

ans" and "contrary to public interest in general."

The Dec. 25 party, organized by Fridae.com and Jungle Media, was allowed in 2002 and 2003.

In a statement, the police department said it permitted the previous parties because it had been assured they were not gay events. But, in fact, "patrons of the same gender were seen openly kissing and intimately touching each other."

This year's party had sponsorships from Heineken, Qantas, the InterContinental Singapore Hotel and other big-name companies.

NEW ZEALAND PASSES CIVIL UNIONS LAW

New Zealand's Parliament passed a civil unions law for gay and straight couples Dec. 9 by a vote of 65-55.

Registered couples will receive the same rights and responsibilities as married people.

Recent polling showed that New Zealanders opposed recognizing gay relationships by a margin of three to one.

The measure takes effect in April.

INDIAN LESBIAN COUPLE TO DEMAND MARRIAGE RECOGNITION

Two young lesbians who "married" each other in India's Punjab state say they will demand that officials recognize their union, Britain's *The Independent* reported Dec. 11.

"Raju" and "Mala" eloped from their homes in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in late November, then returned, announced they had married in a Hindu ceremony and urged their families and the state to accept them.

Raju's mother, Ranjit Kaur, told local media: "It is humiliating for us and for humanity. We only wish they are joking."

Raju's father demanded that police arrest the couple, but police said the women had not broken any law.

EUROPE

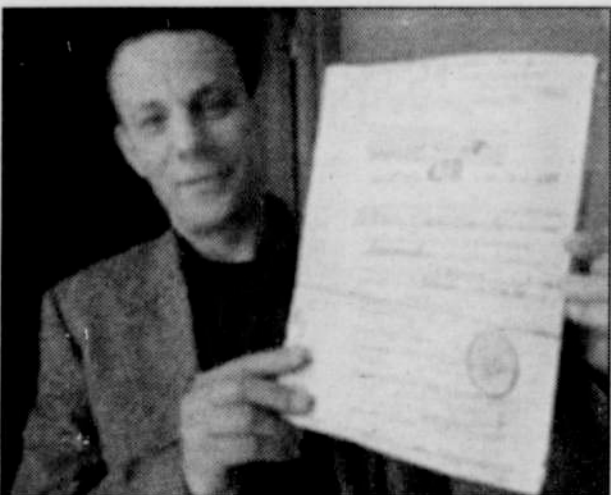
SPANIARDS WANT CATHOLIC CHURCH TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS

Three-fifths of Spaniards want the Catholic Church to stop trying to interfere in politics, an Instituto Opina poll has found.

The church has been particularly outspoken against the new Socialist government's plans to legalize full same-sex marriage. It also disapproves of proposals to relax abortion restrictions and permit euthanasia.

Pollsters asked 1,000 adults: "The Catholic Church has undertaken a campaign of protests against some of the government's social reforms. Do you support or oppose this campaign?"

About 60 percent said they oppose it, 29.2 percent said they support it, 9.9 percent were unsure, and 0.9 percent gave no answer. The margin of error was reported as 3.1 percent.



Antonio Ruiz, head of group seeking reparations from Spain for imprisonment under Franco

SPAIN CONDEMNS PAST PERSECUTION OF GAYS

Spain's Congress of Deputies unanimously condemned Dec. 15 the persecution of gays during the dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco from 1939 to 1975 and during the transition to

democracy from 1975 to 1979. But the legislators did not grant any monetary reparations, as requested by gay activist organizations.

Some 5,000 people were detained under Franco for gay, lesbian or transsexual "acts or attitudes," according to Antonio Ruiz, president of the Association of Ex-Social Prisoners. Hundreds were jailed in "sexual re-education" centers, reports said.

GAY RETIREMENT HOME TO OPEN IN BERLIN

A gay retirement home is set to open in Berlin's gay Nollendorfplatz area in 2006, an apparent first for Europe.

The Magnus Hirschfeld House will have 150 apartments, said Hans-Jürgen Esch, one of the developers.



Berlin retirement home for gays and lesbians

Hirschfeld, one of the world's first gay activists, founded Berlin's gay Scientific Humanitarian Committee in 1897.

Berlin has an estimated 75,000 gays and lesbians older than 65, the French Press Agency said.

PARTNER BILL PASSES POLISH SENATE

A bill granting registered same-sex couples some marriage rights passed Poland's Senate by a vote of 38-23 with 15 abstentions Dec. 3. It now moves to the Sejm, the lower house of Parliament, where it may face strong opposition, says correspondent Slawek Starosta.

The measure would grant gay couples spousal rights in areas such as taxes, hospital visitation and inheritance.

A spokesman for the Polish Roman Catholic hierarchy said the measure is unconstitutional because Poland's Constitution defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

MIDEAST/AFRICA

ISRAELI COURT AFFIRMS MEN'S RELATIONSHIP

Tel Aviv's Family Court recognized a child support agreement drafted by a male couple, overruling a government decision on the matter, the *Ha'aretz* daily newspaper reported Dec. 7.

The men, a couple for 19 years, impregnated a female friend, and one of the men legally married her. The woman gave birth to twins, and the men then created a financial agreement with her for the babies' care.

Family Court Judge Yehuda Granit ruled that the government's refusal to recognize the agreement violated the Basic Law on Human Dignity and Liberty.

"One would expect an attorney general in a democratic society to work to adjust the law to the reality of life; to defend the rights of all members of society, regardless of their sexual orientation; to be aware of existing and developing realities in society; and not to serve as an automatic mouthpiece for those with conservative ideologies," Granit wrote. **JM**

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.

"I'm AVAILABLE when you are!"

Careful and energetic handling of all your home financing needs

MORTGAGE Advocates

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005

Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824

E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com



Colleen Weed

Office 503-297-9900

Cell 503-780-1561

Drive with Pride



Visit us online at:
www.reyreece.com
or schedule your appointment

503-256-3700

1-800-283-0592

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
VOLKSWAGEN-MITSUBISHI-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com



Home Essentials

in Multnomah Village

Kitchen • Bath • Interior

7880 SW Capitol Hwy.

503.246.8263



Bridge City Family Medical Clinic, PC

Quality Health Care For Men, Women and Children of all Ages

Most
Insurances
Accepted



Sexually Transmitted Infections
Physicals • Pap Smears • Birth Control
Diabetes • High Blood Pressure • Asthma
Minor Injuries • Colds • Flu • Ear Infections
Rashes • Immunizations • Stomach Problems
Sports Physicals • Bladder Infections

Teri Bunker
FNP

2821 NE 58th Avenue
(Cross Street Sandy Boulevard)
Portland, Oregon 97213

503.460.0405

www.bridgecitymedical.com

impress
from concept to delivery
full-service printing™

Are you a mind reader?

Neither are we, but we sure can print and mail.

Quick Turnaround on Newsletters, Postcards, Pricelists, and all other printing needs

Tel 503.281.8688 • Fax 503.249.1440 • www.impress-usa.com