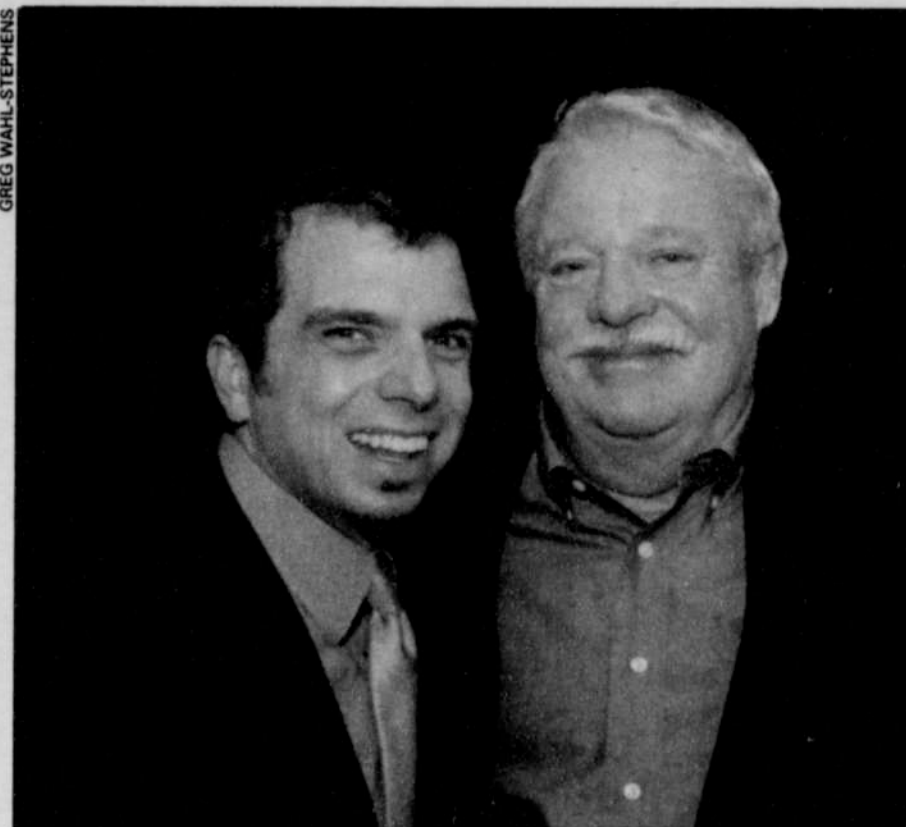


GREG WAHL-STEPHENS



Barbary Lane Communities, a sexual minority senior housing facility, was named after a fictional community created by Armistead Maupin (right, with gay author Marc Acito in Portland).



Robert Haaland is one of four transgender nominees for grand marshal of the San Francisco Pride Parade.

heterosexual couples who live together unless they're related to the child, which could prevent godparents or family friends from caring for a child if the parents die or cannot keep the child.

The Arkansas Supreme Court overturned a ban on fostering by gay people, stating that the "driving force behind adoption of the regulation was not to promote the health, safety and welfare of foster children, but rather based upon the Arkansas Child Welfare Agency Review Board's view of morality and its bias against homosexuals."

According to a 2005 poll conducted by University of Arkansas, nearly two-thirds of the respondents favored allowing placements with gay people if they pass the screening requirements that apply to everyone else.

CALIFORNIA

Gay Senior Housing Opens

Leasing began March 1 for one of the country's first urban independent living communities for gay seniors in Oakland, Calif.

Activists say the needs of sexual minority seniors are largely unaddressed in the senior housing industry because of lack of awareness, discrimination and homophobia. Gay elders often feel they must go back into the closet if they move into traditional retirement or independent/assisted living. They add that more than 3 million queer Americans are older than 65 and that, by 2030, that number will nearly double.

Barbary Lane Communities was founded by three openly gay housing specialists, David Latina, Randi Gerson and Jeffrey Dillon. Their first endeavor is the transformation of one of the Bay Area's landmark properties, the Lake Merritt Hotel in Oakland, into 46 independent living apartments.

The team is looking for additional properties to develop in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, New York and Palm Springs, Fla.

Barbary Lane Communities is named after the diverse, vital and caring group of people who inhabit a lively community on Barbary Lane in internationally acclaimed author Armistead Maupin's classic *Tales of the City* novels.

Maupin said: "We're the world's first openly gay generation. Most of us spent the first quarter of our lives in hiding and have no intention of going back there for the last. That's what excites me about Barbary Lane Communities. It's a place where every letter of LGBT—and their straight friends, of course—can continue to love without boundaries."

For more information visit www.barbaryl原因.com.

Trans Activists Nominated for SF Pride Distinction

Four of nine grand marshal nominees for the 2007 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade are well-known transgender activists. Transgender Law Center board member Victoria Kolakowski joins Robert Haaland, Teresa Sparks and Susan Stryker in what is believed to be the largest number of transgender nominees in any one year.

"I'm really honored to be nominated. The transgender community has made amazing progress over the past few years, but there is so much more to do," said Kolakowski. "It is my goal to use this opportunity to help move all of us forward."

Grand marshal nominees are selected by San Francisco Pride board members. Community members then vote on which nominees should be grand marshals. Voting for this year's parade is open, and ballots can be downloaded at www.sfpride.org.

FLORIDA

City Manager Fights for Job

Steve Stanton, the city manager of Largo, Fla., has not given up.

The Largo City Commission voted 5-2 Feb. 27 to start the procedure to dismiss Stanton after he announced that he would transition from Steve to Susan. Stanton, who is on paid administrative leave from his job, held the position for 14 years.

Stanton is making a plea to keep his job by asking the commission to reconsider its vote at an upcoming public hearing. He would not say whether he was considering legal action.

MARYLAND

Marriage Debate Heats Up in Maryland

A group of citizens in Maryland gathered to ask a state Senate committee in March to include a constitutional amendment that restricts marriage to one man and one woman on the November 2008 ballot.

The amendment, which was proposed by Sen. Larry Haines, R-Baltimore and Carroll counties, would preclude Maryland from granting marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Chances are such an amendment would not survive the state's General Assembly. Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley has pledged to veto the measure. 

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI and SASSAFRAS LOWREY

Linda Horowitz & Dennis Short
"Your Vancouver Connection"



NEWER URBAN DOWNTOWN CONDO
Exceptional Columbia River view! Gracious décor, open flow and handsomely appointed 2 bedroom + den condo.
\$795,000. MLS#7011146.



CRAFTSMAN EVERGREEN AREA HOME
Handsome remodel brings this 2600 sq. ft. home into new era. Expansive territorial and Portland lights views. Private/treed yard.
\$499,000. MLS#7014727.

www.vancouverUSAhomes.com

LINDA HOROWITZ
(360) 609-4379
linho2@comcast.net

DENNIS SHORT
(360) 921-2596
denshort@windermere.com

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate Group



*Don't worry chief,
I will be all right.*



Valentino

**ROSE CITY
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL**

809 SE POWELL BLVD
232-3105

Discover Paradise!

State-of-the-art VIDEO ARCADE
100 channels of all new releases
New DVDs starting at \$4.99
72-hour rentals
Toys, novelties, magazines and more ...

Paradise Video

Upscale Adult Video Store
503.255.9414



14712 SE Stark Street, Portland • Open 24/7 • Over 18 only

*Building strong, lasting, lifelong relationships...
one at a time.*



ROBERT HOGG, CPA
Mortgage Broker
Retired Air Force MSC

503.781.4181
www.HoggLoans.com



FHA/VA
100 % Financing
Reverse Mortgage
Investment Properties
Equity Loans
Commercial Loans

