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## ENGLAND

London's Lesbian Avengers zapped Princess Anne on Oct. 4 at Save the Children's annual public meeting, to protest the charity's decision to drop a lesbian comedienne from the conference entertainment.

Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth, is president of the organization.

Avenger Kirsti Reeve told Reuters

news service that comedienne Sandi Toksvig was "perfectly acceptable to this organization when they thought she was straight [but] as soon as it became clear that she was a lesbian mother, they dropped her."

Toksvig, star of a TV sitcom, revealed last month that she and her lover have three children born via artificial insemination.

Save the Children then decided Toksvig's presence might "distract" from the annual meeting.

#### GERMANY

Gay activist Volker Beck, 33, was elected to the German Parliament (Bundestag) on Oct. 16 by Green Party voters in Cologne. He promptly told several news services that one of his priorities will be legalization of lesbian and gay marriage.

"I know gays who make up stories about what they really do on the weekend because they fear losing their jobs," Beck said. "Relationships have collapsed because of the stress this causes."

Beck says "some right-wingers" in the Bundestag may "whisper to each other stupid men's jokes when I deliver a speech," but he's not worried about that. "These kinds of people make fools of themselves," he said.

In his role with the national group Association of Gays, Beck spoke from the stage at the Stonewall 25 rally this summer in New York City.

# MEXICO

Leading gay activist Marco Osorio, 36, died Aug. 27 in Mexico City of AIDS complications. Osorio founded the gay group Lambda in 1978. In recent years, he was president of the gay organization Voz Humana (Human Voice) and was Mexico's delegate to the Global Network of People with AIDS and HIV.

"We knew Marco well and will miss him deeply," said Julie Dorf, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "The international movement suffered a big loss with his death."

The Mexican government hosted a skills-building conference for 48 nongovernmental HIV/ AIDS organizations Oct. 3 to 5 in Mexico City. Leaders from groups in most of Mexico's 31 states attended.

"They [the National AIDS Commission, CONASIDA] used to think they were not obligated to support NGOs [nongovernmental organizations]," said Jose Navarro of AIDS Project Tijuana. "It's well known that the NGOs in Mexico do a better job than the government agencies, which are just overpaid bureaucrats.



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## INDIA

The Delhi organization AIDS Bedbhav Virodhi Andolan has filed a petition with the Delhi High Court challenging the constitutionality of Penal Code Section 377, which criminalizes gay sex, reports the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

The matter came to a head for the gay, community-based AIDS group recently when India's Inspector General of Prisons, Kiran Bedi, cited Section 377 as the reason for a ban on condoms in prisons.

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"But finally they are reaching out," Navarro said. "The meetings had mostly to do with strengthening our organizations. We had to pay our plane fare, but CONASIDA paid everything else."

Navarro said the workshops were about "80 percent gay," and that attendees formed the Mexican AIDS Network to exchange information, educational material, and news.

Compiled by Rex Wockner

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