

politan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens, urged gay men and lesbians to become officers.

"One way of reducing anti-gay hate crime is to contribute as a member of the MPS staff," he said. "I would encourage and positively welcome you to come and see if this is a career for you."

"We recognize that crimes against gay people are often not reported to police and that historically the gay community may not have felt confidence in us," Stevens said. "We're committed to changing this."

The parade began at Victoria embankment in central London and passed the House of Commons, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square.

CANADA

Gay activists kissed July 22 in front of Alberta Premier Ralph Klein in Edmonton to protest his opposition to same-sex marriage. He has said he will do everything he can to ensure no queer weddings take place in the province.

The 12 protesters struck at the Klondike Days pancake-and-sausage breakfast outside the provincial Legislature just as Klein began addressing the 6,000 diners. The activists rushed the stage and started making out.

The smooching and fondling continued throughout Klein's address. At the end he said, "Thanks also to the roster of talented people who have been keeping us all entertained, including those in front of us today."



Ralph Klein

About 250 people marched July 26 during the first Gay Pride parade in St. John, New Brunswick. "The mood was festive and a small crowd in Kings Square supportive and polite as the parade went by," according to *The Halifax Herald*.

The parade was a reaction to nasty comments made May 8 by St. John federal Member of Parliament Elsie Wayne. She also is deputy leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party.

"This parade would never have happened if it wasn't for Elsie's remarks," organizer Judith Meinert told the *Herald*. "She mobilized people to come out and show their support for the gay community."

FRANCE

Conservative French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin met with gay activists July 18 and promised to introduce anti-discrimination legislation.

He had separate meetings with members of the Joint Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals and with members of Gay Lib, who are affiliated with President Jacques Chirac's center-right Union for a Popular Movement party. Attendees said Raffarin refused to



French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin (center) promises the government will introduce anti-discrimination legislation

budge on two of their requests: residency and pension rights for gay couples who tie the knot under France's civil solidarity pact law.

UZBEKISTAN

The sodomy trial of openly gay journalist Ruslan Sharipov began July 23 in Tashkent. According to Human Rights Watch, his May 26 arrest likely was retaliation for articles he has written on police corruption and human rights abuses.

Sharipov also was charged with having sex with minors and pimping. The trial has been closed to protect the identities of the boys he allegedly violated.

"Sharipov's long-standing history of criticizing government policy, combined with past harassment against him and his colleagues, raise strong suspicions that this is a politically motivated case," said Elizabeth Andersen, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia division. "That the authorities would charge him with committing homosexual acts, violating his fundamental rights to nondiscrimination and privacy, makes it doubly egregious."

Only three of the 15 former Soviet republics still ban gay sex: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

ISRAEL

Tel Aviv announced July 30 that same-sex couples will have access to city-provided spousal benefits such as discounts at municipal cultural and sports events. To be eligible, gay couples must present an affidavit declaring they live together.

THE PHILIPPINES

Police raided a gay bar July 5 in Baguio City and arrested seven male performers for working without permits and dancing nude. A police spokesman said the raid on the Chip and Dale bar was the beginning of a new drive against bars that offer nude shows.

LEBANON

Gay activists in Beirut have launched a boycott of Dunkin' Donuts, alleging the chain regularly evicts obvious homosexuals.

"Dunkin' Donuts' Beirut branches have been denying service to gay and 'gay-looking' customers under the pretext of protecting their version of 'family values,'" activist Ghassan Makarem said in a statement posted at beirut.indymedia.org. Company spokesman Elie Tanios told *The Daily Star* that the evicted customers "talk loudly and invade other customers' privacy."

An employee at one of the shops told the paper: "In several instances, these customers displayed homosexual affection. They held hands, hugged and sometimes even kissed while they were on the premises. Personally, I'm not offended by such demeanor. But for Lebanese social norms, their behavior was not acceptable to other customers, who threatened to call the police."

The activists are demanding "a press release from the mother company and the Lebanese local branches clarifying the issue and stating that homosexuals are welcome on the premises of Dunkin' Donuts worldwide, including Beirut, and will be offered the same services just like any other customer." □

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.



Thanks Christine!

solutions and made the whole refinancing process genuinely friendly. Bon Appetite!" —Sasha, "And She Cooks"

"From strudels to noodles, working's a dream in my newly remodeled kitchen..."

I needed more room to add cooking classes to my catering business but I dreaded the thought of refinancing to do it. Luckily, I was referred to Christine. She came to our house with all the paperwork, smoothed out the bumps with



hallc@eaglehomemortgage.com

Call today for a free qualification over the phone

First Time Buyers • FHA/VA Loans
Self-Employed • Complicated Borrowers
Bankruptcies & Foreclosures • Credit Problems
Investment Properties • Pre-approvals
100% Financing Programs

Christine Hall

Senior Loan Consultant
President's Club

503-698-5429

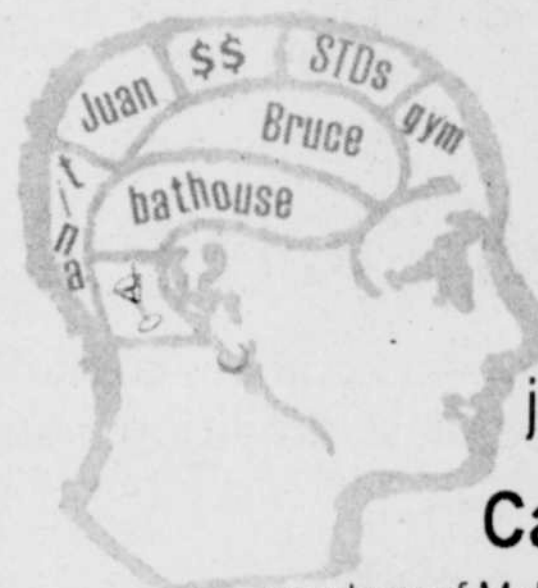
800-343-9943

503-301-1941

Pager



Sex on the brain?



Come into the clinic to get a low-cost STD screening just for peace of mind.

Call 503.988.3700

courtesy of Multnomah County Health Dep't



sorry.
we don't do exotics.

Rose City
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL

CRAIG QUIRK DVM
STEPHEN KOCHIS DVM
809 SE Powell Blvd
(near the Ross Island Bridge)
232-3105



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



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

