

796-1703

"Lecturing friends who are having unsafe sex is a drag. I don't want to be their mother." —Phillip, 32

> "Is it lecturing or is it loving?" -Andre, 24

# We have things to talk about.

Gay & bi guys are getting together. We are talking about DATING, SEX, COMMUNITY, HIV, etc. Join us.

MenTalk 223-6339 ext.160



We will schedule you into a one-time MenTalk group.

A project of the Men's Prevention Program at Cascade AIDS Project.

# world briefs

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Legislators in New South Wales recently granted gay and lesbian couples spousal rights to each other's property.

Other Australian states restrict property rights to married or common-law heterosexual couples.

Lesbians and gay men in the Australian capital state can now make claims to the Magistrates Court to prove they contributed to the "property of the other person or their child."

The Australian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby urged other states to follow suit.

### BERMUDA

Bermuda's House of Assembly voted 22 to 16 on May 16 to legalize sex between men over age 18. The measure now advances to the Senate.

Legislator John Stubbs, a member of the ruling party, introduced the measure, saying banning homosexuality infringes on human and privacy rights. Debate on the bill lasted over 14

Others legislators said homosexuality is un-Christian and wrong. Prime Minister John Swan cast his House vote against decriminalization.

#### CANADA

The Catholic archbishop of Toronto, Aloysius Ambrozic, issued a letter that was read in Catholic churches May 29 condemning Ontario's plan to require employers to give spousal benefits to same-sex couples.

The legislation passed its first reading in the provincial Parliament in May.

"Any attempt to promote a homosexual lifestyle as the equivalent of legal marriage must be vigorously opposed," Ambrozic said. "It is a matter of considerable urgency and ... we are asking you to write your local member of the provincial Parliament to protest the proposed legisla-

Ambrozic ordered priests to place paper, pens, sample letters and addresses at the back of churches, according to the Toronto Star.

The province of Alberta has appealed a court ruling that gay men and lesbians must be protected under the provincial human rights act, reports the Ottawa gay and lesbian newspaper Capital Xtra!

The Queen's Bench Court of Alberta ruled that the Individuals Rights Protection Act must "be interpreted, applied and administered as though [it] contain[s] the words 'sexual orientation.'

The only other provinces that do not protect sexual minorities from discrimination are Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

There is a new magazine out of Vancouver, British Columbia: Lezzie Smut.

Three women associated with the Little Sisters Bookstore launched the publication because Canadian Customs kept seizing the erotic literature they tried to import, reports Capital Xtra!

## CROATIA

Info AIDS is the first nongovernmental AIDS group to form in war-torn Croatia.

The group has launched a speakers' bureau, a switchboard, a gay and HIV-positive rights project, and is publishing several pamphlets.

# DENMARK

About 3,000 gay and lesbian couples have married since the country became the first to legalize same-sex marriage in October 1989, according to the Danish gay newspaper Pan

Male couples outnumber female couples by a large margin, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Norway legalized same-sex marriage last year, and Sweden is expected to do so this month.

In the United States, Hawaii may be the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. It is expected that the state government will be unable to meet a court-imposed requirement that it prove a "compelling need" to discriminate against gay men and lesbians in the issuance of marriage licenses.

#### **ENGLAND**

The British Broadcasting Corporation announced May 21 that lesbian and gay employees who have a commitment ceremony with their partner would receive a paid honeymoon week off and a \$112 gift voucher. The benefits previously went only to heterosexuals who married.

Two days later, however, the gift vouchers were suspended for all employees after anti-gay politicians accused the network of wasting taxpayer money. The BBC is funded by a tax on TV set owners.

The original announcement said, "In line with our equal opportunities policy, the BBC has decided to extend the marriage leave provision to include same-sex partners and heterosexual couples who undergo a formal ceremony of commitment."

The London direct-action group OutRage disrupted Mass at Westminster Cathedral in May to denounce the new Roman Catholic catechism

> which calls homosexuality "a grave depravity."

> Fifteen protesters lectured Cardinal Basil Hume for about 10 minutes and then left. OutRage

spokesman

Peter Tatchell told the Reuters news ser-

vice, "The catechism denigrates gay love and gives theological legitimacy to anti-gay preju-

In related news, the group has petitioned Queen Elizabeth to grant a royal pardon to queer playwright Oscar Wilde, who was jailed in 1885 for having gay sex.

The pardon would mark the 100th anniversary of Wilde's imprisonment.

"[Wilde's] imprisonment is a stain on the judicial system," said Peter Tatchell. "The very least society can do is acknowledge the wrong

## FRANCE

More than 10,000 people marched against AIDS on May 29 in central Paris. The five-mile "March for Life" followed the path of the Seine River, ending at the Eiffel Tower.

France has 32,000 AIDS cases and an estimated 150,000 people are infected with HIV, according to Reuters.

# GREENLAND

Same-sex marriage will soon be legal in Greenland, a self-governing dependency of Den-

When Denmark became the first country to legalize lesbian and gay marriage in 1989, Greenland declined to go along, but now the Parliament has changed its mind, requesting a royal decree to bring the law into effect.

Scandinavian reports credited Greenland's minister of social affairs, Henriette Rasumssen, with winning over legislators.

Greenland lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the Polar Sea and has a population of 56,000.

Compiled by Rex Wockner