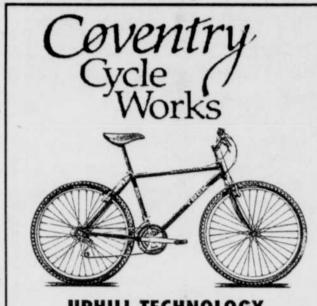
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# world briefs

#### AUSTRALIA

Breaking step with much of the nation, the attorney general of the state of West Australia, Cheryl Edwardes, has nixed the idea of barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Her decision came despite the fact that only 8.1 percent of 394 public submissions opposed the Equal Opportunity Commission's recommendation to include "sexual preference" in the state Equal Opportunity Act, said the Australian Associated Press.

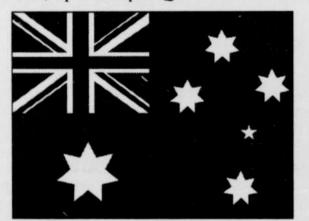
Opposition justice spokesman Clive Brown of the Australian Labor Party accused Edwardes of "gross ineptitude" and said he will try to force the amendment with the parliamentary maneuver of a private-members bill.

Meanwhile, in New South Wales, the state Cabinet has refused to support legislation banning discrimination and vilification based on "sexual preference," choosing instead to ban only discrimination and vilification based on homosexuality.

The Cabinet said it did not want to create a mechanism under which heterosexuals could file discrimination complaints against gay businesses or organizations, according to the Sydney newspaper Capital Q.

Attorney General Jeff Shaw successfully argued that heterosexuals do not face the sort of discrimination that homosexuals face and that anti-discrimination laws should assist disadvantaged groups, the newspaper reported.

Newly openly gay Australian rugby star Ian Roberts has lent his image to a series of safer-sex postcards, reported *Capital Q*.



The material is part of a new Gay Men Fighting AIDS campaign funded by the Central Sydney Area Health Service.

## BRITAIN

Gay activists plan to proclaim an independent republic on a small island off the coast of Devon, England, to protest British Immigration's restrictive refugee laws, according to Capital O.

Peter Tatchell, spokesman for the London streetactivist group OutRage!, said gays will occupy the island of Lundy, population 12, for one week and erect the gay flag, print gay money and issue gay marriage licenses.

OutRage! spent \$13,000 to rent every available building on the island for the week.

# CANADA

Veteran Toronto gay journalist Gerald Hannon, 51, has been suspended from his part-time position as a journalism teacher at Ryerson Polytechnic University after the *Toronto Sun* publicized the fact that he favors legalization of sex between adults and adolescents, and after he later told the *Sun* he moonlights as a prostitute to supplement his income.

The university banned Hannon from campus while it investigates his "recent media statements."

Hannon's views on "intergenerational sex" have been known to readers of the Canadian gay and lesbian press for more than 20 years but were not publicized in the mainstream media until a *Sun* columnist seized on the topic.

Vancouver Island's first gay community center has opened in Nanaimo, B.C., reported Xtra West!

The David Henderson Centre, a converted heritage house at 357 Wesley St. near downtown, came into existence following 13 years of work by the

Central Island Gay and Lesbian Society, the newspaper said.

#### CUBA

Ten percent of Cuba's 1,180 HIV-positive inhabitants have been released from HIV-quarantine and returned to normal life after convincing authorities that they will behave responsibly, the Prensa Latina news agency reported on Nov. 14.

A smaller, undisclosed number could have left but opted to stay, said Manuel Hernandez, head of the national anti-HIV campaign.

Of 1,180 people who are HIV positive, 271 have died and 413 have developed AIDS, Hernandez said.

#### CYBERSPACE

The 11th International Conference on AIDS, which will be held in Vancouver, B.C., next summer, has established an Internet World Wide Web site at http://unixg.ubc.ca:880/stlouis/AIDS96.html.

The confab's other contact information is XI International Conference on AIDS, PO Box 48740, 595 Burrard St., Vancouver, BC, Canada V7X 1T8. From the United States or Canada call 1-800-780-AIDS; fax: (604) 668-3242; e-mail: aids96@hivnet.ubc.ca.

## GERMANY

The state of Bavaria has repealed the law that required applicants for government jobs to take an HIV test. Taxpayers have spent 1.8 million marks—about \$1.2 million—to test some 80,000 job seekers. Four applicants turned up HIV positive.

The test will remain mandatory if a government doctor suspects an applicant could be HIV positive.

### IRAN

The government, which punishes homosexuality with the death penalty, stoned to death dervish sect mystic Mehdi Barazandeh on Nov. 14 for allegedly having had gay sex and committing adultery, reported the newspaper *Jomhuri Eslami*.

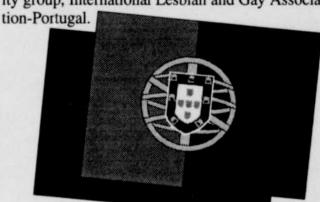
The execution took place in Hamadan, 180 miles west of Tehran.

# IRELAND

Ireland has joined the list of countries where lesbians and gay men persecuted in their native land due to their sexuality can apply for political asylum, reported Dublin's Gay and Lesbian Equality Network.

# PORTUGAL

Gay-bashing "is unheard of" here, and public displays of male-male affection are "looked upon as strange but [are] tolerated," says Goncalo Dumas Diniz, chairman of the country's first sexual minority group, International Lesbian and Gay Association Portugal



This situation likely exists because gay men have never organized or made an issue of themselves, Dumas said. Now, with ILGA's emergence, the atmosphere could change, he believes.

ILGA has little money and is seeking assistance of every sort. It particularly would like to receive newspapers, magazines, books, posters and videos on gay and AIDS issues.

"Perhaps our biggest project is a hotline we would like to set up, since there is no support for our gay community in any sense," Dumas added.

Write ILGA-Portugal, Apartado 21281, 1131 Lisboa Codex, Portugal; phone/fax: 011-351-1-254-5383; web site: ilga@telepac.pt.

Compiled by Rex Wockner