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**NATIONAL news**

**NATIONAL**

Although the overwhelming sense Nov. 3 was despair, there were a few bright spots around the country where gay and lesbian candidates scored local victories, thanks in part to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Portland's own Sam Adams was elected to the City Council, Lupe Valdez was elected sheriff of Dallas County, Julia Boseman was elected county commissioner from North Carolina, Art Feltman was elected state assemblyman from Connecticut, and Nicole LeFavour was elected to the House of Representatives in Idaho.

A total of 41 of the 65 candidates endorsed by the Victory Fund won their contests. The fund is a national political organization that identifies, trains and supports open lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates and officials. For more information and a complete list of endorsed candidates, go to [www.victoryfund.org](http://www.victoryfund.org).



**Nicole LeFavour, out lesbian, elected to House of Representatives in Idaho**

movement for liberation. We believe in and will fight for racial and economic justice. We believe in and will fight for a woman's right to choose and an end to a society that demands gender conformity. We believe in and will fight for new ways for people—gay and straight—to gain legal recognition and protections for their families."

**FLORIDA**

If your literacy with reggae music does not extend beyond "No Woman No Cry," you have probably never heard of Beenie Man, Bounty Killer, Capleton, Elephant Man, Sizzla or Vybz Kartel; all are Jamaican reggae artists whose lyrics encourage listeners to alternately shoot, hang, burn or drown gays and lesbians. These artists

are scheduled to headline at the largest North American reggae festival, Caribbean Reggae Fest, Nov. 21 in Miami. The event is sponsored by a Clear Channel radio station (103.5 The Beat), the Raddisson Hotel chain, Air Jamaica and Grace Tropical Rhythm Foods, a supplier to Wal-Mart, Safeway and other major U.S. supermarkets.

Violent hate crimes against gays and lesbians are rampant in Jamaica, according to Amnesty International, and the boycott of these artists has become a concern internationally as these artists tour through North America, Europe and the Caribbean. For more information about these artists, and efforts to stop them, check out [www.outrage.org.uk](http://www.outrage.org.uk). You can read their lyrics on this site and get a sense of the intense expressions of homophobia.

**Take Action!**

You can call 103.5 The Beat and tell them what you think—the request line is toll-free! 866-964-BEAT.

You can also contact the Raddisson Hotel Chain, toll-free! 888-201-1718.

Why not call Air Jamaica while you are at it: 800-522-5585.

**WYOMING**

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation reported that ABC News' 20/20 is planning to air an hourlong program on the murder of Matthew Shepard later this month. The press release sent by the network reads: "Was the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo., really an anti-gay hate crime? Elizabeth Vargas uncovers surprising new evidence."



**Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

The program includes interviews with the murderers, who claim Shepard's sexuality had nothing to do with the crime.

This is in direct contradiction to statements made at the time of the murder, which referred to the defendants' "gay panic" as a motive for the savage beating.

**CALIFORNIA**

In September, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren E. McMaster ruled that Proposition 22, which states that only men and women can be married only to each other, did not infringe on domestic partner benefits as protected by a law slated to go into effect Jan. 1,

Foreman stressed, "The No. 1 priority of our movement must be to support, nurture, embrace and build our state and local grassroots infrastructure."

Foreman continued: "We need to be able to say that marriage equality is a goal, but not the only goal of the LGBT community or our