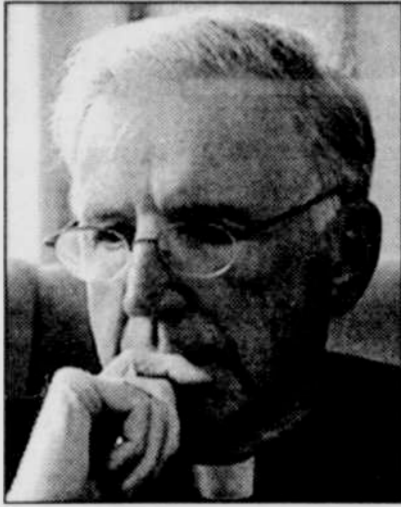


Gay pop singer George Michael has included a gay song called "Flawless" on his new *Patience* album.

"It's about time I made a record for the boys, really, isn't it?" Michael told Britain's Magic FM. "This is definitely a big Boys Town record. I think there will be people dancing around their handbags to this one. The gay clubs will love this one."

Michael, 40, was outed in 1998 after being arrested for allegedly waving his willy at a hunky undercover cop inside a park toilet in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was confronted by London protesters because the Vatican blocked a U.N. human rights resolution

Protesters from the British gay group OutRage! harassed Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor on April 4 as he entered London's Westminster Cathedral for Palm Sunday Mass.

"Your church protects pedophile priests while persecuting gay people in loving relationships," activist Peter Tatchell chided. "You support legal discrimination against gay people and oppose gay equality and human rights."

Murphy-O'Connor remained impassive as he and his aides pushed through the group.

The protesters said they were punched and shoved by clergy and congregants who called them "sick" and "unnatural" and ripped placards from their hands. The signs read: "Vatican Blocks Gay Human Rights at U.N.," "Catholics! STOP crucifying queers" and "Gays are not 'intrinsicly disordered'—Shame on Catholic Catechism!"

"We were protesting against the Vatican's blocking of a U.N. vote last week which would have condemned homophobic discrimination and the imprisonment, torture and murder of gay people," Tatchell said. "In over 70 countries homosexuality is still totally illegal, and in seven Islamic states homosexuals face the death penalty. The Vatican opposed the U.N. resolution condemning the persecution of lesbians and gay men. It mobilized the Islamic countries to block the vote in the U.N. Human Rights Commission."

Britain's first out gay ambassador took up his post in Luxembourg last month. James Clark, 41, and his partner, Anthony Stewart, are living together in the official ambassador's residence.

A gay man is using Britain's new anti-discrimination law to fight the Roman Catholic Church after a charity refused to hire him because of his sexual orientation.

The 27-year-old social worker, who was not named in news reports, was offered a job by Apostleship of the Sea, which mipisters to the crews of ships in British ports, but the offer was withdrawn after the charity learned the man has a same-sex partner. The anti-discrimination law contains an exemption for faith groups, but it is under assault in a separate case now before the High Court, according to *The Independent* newspaper.

TANZANIA

The legislature of the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar, which is part of the nation of Tanzania, voted unanimously April 14 to ban homosexuality.

Gay male relationships will be punished with 25 years in prison and lesbian relationships with seven years in prison. President Amani Karume will sign the measure into law, a spokesman said.

Tanzania already bans gay sex nationwide,

but the law is rarely enforced and only allows for 14 years in prison. Zanzibar is predominantly Muslim and might be moving in the direction of Islamic fundamentalism, news reports suggested.

KENYA

African Anglican bishops, meeting April 15 in Kenya, declared they will not accept donations from Anglican churches that welcome gay clergy.

The decision applies in particular to the U.S. Episcopal Church, which supported the recent election of Gene Robinson as bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire. He is openly gay and sexually active with his partner.

Around 70 percent of African Anglican dioceses' income is believed to come in the form of gifts from the U.S. church.

"If we suffer for a while to gain our independence and our freedom and to build ourselves up, I think it will be a good thing for the church in Africa," said Nigerian Archbishop Peter Akinola, who also chairs the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa. "We will not, on the altar of money, mortgage our conscience, mortgage our faith, mortgage our salvation."

"We do not want any money from the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. This is not rhetoric. It is not a matter of a joke. We mean what we say."

About half of the world's Anglicans live in Africa. The Anglican Communion is composed of 38 independent national churches—such as the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada—that have ties to the Church of England.

SINGAPORE

Singapore refused March 31 to register the gay organization People Like Us and ordered its members to cease activity. The Registrar of Societies said acknowledging the group would violate the Societies Act's ban on organizations that are "contrary to the national interest" and "likely to be used for unlawful purposes or for purposes prejudicial to public peace, welfare or good order in Singapore."

People Like Us said it would launch an appeal to the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the agency suggested April 7 that would be pointless. "As the mainstream moral values of Singaporeans are conservative, it is hence contrary to public interest to grant legitimacy to the promotion of homosexual activities and viewpoints," the ministry said.

For the time being, People Like Us has halted activity, but a spokesman said its more than 1,000 members will continue to advocate for gay rights individually. Gay sex is illegal in Singapore under "gross indecency" laws that allow for up to two years of imprisonment. **J**

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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