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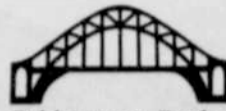


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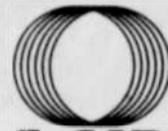
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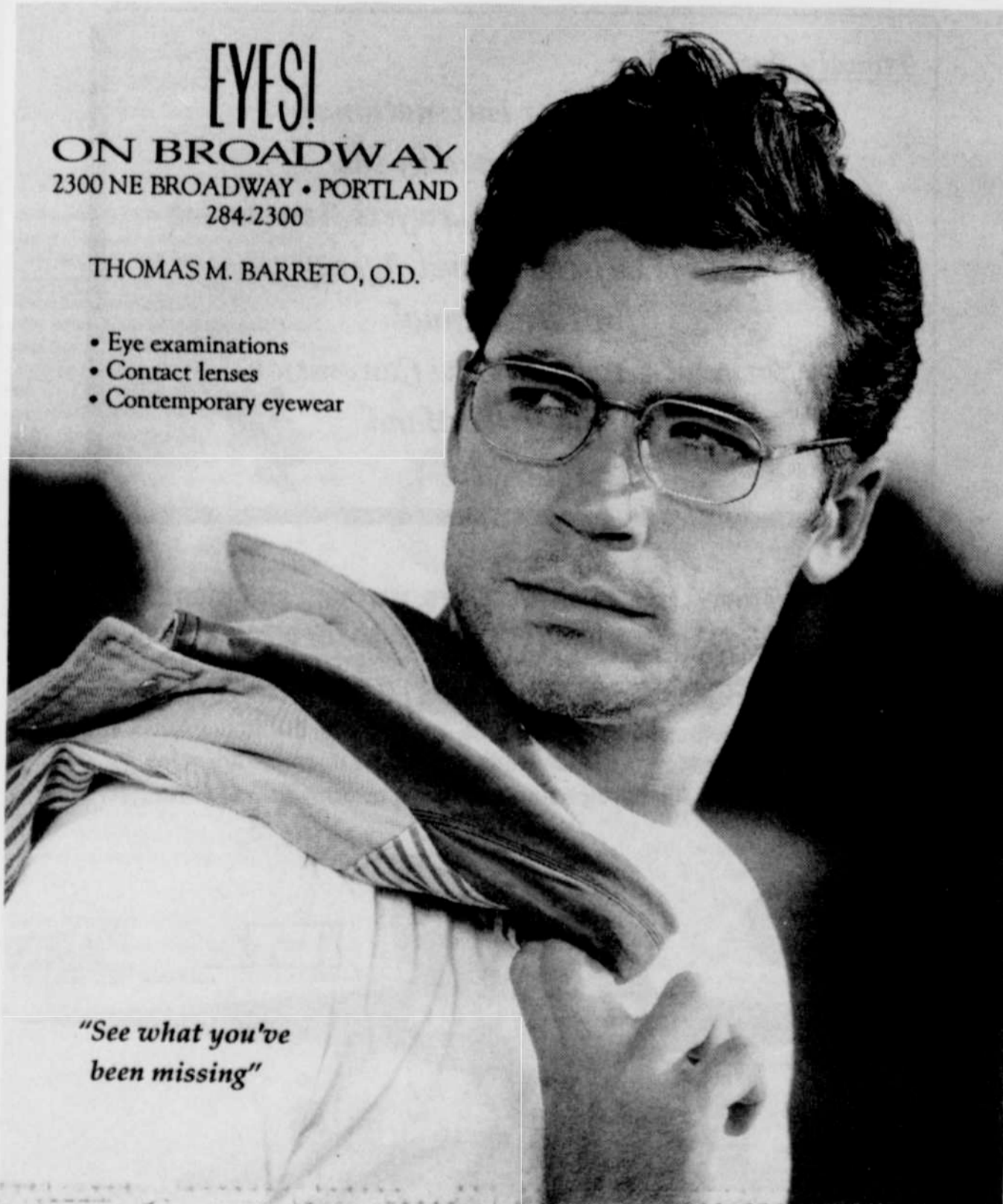
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world news

AUSTRALIA

In April, the Australian government gave non-governmental organizations in Indonesia more than \$13 million to develop community anti-AIDS efforts.

The projects will begin in Indonesia's eastern provinces and expand elsewhere, if they produce good results.

Indonesia has about 200 reported AIDS cases and an estimated 20,000 HIV-positive citizens, but officials say there could be as many as 500,000 infections by 1995, if prevention education efforts aren't begun soon.



CANADA

AIDS activists unfurled a banner and threw fake money into the Ontario legislative chamber April 26, to protest the government's failure to launch a promised drug-funding program for people with catastrophic illnesses.

One of the protesters, AIDS Action Now co-chair James Earlinger, told reporters, "Every day there is further delay. People are not accessing the drugs they need to keep themselves healthy."

Canadians with AIDS who can afford the drugs spend up to \$2,000 a month, Earlinger said.

Ontario Premier Bob Rae later told reporters the province is working to create a program for people who need expensive drugs.

EUROPE

European gay men and lesbians are gearing up for a summer of pride events, including the third-annual EuroPride, held this year in Amsterdam.

Paris pride week is June 10 to 19. Events will include a leather get-together, exhibits at the Homosexuality Salon, a national activists conference, three tea dances, a queer soccer meeting, a fashion show against AIDS, a film festival, and, on June 18, the parade and a bash at the Mutuality Palace.

In Holland, EuroPride begins June 15, under the motto "The Dutch Way of Gay." Following parties, exhibitions, lectures and other activities, the EuroPride parade steps off June 25. Some 80,000 marchers are expected.

Irish pride day is June 25, with events scheduled in Dublin, Galway, Belfast and Derry.

Swedish pride week is July 31 to Aug. 7.

In England, Brighton's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride March is May 28.

Pride week in Finland is Aug. 8 to 14.

In Belgium, Pink Saturday was May 7. Events included church services, a parade, an outdoor concert and parties.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leading gay and lesbian group, the Ten Percent Club, is ready to move from social to political endeavors, co-chair Jack Lo told the *South China Morning Post* in April.

"Up to 10 percent of the total population in Hong Kong is gay—that means about 600,000. We will use these votes as the bargaining power for our rights," Lo said.

Lo said the group's "ultimate goal is legalization of homosexuality." He noted, "Gay couples can't apply for the Home Ownership Scheme because domestic partnership is not yet recognized. I would like to see our rights protected through legislation."

The club also hopes to make Hong Kong a support base for gay men and lesbians in China. China will assume the administration of Hong Kong from Britain in 1997.

"Gays and lesbians in China have not yet set up any similar society to ours, although underground forums are often held where they discuss anxieties and worries," Lo said.

ITALY

Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace stated in *New York Newsday* that he is gay.

"I don't think a gay person has to be afraid," Versace told the paper. "You don't have to go with a flag and say 'I'm this' or 'I'm that,' but I cannot be a liar."

"I'm more interested to know the real personality of a gay man or a straight man, not to know a gay man who wants to be straight or a 'straight' man who's gay," Versace continued. "We are what we are. And, I don't think we're in bad company [with] all the creative persons who are gay."

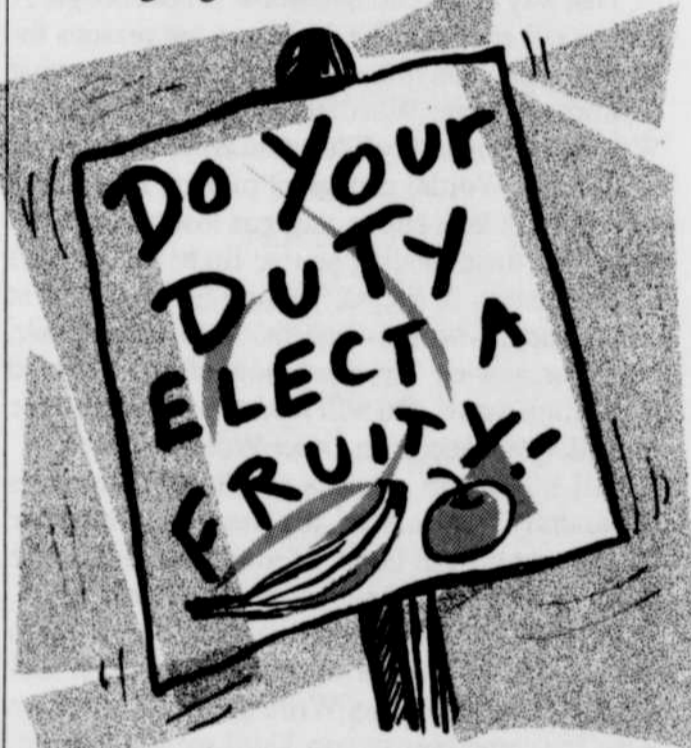
According to the *Newsday* article, other gay fashion designers of note include Isaac Mazrahi, Todd Oldham, John Bartlett, Marc Jacobs and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

MEXICO

AIDS is out of control in Tijuana, says Emilio Velasquez, founder of Organizacion SIDA, the queer newspaper *Frontera Gay*, and the civil rights group FIGHT (Frente Internacional para las Garantias Humanas en Baja California).

Velasquez claims that government inaction at all levels, combined with lack of AIDS-related funding and the relatively high rate of bisexuality among males, is allowing the disease to spread.

He said that as gay and lesbian leaders struggle to cope with the epidemic, crucial civil rights work is going undone.



NETHERLANDS

Twenty-six of 60 openly gay or lesbian candidates who ran for local office in Holland's recent nationwide elections won, reported the newspaper *De Gay Krant*.

The paper attributed the results in part to its "Do Your Duty, Elect a Fruity" (Ken uw Plicht, Kies een Nicht) campaign to get out the vote.

In Amsterdam, Annemarie Grewel was elected to the City Council and former Member of Parliament Peter Lankhorst won a seat on the Bos en Lommer District Council.

Only one other woman was among the winners.

SWEDEN

Sweden moved one step closer to being the third country to allow gay marriage April 29, when the proposed legislation passed a key parliamentary committee.

As in Denmark and Norway, married gay men and lesbians would have all the rights of heterosexual couples—except the rights to adopt children, receive artificial insemination, or force the state church to perform the ceremony.

Compiled by Rex Wockner