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WORLD news



Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë was stabbed in an anti-gay attack Oct. 6 at City Hall

FRANCE

Openly gay Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë was stabbed in the stomach during an all-night party Oct. 6 at City Hall. He required three hours of surgery and remains hospitalized.

Delanoë is expected to make a full recovery. Several internal organs were damaged, doctors said.

The attacker, Azedine Berkane, told police he dislikes politicians and especially homosexuals. The 39-year-old Muslim said he has strong religious views that homosexuality is unnatural.

"Berkane is no ayatollah, but he is a believer, and he told us that his religion prohibits homosexuality," a police officer told the Agence France-Presse wire service.

The Paris daily newspaper *Le Monde* quoted one of Berkane's neighbors as saying, "He did not like homosexuals, and he did not care who knew it."

Another neighbor said: "Here, we are all homophobic because it's not natural. It's against Islam. There are no Muslim gays."

Paris Deputy Mayor Christophe Girard called Berkane "clearly a deranged person." He has been placed under investigation for attempted murder.

Berkane's lawyer, Anna Salabi, denied Oct. 9 that the stabbing was a hate crime.

"I understand that public opinion wants to explain this distressing act, but there is no rational explanation for the attack which cannot, for the time being, be described as either a political or homophobic act," she told AFP. "My client is a person who speaks in an incoherent way that reveals great distress. He is totally depressed and completely dramatizes his life. He told investigators he did not like homosexuals, but I have the feeling he is lost."

Berkane reportedly also told police he feels "persecuted by a satanic cult," AFP reported.

At the time of the attack, Delanoë was participating in the "Sleepless Night" festival, during which museums and tourist attractions stay open all night and special artistic events take place throughout Paris. City Hall was playing host to an electronic lounge music concert.

UNITED KINGDOM

An Anglican network has asked incoming Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams to resign even before he takes his seat as leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which includes the Episcopal Church in the United States. The conservative organization, Reform, is composed of 1,500 prominent Anglicans, including 500 priests.

It said Williams must step down unless he

declares that all sex outside of heterosexual marriage is sinful and renounces his past support for queers, which reportedly has included ordaining gay priests he knew were not celibate. "We ask Rowan Williams if he is unwilling or unable, personally and publicly, to make these affirmations, to withdraw his acceptance of the nomination to be the next archbishop of Canterbury."

The anti-gay Anglican organization Evangelical Alliance posted a letter on its Web site Sept. 29 in which Williams was quoted as saying: "No archbishop of Canterbury can make policy for the whole Anglican Church, nor should he seek to do so. I have no agenda of my own to implement on this matter, and the resolutions of the Lambeth Conference [which rejected the validity of gay relationships] must determine my conduct.... My task is to state the majority view; if asked I can expound the debates around it, but I have no business to alter it by fiat."

Police in the London borough of Newham have set up a self-defense class for gay, lesbian, bi and trans people, the *Newham Recorder* reported Sept. 25. They will learn jujitsu self-defense and confrontation-avoidance techniques and hear about the risks of meeting sexual partners from the Internet or in public cruising areas.

The course is 18 hours long, spread over six Monday nights. It is funded with a \$2,700 grant from the Police Property Act Fund.

Leeds has become the third British city to set up a gay partnership registry, after London and Manchester.

As in the other two cities, the Partnership Register and Commitment Ceremony grants few legal rights and obligations. It is seen as mostly symbolic.

"Leeds is a thriving, dynamic and forward-looking city," Councilor Angela Gabriel told the *Yorkshire Post*. "The introduction of commitment and partnership ceremonies will add to our reputation as a city that welcomes diversity and tolerance."

ARGENTINA

The Catholic archbishop of Santa Fe reportedly has been recalled to Rome permanently after revelations of his sexual relationships with young seminarians.

Edgardo Gabriel Storni's alleged numerous affairs and abuses are detailed in a new book, *Our Holy Mother*. Argentine gay activists say



Edgardo Gabriel Storni

the church has been aware of the truth for eight years, following its own investigations, but managed to scuttle any scandal until journalist Olga Wornat's publication appeared.

PERU

The administration of Lima's Pontifical Catholic University has distributed to each student a pamphlet describing homosexuality as a curable sickness.

Rector Salomón Lerner Febres said the brochure was prepared at the request of Lima Archbishop Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani, the college's chancellor. Several student organizations denounced the pamphlet and charged that the university has lost its independence from the local Catholic hierarchy.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney has its first over-the-air gay television show. *DV8* airs weekly on Channel 31 with what the *Sydney Star Observer* called an "eclectic mix of segments and a host of roving guest reporters."

Producer Craig Payne is best known for his large-scale party events. The program has received