

**WORLD**news

Park to the Plaza Grande led by entertainer Gonzalo España from the Freeway discothèque. At a post-parade rally, he promised annual gay marches from now on because homosexuals will not go back to being invisible.

"During the hourlong march, which surprised pedestrians and business owners, the gays shouted their demands on various occasions," the newspaper *Diario de Yucatán* said. "Some of the men wore women's clothes."

**BRAZIL**

Police said 800,000 people turned out for São Paulo's Gay Pride parade June 22, making it one of the largest gay parades on the planet and the largest in the developing world. The march featured 30 sound trucks and Mayor Marta Suplicy atop a float.

The theme was "constructing homosexual policies." Activists are keen to pass a partnership bill that has lingered in Congress for several years.

São Paulo has almost 100 gay bars and restaurants and is considered to have Latin America's best gay scene. More than 20 other Brazilian cities also celebrate Gay Pride.



Conservatives claim the promotion of openly gay York, England, Archbishop David Hope threatens the very existence of the Anglican Communion

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The Gay Police Association asked every police force in England, Scotland and Wales to allow gay officers to march in uniform in London's Gay Pride parade this year and 32 of them said OK. Glasgow's *Daily Record* reported June 20. A total of 11 forces in England and Wales said no, and every police force in Scotland rejected the idea.

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers of Scotland said the request would have been honored if the parade were held in Scotland, but, "Any Scottish officer wearing a police uniform in England would be presenting himself as an officer with full powers." A police association spokesman branded the decision "institutionally homophobic."

The second-ranking bishop in the Anglican church—York, England, Archbishop David Hope—was outed Jan. 23 by Britain's best-known gay activist, Peter Tatchell. "It is hypocritical for homophobes within the Anglican Communion to tolerate Archbishop David Hope but not Canon Jeffrey John," Tatchell said.

John recently was named bishop of Reading, in southeast England. The appointment threatens to tear apart the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion because he is openly gay and lives with his longtime lover, although he has said they no longer have sex. Anglican conservatives are so horrified by the decision, made by the bishop of Oxford, that they predict the very existence of the Anglican Communion is at stake.

The same conservatives also are reeling from the election of an openly gay bishop by the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire last month and from the decision of the Anglican bishop in Vancouver, British Columbia, to offer gay union ceremonies. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion.

"There seems to be one moral standard for the second-most-senior figure in the Anglican church and another for lower-level clergy like Canon John," Tatchell said. "I urge the archbishop to follow Canon John's example of openness and honesty. My understanding is that Archbishop David Hope is gay and has, in the past, had gay sexual relations.... David Hope's sexuality is now an issue because he has been tolerated and indulged, while Jeffrey John is being hounded and victimized.... The Anglican church has always had gay bishops. The only difference now is that Canon Jeffrey John has had the integrity to be honest."

Tatchell charged that Hope has opposed an equal age of consent for gay sex, supported the Children's Society's ban on gay foster parents, endorsed the firing of gay clergy and "colluded with ex-gay religious cults that attempt to 'cure' homosexual people." Hope has not responded to Tatchell's remarks but in 1995, after an earlier outing attempt, described his sexuality as "a gray area" and said he "sought" to lead a "single, celibate life."

A spokesman for the York archdiocese told the London gay weekly *The Pink Paper*: "This issue is déjà vu. David has made his position very clear."

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has ignored conservatives' demands that he block John's appointment as Reading bishop. "I was informed that Canon Jeffrey John was regarded as a highly gifted candidate, was acceptable to the diocese, that he had given explicit assurances on various matters, including his personal circumstances and his willingness to work loyally within the framework of doctrine and discipline as expressed in 'Issues in Human Sexuality,'" the Anglican leader said June 23.

Anglican teaching allows same-sex partnerships among church members but requires gay priests to not have sex. Heterosexual priests are not required to be celibate.

**PARIS**

The French polling company IFOP says the nation is becoming increasingly gay-friendly.

About 61 percent of people wouldn't mind if their child turned out gay, up from 41 percent eight years ago. About 55 percent of those questioned think same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, though only 41 percent think they should be allowed to adopt children.

A little more than 1,000 people were surveyed. Young people polled dramatically more pro-gay than retirees.

**KYRGYZSTAN**

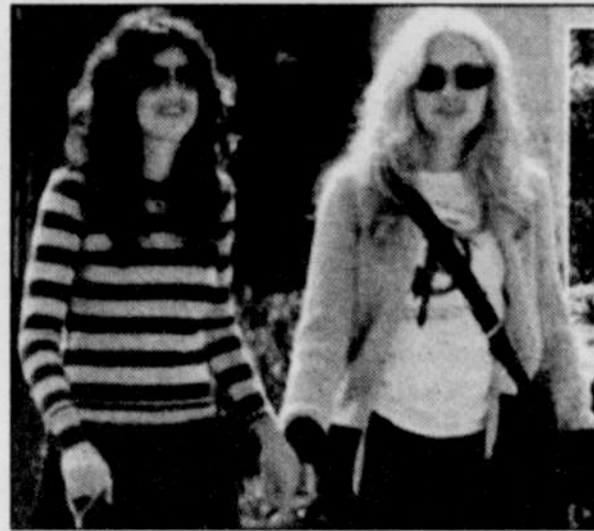
Gay men in Bishkek, capital of the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan, are battling corrupt cops.

According to the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, police officers are routinely demanding hush money from gay men who place personal ads on the Internet or in the newspaper *Blits Info*. Victims say they have been lured to apartments, interrogated, beaten, tortured and forced to turn over about \$50 to prevent being outed to their families and employers.

Vladimir Tyupin, head of the local gay group Oasis, said a big part of the problem is that police officers are not paid enough to live on. Interior Ministry Lt. Col. Baish Ibraev acknowledged that the problem probably exists but said most Bishkek cops do not blackmail gays.

**AUSTRALIA**

Australian actress Portia de Rossi, who played Nelle Porter on television's *Ally McBeal*, will marry her girlfriend, Francesca



*Ally McBeal* actress Portia de Rossi (right) is engaged to Ringo Starr's stepdaughter Francesca Gregorini

Gregorini, who is Ringo Starr's stepdaughter, *The Australian* reported June 23. The daily newspaper said the couple might wed in a few months at Gregorini's beach house in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**CANADA**

Toronto City Hall stayed open during Gay Pride weekend June 28 and 29 to issue marriage licenses.

An Ontario provincial court legalized full marriage for same-sex couples June 10, and the weddings began later that day. The federal government announced June 17 it agreed with the court that banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional and began the process of changing federal marriage law.

"We are anticipating higher demand than usual" during Pride weekend, the city's Brad Ross said in announcing the extended hours. Toronto has issued about 255 marriage licenses to same-sex couples so far, 30 of them to U.S. citizens.

The gay children's books *Asha's Mums*, *Belinda's Bouquet* and *One Dad, Two Dads*, *Brown Dads*, *Blue Dads* will remain banned from kindergarten and first-grade classrooms in Surrey, British Columbia, a suburb of Vancouver. The school board made the decision June 13 despite a Supreme Court of Canada ruling in December 2002 that the board had erred in banning the books based on religious objections.

In rebanning the books, the board claimed they are inappropriate not because they promote sin but because of problems with grammar, punctuation, continuity and other matters. "The spelling of 'favourite' is inconsistent, switching from the Canadian to the American," board chairwoman Mary Polak said of one book, according to a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. report.

**CHINA**

Researchers spoke with 481 men who have sex with men in Beijing and found that two-thirds of them were married to women.

The interviews took place at bars, cruise parks and bathhouses. A total of 15 of the men tested HIV-positive, half acknowledged having unprotected sex with men in the previous six months, and a quarter acknowledged having unprotected sex with women in that period.

Lead researcher Kyung-Hee Choi of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at University of California in San Francisco said the findings mean some Chinese women who otherwise would be at low risk for HIV infection have a high risk via their bisexual husbands. The study appears in the British medical journal *The Lancet*. [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.

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