoy. It is important that we honor their sacrifices and contributions."

Assembly Bill 1520, which is eligible for consideration in late March, would create a commission that would be given the authority for the design, construction, dedication and location selection of the memorial. It would be composed of appointees of the governor and the Legislature who would serve without pay.

Funding for the memorial would come entirely from private contributions. The commission also would be authorized under this bill to designate an existing memorial as California's LGBT Veterans' Memorial. □

Compiled by News Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.

Do you Advertise?

Custom Designer Ads
and Photography by
Control Factor Studios

(503) 251-8844

Refinance Now!

Lowest refinance rates in years!

First time buyers
0 and low down payment options
Call me for a free consultation

Russell Leggroan • 503-249-0843 • northstarmortgage@qwest.net
Northstar Mortgage • 4320 NE Halsey, Suite 123

Branches

An Uncommon Card, Gift, & Paper Store

Mon-Fri 11am-7pm / Sat 11am-5pm

503-235-7124

6656 SE Milwaukie Ave. • Portland, OR • 97202

Bring in this ad & choose a free card up to \$25 value.

Everybody's Garden Center

Pond Supplies
Grow Lights
Seed Starting Kits
Organic Nutrients

519 SE MAIN

Portland, OR
(503) 231-1582

www.hydroponicsgarden.com

When an ordinary Realtor simply won't do...

Portland's Alternative Realtors
www.climbatree.com

3144 SE Belmont
Portland, OR 97214
office: 503-238-7617