


Northwest Northwest Northwest Northwest Northwest Northwest

Northwest




equilibria
 MASSAGE & BODYWORK

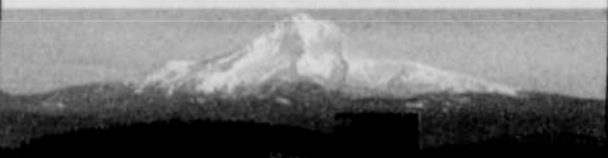
503.221.2155
 WWW.EQUILIBRIAMASSAGE.COM

1435 NW 23RD AVE., SUITE 202

7 days a week



Wade Pipes Wallflower
Westover Terraces



Waiting to Dance. Traditional classic at the end of a private road next to Hillside meadow. Views mountain, city and river. Decks, balcony & level yard in a well proportioned 3 plus bedroom New England style home. \$749,000. 701 NW Culpepper Terrace



The Volkmer Team
 Dan Volkmer, Burdean Bartlem, Kishra Ott
 503-497-5158
 www.danvolkmer.com

Windermere
 Cronin & Caplan Realty Group, Inc.



WESTOVER HEIGHTS

C L I N I C

Offering general internal medicine and excelling in sexual health care

Serving the community for 17 years

2330 NW Flanders
 Suite 207
503-226-6678

Northwest Portland businesses

to advertise on this page call Larry, Pam or Erin:
503-236-1253

WORLD news



Aussie activist Rodney Croome (center) congratulates newly registered couples Rebecca Wealands and Lee Hyland (left) and Jason Kemp and Mark White (right) Jan. 2 in Hobart, Tasmania

AUSTRALIA

Tasmania became the first Australian state to offer a broad range of spousal rights to same-sex couples Jan. 1.

In a span of 15 years, the state has gone from being seemingly Australia's most homophobic to possibly its most gay-friendly, in no small part due to the work of the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

Michael Carnes and Bob Lavis were the first couple to register their relationship Jan. 2, acquiring marriage rights in areas such as health care, parenting, adoption, kinship and superannuation. Rebecca Wealands and Lee Hyland and Jason Kemp and Mark White also tied the knot.

"What these changes do is send absolute alarm bells to all those who have been discriminatory in the past that those days are well and truly gone," Carnes told *The Australian*. "Tasmania now has it all—the natural beauty, the fantastic people and now reforms that show we are no longer a backwater, but a wonderful, open society."

The Relationships Act also covers nonsexual relationships as well as sexual relationships where the parties do not live together. It "creates a status of 'significant relationship' applicable to unmarried adult couples, including same-sex couples, and creates a status of 'caring relationship' between two adults, one or both of whom provide personal care and domestic support to the other," state Attorney General Judy Jackson said.

Rodney Croome of the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group boasted: "As well as being the first registration scheme in Australia for same-sex couples, the Tasmanian partnership registry is the first in the world for other types of significant personal relationships like older companions and [caregivers] and the people they care for. The act gives a wide range of personal unions, including same-sex relationships, equal status to married couples in virtually all Tasmanian laws. It

replaces the terms 'husband,' 'wife' and 'de facto' with 'partner' throughout Tasmania law."

In addition, many of the spousal entitlements and responsibilities flow automatically to people in such relationships, even if they choose not to formally register with the state. Activists will continue to push for legalization of full marriage for same-sex couples, but Croome said, "In the absence of gay marriage, registration is the clearest way for society and government to show they acknowledge and approve of same-sex relationships."

CANADA

You could call it *Queer Try for the Straight Guy*. Police recruits in Edmonton, Alberta, are being sent for strolls on busy city streets holding hands with another recruit of the same gender to better understand the experiences of gay people, *The Edmonton Journal* reported Jan. 2.

"One guy said the avenue seemed to close in on him," said Constable Steve Camp, who works with the department's hate-and-bias-crimes initiative. "He felt a heightened awareness of security—very aware of the people around him. He felt intimidated. A group of construction workers was working on a wall, and they shut down their work to see this, when these guys walked by. I think that's when the intimidation hit. Another guy said he felt angry because one man gave him a dirty look and then said something to his wife. They can intellectualize the process, but...what we tried to accomplish here [is] to give them the emotional response that a lot of people they're going to be dealing with as police officers are going to have."

SINGAPORE

Singapore is considering decriminalization of oral sex, but only for opposite-sex couples.

The move follows the arrest and jailing of a 27-year-old policeman for receiving fellatio from a 15-year-old girl. Ho Peng Kee, senior minister of state for law and home affairs, said Penal Code Section 377 may be revised within three months to permit heterosexual oral sex between people 16 and older.

Current law criminalizes "whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animals." The punishment is up to life in prison.

Another law, Penal Code Section 377A, specifically bans sex between men. It states, "Any male person who, in public or private, commits or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years."

Ho said that law, too, is being looked at, but gave no details.

Meanwhile, Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Jan. 6 that the nation might lift its ban on gay activist groups. The remark came during a speech to the local Harvard Club.

AIMRC Asia-Australia Lect



Singapore might legalize gay activist groups, according to Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

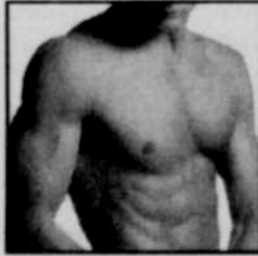
As seen in Vogue, Allure, Shape and Family Circle Magazine

Velvet

a body and skin solution for men and women

the only FDA approved non-surgical, non-invasive treatment for

- Body contouring
- Reduction of appearance of cellulite
- Improvement in appearance of scar tissue and burns



Call for a free consultation
 503-228-0274

www.velvet-skin.com



1920 NW Johnson St, Suite 108 Portland, OR 97209