

dogs from the Ojo Caliente Water Park, a public swimming area. PAN is the party of Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox.

"This has nothing to do with us," PAN National President Luis Felipe Bravo Mena said. "We reject and repudiate it. This [view] corresponds to the particular input of some lower-level city employee. In no way can this be attributed to the party. I strongly deny that this comes from the National Action Party. The decision made at the water park is the work of an individual, and if any doubt remains, I can say that I feel that this is absolutely reprehensible. We do not believe in any type of discrimination and reject it."

The sign, meanwhile, was removed by order of Mayor Luis Armando Reynoso Fernat one day after about 50 gays picketed City Hall demanding the firing of Director of Regulations Jorge Alvarez Medina, who had approved the sign. The protesters—from the groups Lesbian and Gay Pride, Foundation Against AIDS, the Falcons and In Search of Gay Rights—chanted: "Alvarez, fag, paint yourself like a girl already" and "In my bed I am the master."

"When we went to the ballot boxes to deposit our votes, we were never asked for our sexual orientation," said Juan Sanchez Mayner, Aguascalientes Association of Proudly Gay Makeup Artists president. "This situation takes us back to ancient times. Really, this is deplorable."

UNITED KINGDOM

Lord Wahced Alli, the only openly gay member of Britain's House of Lords, and his lover, multimillionaire media tycoon Charlie Parsons, would like to have children, London's *Sunday Times* reports.

Parsons created the hit television show *Survivor*. Alli was appointed a life peer by Prime Minister Tony Blair in August 1998.

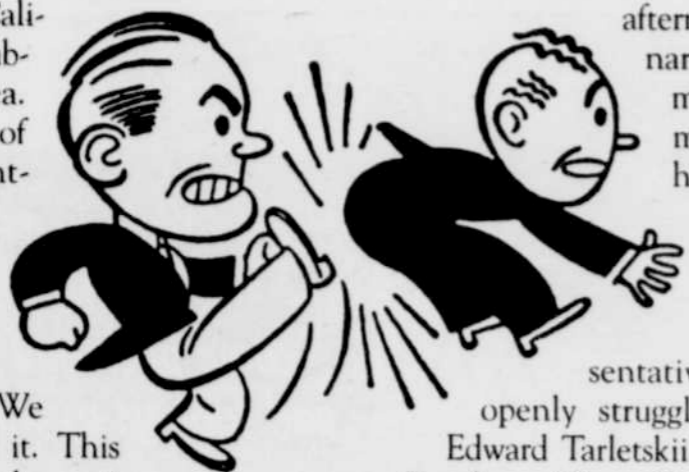
BELARUS

Authorities in Minsk, capital of the former Soviet republic of Belarus, banned the gay pride parade and all other pride week activities Sept. 8.

According to Swedish activist Bill Schiller, who was in Minsk: "Uniformed police arrived at the inauguration performance already in progress, ordered the lights shut off and gave participants only minutes to evacuate the building. Police then followed the festival participants through the street to another club, which had received police orders by phone to shut its doors, trapping the other customers inside."

The next day, the police shut down the pride organization's office and the entire building in which it was located, closed another festival site where performances and art exhibits were scheduled and canceled the gay film festival, which already had begun.

Gays protested the actions by holding an



afternoon of unauthorized seminars in a city park, then marching to a downtown monument and unfurling a huge rainbow flag. "The authorities continue to exercise [their] repressive machine, which deprives sexual minorities representatives of the possibility to openly struggle for their rights," said Edward Tarletskii of the Belarus League for Freedom of Sexual Minorities.

ARGENTINA

The 15,000 people who get anti-HIV treatments from Argentina's government health care system are not receiving a steady flow of the drugs, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission reports. "The companies responsible for supplying government health centers with AIDS drugs—including Indinavir, 3TC, d4T and other anti-retrovirals—have repeatedly failed to meet their contractual obligations," the group said.



HIV-positive people receiving medications through the public health system in Buenos Aires have faced increasingly fractured drug dispensation schedules and acute shortages of drugs that require strict adherence and dosage regimens, the commission said.

"Long lines, hours of waiting and allotments of [generic] drugs of dubious origin, parceled out in plastic bags, propelled AIDS activists into the streets to protest," the group said. "Dispensation of drugs, at one time monthly, now requires patients to present themselves at the dispensary as often as every three to five days."

People interested in working to help improve the situation should send e-mail to alejandra@iglhrc.org.

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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