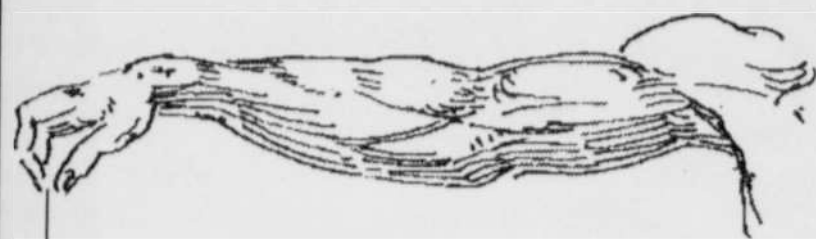


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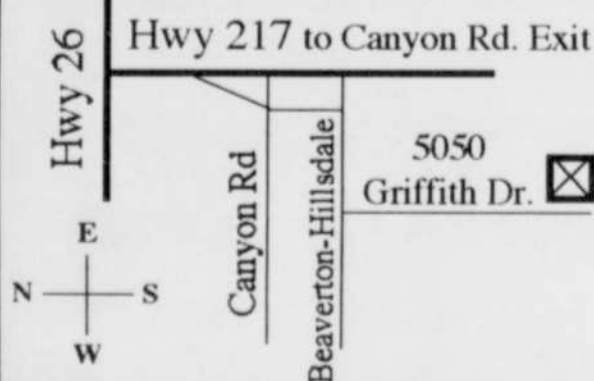
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- 28 Stay Tuned...

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"Born of a Woman"

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world briefs

CANADA

Tim Stevenson, a member of the Legislative Assembly from British Columbia, caused an uproar at the recent meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius, when he said he left his husband at home because homosexuality is illegal in Mauritius.

Stevenson went on to call for creation of a Commonwealth Court of Human Rights to protect lesbians and gay men in nations that ban gay sex, reports *Xtra West*.



The Ontario Human Rights Commission has fined London Mayor Dianne Haskett \$7,100 for refusing to proclaim Gay Pride Weekend in 1995.

Haskett withheld the proclamation because recognizing gay men and lesbians would be "turning my back on God and I can't do that."

The fine will be paid jointly by Haskett and the city to plaintiff Richard Hudler, former president of the Homophile Association of London, Ontario.

The commission also ordered the city council to issue gay pride proclamations when asked to, "make a statement of recognition that the lesbian and gay and bisexual communities are integral and important communities within the city of London," and to "make a commitment to investigate ways of fostering a positive relationship between the city of London and the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities."

INTERNATIONAL

The secretariat general of the Council of Europe granted consultative status to the International Lesbian and Gay Association on Nov. 12.

The decision takes effect Jan. 15 unless objections arise from the Council's Committee of Ministers or Parliamentary Assembly.

ILGA's consultative status at the United Nations has been suspended since 1994 due to the

ILGA



group's inability to prove that no ILGA member organization condones sex between adults and persons under the age of consent (which varies from 12 to 21 worldwide).

ILGA kicked out three pedophile organizations, including NAMBLA, in 1994 after politicians in the United States raised the issue, but the U.N. seeks written proof that no other ILGA member group is lax on underage sex, and some ILGA members have resisted signing such a pledge.

ILGA is a federation of several hundred gay and lesbian groups and individuals from more than 80 countries. It stages conferences, publishes a bulletin, issues action alerts, and networks Western nations with the growing gay and lesbian movements of the Third World and former communist nations. Recent ILGA initiatives have increased gay clout within the European Union, World Health Organization and Amnesty International.

IRELAND

A new statue of 19th century gay author Oscar Wilde has gone up in Dublin Merrion Square. Wilde lived half his life in the city.

The multicolor monument is made of granite, jade, porcelain and quartz. Two black columns, one topped by a pregnant woman and the other by a naked male torso, are engraved with some of Wilde's witticisms.

MEXICO

Mexico City's new mayor, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, has promised to build a gay and lesbian



Patria Jimenez

community center, says Patria Jimenez, the newly elected openly lesbian member of the Mexican Congress' Chamber of Deputies.

"He's an incredible person and among his many plans he has promised us he'll construct the Gay-Lesbian-Transgendered Community Center, a true triumph that really fills us with pride," Jimenez told the Chicago gay magazine *En La Vida*.

NICARAGUA

A gay couple who got married after one of the two obtained a fake birth certificate changing his gender were arrested in León in mid-November along with the people who witnessed the wedding.

The couple was taken into custody after a doctor who treated their 2-month-old adopted child became suspicious and called police. They were also charged with kidnapping the baby.

Nicaragua bans same-sex marriage, and gay sex is prohibited under penalty of one to three years in prison.

NORWAY

A preacher in Norway's state Lutheran Church has been suspended for marrying her female lover.

Siri Sunde faces a final decision by the church hierarchy in a few weeks, but in the meantime Church Affairs Minister Jon Lilletun and Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik have suggested that she resign.

Norway is one of four nations in which gay men and lesbians can enter registered partnerships that grant all the rights of matrimony except access to adoption, church weddings and artificial-insemination services. But the state church continues to refuse ordination to people who make use of the "gay marriage" law.

SCOTLAND

West and Wilde, Scotland's only gay bookshop, has gone out of business after 16 years.

The Edinburgh store, run by partners Bob Orr and Raymond Rose, suffered from competition from mainstream bookstores that now stock gay books, according to *ScotsGay*.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and the nation's Human Rights Commission will present their case against the nation's sodomy laws before the Rand Supreme Court on Nov. 25.

Their job is much simplified by Justice Minister Dullah Oman's recent decision to end his opposition to the repeal efforts.

Anal sex between men is a serious crime in South Africa. The Criminal Procedure Act allows police to shoot men caught engaging in sodomy if they refuse to be taken into custody.

At the same time, South Africa's new constitution is the only one in the world that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation—which will likely form the basis for a gay-friendly ruling from the court.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland's two leading gay groups, Pink Cross and the Swiss Lesbian Organization, have presented the Federal Department of Police and Justice with two new partner measures.

One asks for legalization of same-sex marriage and the other seeks a registered-partnership law that grants the same rights as marriage.

Gay and lesbian groups obtained the authority to force introduction of the measures by collecting 85,000 signatures in support of legal same-sex unions.

Compiled by Rex Wockner