

WORLD news

criminal, while in a further 19, discriminatory sexual-offenses provisions remain on the statute books."

Only nine of the Council of Europe's 41 member states ban anti-gay discrimination in the workplace, and only seven have registered-partnership laws.

NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand networks TV3 and TV4 refused to air ads for the gay magazine *OUT!* during local broadcasts of the groundbreaking British series *Queer as Folk*.

The networks are owned by the Canadian company CanWest Global Communications Corp.

The networks' public relations manager, Michele Camilleri, told Wockner News the ads had been rated for post-midnight-only viewing by the Television Commercial Approvals Bureau, and that it is network policy to "usually" follow the bureau's recommendations.

"We are the only network in New Zealand that would commit to screening *Queer as Folk*, so it's a little unfair [to pick on us]," said Camilleri. "We have to follow the TCAB."

OUT! publisher Tony Katavich said he had no idea how the ads caused offense, adding they were merely still-slides of the magazine's cover. (The magazine often features shirtless models on its cover.)

Meanwhile *Queer as Folk*, which began airing March 8, contains very explicit sex and language.

For example, when one character comes out to his parents and his young nephews, he says: "I'm queer. I'm gay. I'm homosexual. I'm a poof, I'm a poof, I'm a ponce. I'm a bum-boy, batty-boy, back-side-artist bugger.... I suck and I'm sucked. I rim them and wank them, and every single man's had the fuckin' time of his life. And I am not a pervert."

Camilleri said some of the language and sex scenes had to be edited to meet New Zealand's broadcast television standards.

RUSSIA

Four times more Russians contracted HIV in 1999 than in 1998, the health ministry's AIDS specialist, Irina Savchenko, said March 2.

An estimated 30,000 people with HIV are now officially registered, half of whom contracted the virus last year.

Ninety percent of those infected are young intravenous drug users, Savchenko said.

The health ministry is preparing to launch a

new campaign together with Doctors Without Borders to promote safer sex and discourage drug use, officials said.

UNITED KINGDOM

All three candidates for mayor of London said March 5 that police should cease harassment and arrests of men who have discreet sex in washrooms, darkened parks and other cruising locations.

In a meeting at the National Film Theatre sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian London group, Labour's Frank Dobson said: "If they [the cops] are wasting their time roaming around public lavatories or raiding clubs, they ought to have something better to do. It is the voyeur



element which drives people on. They should not need to wear a uniform to do it."

Liberal Democrat Susan Kramer said: "We have to recognize when we allow little bits of intolerance, that begins to legitimize discrimination, which at its extreme end leads to homophobia and hate crimes."

Tory Steve Norris echoed: "I am personally upset by police intervention in perfectly consensual arrangements. I also believe the [police] disciplinary code should be amended so that internal homophobic activity is dealt with in the same way as racist offenses."

London's estimated half-million gay men and lesbians are considered an important voting bloc.

Six members of the gay group OutRage zapped Scottish Roman Catholic Cardinal Thomas Winning as he spoke at St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall in London on March 7.

The protesters surrounded Winning and hoisted posters reading "Stop crucifying queers" and "Apologise for church homophobia."

Activist Peter Tatchell snatched away the microphone and denounced Winning's support for anti-gay laws.

Protester Huw Williams screamed: "It's about time you stopped supporting discrimination!"

Church workers ripped down the placards and tried unsuccessfully to hustle the protesters off the platform. The police were called and eventually the demonstrators left peacefully.

■ Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.



North Portland

Veterinary Hospital

Like any family member our pets need good healthcare. At North Portland Veterinary Hospital, we provide the very best medical care along with big doses of tenderness and compassion.

285-0462
2009 N.Killingsworth

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, LOOK NO FURTHER.

You're an individual with unique financial needs and goals. As hard as banks and other institutions try, traditional products simply are not right for you. Talk with Floreid Walker instead. As a Senior Financial Advisor, she's earned the trust of individuals by treating them like individuals. With more than a decade of experience in Financial Planning, IRAs, Roth IRAs, Insurance, College Education Planning and so much more, she's ready to help put your future in focus.



The people with a plan for you.

For a personal financial plan, call:
FLOREID WALKER
Senior Financial Advisor
503.238.6036

800.487.6626
Voicemail: 503.291.7713
500 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 278, Portland, OR 97232
www.waddell.com www.floreidwalker.com
Member SIPC



"2000 President's Council Member"

Retirement Plans • Mutual Funds • College Planning

want a GREAT haircut ?
Bring \$25 in unmarked bills to
The Cutting Crew
3621 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
232-2707
(OR SUFFER the CONSEQUENCES)