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WORLD news

CANADA

Police officials in Calgary, Alberta, are pleased that the department has responded favorably to an employee's decision to change from male to female.

The individual began coming to work dressed as a woman about six months ago and will undergo sex-reassignment surgery in another six months or so.

Human Resources Deputy Chief Jack Beaton told local media: "We're quite proud she stayed here and wanted to go through the transition here—that tells us the police service is on the right path. We have a positive workplace policy and this is an issue of diversity."

The transsexual, who does not want to be identified in the media, said: "It's been a fairly easy transition. It seems to be the safest place to be."

The \$5,440 operation will be paid for by the provincial health care program.



A new Canadian Labour Congress campaign will promote tolerance in the workplace. About \$10,200 will be spent on posters and buttons.

One stereotype-busting poster shows seven people with the caption "We'll give you a \$3 bill if you can spot who is gay in this picture." The correct answer is "all of them."

The material will be circulated among the CLC's 85 affiliates and 2.2 million members.

"Success is when being gay is no longer cause for distinction, like when [Member of Parliament] Svend Robinson is described simply as an NDP [New Democratic Party] politician and not 'a gay MP,'" said CLC Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Riche.

FRANCE

French lesbian tennis pro Amelie Mauresmo, 20, won the Sydney International tennis tournament Jan. 15, defeating Mary Pierce, Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis.

Mauresmo dedicated her victory to her lover and coach, Sylvie Bourdon.

"When you are happy in your life, you do your job better. I think she makes me feel good and we have a great relationship and she brings me a lot of confidence," Mauresmo said. "I did-

n't have as much in 1998, but bit by bit it is coming and I am getting stronger in my mind, and on the court it helps a lot."

Last year during the Australian Open, both Davenport and Hingis angered Mauresmo with their remarks to reporters.

Davenport said: "A couple of times I thought I was playing a guy, the girl was hitting it so hard. She's so strong in those shoulders. She hits the ball, you know, not like any other girl. She hits it so hard and with so much topspin. Women's tennis is not usually played like that.... The shoulders looked huge. I think that they must have grown."

At a German-language press conference, Hingis said: "She is half man."

KENYA

The South African Press Agency reported on Jan. 7 that a court in western Kenya allowed a woman to divorce her wife due to "cruelty and violence."

The report explained that among the Kisii people of Kenya's western highlands, widows who have never birthed a son and are too old to reproduce can marry a younger woman who is then expected to get pregnant and produce a male heir for the older woman. Kisii women have no inheritance rights.

Nyoero Ongori married Mary Orang'o eight years ago.

"She beat me up, beat my daughters and never brought a son to the house," Ongori told the court.

NETHERLANDS

Queen Beatrix has knighted Henk Krol, the founder of the Dutch gay newspaper *De Gay Krant*, on the occasion of the publication's 20th anniversary.

Meanwhile, in conjunction with its 400th issue, the publication switched from newspaper to magazine format, upgraded the quality of the paper on which it is printed, and added more color.

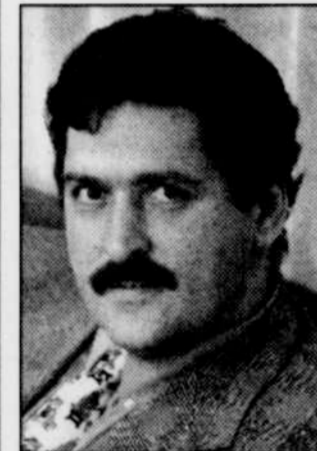


PHOTO COURTESY OF DE GAY KRANT

Henk Krol

PERU

Revista Paradero is the nation's first gay magazine. It appeared on newsstands Jan. 4.

Produced by the Movimiento Homosexual de Lima, the publication offers opinion articles, interviews, reviews, a night life guide, news and nude pictures.

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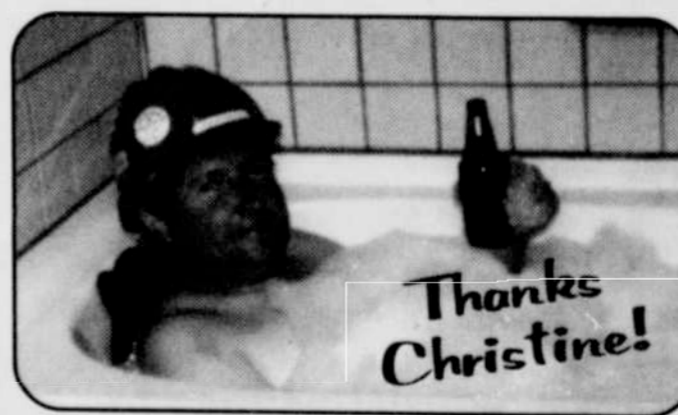
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