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COLORADO'S LGBTQ+ MAGAZINE
SUMMER PRIDE ISSUE 2026

18 PAGES OF FM:
STYLE AND FASHION

THE HIVE MIND

Queerness thrives across the animal kingdom, challenging binaries and redefining how we understand nature, identity, and community.

MAHA'S WAR ON REALITY

How MAHA transformed healthcare into political theater while targeting science, vaccines, HIV programs, and vulnerable LGBTQ+ Americans.

ALL SKIN FOLK AIN'T KIN FOLK

A dark exploration of brilliant, dangerous, and deeply contradictory LGBTQ+ historical figures who blurred lines between victimhood and cruelty.

DEAN WITHERS

From a small-town conservative teen to a viral liberal political podcaster shaping Gen-Z online.

MATTHEW MORRIS

From the front desk to the top floor to conceptual work and creative projects on his own terms.

CSO VIOLIST CATHERINE BEESON

As Colorado Symphony's Assistant Principal Violist, she has challenged barriers, championed inclusion, and expanded classical music's reach.

CIRCUMCISION HARM IS REAL

Plaintiffs sought: Male • Intersex • Transgender

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ATTORNEYS

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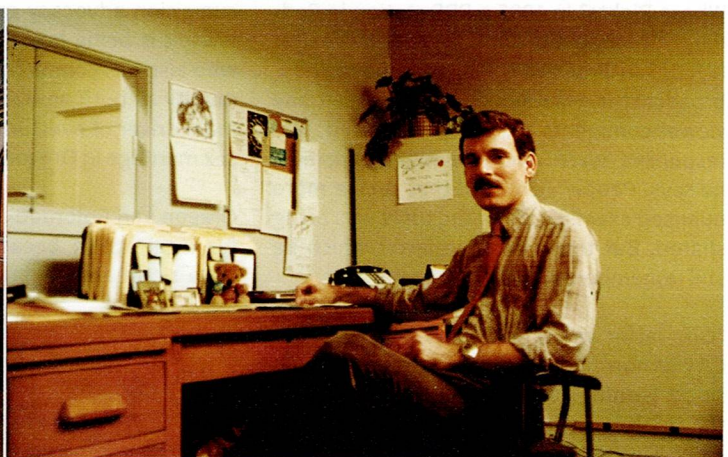
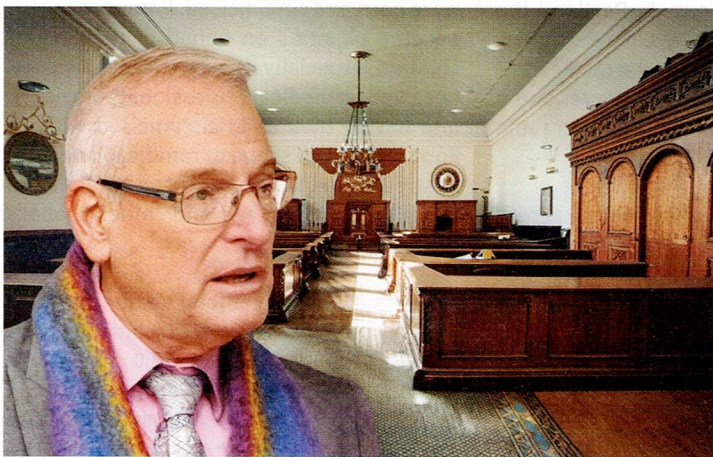
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Whose Body, Whose Choice?

From AIDS activism to the modern intactivist movement, Tim Hammond has spent decades challenging medical norms and advocating for bodily autonomy. Now, Colorado has become a key battleground in a legal effort seeking equal protection for all children from non-consensual genital cutting.

Words: Alexander Elmore, Images Left to Right: Tim Hammond Today, Tim Hammond 1980s



Tim Hammond considers himself something of a gay rights pioneer, at least in Rochester, NY. In 1975 at age 18, after coming out, he “dove right into gay politics,” co-founding AIDS/Rochester. When he wanted to get involved with gay organizing work, he quickly found out that the only work that offered any money was AIDS related and located in either New York City or San Francisco. So, he moved to California and wound up at the University of California, San Francisco’s AIDS Health Project as an office manager.

In 1987, The Phil Donahue Show aired an episode about circumcision. The daytime talk show’s format of a panel of experts being interviewed by Donahue and asked audience questions led to a frank and highly progressive conversation for the late 1980s. Hammond remembers the show being much more respectful towards its guests and subjects than later talk shows tended to be.

On the June 17 episode, the guests included Dr. Dean Edell, former nurse Marilyn Milos,

and Richard Steiner. Steiner was a formerly circumcised man who underwent foreskin restoration. His admission to this on national, syndicated television was a landmark moment for the growing anti-circumcision movement.

However, it was Milos’s story which most struck Hammond. After learning about the pain circumcision causes infants, gaining an understanding of the use of foreskin, and the revelation that there is no medical necessity for a circumcision, Milos began to try to educate new parents before the procedure was performed. Eventually she lost her job because of her advocacy.

Hammond later spoke to Milos, sharing how much her testimony inspired him. Then he founded the National Organization of Restoring Men, or NORM for short, in 1989.

“As I got involved with my own restoration, I got in touch with deep feelings I didn’t know were there about having been circumcised:

anger, resentment, frustration that this is still going on with a quarter of a million babies in this country and nobody’s talking about it,” says Hammond. “That’s when I began to do more.”

These efforts led him to executive produce an hour-long documentary, with funding provided by heir and philanthropist Laurance Rockefeller. Frustrated by the only film materials about circumcision being produced by hospitals and being clearly biased towards the procedure, often not showcasing many or any negative repercussions, Hammond wanted to provide deeper history around the issue.

As Hammond and the film tell it, circumcision began in the United States before doctors understood germ theory and was largely spurred by a desire to prevent masturbation. Its popularity was also driven by the supposed health benefits. What benefits does removing a piece of highly erogenous tissue that, when fully developed, is the size of 3x5

Different Bodies, Same Rights!

index card pose, Hammond wonders? Even the simple illnesses that could be caught without proper hygiene have long been just as simply treated and cured.

The film went through exactly 100 different titles before landing on the one that best reflected its central question: *Whose Body, Whose Rights?* In 1995 a PBS station in Redding, CA aired the film. Shortly thereafter KQED San Francisco, another PBS station, broadcast it. Hammond asked to read any viewer comments the station received. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, he says. People were glad that such a more nuanced examination of the topic was being shared. But there was one letter which he still remembers vividly.

"One letter writer from Oakland, CA was horrified it would be so one sided, [writing] 'Can you imagine if they make this a political issue?' in 1995, 31 years ago. It's now a political issue. Welcome to 2026," says Hammond. "Thank you for being a prophet."

Hammond's most recently founded advocacy group is Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund (GALDEF). He began bringing together children's rights attorneys and advocates in 2021 and incorporated the group the next year. Now, they are bringing their cause to even greater attention through strategic moves in two states.

Colorado is in a unique position, one shared only with Oregon. These two states are on the forefront of intact activism (intactivism, as some call it) movement as groundbreaking lawsuits are being brought against the states to "challenge laws prohibiting genital cutting of female children while failing to protect male and intersex children from similar, often more drastic, genital cutting. This legal action seeks equal protection under the law and accountability for discriminatory treat-

ment," Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund's website reads.

GALDEF and Hammond himself are not the ones bringing the lawsuit. That's Eric Clopper, a California based lawyer, owner of Clopper Law Firm, P.C., and the founder and president of Intact Global, another anti-circumcision advocacy group. In Portland the lawsuit is being brought by Lake Perriguet, who also has connections to the queer community as both an openly gay lawyer and a main driver of overturning the ban on same sex marriage in Oregon.

Oregon and Colorado are the ground zeroes for legal action because these two states have simultaneous laws protecting against

ting," clarifies Hammond. "It is not to lower the ceiling of protection for girls, but to raise the floor of protection for all children."

Currently Clopper is looking for plaintiffs in both states. Plaintiffs must be 25 or younger and living in a state where anti-female genital mutilation laws were passed before they were born and circumcised. Parents can also become plaintiffs on behalf of their minor children, especially if those parents have felt deceived by medical professionals or tricked into having their child circumcised without knowing the full scope of ramifications. Other stipulations for plaintiffs can be found on GALDEF, Clopper Law, and Intact Global's websites.

During Hammond's extensive work among the queer community, he's found a close to 50/50 chance that the person he's speaking to will be informed on intactivism prior to the conversation. This continues to shock him at times, having started advocacy in an age where many fewer people were aware of any complaints against the procedure. There have been major stories in both *The New Yorker* in 2025 and *New York* magazine this May. That the rate of awareness seems to be high among LGBTQ+ people doesn't seem all that random though, he says.

"The queer community has had a long history of medicine and reli-

gion trying to suppress and control our sexuality. ... Electroconvulsive therapy was once used to erase the gay. Circumcision erases the foreskin, banishes the foreskin as something evil, something to be despised just like homosexuality was," Hammond says. "So, for that reason the queer community is extra sensitive, I believe, to the question of human rights when it comes to medicine and religion violating basic human rights to bodily integrity, to control what's done to your body." **M**



G A L D E F
Genital Autonomy
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female genital mutilation and providing equal protections under the law. They also do not challenge circumcision through a religious lens. Hammond notes that about a third of the movement is Jewish.

"The goal of these lawsuits is to remedy that by having courts decide existing laws are unconstitutional because they discriminate on the basis of sex, and to order legislature to correct this and expand the law to be gender neutral so that all children, regardless of sex are protected from needless genital cut-