

# WORLD news BRIEFS

## AUSTRIA

Parliament voted July 17 to maintain different ages of consent for gay male, lesbian and heterosexual sex.

Opposite-sex and female couples can have sex legally at 14, while male couples must wait until 18.

The Christian Democrats and the right-wing Freedom Party voted for the status quo, while the Green and Liberal parties voted for equalization.

The Council of Europe's European Commission on Human Rights has ruled that unequal ages of consent violate the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. On two occasions, the European Union's Parliament has called on Austria to end its discrimination against gay males.

The European Union is composed of 15 western European nations working toward unification. The Council of Europe is a grouping of 40 nations pledged to uphold human rights and to cooperate in a variety of spheres of activity.

## CANADA

On July 14, Richard Hollingsworth, a Canadian AIDS activist living with HIV, tried to cross into the United States at Eastport, Idaho, from Kingsport, British Columbia, carrying a sign reading, "AIDS does not discriminate, but governments do."

He was not allowed to enter the United States.



U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service policy bans the entry of HIV-positive foreigners unless they receive special permission to visit family, seek medical treatment or attend a conference.

"[The INS] considers AIDS a communicable disease [under Section 212 of the U.S. Health Act] spread...like tuberculosis, smallpox and the plague," Hollingsworth said. "AIDS is no airborne pathogen. There are specific ways of getting AIDS, and you don't get it from someone sneezing."

He added: "This is a human rights issue and a social injustice, and we need to get this matter resolved. This matter isn't over, and I want to be at Eastport again."

A gay and lesbian pride banner hanging over Pandosy Street in downtown Kelowna, British Columbia, was firebombed June 26. The attack destroyed the word "gay."

"The act speaks to the level of intolerance of some people," said pride coordinator Sharondale Stone.

Kelowna, population 61,213, is 280 miles east of Vancouver.

## BRITAIN

The House of Commons torpedoed a minor party's gay and lesbian rights bill July 2 with a 234-18 vote.

The six openly gay and lesbian members of Parliament either voted against it or did not vote.

The measure, drafted by the gay group OutRage! and introduced by Liberal Democrat Robert Maclennan, would have amended exist-

ing human rights laws to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and HIV status.

"Surely it is not too much to expect gay MPs to vote for gay rights," said David Allison of OutRage! "By failing to support equal treatment for their own community, by behaving like the rest of Labour's automatons, the six gay and lesbian MPs are suggesting that they are more interested in their personal parliamentary careers than in the welfare of the gay community."

An estimated 40,000 gay men and lesbians marched in London's pride parade July 4.

The Gay Games Team UK carried a quarter-mile-long rainbow flag to celebrate the recent reduction in the gay age of consent from 18 to 16.

Marchers demanded the repeal of Section 28 of the Local Government Act, a 10-year-old law that prohibits city officials from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" and bans schools from teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship."

## GERMANY

An estimated 25,000 marchers and 700,000 spectators turned out for Cologne's gay and lesbian pride parade July 5, organizers said.

The festivities took place in the historic Altstadt district. A main demand of the march was legalization of same-sex marriage.

## INTERNATIONAL

Members of the International Lesbian and Gay Association met July 13 in Vienna with representatives of the European Union to urge passage of Europe-wide anti-discrimination protections.

"It was indeed a very fruitful meeting held in a very positive atmosphere," said Jackie Lewis, co-chair of ILGA-Europe. "We got the impression that the Austrian presidency [of the E.U. for the latter half of 1998] will try to include a broad anti-discrimination perspective in its general human rights approach."

Specifically, ILGA wants to see implementation of the proposed Article 13, which bans discrimination on numerous grounds, in the new consolidated E.U. treaty.

## ITALY

The city of Pisa has recognized the marriage of two lesbians by recording it in the municipal civil-union registry.

News reports did not name the women, aged 54 and 51, who have lived together for 11 years.

The Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, called the registration a provocation, but Pisa Mayor Piero Floriani said the move "represents for the community the acknowledgment of the existence of different types of relationships."

## NETHERLANDS

Few gay men and lesbians are taking advantage of the Netherlands' registered partnership law.

The measure, which took effect Jan. 14, grants same-sex couples all rights of matrimony, including the right to adopt children. Currently, 94 couples have registered in Amsterdam, and figures from other larger cities are similarly low.

The newspaper *De Gay Krant* speculates people may be waiting for same-sex marriage to become a legal option.

Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and

Sweden also have registered partnership laws. In general, the laws grant all rights of matrimony except access to adoption, alternative insemination and church weddings. Hungary recognizes a type of common-law same-sex marriage, withholding only the right to adoption.

## NICARAGUA

The country's estimated 15,000 soldiers and 6,000 police officers were ordered by their superiors July 17 to carry condoms to protect themselves from HIV.

"The army...moves around the country and is therefore a high-risk group," Gen. Joaquin Cuadra said at a news conference.

The condoms will be distributed by the Health Ministry with partial funding from the United Nations.

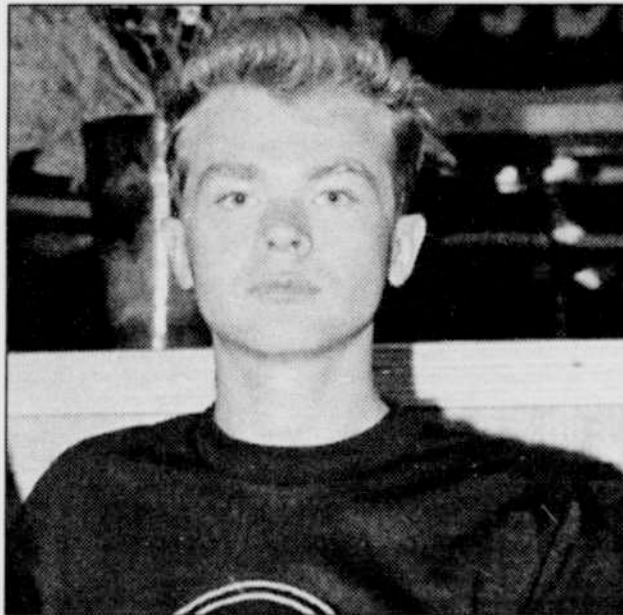
## PORTUGAL

In Lisbon, about 6,000 people gathered for a pride party and variety show in Principe Real park—three times last year's attendance, organizers said.

Seventy percent of the event's budget was provided by the city government. Other sponsors included liquor companies and gay and lesbian businesses.

## RUSSIA

Moscow's Libertarian Gay Union has re-emerged under the leadership of Roman Kalinin, considered by many to be the founder of the Soviet gay movement in the late 1980s.



Roman Kalinin

"Today the rights of gay men in Russia are not infringed on the way they were before," Kalinin said in an early July interview. "Nevertheless, the situation is not good enough even now. We consider our consolidation necessary for standing up for our rights."

Kalinin said the union will fight anti-gay discrimination, run candidates in elections, lobby for legalization of same-sex marriage, launch a gay radio station, battle defamation in the media, and support gay and lesbian arts and sports. The group also publishes a newspaper called *1/10*.

## ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwean Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa said July 15 he may let inmates' wives visit them in prison for sex in order to reduce the HIV-transmission rate behind bars.

He is also considering distributing condoms in jails.

Seventy-two percent of Zimbabwean prison deaths are from AIDS complications. More than 200,000 Zimbabweans have died of the disease, and 1.5 million of the nation's 12 million citizens are HIV-positive. About 700 people die of AIDS complications every week.

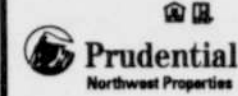
Compiled by REX WOCKNER



See my Exclusive Listings on our webpage

http://www.StanWiley.com

**JEWEL A. ROBINSON**  
Multimillion \$ Producer



1730 N.E. 10th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97212

OFFICE  
(503) 281-4040

VOICE MAIL  
(503) 301-4283

E-MAIL  
Jewel2U@teleport.com

## TRANSITIONS

A confidential, social support group for LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS, and QUESTIONING youth

IN BEAVERTON!

WEDNESDAYS

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Cedar Hills Rec. Center

(11640 SW Parkway)

For more information: 503/223-8299

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR COLLISION REPAIR NEEDS

*Ferguson*  
AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600

2454 E. BURNSIDE  
PORTLAND, OR 97214

Family Owned  
& Operated  
Since 1952



JUST OUT OF THIS WORLD.



**HAWTHORNE TRAVEL COMPANY**

PORTLAND, OREGON USA

Call 232-5944