

Two politicians marched: Socialist Member of Parliament Piotr Ikonowicz and Robert Biedron, a leader in the Left Democratic Union Party. Ikonowicz, a candidate for president last year, promised to support all efforts to legalize gay marriage.

At a post-parade rally, lead organizer Szymon Niemiec called on Parliament to form a commission charged with bringing Polish law into line with European Union directives on gay equality. He also urged gay and lesbian citizens to bombard politicians with questions between now and the next election Sept. 23.

The parade was organized by the Polish branch of the International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network, the magazines *Nowy Men* and *Outsider*, the AIDS organization TADA and the Internet site Gay.pl.

**GUATEMALA**

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission accused the National Civilian Police of aggressive and systematic abuse of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people May 3.

"In the last year, authorities in Guatemala have turned their appointed task to protect the people into a campaign of social cleansing which takes sexual diversity as its preferred target," the group said. "Incidents of harassment by police officers include: arbitrary arrests; unnecessary use of force; verbal, physical and sexual abuse; and intimidatory behavior and retaliatory threats against activists and victims who have denounced the abuses."

**AUSTRALIA**

Legislation giving gay couples spousal rights in the areas of property, pensions and medical care passed the lower house of Parliament in Victoria on May 1.

Melbourne is the state's largest city. The Statute Law Amendment (Relationships) Bill now moves to the upper house.

**BRAZIL**

A total of 130 gay, lesbian and trans people were murdered in Brazil last year because of their sexuality, according to a new report from Grupo Gay da Bahia.

According to *Cause of Death: Homophobia*, 1,960 anti-gay murders have occurred during the past 20 years. Sao Paulo (28 murders last year) and Pernambuco (18 murders) are the most dangerous states for sexual minorities.

"During Carnival everyone applauds gay performers, but for the rest of the year all they get is humiliation, bashing and death," said Luiz Mott, co-author of the report. "Homosexuals are the most hated social minority in Brazil. Not even in Muslim or African countries, where homosexuality is still a crime, are so many violent deaths recorded as in Brazil."

Co-author Marcelo Cerqueira said most of the victims were hairdressers, teachers, civil servants and trans sex workers; others included engineers, doctors, a Portuguese consul and a priest. "The profile of the murdered gays reveals that the majority of them were in their prime, between 18 and 30 years of age, middle and lower class."

A total of 43 percent of the victims were shot to death, and 28 percent were stabbed. Many were tortured. About 80 percent of the trans sex workers were murdered in the street, while 64 percent of the gay men were killed in their own homes.

Half of the killers were younger than 21 and working class, manual laborers or unemployed. Many worked as call boys. "Only 10 percent of the murderers go to prison," Mott said.

**NAMIBIA**

Hundreds of people staged a protest march April 28 in Windhoek to denounce President Sam Nujoma's virulent attacks on sexual minorities. According to wire service reports, 20 organizations joined the demonstration, which was spearheaded by the Southern African Human Rights Nongovernment Organization Network.

In recent outbursts, Nujoma has said: "In Namibia we don't allow lesbianism or homosexuality.... We will combat this with vigor—we will make sure that Namibia will get rid of lesbianism and homosexuality."

**CANADA**

Lesbian author Jane Rule, who wrote the book that was made into the classic film *Desert Hearts*, has denounced the drive to legalize gay marriage, Vancouver's *Xtra! West* reported. "I've worked long and hard in the gay movement, and I don't like the energy that's being spent on this," she said.

In Canada, where Rule lives, gay and lesbian couples who live together more than a year now must declare themselves before the government as common-law spouses, whether or not they want to, and take on a number of legal marital obligations.

"Over the years when we have been left to live lawless, a great many of us have learned to take responsibility for ourselves and each other, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, not bound by the marriage service or model but singularities and groupings of our own invention," Rule said. "To be forced back into the heterosexual cage of coupledom is not a step forward but a step back into state-imposed definitions of relationship. With all that we have learned, we should be helping our heterosexual brothers and sisters out of their state-defined prisons, not volunteering to join them there."

According to a survey by the province of Ontario, 60 percent of sexual minority residents of the nation's capital feel safe and accepted, the *Ottawa Sun* reported April 24. The poll questioned 825 people.

**BELARUS**

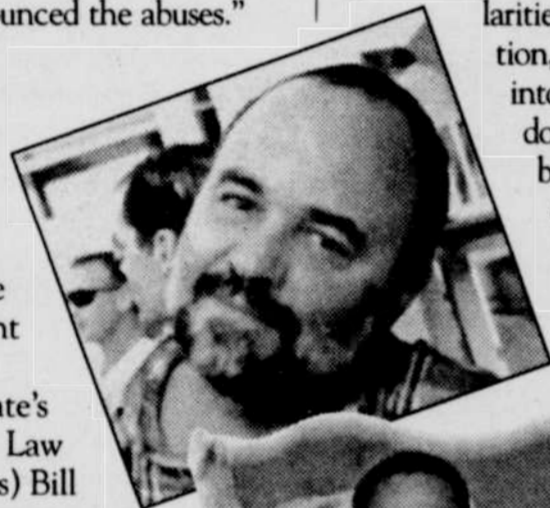
The State Publishing Committee of Belarus has unbanned *Forum Lambda Review*. The panel revoked the monthly gay magazine's registration March 3, claiming it "was registered as an educational and cultural publication but has been running erotic content for more than a year now."

Publisher Edward Tarletski fought back, filing a complaint with the nation's highest court. The revocation was lifted just as judges began consideration of the case.

Meanwhile, the publication's Web hosting service, the International Research and Exchanges Board, has given *Forum Lambda Review* two weeks to find a new Internet provider, Tarletski said. The company said it no longer will work with "public organizations."

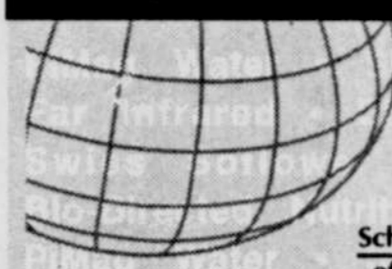
"Unofficially, a reliable source in IREX informs us that the administration made the decision about rejecting Web hosting and e-mail service under pressure from the Belarusian government," Tarletski says. "The IREX administration also thinks that our site contains pornography." [G]

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.



Luiz Mott (above); Marcelo Cerqueira

**TOWARD GLOBAL WELLNESS...**



Experience the Difference

Schedule a free in-home demonstration of the LEADING magnetic technology

Sherrie Taha (503) 236-5910

NIKKEN INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR www.nikken.com Distributor I.D. 79477900

**KBOO** 90.7 FM Portland • 92.7 Columbia Gorge 100.7 Willamette Valley

QUEER, QUEER WORLD • 9:30 AM THURSDAYS THIS WAY OUT • 6 PM TUESDAYS

Independent Listener-Sponsored Community Radio

**WE LOVE OUR VET!**

**Companion Pet Clinics** Portland \ Salem \ Vancouver

M-SAT 8am • 6pm WEST LINN Sun 11am-4pm

WEST LINN 19343 Willamette Drive • (503) 635-3115  
CLACKAMAS 16317 SE 82nd Drive • (503) 657-9225  
TIGARD 13500 SW Pacific Hwy • (503) 670-9707

**MILGARD REPLACEMENT WINDOWS**

Now we can replace your old wood, aluminum or steel windows with Milgard vinyl replacement windows. Made in Oregon for Oregon weather. Lifetime warranty with local service direct from the factory means you won't ever regret your decision to buy the best.

Your new energy efficient windows with low E glass will keep your home warmer in winter, cooler in summer, reduce condensation and add sound-proofing.

23 years of experience at the same location makes us one of Milgard's most experienced certified dealer-installers CCB#19095

**ALL INSTALLATIONS ARE DONE ONE WINDOW AT A TIME FROM INSIDE. WE GUARANTEE NO MESS! NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY! MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FROM MILGARD. CALL NOW FOR A COURTEOUS IN-HOME ESTIMATE OR VISIT OUR SHOWROOM.**

Milgard Windows (503) 283-9481

**INSULATED WINDOW CORPORATION**

Garland Horner Owner CCB#19095 8124 N. Denver