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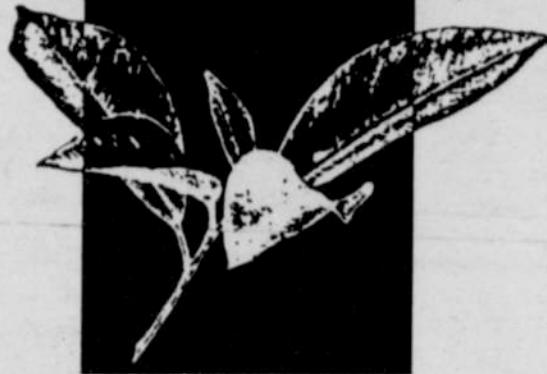
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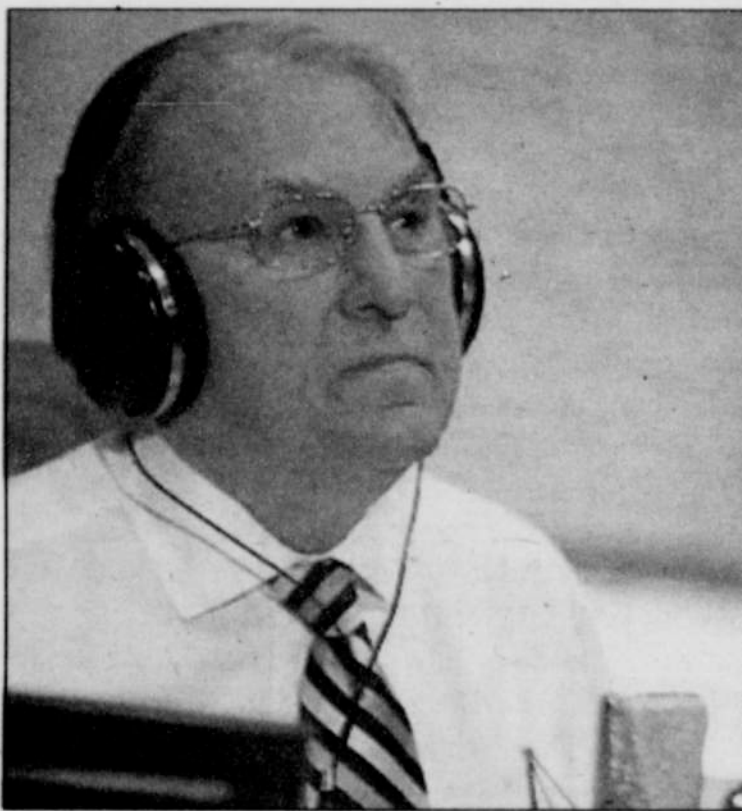
### ASIA/PACIFIC

#### Broadcaster Cleared in 'Pillow Biter' Case

Australian radio personality John Laws was exercising his right to free speech when he called *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*'s Carson Kressley a "pillow biter" and "pompous little pansy prig" during a 2004 broadcast, the New South Wales Administrative Decisions Tribunal ruled March 1.

In a 2-1 decision, the tribunal dismissed a complaint filed by gay activist Gary Burns.

The judges agreed that the remarks "constituted homosexual vilification" and "incited severe ridicule of homosexual men on the ground of their homosexuality," but two of the judges determined the statements "fell within an exception established by the [Anti-Discrimination] Act that is designed, within appropriate limits, to preserve freedom of expression."



Radio personality John Laws is free to call gays "pillow biters," according to a New South Wales tribunal.

But the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association says the Parliament's March 16 move was not strong enough.

"We believe a more targeted resolution on the specific situation of LGBT human rights defenders would have sent a stronger message to Nigeria," said executive director Patricia Prendiville. "We fear that the current outrageous bill outlawing any activities representing and protecting the human rights of LGBT people in Nigeria is not prominently dealt with by the Parliament, and this issue might lose its momentum by being shelved together with other ongoing human rights concerns in Nigeria."

The bizarre bill states, in part: "Publicity, procession and public show of same-sex amorous relationship through the electronic or print media physically, directly, indirectly or otherwise are prohibited in Nigeria.... Any person who is involved

in the registration of gay clubs, societies and organizations, sustenance, procession or meetings, publicity and public show of same-sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly in public and in private is guilty of an offense and liable on conviction to a term of five years imprisonment."

Openly lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and 31 of her colleagues sent a letter March 20 to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging her to contact the government of Nigeria and voice opposition to the legislation.

"The bill outlaws advocacy organizations or associations supporting the rights of lesbian and gay people, and prohibits public expressions of support for equal rights for gay and lesbian Nigerians," the House members said. "Not only would lesbian and gay Nigerians be treated as second-class citizens and constantly in fear of arrest and prosecution for simply

exercising free speech if this legislation were to pass, but it would also greatly hamper the vital mission of human rights defenders in advocating for basic and equal human rights, as well as Nigeria's massive battle against HIV/AIDS."

The legislators also urged the State Department to issue a public statement opposing the bill.

#### Polish Deputy PM: Muslims Understand Gay Threat

If Europe doesn't ban abortion and limit gay propaganda, Muslims will take over, Polish Deputy Prime Minister Roman Giertych said March 2.

"Abortion must be banned immediately," Giertych said. "Homosexual propaganda must also be limited so children will have the correct view of the family."

"The propaganda of homosexuality is reaching ever younger children," he explained. "In some countries it is even forbidden for children in hospital to talk or read about Mommy and Daddy, because this allegedly violates minority rights. Let's free ourselves of this unwise political correctness. If we will not use all our power to strengthen the family, then as a continent there is no future for us. We will be a continent settled by representatives of the Islamic world who care for the family."

Other officials in Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski's ruling coalition also have denounced gays—and local officials routinely attempt to ban Gay Pride parades.

### EUROPE

#### Swedish Church Embraces Marriage

Sweden's dominant Lutheran Church will marry same-sex couples if the government legalizes same-sex marriage, the Swedish Church Assembly said March 16.

Sweden has had a registered partnership law that grants same-sex couples the rights of marriage since 1994 and is now planning to extend full marriage rights to gays and lesbians.

A church spokesman said that priests would be allowed to choose individually whether to marry gay couples and that the church might call same-sex marriages something other than "marriages." About 78 percent of Swedes are Lutherans, though most don't go to church.

The United Church of Canada is believed to be the only mainstream Christian church that performs same-sex marriages. Full same-sex marriage is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain and Massachusetts.

#### Euro Parliament, U.S. Legislators Denounce Nigerian Bill

The European Parliament has called on Nigeria's National Assembly not to pass an extreme anti-gay bill that would outlaw gay marriage, visiting a gay Internet site, public or private gatherings of gay people and nearly everything else associated with being gay.



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