



When an ordinary Realtor simply won't do...



3144 SE Belmont
Portland, OR 97214
office: 503-238-7617



Clearly Not Just a Patio Cover



Optically Clear, UV Block, Shatter-Proof, 200+ Frame Colors

CLEARVUE Free Estimates
patio covers (360) 695-9856



It's My Pleasure
Sexy Gifts - Exciting Ideas
and Unique Apparatus

Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th
3106 NE 64th Portland, OR 97213
503-280-8080

WORLD news



José María Mendiluce (right) is running for mayor of Madrid, Spain

SPAIN

Spanish Member of the European Parliament and Madrid mayoral candidate José María Mendiluce came out in the January issue of the gay magazine *Zero*.

A member of the Green Party, the 51-year-old said he had been closeted because of "cowardice" and to protect his career. "The gay community can count on me to defend our rights together," he said.

The mayoral election is in May. Paris and Berlin both have openly gay mayors.

RUSSIA

The St. Petersburg Union of Journalists refused to let gay activists hold a press conference in the city's House of Journalists on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

"I can't stand gays," said union president Vladimir Ugryumov, editor of the daily newspaper *Vechemy Peterburg*. "I don't mind lesbians that much. I don't think the intimate life of certain people has anything to do with human rights, and I don't think sexual questions should be discussed in the public arena."

Russia legalized gay sex in 1993, but some activists say there has been minimal societal progress since then.

GERMANY

Germany's *Blind Date* television show is doing a gay episode. According to a Jan. 3 report by *Ananova.com*, bachelor Markus will choose a date from among Andreas, Patrick and Maik.

"My friends think it's great for me to go public like that, and my boss even collects newspaper clippings about the show," Markus said. Host Joerg Pilawa said that if viewer response is favorable, producers might do a lesbian episode as well.

SWEDEN

Sweden's main gay rights group might set up its own adoption agency. Same-sex couples secured adoption rights in June but continue to be ostracized by the nation's six adoption agencies, National Federation for Sexual Equality president Sören Andersson told the daily newspaper *Metro* Dec. 27.



Sören Andersson

"The adoption agencies have made their views clear," he said. "We are now very seriously discussing the possibility of creating an independent adoption agency."

A spokeswoman for the agencies claimed the nations that provide babies for adoption in Sweden won't cooperate if the children are to be raised by same-sex couples.

"In many countries, homosexuality is illegal," Annika Gruenewald said. "Once Sweden is

associated with adoption by homosexuals, then the chances of heterosexual couples to adopt children are compromised."

To avoid such conflicts, some European nations that allow gay adoption restrict same-sex couples to babies born in that country.

Gays who enter a Swedish registered partnership now lack only two rights that are available to heterosexuals: access to artificial insemination technology and access to marriage itself. Only the Netherlands lets same-sex couples marry under the same laws as straight people.

THE NETHERLANDS

A Dutch lesbian couple had a clone baby Jan. 3, according to Clonaid.

Organization head Brigitte Boisselier said the parents want to remain anonymous. She offered no proof for her claims.

"If we assume sexuality is genetic, then the baby will be the same sexuality as the parent," Boisselier told *365Gay.com*. "Perhaps this will prove one way or the other the debate over nurture vs. nature."

Clonaid also has failed to provide proof of its claim that the world's first cloned human was born in December. The parents are wavering on whether to allow DNA testing, Boisselier said, because legal steps taken in Florida, where the birth announcement was made, could lead to the child being taken away from them.

Clonaid was founded in the Bahamas in 1997 by Claude Vorilhon, who leads a religious sect, the Raelians, that believes interplanetary visitors created life on Earth. The Raelians see cloning as a step toward eternal life.

SWAZILAND

Almost four of every 10 adults in the small African nation of Swaziland are HIV-positive, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini said Jan. 2.

The rate is similar to that of Botswana, which has been pegged as having the world's highest HIV rate—38.8 percent of adults. Swaziland, population about 1 million, is a mountain kingdom situated between South Africa and Mozambique.

THAILAND

At the request of lesbian activists, Thailand's Mental Health Department has issued a statement informing the nation that gay people are not mentally aberrant and should be regarded as normal, Bangkok's *The Nation* reported Dec. 27. The agency based its position on the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases, which also sees gays as normal.

"Homosexual men and women are becoming increasingly more visible in Thai society in all occupational and professional groups, although many more in same-sex relationships choose to keep their private lives under wraps," *The Nation*

WENTWORTH SUBARU



#1 Volume Subaru Dealer in Oregon!

2003 Subaru Outback



2 @ \$20,988

MSRP \$24,996
#35324, #35325

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