

WORLD news

activities, civil and political organizations, media messages and images, and free movement. It criminalizes exploitation, degradation and physical or psychological abuse against protected individuals and prohibits promoting or engaging in hatred, violence, rejection, ridicule, defamation, slander, persecution and exclusion toward protected groups.

In the case of violations by public officials, the newly created National Council to Prevent Discrimination will demand an explanation from the accused party, call a conciliation hearing and suggest solutions. If a solution is not forthcoming, the council will punish proven violators.

In the case of violations by private entities or individuals, the council will suggest a conciliation hearing and mediate between the parties.

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico's Supreme Court ruled in mid-April that domestic violence statutes do not apply to same-sex couples, *The Orlando Sentinel* reported. It said the laws were designed to protect the family, which it defined as the "sentimental and legal union between a man and a woman."

As a result of the ruling, charges were dropped against Leandro Ruiz Martínez for beating his boyfriend, Juan J. del Valle. The decision led to demonstrations, pro and con, outside the courthouse, and Justice Secretary Anabelle Rodríguez urged the court to rethink its ruling.



Transsexual Aya Kamikawa was elected April 27 to Tokyo's Municipal Assembly

JAPAN

An open transsexual was elected to the Municipal Assembly in Tokyo's Setagaya ward April 27. Aya Kamikawa, 35, came in sixth among the 72 candidates for the assembly's 52 seats.

"I am overjoyed," she told reporters. "I will proudly attend the assembly as a woman."

Kamikawa added in an interview with Australia's *Sydney Morning Herald*: "As long as we keep silent, nothing is going to change. We need the courage to make a society which respects diversity."

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea moved to unban gay Web sites April 3. At the urging of the National Human Rights Protection Committee, which had been lobbied by gay activists, the National Youth Protection Committee altered the Youth Protection Act so homosexuality no longer is classified as "obscenity and harmful to youth."

The change was sent to Congress and to the Information Communication Ethics Committee, Publication Ethics Committee, Media Rat-

ing Board and Korean Broadcasting Commission for appropriate revisions within their charters. The human rights officials said that prohibiting youth from accessing sites with gay content—which resulted in a de facto ban on all gay Web content—violated constitutional guarantees of happiness, equality and free expression.

CHILE

The headquarters of the Santiago trans group TravesChile were trashed by thugs April 12. A total of 30 young men took sticks, stones and guns to the facility.

They also stole valuables and beat up trans activists. The organization's vice president, Alejandra, remains hospitalized because of injuries suffered in the melee.

Police arrived a half-hour after the attack began and have not made any arrests. "We are very concerned about this episode because TravesChile has documented and denounced several instances of police abuse against transgender people, and the organization's president, Silvia Parada, has said that police inaction might be in fact 'revenge,'" the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission said.

NEPAL

Police in Kathmandu reportedly beat and detained a group of gay men April 22. They were taken into custody after leaving a 24-hour restaurant and held for four hours at the Durbar Marg station.

Police Inspector Umesh Ranjitkar denied the cops tortured and abused the men, telling local media that they were drunk and that one of them "threw away a policeman's gun and bit off his ears. They should not have retaliated even if they felt the police were harassing them, and they should have reported the incident to me in the morning instead."

POLAND

About 3,000 people marched May 1 in Warsaw's gay Equality Parade.

They demanded a registered partnership law extending marriage rights to same-sex couples. The march began at Castle Place in Old Town and ended at Parliament.

"Tolerance is not enough," said Joke Swiebel, chairwoman of the European Parliament's Gay and Lesbian Intergroup. "We don't need tolerance—we need justice and equal rights with others."



Joke Swiebel

No Polish politicians joined the march. "They should reconsider their attitude," famed jazz singer Krystyna Pronko said. "Look how many of us are here."

ISRAEL

Israel's Supreme Court has ordered Jerusalem to retroactively fund the city's first Gay Pride event, which was held last year.

Local officials had put up flags along the parade route and assisted with technical details but refused financial support. "Not an agora of city money is being spent on those sickos," Municipal Finance Committee Chairman Eli Smaheyof bragged at the time.

After the court's April 27 ruling, the city and the parade organizer, Jerusalem Open House, agreed on an \$8,500 settlement. Judge Mishael Cheshin said it was "inconceivable that the municipality would fund religious festivities but not Pride events." [E]

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.

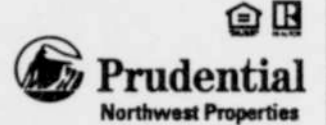
**Jewel A. Robinson
B'Zillion \$\$\$ Producer**



OFFICE (503) 281-4040
VOICE MAIL (503) 301-4283
E-MAIL Jewel2U@teleport.com

Visit me now at:
<http://www.jewelrobinson.com>

1730 N.E. 10th Avenue
Portland, OR 97212



**LANDSCAPE ROCK
OREGON DECORATIVE ROCK CO.**

All About Rock Since 1976
Largest Selection of Natural Stone in the Northwest

SEASONALLY OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8:30AM—5PM

BEAVERTON
11050 SW DENNEY
503-646-9232

PORTLAND
1716 NE COLUMBIA
503-289-7407

Mention
this ad for
10% OFF

**Pastor Kathy Tackett
The City Church, Portland**

Openly Gay & Diversified
All Sexual Orientations & Gender Expressions Welcome
Services: Sunday 10:45am

503-775-5024
available for commitment ceremonies

Be Treated Like "Family"

Over 70 New & Used Subarus in Stock!

2003 Subaru Legacy Outback

All Wheel Drive Wagon

Loaded with Power Windows & Locks, Power Mirrors, Air, CD Player, Alloy Wheels
ABS Brakes, Rear Window Dust Deflector & much, much more...

Suggested Retail Price \$23,865
Lithia "Family" Discount \$3,370
Lithia "Family" Price **\$20,495**

STK# 36633226 & 36615882

10 in Stock starting at this price!!



Come See Lithia Subaru's
New Promo Pricing—
GREAT SAVINGS
Without the Hassle!

2003 Subaru Baja—All Wheel Drive

Over \$5,000 Off MSRP

Loaded with Power Windows & Locks, ABS Brakes, Moonroof, Leather Interior,
Club Quality Sound System, Bed Extender, Splash Guards & much more...

Suggested Retail Price \$25,015
Lithia "Family" Discount \$5,020
Lithia "Family" Price **\$19,995**

STK# 36103584



Portland's Fastest Growing Subaru Dealer

LITHIA Ask for Jim Andrews
America's Car & Truck Store

SUBARU 1-800-311-7310
The Beauty of All Wheel Drive. 1404 Main Street • Oregon City
www.lithiasubaruoregoncity.com

LICENSE, TITLE AND \$50 TITLE & REGISTRATION PROCESSING FEE NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. NOT ALL SALES ARE AT MSRP. ALL FINANCING OR APPROVED CREDIT. PRICES GOOD THROUGH 6/6/03