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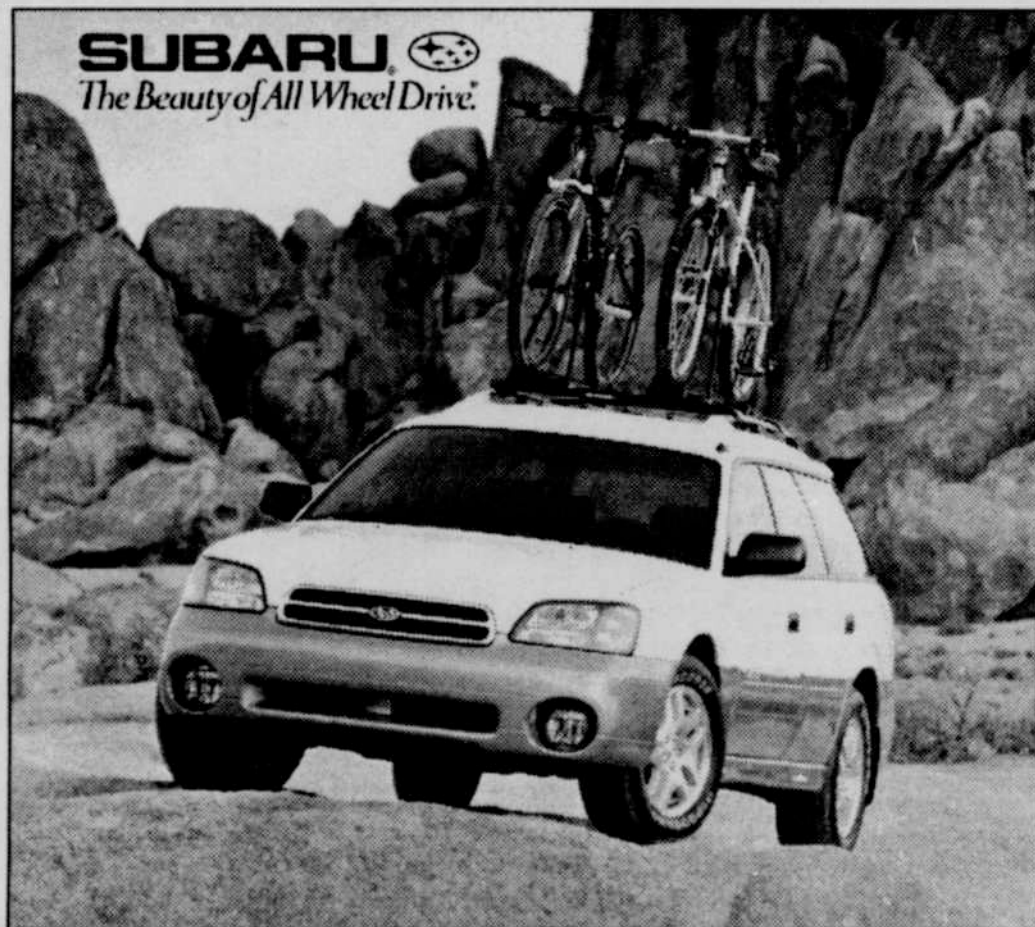


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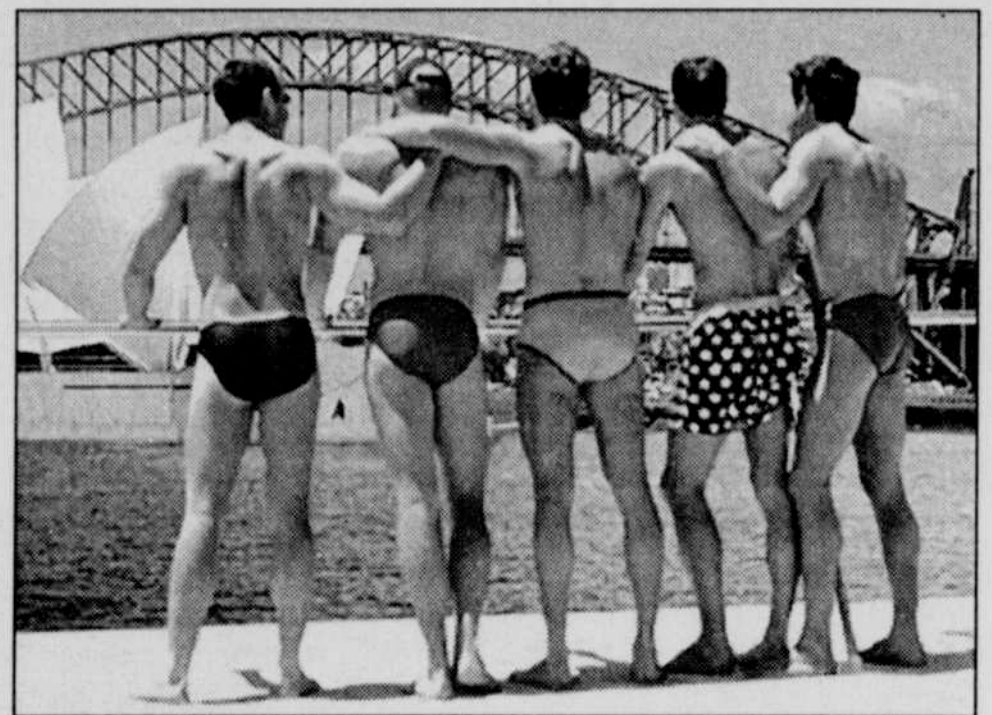
## WORLD news

### AUSTRALIA

Despite earlier doubts, the 2002 Gay Games will go ahead as planned in Sydney.

After a visit by officials of the U.S.-based Federation of Gay Games, the event was given the green light. An internal memorandum, which was leaked to the media in July, questioned whether organizers would be able to pull off the Games, according to the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

But after their visit, federation officials said Sydney organizers "inspired confidence and demonstrated they will deliver the Games." The visiting delegation also rescheduled the timetable on which Sydney organizers must pay a \$650,000 licensing fee.



Sydney already is gearing up for the 2002 Gay Games

### INTERNATIONAL

The International Lesbian and Gay Association has been denied observer status at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, which begins Aug. 31 in Durban, South Africa.

A vote on the matter at a July 30 organizing session in Geneva resulted in a 43-43 tie with 27 abstentions. Muslim nations led the anti-ILGA charge.

Sweden's representative was not present for the vote, which would have tipped the result in ILGA's favor.

The countries that supported ILGA's involvement were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Those that opposed ILGA were Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei, China, North Korea, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Vatican City and Vietnam.

The nations that declined to cast a vote were Argentina, Armenia, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

A total of 80 other nations were not present for the vote.

Former East Bloc nations that want to join the European Union will have "full attention" paid to their treatment of gay men and lesbians, Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen said July 26. In a letter to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, he said, "New member states

will be expected to accept [the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation] upon accession" to the European Union.

Equal treatment of gay men and lesbians is a basic principle of the European Union, Verheugen said. The comments were thought to be directed at Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania, among other nations.

"Mr. Verheugen's statements are a welcome confirmation that the European Commission sees sexual orientation discrimination as something which accession country governments must tackle," Romanian gay leader and ILGA activist Adrian Coman said. "This comes on top of the position already adopted by the European Parliament, which has warned that it will not give its consent to the accession of any country that violates the human rights of lesbians and gay men."

According to ILGA: "Discriminatory attitudes and practices are widespread in many of the accession countries. There is neither an acceptable level of respect for the human rights of the lesbian, gay and bisexual minority nor anything approaching adequate protection from discrimination in many of these countries."

### KOREA

South Korean gays are organizing to fight a ban on gay Internet content, the *Korea Herald* reported Aug. 1. A total of 19 gay, human rights and university-based organizations have formed the Joint Action Against Discrimination of Gays and Lesbians to battle the nation's Information Communication Ethics Committee, which recently rated homosexual content as "immoral" and ordered its removal from most Internet sites.

According to the *Herald*, the panel "aims to keep misinformation from spreading in society, to promote a healthy information culture and to establish the basic outline for information and communication ethics." A spokesman for Korea's Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Federation said, "People shouldn't be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation; it goes against basic human rights."

### MALAYSIA

Police raided a gay club in Petaling Jaya on July 29, the *Straits Times* reported. They found men having sex and arrested 35 of them, including six employees.

The customers were released after their statements were taken. The employees will be charged with violating entertainment regulations.

Petaling Jaya is an upper-middle-class suburb of Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital.



Günter Verheugen