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background as I was (finally) giving birth to my oldest daughter. She's a budding young fag hag who I'm always having to remind to leave the budding young gay boys in her classes alone so they can come out in their own time. Again, there are no accidents in the universe.

Has anyone else noticed?

SHERRIE TAHA  
Portland

## Equality, eh?

TO THE EDITOR:

After the very public threats to us Canadians over our position on Iraq and our recent decision to relax pot-laws, I'm very curious to see what new threats will be hurled at us over our bold decision to legalize gay marriage. It will be equally as interesting to see what discriminatory laws the U.S. feds will have to put in place to invalidate Canada's marriage laws and the impact it will have on the United States.

I am very proud that our government has the guts to not leave this issue for the Supreme Court but to tackle it head on and push it through, regardless of veiled threats from conservatives. This decision shows that Canada has a true commitment to its constitution, which says all Canadians are equal under the law.

Oh, Canada. We stand on guard for thee.

COLIN BROWNLEE  
Vancouver, British Columbia

## Spitzer was never a hero

TO THE EDITOR:

Ex-gay evangelist Mike Haley, in his June 20 *Just Out* interview, misleadingly stated that Robert L. Spitzer "was the hero of the gay community in 1973 for fighting to get homosexuality removed from the official list of mental disorders ["Gay or Nay?"]. In fact, Spitzer successfully argued, in a 1973 *American Journal of Psychiatry* paper, to retain a mental illness category for homosexuals who were upset and wanted to change.

Spitzer still supports some ex-gay treatments. He did not change his mind. He was never a "hero" to gays.

Today, charlatan therapists are still using Spitzer's loophole to bill medical insurance for ex-gay treatments. Unfortunately, many insurance providers have cited these types of sham treatments to justify not covering genuine mental illnesses.

Spitzer's reply to *Just Out* was also misleading. While I appreciate his public compassion for homosexuals and his support for gay civil rights, it does not excuse him for providing help to anti-gay organizations.

Spitzer's feeble excuse is that the media are oversensationalizing his work. But Spitzer has decades of experience with getting his press releases widely published. Yet, his press releases are consistently being used against gays. Either way, he is responsible for this happening.

My essay "Psychiatry, Pedophilia and Voodoo" ([www.gaytoday.com/penpoints/061603pp.asp](http://www.gaytoday.com/penpoints/061603pp.asp)) describes how Spitzer's latest press release is being used against gays. Predictably, many radio and television stations have used it to equate pedophilia with homosexuality. It also conveniently supported the scare tactic of anti-gay U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum that legalizing homosexual sodomy will cause pedophilia to become legal.

THOMAS KRAEMER  
Corvallis

## transitions

### Silas McGowen, 1953-2003

Silas Leon McGowen, also known as Imperial Sovereign Rose Court Prince XXVIII Silas Battenberg, died June 6 in Portland. He was 50.

Slightly more than a year ago, McGowen got a new lease on life with a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, with his immune system shut down by the anti-rejection drugs, he contracted an aggressive lung cancer that was advanced and fast moving, leaving no opportunity for treatment.

He was crowned during investitures in December and had just completed Spring Ball with Princess XXXIII Miss Ariel View when the disease was diagnosed. He was able to complete his life journey at home surrounded by those he loved.

McGowen was born Jan. 17, 1953, in Fitzgerald, Ga. He lived for many years in Chicago, Miami and Atlanta before moving in 1998 to Portland, where he worked as financial controller at the Convention Center Holiday Inn.

He was lauded for his landscaping and gardening skills as well as his abilities in the kitchen. Friends say his creativity, energy and passion were boundless, especially when centering around a just and noble cause.

McGowen also was involved in the leather community both locally and nationally. He was a member of the Chicago Hellfire Club, a founding member of Atlanta SM Solidarity and national treasurer for the leather contingent at the second March on Washington.

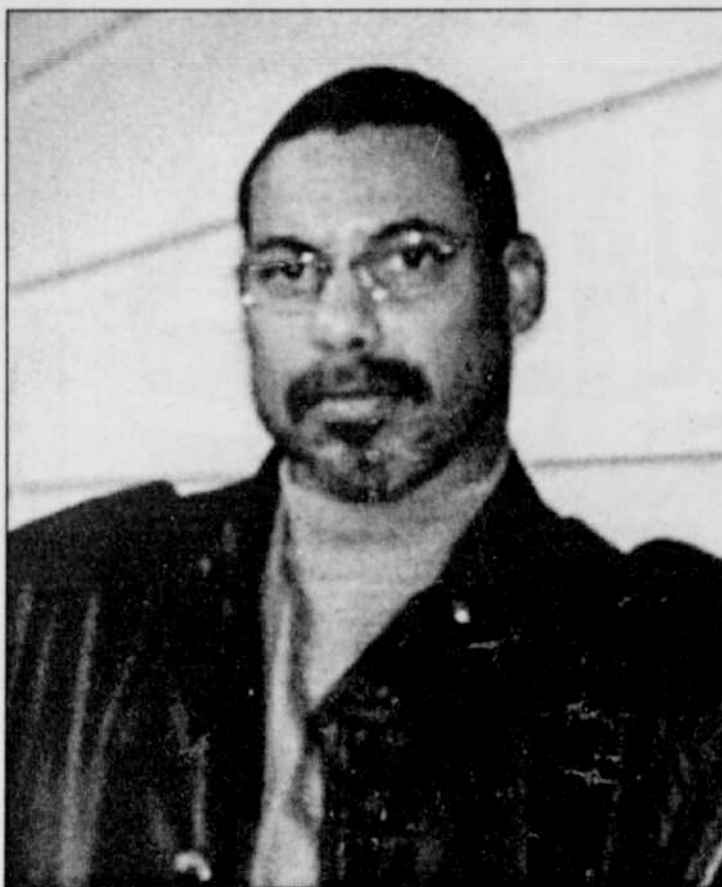


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

He is survived by his partner, Scott Philips; best friends, Frank, Curtis, Joe and Gary; and four sisters, two in Atlanta and two in Florida.

A celebration of life will be held 2 p.m. Aug. 10 at 8229 S.W. 42nd Ave. Mourners are invited to join court and community members as they remember the joy that McGowen brought as well as his support for the Devotion of the Rose and Emperor XXIX Josef A. Foxx.

Remembrances may be made to the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation, P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228-5696.

## notables



David S. McCarthy (left) and Russell J. Eckman are proud to announce that, after seven years together, they celebrated their commitment in a private ceremony June 21 at Persimmon Country Club. They would like to

thank the Portland community for its support and friendship, and they hope all their friends understand the financial and space constraints that kept the ceremony smaller than they would have liked.

## Injured? ...Call me



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