

JAPAN

About 3,000 homosexuals attended the first Lesbian & Gay Day on July 30 at Tokyo Disneyland, the *Japan Times* reported.

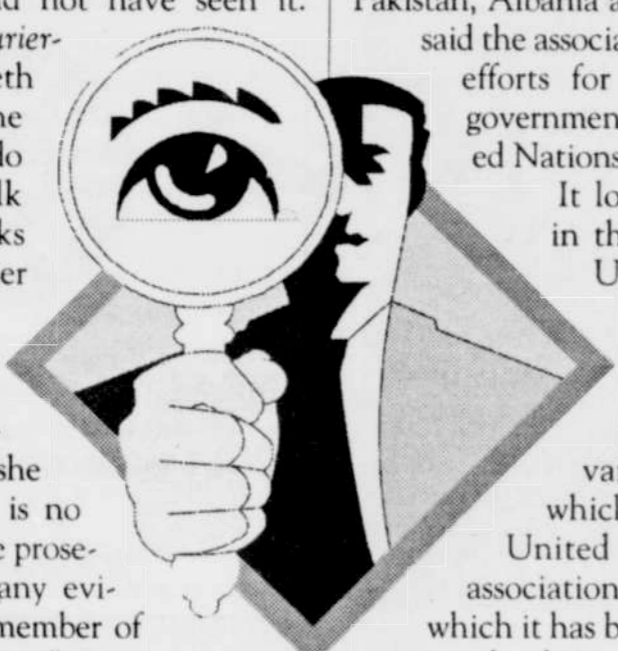
Many wore red T-shirts with the slogan "July Pride 2000." The day was organized by gay journalist Shigenobu Umeki.

"I believe places like Disneyland, which is such a healthy, bright, family-oriented and commercial atmosphere, are the hardest ones for gays to become completely open about themselves," he said. "The event is an attempt to get away from the usual nightclub events into places under the bright sunshine without hiding their sexual identity."

AUSTRALIA

A man arrested for receiving oral sex from another man in a Brisbane park got his case dismissed earlier this month after a court ruled the act did not take place in public because the public could not have seen it. According to the *Courier-Mail*, Magistrate Elizabeth Hall ruled that, unlike the police, ordinary citizens do not customarily walk around darkened parks shining flashlights on other people.

"The police officers would not have seen the behavior before the torches were switched on," she said. "In my view, there is no case to answer because the prosecution did not produce any evidence to show that any member of the public could have seen it."



The state of Victoria's ban on in-vitro fertilization of single women, which recently was struck down by the Federal Court, might be reinstated if Australia's government has anything to say about it. According to Prime Minister John Howard, "This issue involves overwhelmingly...the right of children in our society to have the reasonable expectation, other things being equal, of the affection and care of both a mother and a father."

UNITED KINGDOM

The European Court of Human Rights struck down Britain's ban on male group sex July 31, saying it violated the privacy rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

A gay man who was charged under the ban received almost \$50,000 in damages and costs. He had been convicted of gross indecency in 1996 after police seized a videotape from his home showing him having sex with four other men.

Leading gay activist Peter Tatchell commented: "This ruling spells the end of the gross-indecency law, which was used to convict Oscar Wilde in 1895. ...It is another historic victory on the road to gay equality."



In other Oscar Wilde news, an unfinished handwritten play he wrote has been found in the University of California's library by fan Neil Kydd. *A Wife's Tragedy* portrays a man who betrays his wife with another woman.

It was written around the same time the gay Wilde's marriage to his wife, Constance, was in serious trouble. "Things were really building to a head in 1892, when he was completely besotted with Lord Alfred Douglas," Kydd told the BBC.

Several days after the discovery, Wilde's grandson told Reuters the play was not previously unknown.

"Wilde scholars have known about this for years," Merlin Holland said. "It certainly has not been dug out of a deep and dusty vault. ...People are forever discovering new things about Wilde—supposedly."

ITALY

The International Lesbian and Gay Association, a consortium of hundreds of organizations from around the globe, staged its annual conference in conjunction with the recent World Pride Rome 2000 celebration. According to spokesman Harold Kooden, "Since the conference was only for three days, it focused primarily on maximizing ILGA's work in the regions, networking and furthering its influence in world conferences."

New member groups attended from Latvia, Pakistan, Albania and the Philippines. Kooden said the association is "progressing with our efforts for reinstatement as a non-governmental organization in the United Nations."

It lost U.N. consultative status in the mid-1990s after anti-gay U.S. politicians revealed that not all of its member groups oppose sexual contact between adults and people below the world's varying ages of consent, which range from 12 to 21. The United Nations demanded the association prove it is pedophile-free, which it has been unable to do because of internal politics.

Kooden said finances "are still a constant problem for ILGA. Our work is still being done by volunteers and only two staff people who are not paid full-time."

Send e-mail to ilga@ilga.org for more information.

CANADA

A lesbian relationship has been removed from the North American version of the Japanese television cartoon series *Sailor Moon*, Ottawa's *Capital Xtra!* reported.

Optimum Productions, the Ontario company in charge of the English-language version of the show, said it made the change in accordance with guidelines of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. But a spokesman for the agency said it has no guidelines on gay content in children's programming.

In the third of *Sailor Moon*'s five seasons on Japanese television, the lesbian couple Uranus and Neptune debuted. In the English version of the program, they have been dubbed and edited into cousins.

Optimum Productions changed another character, Zoicite, from male to female because broadcasters feared viewers would intuit a gay relationship between him and the character Malachite, *Xtra!* said.

■ 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.

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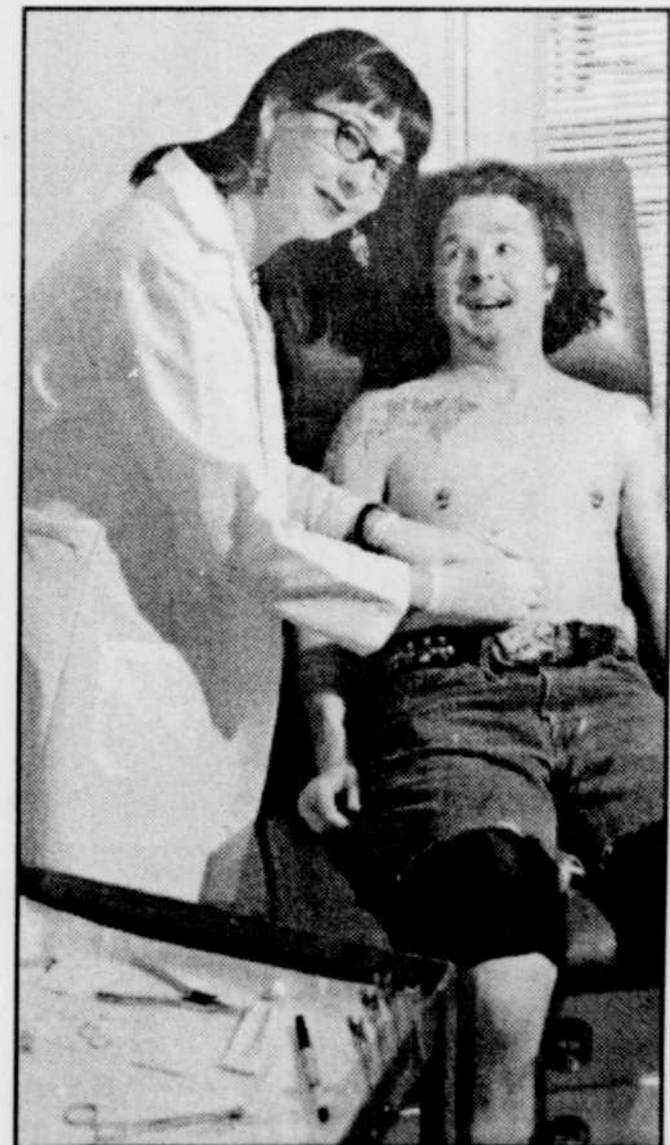
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