

maintain the ban on adoption by unmarried couples, including same-sex couples.

The House of Commons had voted to lift the ban. The Adoption and Children Bill now returns to that chamber, which likely will overrule the Lords, who can delay but not ultimately kill a measure passed by the Commons.

About 5,000 children are awaiting adoption in the United Kingdom. Single people, including gays, are allowed to adopt.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Capital Territory, where Canberra is located, has proposed changing 39 laws to replace "spouse" and "de facto spouse" with "domestic partner," in order to decrease discrimination against same-sex couples.

Once that is complete, the government wants to change an additional 31 laws dealing with partnership issues that might be considered more controversial, such as those concerning children. The ultimate goal, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said, is to end all unequal treatment of gay, lesbian, bi, trans and intersex people.

An "exposure draft" for the first 39 changes will be introduced next month in the Assembly. Even if all 70 laws are altered, however, queers still would face discrimination on the national level in areas such as marriage, taxation, social security, superannuation and industrial relations, according to a report in the *Canberra Times*.

MEXICO

Police in Mérida, Yucatán, detained numerous people, including gays and transvestites, during a surprise raid on downtown streets in late October.

They said they wanted to "create security and a new image." Police operative subsecretary of protection Daniel Carrillo Espinoza explained, "The action took place to combat problems like alcoholism, robbery and the presence of homosexuals and transvestites that have been observed in the city's central square and that affect the inhabitants of Mérida and the tourists who visit the city."

Also late last month, the City Council in Tecate, Baja California, passed a law punishing "men who dress as women and move around public places, causing perturbation" with arrest, incarceration and a fine equal to 40 days' salary at the minimum wage. Mexico's daily minimum wage—daily, not hourly—is about \$3.80.

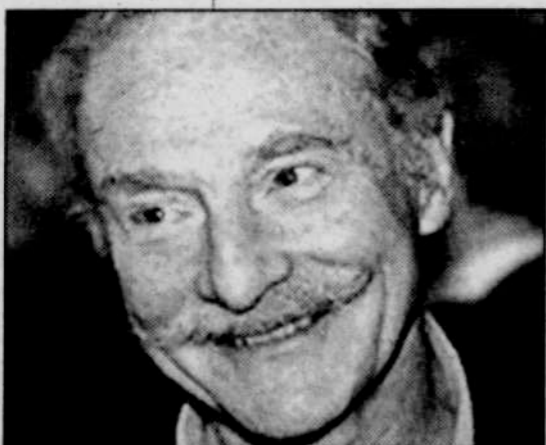
"We want this law scrapped," said Tijuana gay leader Alejandro García, who helped organize a protest march Nov. 12. "We have to fight this or we'll see similar laws in Baja California's other cities—Ensenada, Mexicali, Tijuana and Rosarito."

The city, population 77,000, is located 45 miles southeast of San Diego. Tecate beer is brewed there.

Police in Aguascalientes continue to menace gays, trans people and sex workers, activists said Oct. 11.

In one of the latest incidents, cops broke up a gay protest outside the mayor's office and jailed 30 demonstrators for five days. The city has seen a series of gay bar raids this year, resulting in beatings and prostitution arrests, the activists report.

Mayor Ricardo Magdaleno Martínez has said he will "fight all the faggots," "push the gay bars out of town" and "arrest anyone with a homosexual appearance" caught walking down Lopez Mateos Avenue, a main thoroughfare. The state of Aguascalientes is one of only a few locales in Mexico where discrimination based on sexual orientation is banned by law.



Josy Dubie

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.



Marie Fourie and Cecilia Bonthuys plan to appeal for the right to marry in South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Pretoria High Court dismissed a gay marriage case Oct. 18.

Two lesbians had demanded they be allowed to marry under the same laws as opposite-sex couples. The national constitution bans all discrimination based on sexual orientation.

According to the South African Broadcasting Corporation, "Judge Pierre Roux ruled that the matter was of a constitutional nature and that he was not prepared to exercise his own discretion." The couple, Marie Fourie and Cecilia Bonthuys, said they will appeal.

CHINA

China's most well-known AIDS activist, who recently spent a month in jail for revealing state secrets, has been allowed to register his private organization. Wan Yanhai registered the Beijing AIDS Action Health Education Institute with the city's Industry and Commerce Bureau in mid-October.

He was released from jail Sept. 20 after admitting he'd made a "mistake." He had been taken into custody Aug. 24 for widely e-mailing a leaked government report on thousands of farmers in the Henan province who were infected with HIV while selling their blood to unsanitary, government-sanctioned collectors between the late 1980s and mid-1990s.

Wan says up to 2 million people might have been infected in similar circumstances. "I admitted wrongdoing and I asked the government for leniency, so that is why I think they let me go," he told the French Press Agency.

BELGIUM

A committee of Belgium's Senate voted 11-4 Oct. 23 to open regular marriage to same-sex couples.

The Netherlands is the only nation where gay couples can marry under the same laws as straight people. Numerous European nations have gay partnership laws granting nearly every right of marriage.

Green Sen. Josy Dubie said letting gays marry "will put right what many homosexuals view as discrimination." The measure will need to pass both houses of Parliament and circumvent opposition from three parties, the Francophone Liberals, Francophone Christian Democrats and Vlaams Blok. **JW**

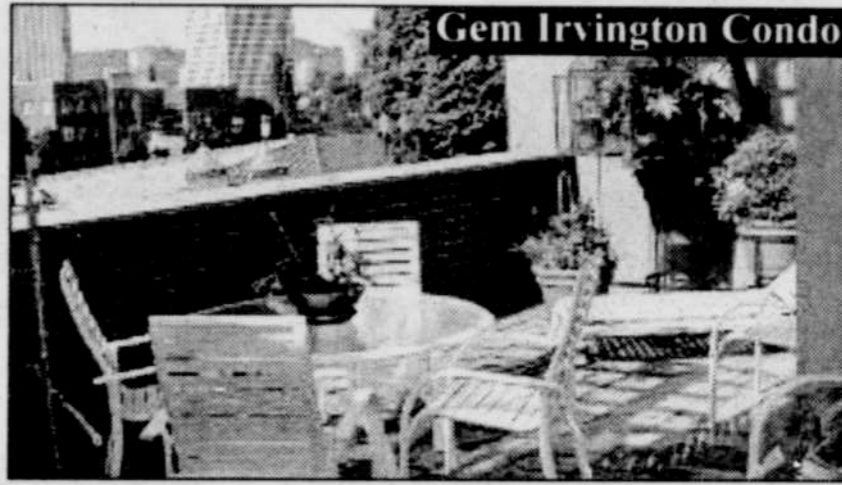
Let me find your new home

Scot Kamins



"I Listen."

Gem Irvington Condo



Irvington district perfect urban condo. Huge corner unit, giant deck with hot tub, corian kitchen, euro cabinets, maple floors, 2 secure parking spaces, huge closets, close to all amenities—your dream city space.

Scott Trahan Realty Brokerage 503-230-7855 cell 503-997-0199

MacRory Tip to Clip

Pretzel Power!

Many Macintosh menus have keyboard shortcuts, using modifier keys from the lower left of your keyboard. These shortcuts are in the menus themselves, but abbreviated with symbols such as ⌘ for shift, ⌘ for control, ⌘ for option and the "power pretzel" ⌘ "command" key. Use these keys together or with letters to quickly copy (⌘+C), paste (⌘+V) or even empty the Finder Trash (⌘+⌘).



MacRory@macrory.com

(360) 695-6929

"I optimize Macs & teach people to use them."

WENTWORTH SUBARU

THE NEW BAJA IS HERE!



Your Baja Headquarters

SUBARU The Beauty of All Wheel Drive.

WENTWORTH SUBARU

www.wentworthsubaru.com

107 SE Grand • 4 Blocks South of the Convention Center • 503-232-2000