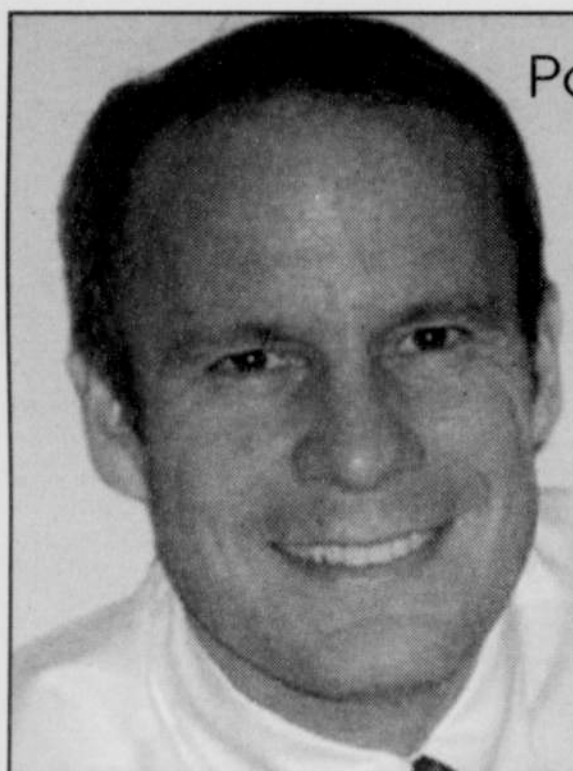




Portland Metro Real Estate
Steve Buchert
Residential Broker

503.970.3801
Buchert@Hasson.com

HASSON
REALTORS



Très Savvy
BOUTIQUE

*Exclusive fashions de l'Europe
pour les femmes*

For all your work, play or special occasions

728 Northwest 23rd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97210
tel. 503.295.2885

THERE ARE MORE POSITIVE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE THAN HIV.



You don't give up, we don't give up.

The fight continues, now, more intensely than ever.

If you are at least 18 years of age, are HIV positive, and have never taken HIV drugs you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study. We are currently studying the safety and effectiveness of marketed HIV drugs in investigational combinations.

All study related office visits, medical exams, and study medications are provided at no cost to patients.

For more information please contact:

The Research and Education Group
(503) 229-8428 or (800) 875-8428

WORLD news

ASIA/PACIFIC

POLICE BAND PLAYS IN GAY PRIDE MARCH

The state of Victoria's Police Band played The Village People's "Y.M.C.A." as officers marched in the Gay Pride parade Jan. 30 in Melbourne, Australia.

About 15,000 people turned out for the march in the St. Kilda neighborhood, *The Herald Sun* reported. They walked from the Junction Oval down Fitzroy Street to Catani Gardens.

"We live in a very diverse community, and our march here is a show of support," acting inspector Mark Keen of the state police's Equity and Diversity Unit told the *Sun*.

State Deputy Premier John Thwaites and his family watched from the sidewalk. "It's a really great event and it's got a lot of tradition attached to it now, and I think it's great that we are showing that we are a very open and tolerant society," he said.



Victoria's police band rouses crowd with The Village People's "Y.M.C.A."

AUSSIERS HAVE UNSAFE SEX WHEN VIRAL LOAD IS UNDETECTABLE

A third of HIV-positive gay men and their HIV-negative boyfriends have unprotected anal sex together—especially after the positive partner's latest blood tests have shown he has no detectable viral load, a University of New South Wales study has found.

The study looked at 119 "serodiscordant" gay couples in Sydney, Australia. About 70 percent of the 37 couples who practiced unsafe sex did so only when testing showed that HIV could not be detected in the positive partner's blood, a common result of taking a combination of anti-HIV medications.

Susan Kippax, director of the National Center in HIV Social Research, told the Australian Associated Press that "it's certainly not a foolproof strategy, and it's not one that we're advocating."

But, she added: "It's not a strategy that people should go shock-horror about.... Some men have worked out strategies for reducing, but not eliminating, the risk.... If you give people enough knowledge, they'll fashion strategies



British MP Chris Nelson, no longer ashamed of HIV after hearing from Mandela

that both reduce risk and are something they can manage."

EUROPE

BELARUS REPORTEDLY BLOCKS GAY WEB SITES

The state telecommunications company in the former Soviet republic of Belarus reportedly has blocked access to several Russian gay and lesbian Web sites.

According to a report from Digital Media Europe, Beltelecom deemed the sites to be obscene and pornographic. Among the blocked sites are Gay.ru, Gayly.ru and QGuys.ru.

GAY BRITISH MP REVEALS HIV STATUS

Gay British Member of Parliament Chris Smith, 53, revealed Jan. 29 that he has been HIV-positive for at least 17 years.

Smith, who has been in Parliament since 1983, also served as Prime Minister Tony Blair's culture secretary from 1997 to 2001.

"When I first heard about it, I was really worried because there was hardly any treatment," Smith told *The Sunday Times*, adding that he later was able to remain healthy by taking a combination of anti-retroviral drugs. "I didn't feel the need to tell people, except for a very, very few, as it was not in any way affecting my work."

Smith said he was inspired to reveal his status by former South African President Nelson Mandela, who announced Jan. 6 that his oldest son had died of AIDS that morning.

"What Nelson Mandela said very much struck a chord with me," Smith said. "He spoke about how nobody should be ashamed of HIV and said that it should be regarded just like any other illness. He was brave and right."

Speaking to reporters Jan. 6 in Johannesburg, Mandela said: "Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way to make it appear like a normal illness like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and to say somebody has died because of HIV. And people will stop regarding it as something extraordinary."

ANTI-GAY PASTOR'S CONVICTION OVERTURNED

A Swedish pastor sentenced to a month in prison for a sermon in which he called homosexuality "a cancerous tumor on the body of society" saw his sentence overturned on appeal Feb. 11.

A district court had convicted Åke Green of "agitation against a group" under a law that bans threatening or expressing contempt for a group of people based on their race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation.

But the Court of Appeal in Jönköping said Green was merely interpreting the Bible and did not use his role as a preacher "as a cover for attacking homosexuals."

The head of the gay rights group National Federation for Sexual Equality, Maria Sjödin, called the new ruling "outrageous."

"Agitation, regardless whether it is based on Nazism or religious grounds, legitimizes violence," she said. "The verdict would hardly have been the same if Åke Green had agitated against groups such as Jews or blacks. There should not be any public arenas where agitation against homosexuals is freely allowed."

Prosecutors said they might appeal to Sweden's Supreme Court.

AMERICAS

CANADA INTRODUCES MARRIAGE BILL

Canada's government introduced legislation Feb. 1 in Parliament to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide.