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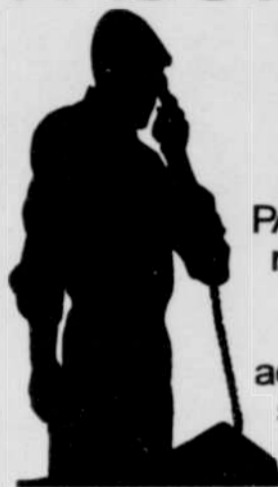
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## PASSWORD



Due to the new legislation that was passed in February, new accounts for PASSWORD are no longer being offered. Existing accounts will be serviced to the end of their contract.

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# world briefs

## AUSTRALIA

On Aug. 7, 1994, 43 police officers strip-searched 463 customers of the Melbourne gay nightclub Tasty. Many of the patrons sued, and, in the first case to reach trial, lesbian Sally Gordon has received \$10,000 in compensation.

County Court Judge Leonard Ostrowski said the strip-search was "unreasonable" and amounted to "assault."

"The experience of being totally helpless and unable to communicate with anyone who might help, the experience of fear because one is cowed into submission by others, the stripping off of one's clothes in front of others in a state of virtual nudity, all this is a most unpleasant experience," Ostrowski said.



## CANADA

Voters in Vancouver's gay West End elected openly gay United Church minister Tim Stevenson to the provincial parliament on May 28.

All three of his opponents were gay as well. A left-wing New Democrat, Stevenson is the second open homosexual to serve in the British Columbia Legislative Assembly.

He was the first out gay man ordained by a mainstream Canadian Christian church.



Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has declined an invitation to speak at the opening ceremonies of this summer's International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver.

Activists suspect that Chrétien fears being booed over the government's failure to renew the National AIDS Strategy, which expires in two years.

"The Canadian government is about to jettison a 10-year commitment to the fight against the AIDS epidemic," said Julia Zarudzka, chair of AIDS Vancouver.

"Mr. Chrétien's failure to renew the National AIDS Strategy and his refusal to speak at the...conference...are an insult to every person living with HIV/AIDS in the country."

Chrétien may also remember the launch of the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montréal in 1989.

Three hundred members of ACT UP-New York, Reaction SIDA (Montréal) and AIDS Action Now (Toronto) commandeered the stage for an hour, demolishing the opening ceremonies.

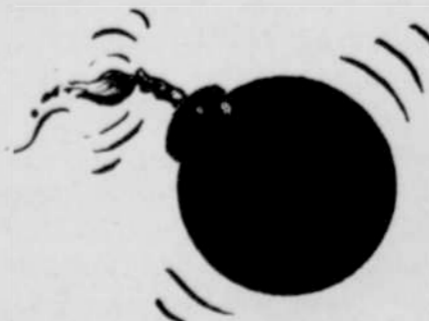
Three hours later, then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was heckled relentlessly throughout his 20-minute address.



The popular gay dance bar Le Club, located across the river from Ottawa, Ontario, in Hull, Québec, exploded and burned to the ground May 24. No one was hurt in the 4:30 am blast.

Police have not ruled out terrorism.

The explosion was heard for blocks, and the resulting fire shot flames eight storeys high, witnesses said.



## CYBERSPACE

Gay men and lesbians anywhere in the world who wish to register their domestic partnership

with the city of West Hollywood, Calif., may now do so via the Internet. The service is also available via regular "snail mail."

The World Wide Web URL is <http://www.ci.west-hollywood.ca.us/cityhall>.

## HUNGARY

Hungary legalized common-law same-gender marriage May 21. Same-gender couples who live together and have sex will have all the rights of heterosexual spouses—including to inheritance and pensions—but will not be allowed to adopt children.

Parliament voted 207-73 in favor of the change, heeding a March 1995 Constitutional Court ruling that mandated legalization of same-gender common-law marriage within one year.

The court ruling had been completely unexpected and was not the result of any campaigning by gay or lesbian groups.

The 1995 court ruling declared, "It is arbitrary and contrary to human dignity...that the law withholds recognition from couples living in an economic and emotional union simply because they are same-sex."

At the same time, the court ruled that formal marriage is for heterosexual couples only.

## NEW ZEALAND

The three New Zealand lesbian couples who sued for the right to marry lost their case on May 28, report correspondents Mark Proffit and Brett Sheppard. At least one of the couples will appeal.

Auckland High Court Justice Kerr ruled that legalization of same-gender marriage should be pursued via Parliament, not through the courts, in part because public support for the idea is hard to gauge.

New Zealand has a national law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the 1955 marriage act does not say spouses must be of opposite sexes. The only marriages specifically prohibited are those that would "damage the gene pool."

## ROMANIA

A new Internet World Wide Web site makes it easy to send protest letters to members of the Romanian parliament. And letters are needed, gay activists say.

Legislation that has passed the Senate and is pending in the Chamber of Deputies retains the nation's ban on gay sex if the sex scandalizes anyone, and adds bans on "enticing or seducing a person to practice same-sex acts, as well as propaganda, associations or other forms of proselytizing with the same aim."

"We need your help!" writes the Bucharest gay group Accept. "Not only gay love but gay organizations, politics, clubs, bars, meetings—gay life itself—will remain persecuted."

To help lobby, point a Web browser at <http://www.raglb.org.uk/home.html>.

Activists say it will be helpful if letter writers remind MPs that Romania was admitted to the Council of Europe in 1993 on the condition that it move quickly to legalize same-sex relations.

## SLOVENIA

The International Lesbian and Gay Association's 10th Regional Conference for Eastern, Southeastern and Central Europe will be held Aug. 8-11 in Ljubljana.

Areas of focus will include the media, visibility, internalized homophobia, lesbian and gay youth, anti-gay violence, sex, discrimination, HIV/AIDS, lobbying, same-gender marriage and working with nongay organizations.

Registration forms are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kud-fp.si/~zoran/QRD/ILGAconf/>, via e-mail from [ales.pecnik@kiss.uni-lj.si](mailto:ales.pecnik@kiss.uni-lj.si), or by faxing 011-386-613-29185 or writing Roza Klub, Kersnikova 4, SI-1000, Slovenia.

Compiled by Rex Wockner

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