

world briefs

ARGENTINA

The coach of Argentina's national soccer team, Daniel Passarella, said recently that he would never invite a gay player to join the team. The remark came in an interview with the sports magazine *El Gráfico*, reported the Buenos Aires newspaper *Página 12*. Response from Argentina's gay



community was forceful. Gays for Civil Rights spokesman Carlos Jauregui called Passarella a "liar" explaining that "he already has two homosexual players." Sexologist Maria Luisa Lerer didn't mince words either. "Passarella might not be a skinhead, but he speaks as if he were one," she told *Página 12*. "His discriminatory attitude is so gross that it's not necessary for him to shave his head.... There are very macho homosexuals that are successful at sports."

AUSTRALIA

State police in Brunswick, Victoria, raided the Barricade Books store last week and confiscated a pamphlet on the gay relationships of Russian anarchists Necheyev and Bakunin, as well as two T-shirts. One said "Jesus is Cumming" and the other said "Fuck the World Police." No charges had been filed as of press time.

BRAZIL

The Brazilian newspaper *Gazeta do Povo* reported in July that 69.7 percent of people in Curitiba, a city near São Paulo, think homosexuals should be banished from society. The local gay group, Dignidade, expressed horror at the findings and noted that in the past 10 years "42 homosexuals were brutally assassinated in Curitiba, with only two cases solved." Meanwhile, 36 percent of the viewers of the local Curitiba television program *Q.I.* said they approve of same-sex marriage.

BULGARIA

On July 23, Bulgarian National Television Director Ivan Granitski banned programs depicting "violence, homosexuality, prostitution, gambling and drug addiction."

He said the move will protect "national interests" and raise the "professional and artistic levels of programs."

Prosecutor-General Ivan Tatarchev said he approved of the decision.

CANADA

The newly formed Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, meeting in mid-July in Ottawa, formally called on member states "to ensure that all persons belonging to different segments of their population be accorded equal respect and consideration in their constitutions, legislation and administration, and that there be no subordination, explicit or implied, on the basis of... sexual orientation...." The pro-sexual-minority language was pushed through by Danes, over protest from Bulgarians. Denmark legalized same-sex marriage in 1989. The vote was a victory for the International Lesbian and Gay Association, which has lobbied the OSCE for years to take a stand for gay and lesbian equality. The OSCE (formerly the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

was born in 1975 in Helsinki (via the Helsinki Accords). It includes all European countries (except Andorra), the Asian former-Soviet republics, and many other nations of the Northern Hemisphere, including Canada and the United States, but not Japan.



"Don't Be a Fucking Idiot." That's the slogan of the Edmonton [Alberta] AIDS Network's new pro-condom campaign, and some Albertans are shocked, reported Toronto's *Globe and Mail*.

The poster also features a straight couple having sex.

Network officials said they used street language to get the attention of people in their teens and 20s who ignore messages that sound as if they come from authority figures.

EUROPE

The European Parliament has extended to domestic partners of gay, lesbian and straight staff the spousal rights of access to language courses and to Parliament buildings and restaurants. Couples must file a "Declaration of Domestic Partnership" to get the benefits. "It may sound like a very small victory, but for those who are familiar with the staff policy of the European institutions, this is a big step, and it might open the door for further equal rights," the gay and lesbian employees organization said in a press release.

FRANCE

French actress Catherine Deneuve, who just did a cover interview with *The Advocate*, is suing the San Francisco-based glossy lesbian magazine *Deneuve* for using her name.

"My name is a commodity," Deneuve claims in her suit filed in France.

Deneuve publisher Frances Stevens argues that the magazine is actually named after her friend Counters Deneuve. Stevens is exploring the publication of *Deneuve* in France, which prompted the actress's lawsuit.

NETHERLANDS

The 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam has its first big sponsor. "A 2000," a cable network owned by Philips Media Networks and U S West International, has invested \$390,000.

"Gay Games has never attracted sponsors this early and this big," President Marjo Meijer told *De Gay Krant* newspaper.

"This sponsorship shows that the 1998 Gay Games Amsterdam is on the map of world events. We are confident we will attract other major corporate and name-brand sponsors."

The Games, scheduled for Aug. 1-8, 1998, will attract 10,000 athletes, 1,500 cultural participants and up to 100,000 spectators, organizers estimate.

For more information, visit the Internet World Wide Web site at <http://www.megatel.nl/gaykrant>.

POLAND

The Catholic Church has become closely involved in Poland's drafting of a new constitution, reports *The New York Times*.

In the latest developments, the church has demanded protections for fetuses and a ban on gay schoolteachers.

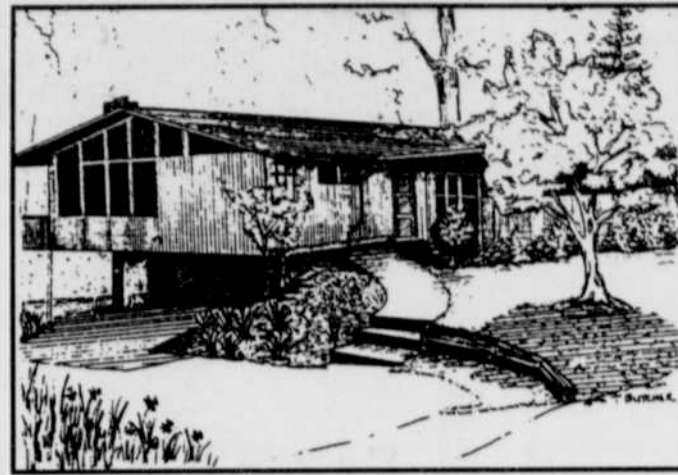
The general secretary of the Bishops Conference, Tadeusz Pieronek, also has objected to draft wording that would prohibit discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

"Does it mean we will legalize lesbian and gay marriages and then we will have to allow them to take important posts and bring up children?" he asked.

SWITZERLAND

AIDS is now the top cause of death for Swiss people aged 25 to 34, accounting for one in five deaths, reported the Reuter news service. Intravenous drug use plays a central role, officials said.

Compiled by Rex Wockner



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