

applies to anyone who has lived in the Netherlands for four months, Belgium's law only will allow same-sex weddings among people whose home country recognizes same-sex marriages.

YUGOSLAVIA

The first Gay Pride march in Belgrade was attacked by hundreds of thugs from ultra-nationalist youth organizations, skinhead groups and "soccer clubs" June 30.

They kicked and beat participants and chanted, "Death to homosexuals." Although dozens of people were hurt, none of the injuries was life-threatening, according to early reports.

Police fired pistols into the air to chase the



Police officers were among those injured during an attack on Gay Pride marchers June 30 in Belgrade

thugs from the city's main plaza, Republic Square. At press time, 32 arrests had been reported, and more were expected.

"We estimated there would not be that many lunatics, but obviously we are still not mature enough to express some, let's say, queerness or, as some would say, fulfillment of desires or sexual tendency," Belgrade Police Chief Bosko Buha told reporters from B-92 radio.

ROMANIA

Romania's government legalized homosexuality June 22 via an "emergency ordinance." The nation has been told it cannot join the European Union as long as homosexuals are criminalized.

The emergency measure will remain in effect for one year, during which it must be ratified by both chambers of Parliament in order not to expire. Parliament previously has refused to legalize homosexuals.

The statute that was suspended, Article 200, states: "Same-sex relations taking place in public or resulting in a public scandal shall be punished by one to five years imprisonment. Enticing or seducing a person to practice same-sex relations as well as propaganda, association or other forms of proselytizing with the same aim shall be punished by one to five years imprisonment."

ISRAEL

About 150 Israelis and Palestinians marched together as one contingent in Tel Aviv's Gay Pride parade June 22.

They were protesting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many more Palestinians reportedly wanted to march with the group but were prevented from entering Israeli territory by security forces.

"We don't feel that today is a good day for a colorful festival," marcher Dalit Baum told The Associated Press. "Gay pride should not just be a carnival but a day of solidarity. We can't oppress the Palestinians and hope to celebrate here."

Thousands of people, including Mayor Ron Huldai, joined the parade on Ibn Gvirol and

Hamelech streets. A three-hour concert followed in Park Hayarkon.

"We demand that the state give us the natural rights that other couples have to establish legal partnerships," Etai Pinkas, head of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Association, told the *Jerusalem Post*. His organization co-sponsored the parade with the Tel Aviv-Jaffa city government.

INTERNATIONAL

Switzerland President Moritz Leuenberger attended Gay Pride on June 23 in Zurich and promised to introduce a gay partnership measure.

"It is nothing but normal to honor Christopher Street Day with my presence," he said. He might have been the first sitting head of a national government to attend a Gay Pride celebration.

About 2,000 people marched in the Gay Pride parade June 23 in Edinburgh, Scotland, including two members of Parliament.

The first Gay Pride parade in Aguascalientes, Mexico, attracted about 100 people June 16. They marched through the city center and rallied at City Hall. Pride parades were held this year in six other Mexican cities: Mexico City, Guadalajara, Veracruz, Tijuana, Culiacan and Monterrey.

About 25,000 women took to the streets of Toronto for the city's fifth Dyke March on June 24.

The first Gay Pride parade in Caracas, Venezuela, attracted about 1,500 people July 1. A few onlookers seemed disgusted, but the majority appeared supportive. The parade ended with the singing of the national anthem.



Switzerland President Moritz Leuenberger (right) celebrates Gay Pride on June 23 in Zurich

About 3,000 people marched June 30 in Dublin, Ireland. A reporter for the *Irish Times* was amused by one T-shirt's message: "It happens in the best of families."

CANADA

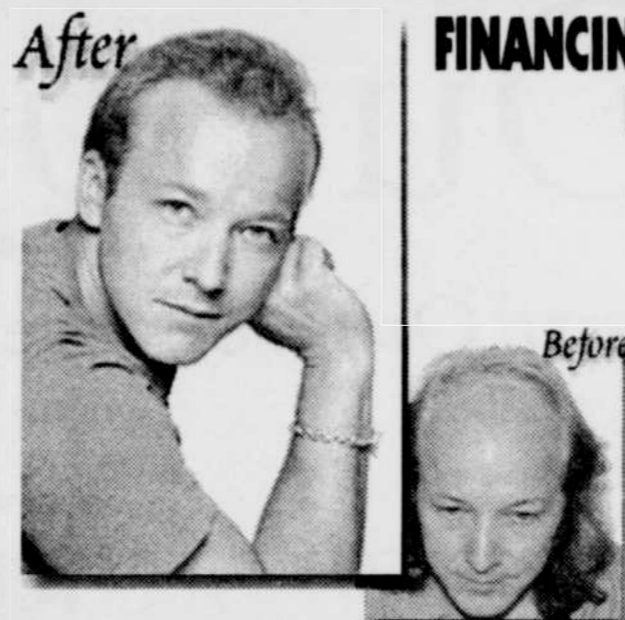
Royal Bank has refused to open an account for an anti-gay organization fighting to keep Montreal from winning the bid to play host to the 2006 Gay Games.

"We don't want to look like we're being supportive of such a group," spokesman Raymond Chouinard told the *Montreal Gazette*. "We're a private corporation, and we do not have to open an account every time a person or organization asks for one."

The "No Committee 2006" says it plans to file a discrimination lawsuit. Royal is Canada's largest bank. [M]

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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