

THE ADVOCATE REPORT



Sen. Mel Martinez

TRANSITIONS

APPOINTED

SEN. MEL MARTINEZ, as general chairman of the Republican National Committee, in Washington, D.C., November 14. The Republican first-term senator from Florida, elected in 2004 after a divisive campaign that notably relied on antigay tactics, opposes hate-crimes legislation and supports the Federal Marriage Amendment. He scored a 0 on the Human Rights Campaign's 2006 Congressional Scorecard measuring support for LGBT issues.

PASSED

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LEGISLATION, in South Africa, November 14. The country became the fifth in the world to approve marriage equality.

ELECTED

KIM COCO IWAMOTO, to the Hawaii state board of education, in Honolulu, November 7. A male-to-female transsexual, she became the first openly transgender individual to be elected to a state-level office in the United States. She represents the island of Oahu.

DIED

ROBERT FENNELL, 48, a veteran Broadway publicist, of liver cancer, at home in Yonkers, N.Y., November 12. Over two decades, Fennell handled publicity for more than 100 stage productions, including *Angels in America* and *Wicked*, first for the powerhouse firm Boneau/Bryan Brown, then for his own shop, the Publicity Office, which he formed in 1996.

AN APPRECIATION

Ed Bradley, 1941–2006

Growing up on Chicago's south side, there were plenty of strikes against me: black skin, rough neighborhood, family on welfare, a burgeoning attraction to other boys.

Ed Bradley, although straight, inspired hope in me. There were not many black faces on television news back then, so *60 Minutes* became must-see TV. Bradley was extraordinary. He made me want to be a writer—and

later, a TV news producer.

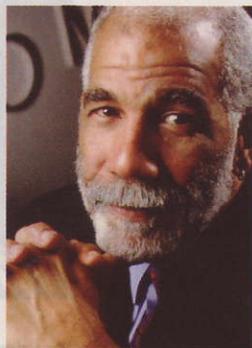
Fast-forward to 2001.

I was freelancing at CBS NewsPath, a satellite division of the network.

I bumped into Bradley in the cafeteria. We talked.

Months later, when my division announced layoffs, Ed wrote me the names and numbers of several contacts. "Just go in there and close the deal," he said, laughing.

Bradley personified confidence. Even wearing



a single earring on network television was a statement. He was more than a correspondent. The iconic pioneering black journalist inspired confidence in a generation.

—Rod McCullom

NOW ON
advocate.com



Brother and sister, both trans

FIRST PERSON

A TRANS MAN'S EVOLUTION

"A funny thing happened to me on my way to becoming a man...I began to want one," writes award-winning FTM photographer and writer Loren Rex Cameron (above, left, with his MTF transgender sister). Nearly 20 years after beginning to transition, Cameron shares his journey as he learns that he's bisexual—and he's not alone.

COMMENTARY

POOR JIM WEST? YEESH



PBS's *Frontline* was all "Don't cry for me, Spokane" in a doc about that city's closeted—and famously antigay—ex-mayor Jim West. The program faulted Spokane's

Spokesman-Review for outing West. Writer David Ehrenstein wonders, Where was *Frontline*'s outrage at all West did to harm his own "community"?

ACTIVISM

NO CRIME TO BE GAY!

It's hard to fathom that in 75 countries, being gay is still a crime. French activist Louis-Georges Tin, founder of the International Day Against Homophobia, hopes to change that by having the United Nations adopt a resolution calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality worldwide. Tin speaks to reporter Doug Ireland about his mission.

MARTINEZ: RICK MCCAY/COX WASHINGTON BUREAU; B. BRADLEY: EDDIE ADAMS/SYGMA/CORBIS; CAMERON SIBLINGS: COURTESY LOREN CAMERON; WEST: PHOTO BY JEFF T. GREEN/GETTY IMAGES