

Mario Silva, 37, who represents a blue-collar area of Toronto, allowed himself to be outed by *The Toronto Star*.

"I didn't have a problem" with the profile, he told *Xtra*. "I have a lot of respect for the writer. I also think that the article was very tastefully done."

Silva's district has Ontario's largest immigrant population and is home to the city's Portuguese community.

Other openly queer members of the Canadian Parliament include Scott Brison, Libby Davies, Réal Ménard and Bill Siksay. Gay MP Svend Robinson resigned this year after stealing an expensive ring from a jewelry sale.

AUSTRALIA

A Melbourne man who had his penis and testicles removed 16 years ago and became a woman is now suing the medical team that performed the surgery, saying he was misdiagnosed as a transsexual.

Alan Finch claims the Southern Health hospital network and Monash Medical Center's gender identity clinic were negligent when they declared him a candidate for sex-change surgery. Instead, he says, he was suffering psychological problems that now have resolved. Finch has resumed living as a man.

"There's not enough money in the Reserve Bank [to compensate me. But] I have a point to prove here for other people so these doctors think twice," Finch told the Australian Associated Press.



Alan Finch after gender reassignment surgery (top) and as a schoolboy

The Tourist Commission in Australia's Northern Territory is reaching out to gay tourists with a new marketing plan. It will include forums, a photo shoot, market research, contact with international gay media and advertising. Darwin, the capital, and Alice Springs are considered to be desirable destinations for gay visitors, reports said.

GERMANY

Gay skinheads will come together Nov. 5 to 7 in Berlin. Events include "Stomping Skins," where attendees must wear "skingear" and have hair no longer than 3 millimeters; a "Yummy Skins" dinner; a "Skins in Boots" gathering; and a "Best Gay Skin Contest."

The skins later will do brunch followed by a "Skins & Punks United" party. A hotel is offering a skinhead rate of \$37 a night that includes breakfast.



Gay skinheads are planning a weekend full of events next month in Berlin



Mario Silva is the latest member of Canada's Parliament to come out of the closet

SPAIN

Spain's government approved same-sex marriage legislation at an Oct. 1 Cabinet meeting and sent it to Parliament for a vote, local media reported. A recent survey found that 70 percent of Spaniards support same-sex marriage.

ISRAEL

An openly gay former member of Israel's Knesset, Uzi Even, married his partner of 19 years, Amit Kamah, Sept. 17 in Toronto, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported.

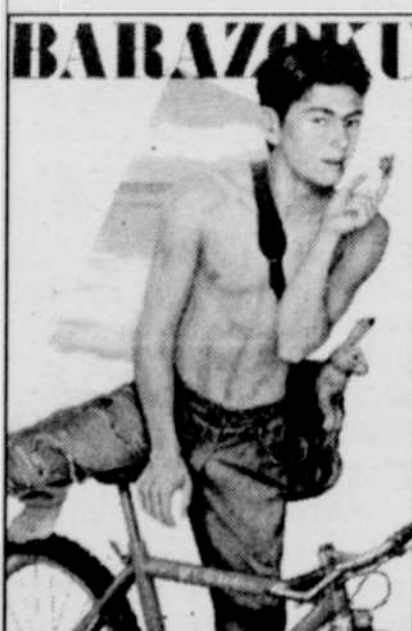
Same-sex marriage is legal in the province of Ontario, which has no residency requirement.

Now back in Israel, Even and Kamah plan to demand that the government recognize their marriage. They said they will file suit with the High Court of Justice if necessary. A spokesman said Interior Minister Avraham Poraz

would happily recognize the marriage.

JAPAN

The 33-year-old Japanese gay magazine *Barazoku* (*Rose Tribe*) is closing down because it



can't compete with the Internet. "They don't need printed magazines like ours any longer," editor Bungaku Ito told the French Press Agency.

Barazoku was Japan's first gay magazine, but its circulation has plummeted from 30,000 to 3,000 as Japanese gays have turned to the Internet for news, information, cruising and hooking up.

Personal ads dropped from about 1,000 to 100 an issue, Bungaku said.

Japanese gays also make extensive use of cell-phone-based dating services, the report 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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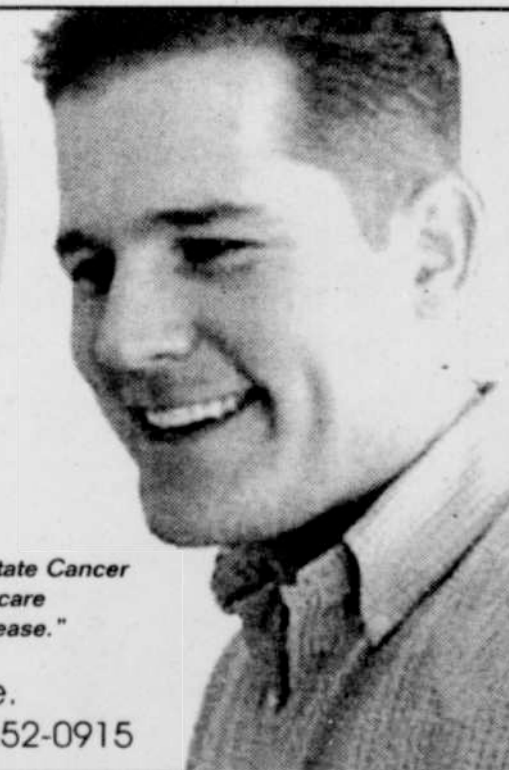
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