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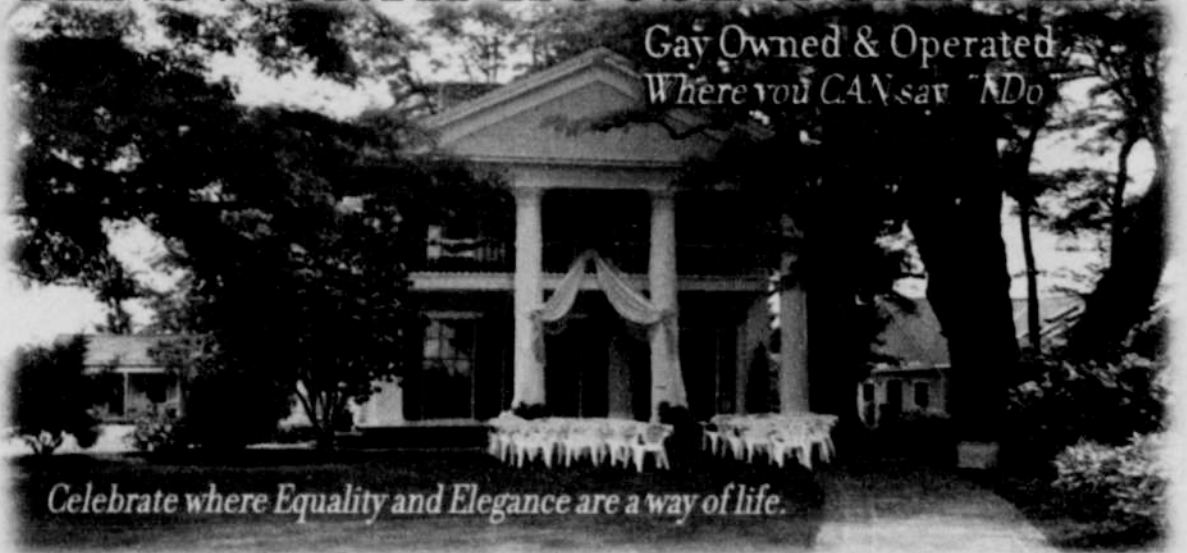
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national

NATIONAL

Bush Vows to Veto Hate Crimes Law

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said Aug. 7 that President Bush plans to veto any bill to which the Matthew Shepard Act is attached.

Fratto said, "The qualifications [in the bill] are so broad that virtually any crime involving a homosexual individual has potential to have hate crimes elements."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, disagreed with the administration's assessment of the law.

"The provisions of this legislation are extremely narrow, however not as narrow as the minds of the current administration," he said. "The legislation establishes narrow and specific guidelines for determining whether an incident constitutes a hate crime, including a provision that prohibits the consideration of any evidence not directly linked to the incident, which is why it has the support of law enforcement and civil liberty advocates" such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

According to Foreman, the provisions of this legislation are identical to those that have been on the books since the 1960s. The difference is that it adds sexual minorities to the existing legislation.

GLAAD Grades Networks

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation released its first GLAAD Network Responsibility Index on Aug. 6. This report maps the quantity, quality and diversity of images of queers on network television.

ABC, with shows like *Brothers & Sisters* and *Ugly Betty*, received the highest ranking of the five

networks. NBC, once home to *Will & Grace*, ranked fourth, and Fox scored lowest.

"We know that seeing multidimensional, diverse people represented on television changes public perception," said GLAAD entertainment media director Damon Romine, editor of the report. "Millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans fight every day for equality and for the right to live their lives without fear of discrimination and violence. True equality will be in our grasp when network television presents our stories in a fair, accurate and inclusive way."

GLAAD examined all primetime programming—4,693 hours—on the five major networks, ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC, from June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2007. Each hour was reviewed for any major or minor queer representations. Based on the overall quantity, quality and diversity of these representations, a grade was assigned to each network.

For the full report visit www.glaad.org.

Support for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Repeal Grows

Five new lawmakers, including the highest-ranking military veteran in Congress, have joined 126 other lawmakers in supporting legislation to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" ban on queer service personnel.

U.S. Reps. Michael A. Arcuri, D-N.Y., Brian Baird, D-Wash., Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Joe Sestak, D-Penn., and Brad Sherman, D-Calif., became co-sponsors of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, House Resolution 1246, Aug. 3. Sestak is Congress's highest-ranking veteran, having served 31 years in the U.S. Navy and retiring as a three-star admiral.

"Congress is steadily moving toward lifting the ban and welcoming lesbian and gay Americans who want to serve our country," said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "When it comes to capturing terrorists, deciphering intelligence and protecting our nation, sexual orientation is irrelevant. It is talent and skill that is paramount to our success at home and abroad."

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., chairwoman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, said she intends to hold hearings on the issue.

Adm. Michael Mullen, President Bush's nominee for chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, that he would welcome a congressional inquiry about "don't ask, don't tell."

"I really think it is for the American people to come forward, really through this body, to both debate that policy and make changes, if that's appropriate," said Mullen.

CALIFORNIA

Feinstein in Hot Water Over Nominee

Sexual minority activists were not pleased with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Aug. 4 when she cast the tiebreaking vote for a contro-



ABC's comedy *Ugly Betty* helped the network earn top marks on GLAAD's Network Responsibility Index.