

LGBTQ NEWS CORNER

By Alexsenia Ralat

Georgia and its anti-LGBT Bill

Going through Georgia's legislature these past few weeks was a controversial bill that would have allowed discrimination against the members of the LGBT community that call the state their home. The bill would have allowed businesses to turn away gay customers as well as gay potential employees. Numerous big business companies and entertainment companies have voiced their opposition. Netflix, AMC and others have threatened vacate the state if the law were to become final.

A lot of Georgia's revenue comes from the entertainment industry. If passed, the law would have caused a significant decrease in the state's revenue. With that in mind, Governor Nathan Deal vetoed the law. The governor had promised to veto any bill that "allows discrimination in our state in order to protect people of faith." The LGBT community in Georgia now has companies like Netflix and AMC to thank for their continued non-discrimination laws.

Los Angeles Father Murders His Son for Being Gay

Amir Issa, a 29-year-old gay man, was found shot to death in his family home on March 29 along with his mother who was found stabbed to death in the bathroom. Issa's father, 69-year-old Shehadeh Khalil Issa, was accused of killing his son because he was gay. He was charged with murder on Friday, April 1.

According to prosecutors, Issa had threatened to kill his son because of his sexuality in the past. Issa told the police that he had found his wife dead at his home, and that he had heard noises and grabbed his gun and then found his son outside. He claims his son was holding

a knife and threatening him and that's when he shot him. No knife was found on the scene.

Police say that Issa used a shotgun to kill his son and a felony complaint has been filed against the him. Detectives on the case say that Issa and son were having problems and Issa claimed that Amir had vandalized the family home. They say that Issa and his wife were attempting to evict their son, neighbors say that they often heard yelling from the house.

In the end, Shehada Khalil Issa was charged with one count of premeditated murder. If he is convicted, he will be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Dominicans May See More LGBT Rights Thanks to Gay U.S. Diplomat

Deivis Ventura is a candidate for the Dominican Republic's Chamber of Deputies, which is the lower house of the Dominican Republic's bicameral National Congress. Ventura is the first openly gay person to run for his country's Congress. H

"The fact that we have openly LGBT candidates in an important political party speaks of change," said Ventura during a break in campaigning with a transgender friend.

Soon Ventura won't be the only openly gay person to run for a political office. Yimbert Telemin is running in the May election for city council in La Romana. The fact that these candidates can run is a sign of a cultural shift in the Dominican Republic. Activists say that this shift may have been helped by the presence of U.S. Ambassador James Brewster. His appointment did anger some religious leaders and their followers, but Brewster has become an important part of the movement in the country.

WORLD NEWS Bangladesh

By: Joe Strater

Artists have always been attacked for the views they possess. Whether they are painters, writers, directors or any other sort of artists, there's always a group of people out there who will challenge the truth that they have spoken. Unfortunately, sometimes artists are attacked or even killed for the work they have produced. John Lennon was assassinated for the belief that he had been a phony, inspired by J.D. Salinger's novel "The Catcher in the Rye." Recently, in Bangladesh, a writer has been killed for expressing his own viewpoints.

According to the article, "Secular Bangladeshi writer murdered in the street," written by Sugam Pokharel, Ivan Watson and Yuli Yang and published by CNN, in the capital of Bangladesh recently, writer Nazimuddin Samad was attacked by people wielding machetes and was ultimately killed from the attack.

According to the article Samad, described by Bangladesh police as a master's student at Jagannath University, is the sixth secularist writer or publisher to have been murdered in Dhaka in the last 14 months. Police called the murder a pre-planned attack.

When interviewed, Nurul Amin, the Senior Assistant Police Commissioner of the Dhaka Police reported that, on his way home from evening classes at his university, Samad was enclosed by a group of three to four people. Reportedly, after attacking him with the machetes, one of the members of the group proceeded to shoot Samad, ultimately killing him in the process. After the group was finished with Samad, they immediately fled the

scene, leaving the police force with no leads as to who killed Samad.

The attack on Samad had ties to religious views. According to the article above, "The murder is certain to add to fears among intellectuals and writers who have dared to challenge religious thought in Bangladesh, a majority Muslim country with a sizable Hindu religious minority."

Furthermore, "The constitution in Bangladesh defines Islam as the state religion. But it also includes a clause promising to defend the 'principal of secularism.'"

According to Imran Sarker, the leader of an activist and blogging network, Samad was extremely vocal in various social issues occurring in the country and a very secular activist. Reportedly, Samad vocalized his views on such topics as war crimes, corruption, religious fundamentalism, the unfair treatment of women, accordingly expressing these viewpoints on various social media pages for the public to view.

Unfortunately for Samad, he stands as an artist that, when fighting for the greater good of society, ultimately found the backlash that comes with it, and experienced unjustified and extreme reactions, ultimately leading to his death. Although Samad's story is discouraging, as he is one of the many who has been attacked for his actions, he stands for the freedom of standing up against others who have died for expressing the things that need to be expressed, and he should stand for the fight against corruption. He spirit should never be forgotten, and, even though dangerous, it should ultimately be repeated.

Smith said. "The athlete has to full know and understand their body and with that they have to admit what's going on within their body to the coach."

But like Griffin, more often than not, they will show their backs to their coach, screw up their faces in discomfort and try to breathe it all away.

through his head after he retired. In an instant, in a stroke of his arms, he felt as though he lost a place in the dynamic of a family team.

"It was really hard for me to accept that I was no longer going to be a part of the team," Griffin explained. "This team became my family. I spent 3 full years with them and got super close with them. It was very hard to not see them every day and not practice with them. They were my whole life and I just lost it."

Through it all though, he doesn't regret the decisions he made while swimming. To him, and to many athletes, it was part of the sacrifice that they are willing to pay in order to play.

"I pushed through the pain and the injury until I physically couldn't do it anymore. I did the absolute best I could, and I'm proud of all I could accomplish," Griffin concluded.

"One of the most challenging aspects of coaching an injured athlete is protecting them from themselves,"

DECATURIAN

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| Issue # | Fall Issue Dates | |
|---------|------------------|------------|
| | Meeting | Issue Date |
| 1 | Jan. 25 | Feb. 10 |
| 2 | Feb. 1 | Feb. 17 |
| 3 | Feb. 8 | Feb. 24 |
| 4 | Feb. 15 | Mar. 2 |
| 5 | Feb. 22 | Mar. 16 |
| 6 | Feb. 29 | Apr. 6 |
| 7 | Mar. 28 | Apr. 13 |
| 8 | Apr. 4 | Apr. 27 |
| 9 | Apr. 11 | May 4 |
| 10 | Apr. 18 | May 11 |

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Protecting them from themselves

Continued from page 1

"Once you get the athlete out of the pool, you just [have to] let them cool off for a minute, especially if they come out and they are mad about it, sometimes no matter what you say in those first five minutes they are not going to listen," Smith said.

Griffin would wait until he almost had to be physically pulled from the pool before getting out in practice. He would sit at the wall and like many others, try to breathe the pain away, and he would never admit to it.

Once in his sophomore year, during a particularly difficult practice, he never stopped and his shoulder kept popping out of place. After every sprint he would haul himself out of the pool and collapse against the wall clutching his arm and breathing.

"It's certainly in the moment. Athletes can get very frustrated; they can get lost in the day to day grind of it, and it can be very difficult to see

the progression, especially if you're getting out thirty, forty, sixty minutes before the rest of the team, but the biggest thing is having a plan in place to limit it," Smith said.

On the opposite end, after the frustration, comes the dejection, at this point a coach wants to approach them right away. This reaction doesn't happen immediately however; more often than not it's after they come back out from the locker room or even the next day.

"You kind of see the wheels turning in their head of 'What's the point? I'm only going to swim for a half an hour. Why am I doing this to myself?'" Smith explained.

Griffin experienced this as well. It's hard enough to jump into a pool at 6 a.m., but doing it with the mindset that it's not worth it, is even harder.

"I was so pissed off that I couldn't do my favorite activity, and I couldn't be with my team anymore," Griffin explained about what was going

KICKSTARTERS

By Fred Piscop

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| 32 | | | | | 33 | | | | | 34 | 35 | 36 | |
| 37 | | | | | 38 | | | | | 39 | | | |
| 40 | | | | 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | |
| | | | 43 | | | | | | | 44 | | | |
| 45 | 46 | 47 | | | | | 48 | | | | | | |
| 49 | | | | | 50 | 51 | 52 | | | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| 57 | | | | | 58 | | | | | 59 | | | |
| 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | | | |
| 63 | | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | | | |

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