

WORLDnews

British Columbia is one of two Canadian provinces where full same-sex marriage was legalized by court order last year. The other is Ontario.

Foreigners can marry in those provinces, as well. They can purchase a license and marry the same day.

Canada's federal government has said it agrees with the rulings by the British Columbia and Ontario supreme courts and will legalize same-sex marriage nationwide this year, although there has been some foot-dragging at the federal level since Paul Martin replaced Jean Chrétien as prime minister Dec. 12.

The only other nations that let gays marry under the ordinary marriage laws are Belgium and the Netherlands. Numerous countries offer same-sex civil unions or domestic partnership registration.

Gay activists have denounced the Roman Catholic Grand Séminaire de Montréal for instituting a policy requiring that priesthood candidates submit to an HIV test. Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte said the testing is not aimed at ferreting out homosexuals but rather at discovering applicants' health status.

Some other Canadian Catholic seminaries require the test, and some do not. The Quebec Human Rights Commission said it will study whether the forced tests violate the provincial human rights charter, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* reported.

UNITED KINGDOM

About 68 percent of 16,871 men questioned in the United Kingdom's latest Gay Men's Sex Survey expect a prospective sex partner who is HIV-positive to reveal his status before they have sex.

A total of 44 percent of HIV-negative and untested respondents would decline to have sex with someone who revealed his positive status. About 45 percent would go ahead and have sex but be "extra careful."

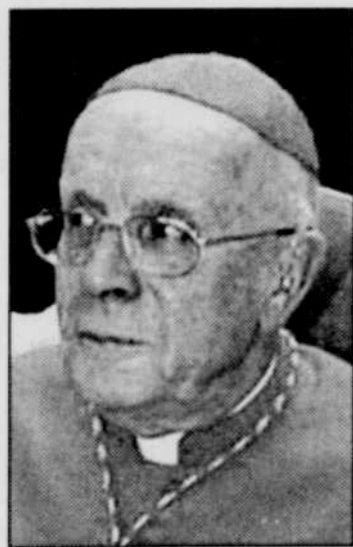
"In this climate, it is difficult to see what incentive men with HIV have for disclosing their HIV status," researchers said. "Disabusing negative and untested men of the notion that positive HIV disclosure will happen—and that their risk assessments can be based on such an assumption—remains a vital health promotion aim."

BELGIUM

Most gays and lesbians are not really gay, they're just perverts, Belgian Roman Catholic Cardinal Gustaaf Joos told the weekly *P-magazine* Jan. 21.

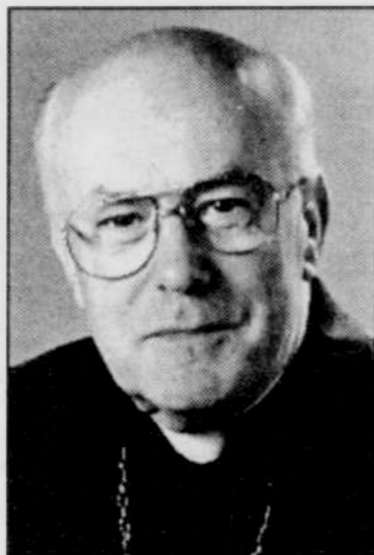
"All those who say they are lesbian or gay, a maximum of 5 to 10 percent are effectively lesbian or gay," said Joos, 80. "All the rest are simply sexual perverts. Don't hesitate to write that down. I demand you write that down. I don't care if they all come and protest at my door. I won't open the door."

A spokesman for the Belgian Catholic hierarchy said Joos was speaking only on his own behalf. Pope John Paul II made Joos a cardinal last year.



According to Belgian Roman Catholic Cardinal Gustaaf Joos, 90 percent to 95 percent of queers are "sexual perverts"

A Belgian cardinal who has been seen as a possible candidate for pope says HIV-positive people must use condoms when having sex with an uninfected partner. The statement contradicts Roman Catholic teaching, which demands that every sex act must be open to the possibility of pregnancy.



Brussels Cardinal Godfried Danneels contradicted Catholic teaching by encouraging HIV-positive people to use condoms

"When someone is seropositive and his partner says, 'I want to have sexual relations with you'—he doesn't have to do that, if you ask me—but when he does, he has to use a condom," Brussels Cardinal Godfried Danneels, 70, told a local television program Jan. 11.

The church says married couples should not have sex if one of them is HIV-positive, and it prohibits all sex outside of marriage.

GERMANY

Gay couples united under Germany's civil union law cannot pay their income taxes as if they were married, a state court in Saarbrücken ruled Jan. 22. According to a report in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Judge Axel Schmidt-Liebig said they cannot use the tactic of "income splitting" whereby a married couple with substantially divergent incomes combine them at tax time to end up owing less total tax than if they had filed individually.

NORTHERN IRELAND

About 29 percent of 360 queer youths surveyed in Northern Ireland have tried to kill themselves, *The Belfast Telegraph* reported Jan. 13. A further 26 percent have harmed themselves.

The Department of Education-sponsored survey questioned queers 25 and younger via support groups and the Web. It also found that gay youths are five times more likely to be taking antidepressants and 20 times more likely to have an eating disorder.

"We as a society can no longer ignore what is happening to thousands of our young people," said P.A. MagLochlainn, president of the Northern Ireland Gay and Lesbian Rights Association.

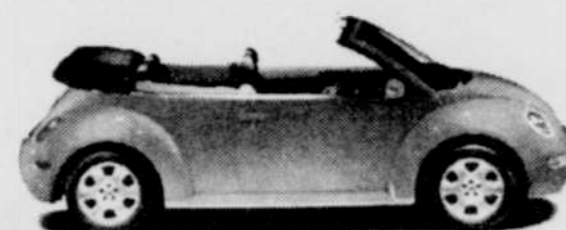
LATVIA

The Latvian Parliament's Social and Employment Affairs Committee rejected a proposed ban on anti-gay discrimination in the workplace Jan. 14.

The Welfare Ministry introduced the measure in an effort to comply with European Union mandates. Latvia will become an EU member this year.

"It is...disappointing and shocking now when there are only four months left before Latvia officially joins the EU and still [it] openly ignores obligations to harmonize its legislation with EU standards, thereby compromising the EU's dedication to protect LGB people from discrimination," activist Juris Ludvigs Lavrikovs said. [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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