

world briefs

CANADA: Gay and lesbian partners of Toronto city employees are eligible for city medical and dental insurance following an October vote by the City Council. Activists had argued that failure to extend the benefits would have violated the Ontario Human Rights Code, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. (*Xtra!*)

CANADA: The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has accepted a complaint against Regina police chief Ernie Reimer by the Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Reimer refused to issue a permit for July's gay-pride parade because he felt not enough people would show up to make a police escort necessary. The complaint against the police falls under laws guaranteeing freedom of expression and assembly. (*Perceptions*)

CANADA: The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission got tired of waiting for the province to pass a gay-rights law and in September announced that henceforth every provincial non-discrimination statement that includes the word "sex" will be interpreted as including "sexual orientation." (*Perceptions*)

CANADA: Craig Russell, star of the semi-autobiographical films *Outrageous* and *Too Outrageous*, died in late October of AIDS complications; he was 42.

CHINA: A report in the Belgian newspaper *Liberation*, says that Canton and Shanghai are "paradise for gays." But don't get caught in paradise. Gays in China are still "treated" with electroshock and forced vomiting, according to *The New York Times*.

COSTA RICA: Central America has its second gay and lesbian newspaper. Volume 1, number 1 of *Confidential* may only be two pages, but so was *The Advocate* once.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: ILGA Secretary General John Clark addressed the First Congress of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Prague in late October and, as a result, the group added discrimination protections for gays and lesbians to its human-rights agenda for Europe.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Members of the national gay-rights group Lambda Union have secured the promise of a meeting with top government ministers, following lobbying by British activists at October's Helsinki Citizens' Assembly conference in Prague.

DENMARK: As Danish gays and lesbians celebrated the first anniversary of their first-in-the-world gay marriage law in October, government figures showed that 700 couples tied the knot in the first year — 125 female and 575 male.

June 28, a government lawyer and a Copenhagen police officer were married at City Hall. As the couple exited the ceremony onto Copenhagen's central square, eight city police officers removed their hats and created a canopy for the grooms to walk under. "It is guaranteed," said Police Inspector Jens Boesen, "that this was the first time in world history that uniformed police officers have paid the same attention to the commitment of a registered partnership between two people of the same sex."

ENGLAND: Justin Fashanu, the first British soccer player ever to be paid one million pounds (\$1.92 million), has come out of the closet — the first professional British sports figure to do so.

ENGLAND: Following union pressure, the British Library in October extended spousal benefits to staffers' gay/lesbian domestic partners.

ENGLAND: ACT UP/London has called a boycott of the Texaco oil company to protest the corporation's policy of testing all job applicants for HIV and refusing to hire anyone who tests positive.

ENGLAND: The British Film Institute has awarded its highest honor, a fellowship, to gay filmmaker Derek Jarman. Only 20 people have received the coveted award, which honors "outstanding personalities from the worlds of film and television [for] their unique contributions to the moving-image culture." Jarman, who has AIDS, told the audience that he suspected he received the award because "they're not sure if I'll be around next year."

GERMANY: Half of the gay bars in Cologne have stopped selling Marlboro cigarettes at the request of ACT UP/Köln, which is pushing the Marlboro boycott in solidarity with ACT UP chapters in the U.S.

GERMANY: A recent survey by the University of Frankfurt am Main for the Ministry of Health found that half of 903 West German gay men said they use condoms. A 1981 survey showed that only two percent of gay men used condoms.

ITALY: Film actor Ugo Tognazzi, 68, who starred in *La Cage Aux Folles*, died of a cerebral hemorrhage in late October in Rome. Tognazzi was considered one of Italy's leading comic actors.

NETHERLANDS: The Dutch parliament will eventually vote on a national gay-rights law, following recent preliminary agreement between the Socialist and Christian Democrat parties. At present, negotiations are hung up on the Christians' request that churches which do not want to hire gay teachers be exempted from the law. (*Tels Quets*)

NORWAY: As Americans begin planning for 1994's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the Norwegian national gay organization and the Swedish national gay organization are wrapping up their 40th anniversary celebrations. Denmark's national gay organization is 42 years old, and Holland's national organization is 43 years old. The very first modern-style gay activism probably took place in Berlin. According to historians, gay pioneer Magnus Hirschfeld's Scientific Humanitarian Committee, founded in 1987, canvassed political parties, staged public debates and published books and pamphlets in defense of the rights of "Uranians." Adolph Hitler's forces burned the Committee's library and academic institute 35 years later, wiping out gay activism in Germany for the next 15 years.

PERU: The Maoist Shining Path guerrillas were responsible for 30 anti-gay murders in 1989, according to human-rights organizations interviewed by *Gai Pied*. The guerrillas are most active in Peru's rural High Plains. All village

shamans are gay, *Gai Pied* reported, "and everyone accepts it." The gay witch doctors are believed to be able to bring rain and cure illness. The guerrilla's anti-gay campaign coincides with passage of a new law mandating HIV testing of all people at high risk for AIDS. The law takes effect Jan. 1.

SOUTH AFRICA: The African continent saw its first gay-pride parade Oct. 13 when about 800 gays and lesbians marched through neighborhoods of Johannesburg. The marchers were 70 percent white and 30 percent people of color, Nkoli said. As the parade stepped off, rain began. "But it was so exciting, we just marched through the rain—blowing whistles, chanting slogans, and we had these big puppets for the march," Nkoli said.

SOUTH AFRICA: Winnie Mandela and her bodyguards from the Mandela United Football Club have been charged in a 1988 gay-bashing attack on four boys, one of whom died, according to *Gai Pied*. Mrs. Mandela "is said" to have helped with the beatings, *Gai Pied* reported.

USSR: An estimated 800 men are imprisoned yearly under Russia's male sodomy law, says Moscow gay activist Roman Kalinin, who visited the U.S. in November. Kalinin also reported that the Soviet Union produces and imports only enough condoms for each sexually active male to purchase four per year, and that the condoms often break. Returning home in early December, Kalinin said his first priority was the formation of ACT UP/Moscow. Next July, about 100 American gay and lesbian activists will travel to Moscow and Leningrad to help stage the Soviet Union's first gay-pride parades.

USSR: The Moscow Gay and Lesbian Union has managed to register its newspaper, *Tema*. This is a watershed event, as it will now have access to typographic equipment and other scarce resources.

ZIMBABWE: The Health Ministry has ordered 5,000 wooden penises as props for condom demonstrations, reports *Gai Pied*.

Discover the Fine Art of American Craft



The Real Mother Goose

A Shop and Gallery

Eastside
Portland Airport
(503) 284-9929

Downtown
901 S.W. Yamhill
(503) 223-9510

Westside
Washington Square
(503) 620-2243

N.W. Indian designs
leather containers
and wall art
by Steve Evans.

just out — Oregon's
lesbian and gay
newsmagazine for
7 great years!

Portraits of Vision



Marshall's Fine Art
253-5425