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WORLD news

DENMARK

The government of the Faroe Islands "is on the verge of a major schism" concerning gay partnerships, the *Copenhagen Post* reported Oct. 24.

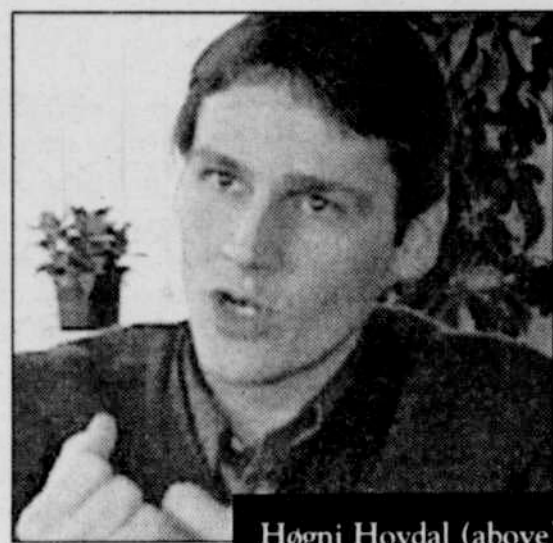
Even though the Faroes are an administrative division of Denmark, the islands never imported the nation's 1989 gay registered partnership law. Faroese gays who wish to tie the knot must travel to Denmark to do so.

Several members of the Faroese Parliament have threatened to withdraw from the ruling government coalition if the registered partnership law is introduced, the *Post* said. But Republican Party leader and MP for justice issues Høgni Hoydal refuses to back down.

"We can't just export all our problems to Denmark," he told the daily newspaper *Socialurin*. "We're going to have to address issues in the Faroe Islands that are sensitive."

MP Jógvan á Lakjuni responded: "It is, first and foremost, a crime against nature for homosexuals to enter registered partnerships.... It is simply too far out that a society can give two people of the same sex the same rights as a married couple."

The Faroe population is descended from ninth century Vikings. The islands have been connected politically to Denmark since the 14th century but attained a high degree of self-government in 1948. Located between the Norwegian Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, halfway between Iceland and Norway, they have 46,011 residents.



Høgni Hoydal (above) and Jógvan á Lakjuni



CANADA

Windows were shot out with pellet guns at Gay-MART and the queer bookstore Little Sister's in Vancouver, British Columbia, *Xtra! West* reports.

Both businesses are on the city's gayest avenue, Davie Street. "We knew when we put a big pink triangle and the name Gay-MART on the store that there were going to be hassles," owner Gil Fargen said.

Statistics Canada released Oct. 22 the results of its effort to count same-sex couples in the 2001 census.

About 3 percent of common-law couples declared themselves gay. In all, 34,200 same-sex couples were counted, about one-half of 1 percent of all couples.

Single gays and lesbians were not counted. Obviously, neither were closeted couples.

"Before the 2001 census, [gay] people had no option but to mark their marital status as single," John Fisher of the national lobby group Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere told the Canadian Press wire service. This census "sends a message that we are a normal, natural part of the Canadian fabric who are here to stay, and the governments and courts need to face up to their responsibilities."

A majority of the self-declared same-sex couples live in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. In Vancouver, 15 percent of all common-law couples said they were gay, followed by 9.8 percent in Toronto, 6.7 percent in Ottawa, 6.3 percent in Montreal and 4.5 percent in Calgary.

About 15 percent of the female couples had kids living with them compared with 3 percent of male couples.

The Bible is crystal clear that gay sex is wrong, the outgoing head of the Anglican Church said Oct. 21 in Toronto.

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey

called homosexuality a cultural "problem" like "polygamy." He added, "The Bible is...very, very clear on where we stand on this issue."

Incoming Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is more liberal—and, as a bishop, knowingly ordained at least one noncelibate gay priest. However, since being selected to succeed Carey, he has said he will not impose a gay "manifesto of his own devising" on the church.

Customs censors have seized copies of the British lesbian novel *Cherry* because of "a fist-fucking scene," London's *Gay Times* reported in its November issue. In notices sent to Toronto's Glad Day Books and Victoria, British Columbia's Bleeding Rose Books, officials said the language was "degrading."

Another British gay book, *Slave King*, was seized in the same shipments. Glad Day's Toshiya Kūwabara accused the government of paying extra attention to packages from U.S. distributor Consortium, which sent the publications to Canada.



UNITED KINGDOM

The European Court of Human Rights has ordered Britain to compensate five people who were kicked out of the military for being gay. They suffered violations of their rights to a private life and to remedy for a breach by a public authority, as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, the court ruled Oct. 22.

The government will have to pay about \$580,000. Britain lifted its military gay ban in January 2000 under order from the European Court.

A new poll found that one in 10 Britons have had gay sex, that half support legalization of gay marriage and that a quarter think gay sex should be illegal.

Other findings include: 25 percent of men are unhappy with the size of their penis, 17 percent of respondents have committed adultery (22 percent of men and 13 percent of women), and 41 percent would consider having sex for money—for the right price. The poll, conducted for the *Observer* newspaper, quizzed 1,027 people.

After three hours of heated debate, the House of Lords voted 196-162 Oct. 16 to