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NATIONAL news

'I AM A GAY AMERICAN'

**New Jersey governor comes out, confesses affair
and announces resignation** by Bob Roehr

Democratic New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey stepped before the cameras of the hastily called news conference on the afternoon of Aug. 12 to announce, "I am a gay American."

He also acknowledged that he had an adulterous affair with another man; briefly alluded to "circumstances surrounding the affair and its likely impact upon my family and my ability to govern"; and said he would step down as governor—but not quite yet.

It was a scenario that would make even the daily soap operas blush. Other details seeped out during the ensuing days, particularly from the governor's side, which was better staffed and prepared to spin the initial story.

The state's leading newspaper, *The Star-Ledger*, noted in an editorial Aug. 13 that McGreevey spoke "not the truth, but 'my truth.'" In doing so, "He was dishonest with himself and those closest to him. And he was dishonest with New Jersey."

Further details likely will emerge during the coming weeks, but here is where things stand now.

In retrospect, McGreevey, just 47, showed all the signs of the best little boy in the world, recognizing in his youth that he was gay but suppressing that for social and political reasons and overcompensating in other areas of his life. He was raised in a conservative middle-class family, devoutly Catholic and an altar boy, and went on to study at three prestigious institutions: undergrad at Columbia, a master's degree in education from Harvard and a law degree from Georgetown.

He started as a state prosecutor in New Jersey, then was elected to the Legislature and as mayor of Woodbridge. He lost his first bid for governor in 1997 but came back to win the second time around in 2001.

McGreevey married in 1991 and had a daughter, but that ended four years later in divorce. He married again in 2000 on the eve of his successful campaign for governor, and they have a young daughter.

Golan Cipel

The "other man," who McGreevey did not identify in his public statements, is Golan Cipel. Members of the governor's staff have since confirmed that fact. Rumors of the affair had circulated for years in New Jersey.



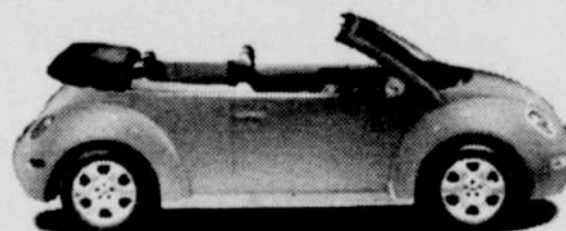
Rumors about New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's extramarital affair had circulated for years

Then Mayor McGreevey met Cipel on a junket to Israel in 1999. *The Los Angeles Times* described Cipel at the time as "a slender, boyish man just over 30." Recent photos indicate he has put on weight.

Six months later, after McGreevey again visited Israel, the younger man moved to a New Jersey apartment just a block from the mayor's residence. McGreevey even visited the place before the lease was signed.

He also arranged a \$10,000 job for Cipel as outreach coordinator to the Jewish community for the Democratic State Committee and lined up a \$30,000-a-year marketing job with Charles Kushner, a top contributor to his campaigns. Kushner is under indictment for hiring a prostitute to try to blackmail a witness in a federal fraud investigation.

The plot thickened when McGreevey was sworn in as governor in January 2002. He created a homeland security adviser position and named Cipel to fill it. The salary was \$80,000, increased six weeks later to \$110,000, the fifth



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