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BRAZIL

Police said 1.1 million people turned out in São Paulo for the city's eighth Gay Pride parade June 13, which would make it the world's largest Gay Pride celebration.

São Paulo is South America's largest city and boasts about 85 gay bars and restaurants. Mayor Marta Suplicy gave a speech to kick off the march, which featured 24 sound trucks and a 160-foot rainbow flag.

Some marchers called for the legalization of same-sex marriage. A single Brazilian state, Rio Grande do Sul, offers civil unions. A national civil union bill has been stalled in Congress for years.

Health Ministry employees distributed 50,000 condoms during the parade, reports said.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland's Parliament has given final approval to a gay partnership law that reportedly will include all marriage rights except for access to adoption, in vitro fertilization and marriage itself.

However, the small, right-wing Federal Democratic Union party has promised to collect enough signatures to force a national voters' referendum on the measure. Gay groups said they are hopeful the law will not be overturned.

Full same-sex marriage is allowed in Belgium; the Netherlands; the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec; and the U.S. state of Massachusetts. Partnership laws are on the books in Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul and the U.S. states of California, Hawaii, New Jersey and Vermont. Gay couples also have access to some spousal rights in Argentina, Australia, Austria, elsewhere in Brazil, Hungary, Israel, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom.

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister John Howard's proposed bans on same-sex marriage and adoption of foreign babies by gay couples passed Australia's lower house June 17 and now move to the Senate.

"This is merely affirming what people understand to be the law," Attorney General Philip Ruddock said. "We are of the view that people can have their relationships, it's just that they can't have their relationships ascribed the characteristic of marriage when marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman."

According to a new SBS World News survey of 1,200 adults, 38 percent of Australians approve of same-sex marriage and 44 percent oppose it. About 18 percent of those questioned lacked an opinion.

Younger people polled more gay-friendly. About 55 percent of those between 18 and 34 favor same-sex marriage, as do 43 percent of those between 35 and 49. Only 23 percent of people older than 50 want to see same-sex marriage legalized.

Women (47 percent) are much more likely to approve of same-sex marriage than men (29 percent).



Sound trucks blast techno-pop and disco music during the world's largest Gay Pride celebration June 13 in São Paulo, Brazil

FRANCE

French Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin suspended Mayor Noël Mamère of the Bordeaux suburb of Bègles for one month June 15 to punish him for performing the marriage of a gay couple.

France has a partnership law for same-sex couples but does not allow them to marry. Villepin said Mamère gravely misunderstood his duties and "willingly aggravated the fault he committed" by repeatedly publicizing his plan to marry the couple and refusing to back down

after warnings from the national government that same-sex marriage is illegal.

Prosecutors have moved to annul the marriage of shop worker Bertrand Charpentier, 31, and nurse Stéphane Chapin, 34. The couple's lawyer said they plan to fight back, all the way to the European Court of Human Rights.

CANADA

Vancouver, British Columbia, City Councillor Tim Stevenson married his partner of 22 years, Gary Patterson, June 15. The gay politician said he felt it was important to tie the knot now in case the political winds shift.

Full same-sex marriage is allowed in the provinces of British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, where, during the past 14 months, top courts declared the opposite-sex definition of marriage unconstitutional. The federal government favors opening up the institution nationwide.



City Councillor Tim Stevenson married his partner June 15 in Vancouver, British Columbia

The far northern Canadian territory of Nunavut, population 29,384, saw hundreds turn out for a Gay Pride celebration June 13 in the capital city of Iqaluit, which has a population of 6,000.

The Pride and Friends of Pride picnic was so well-attended that organizers nearly ran out of meat to barbecue, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. North News said. Attendance has doubled annually for the past four years.

Territorial Premier Paul Okalik joined the festivities. "It's been a struggle, but I'm very proud of my fellow Nunavummiut that were with us during a difficult time in trying to get our human rights legislation, which recognizes everyone's rights," he said.

The territory extended anti-discrimination protections to gays and lesbians last November after a 10-8 vote by the Legislative Assembly. It was the last Canadian province or territory to do so.

Nunavut was created in a split from the Northwest Territories in 1999, settling the largest land claims dispute ever between native peoples and the Canadian government.

Canada will not reverse course on same-sex marriage, Prime Minister Paul Martin said June 4. During the past year, the highest courts in the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec forced legalization of same-sex marriage and thousands of Canadian and foreign gay couples have tied the knot.

"Three of the highest courts in the land have said that discrimination on the grounds of sex in terms of the definition of marriage is against the Charter of Rights," Martin said. "It is absolutely a question of human rights, and under those cir-

cumstances, there is no way that anybody should be allowed to discriminate or prevent same-sex marriage."

The federal Parliament is expected to pass legislation within the next year to open up marriage in the rest of the nation. Belgium, the Netherlands and the U.S. state of Massachusetts also let gay couples marry.

UNITED KINGDOM

A 66-year-old concert pianist was jailed June 2 in London for propositioning via e-mail a Sri Lankan cop posing as a 15-year-old male prostitute, *The Guardian* reported. Brian Parnell will spend two years behind bars for attempting to incite an underage male to commit buggery and gross indecency.

Parnell posted a request for a young boy in a Sri Lankan gay teen chat room prior to traveling to the island in October 2002. He promised a "good time in bed."

The Sri Lankan National Child Protection Authority intercepted the posting, and the police agent then provoked Parnell into sending increasingly explicit e-mails and photos. Once in Sri Lanka, Parnell did not attempt to actually meet the "boy."

U.K. police can pursue British citizens suspected of committing sex crimes abroad under the 1996 Sexual Offenses Act. A similar law exists in the United States.

Alan Turing, the gay man who is considered the "father" of the modern computer, was honored with a plaque erected outside his Wilmslow, England, home June 7, the 50th anniversary of his suicide.

According to the British Broadcasting Corp., Turing's idea of creating a machine to turn thought processes into binary numbers was one of the key turning points in the history of the computer. He killed himself by eating a cyanide-laced apple two years after being convicted of homosexuality and agreeing to a year of estrogen injections to curb his libido.



Alan Turing is considered the "father" of the modern computer

TAIWAN

A Taiwanese man has been sent to prison for seven years for blackmailing gay men he met on the Internet, *The Taipei Times* reported June 11.

Chou Ming-teh, 43, blackmailed more than 100 men he met in chat rooms. He would find out their names and where they worked, then demand money not to out them to their employers, police said.

Chou's victims included teachers, military officers and bank managers. He was arrested after a police officer went undercover online to entrap him.