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INTERNATIONAL

The worldwide Anglican Communion likely will split in two because the U.S. Episcopal Church's Diocese of New Hampshire selected an open homosexual as its next bishop, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said Oct. 17. Gene Robinson was consecrated Nov. 2 after his selection was confirmed by delegates at this summer's Episcopal Church convention in Minneapolis.

"Undoubtedly there is a huge crisis looming," Williams told the British Broadcasting Corp. "It leaves the church with a huge challenge about coordinating its discipline and its legal systems across the world, which we have never had to do before.... There may be a number of provinces who will declare outright that they are not in the union in the long run [and] others which would wish to continue with an impaired state of relations."

The Anglican Communion is composed of 38 autonomous churches, including the Episcopal, with 70 million members in 164 countries. Williams' remarks followed an emergency meeting in London with 37 of the communion's 38 primates to deal with the New Hampshire situation and other ongoing internal controversies related to homosexuality.

But following the meeting, Episcopalians refused to back down. "We look forward to the consecration of Bishop-elect Robinson on Nov. 2, believing that God has called him to this ministry, a call confirmed by diocesan election and by the consent of [the] General Convention, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church," the New Hampshire diocese stated.

Members of the London gay group OutRage! picketed the consecration of two bishops Oct. 29 at Westminster Abbey to protest the Anglican hierarchy's rejection of gay bishop appointee Jeffrey John earlier this year. They carried posters reading, "[Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan] Williams is a coward," "Where is Jeffrey John?" and "Stand up to the Church Nazis."

"There will be no peace for an archbishop who refuses to take a stand or to show moral leadership," OutRage!'s Brett Lock said. "No spin-doctoring will make the issue disappear."

John would have been consecrated at the ceremony as bishop of Reading, but Williams forced him to stand down from his appointment to placate homophobes in the worldwide Anglican Communion. They were horrified that John is openly gay and lives with a partner, although he has said they no longer have sex.

The conservatives threatened that the Anglican Communion would break apart if John were allowed to take the job. He was appointed by the bishop of Oxford.

A survey has found that 52 percent of people who belong to the Church of England think sexually active gays should be allowed to be priests. And 69 percent approve of gay priests if they're celibate.

The ICM Research survey for *The Telegraph* daily newspaper questioned 500 church members.

CANADA

The Federation of Gay Games and the Montreal 2006 organizing committee are arguing about plans for the next gay olympics.

Montreal wanted to bring in as many as 24,000 athletes, but the federation wanted to limit participants to as few as 10,000 to save money. After negotiations, Montreal reduced its number to as few as 16,000, but the federation will go no higher than 12,000 as an initial goal.

In a second area of disagreement, although Montreal organizers have lined up extensive public and private funding, the federation allegedly wants to control all financial details.

"Fundamentally there's an issue of vision, which includes number of participants, size of budget and the issue of control," said Montreal organizer and Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury. "I empathize with the deficits of past games, but at the same time, we believe we have a vision that could really change things. We've done the math, and we need 15,540 participants to break even."

"This is a turning point for the Gay Games movement—or a crisis, since the last four games have lost money," the swimmer said. "They are dealing with the challenge in their own way; we just have a very different vision of how to deal with it. It would be irresponsible of us to plan for a games smaller than our break-even point."

According to co-president Kathleen Webster, the federation simply doesn't want Montreal organizers to make promises they can't keep, resulting in the Gay Games ending up in debt for the fifth time in a row.

"We have four host organizations that have ended up in bankruptcy, leaving a legacy of debt," she said. "It's our job to do something now to break this cycle of financial failure."

"Montreal's vision was grand and beautiful but not safe and prudent. The federation board, rather than repeat the mistakes of Sydney, Amsterdam, New York and Vancouver, wants to start out at a smaller level and build flexibility into the plan so that as income is realized we can build the event. We want to achieve the 24,000 part, [but] we want to make promises we can deliver. We can't stand by and let history repeat itself."

According to Webster, it is unfortunate that Montreal organizers have chosen to argue their case in the press.

"It's not appropriate to negotiate through the media," she said. "We think it's a shame they have chosen that path. But negotiations are moving forward, we've made progress, and we have until Nov. 7 to reach a mutually acceptable licensing agreement. We remain optimistic we're going to meet that goal."

About 2,500 anti-gays protested Oct. 18 outside the provincial Legislature in Fredericton, New Brunswick, demanding the federal government abandon its plans to legalize full same-sex marriage nationwide, Canadian Press reported. The demonstration was organized by the Canada Family Action Coalition and local clergy.

INDIA

A national alliance of queer organizations has formed, *The Times of India* reported Oct. 18.

The India Network for Sexual Minorities is the nation's first such association. It has 15 members, said Ashok Row Kavi, India's best-known gay activist.

The invitation-only network seeks to overturn the ban on gay sex, eliminate police harassment of sexual minorities and improve gay people's medical care.

Hijras also are represented in the alliance, via the Dai Welfare Society. They are trans and intersex people—mostly castrated males—who, while social outcasts, fulfill the societal role of blessing newborns and dancing at weddings.



Ashok Row Kavi

Around 200 people turned out to see 40 movies at India's first gay film festival held Oct. 17 to 19 in Bombay. The "Tremors of a Revolution" event was staged in a university auditorium on the outskirts of the city.



Alfonso Lopez Trujillo (right) is discouraging Catholics from using condoms

THE VATICAN

A top Vatican official said Oct. 12 that condoms do not prevent HIV transmission. The president of the Pontifical Council for the Family told the British Broadcasting Corp.'s *Panorama* program that all condoms contain tiny holes that HIV can pass through.

"The AIDS virus is roughly 450 times smaller than the spermatozoon," Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo said. "The spermatozoon can easily pass through the net that is formed by the condom.... These margins of uncertainty should represent an obligation on the part of the health ministries and all these campaigns to act in the same way as they do with regard to cigarettes, which they state to be a danger."

The World Health Organization and AIDS educators said the Vatican is confused. "These incorrect statements about condoms and HIV are dangerous when we are facing a global pandemic which has already killed more than 20 million," WHO said.

Condoms can break or slip off, the organization said, but they do not contain small holes that HIV can slip through. The Catholic Church teaches that it is a deadly sin to engage in any sexual act that cannot lead to pregnancy, such as oral sex, masturbation, gay sex and sex with condoms.

RUSSIA

The Russian Orthodox priest who conducted the nation's first known same-sex wedding was defrocked Oct. 6, and his chapel was demolished after local church leaders determined it had been desecrated.

Father Vladimir Enert accepted \$450 to marry Denis Gogolev, 27, and Mikhail Morozov, 23, on Sept. 1 at the Chapel of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God in the city