

"If you wanted to have fun, you should have stayed in Australia instead of trying to come to Fiji and exploit our young boys," Shah told McCosker. "You should have known that such indecent acts are illegal."

Police became aware of the men's activities after McCosker reported a theft of \$1,500 in Australian currency. When police questioned Nandan in connection with the theft, he reported that he and McCosker had been making pornographic photos and videos together to sell on the Internet. A total of 18 of the pictures were used as evidence in court.

INDIAN SODOMY BAN CASE ADVANCES

India's Supreme Court has expressed interest in hearing a case brought by the AIDS organization Naz Foundation against Section 377, a law that bans gay sex.

The case was rejected last year by the Delhi High Court, which ruled that the law could be challenged only by people who have been affected by it. Naz appealed, arguing that the ban makes its anti-HIV work more difficult among men who have sex with men.

The Supreme Court responded by asking the national government, the Delhi city administration, the Delhi police commissioner, the National AIDS Control Organization and the Delhi State AIDS Control Society to file statements of their position on the case with the court.

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code states, "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment...for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine."

EUROPE

SERBIAN WOMEN'S CENTER ATTACKED

The Serbian women's organization Zrenjanin Educational Center was hit with anti-gay and racist graffiti April 6.

The facade of the organization's office was painted with "Serbs give birth to healthy and white children, not faggots," "Faggots, get out of Serbia!" and "Jews, get out of Serbia!"

"This act constitutes a call for violence and...it should be publicly condemned," said the Serbian lesbian group Labris. "We request from the authorities to take immediate measures against the perpetrators according to the law."

GAY MAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ITALIAN REGION

Openly gay communist Nichi Vendola was elected president of Italy's southeastern Puglia region April 4.

He defeated right-wing incumbent Raffaele Fitto of Forza Italia, the national government's main party, receiving 49.94 percent of the vote to Fitto's 49.14 percent. Vendola has been a member of Parliament for more than a decade.

CATALONIA OKS GAY ADOPTION

The Parliament of Spain's autonomous Catalonia region, where Barcelona is located, legalized adoption by same-sex couples March 31. Gay adoption also is permitted in the Navarre, Basque and Aragon regions of the country.

"This decision...is a very positive development that protects the interests of children who already live or will, in the future, live in gay and lesbian families," said the State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals.

DUTCH GAYS AND STRAIGHTS DIVORCE AT SAME RATE

Since the Netherlands became the first nation to legalize full same-sex marriage in 2001, gays and straights have divorced at about the same rate.

New government statistics show that 5,751 same-sex couples got married between April 1, 2001, and the end of 2003—and 63 got divorced. There were 243,000 heterosexual marriages and 2,800 heterosexual divorces during the same period.

The divorce rate for lesbians was slightly higher than for gay men, the Central Bureau for Statistics said.

Full same-sex marriage also is legal in Belgium, in eight of Canada's 13 provinces and territories and in the U.S. state of Massachusetts. Numerous nations and states/provinces/regions grant same-sex couples many or nearly all matrimonial rights via registered partnership or civil union laws.

SWISS ARMY OFFICERS FORM GAY CLUB

Gay officers in Switzerland's Army have formed a gay officers club, London's *Gay Times* reported in its April issue.

Founder Lt. Silvan Amberg, 22, believes it may be the first such official club in the world. It has about a dozen members so far.

EURO PROTOCOL TO HELP GAYS

Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which should be of help to gays, came into force April 1.

It grants individuals the right not to be discriminated against and requires public authorities not to allow discrimination. Sexual orientation discrimination is not explicitly listed as pro-



Openly gay communist Nichi Vendola was elected president of southern Italy's conservative Puglia region.

hibited, but European Court of Human Rights case law has found such discrimination to breach the convention.

"This is a very significant legal development in European anti-discrimination legislation which has great potential for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Europe who still experience discrimination in many areas of their lives," said Patricia Prendiville, executive director of the European arm of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

To date, only 11 of the 46 European countries that are signatories to the convention have ratified Protocol 12: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Macedonia, Netherlands, San Marino, and Serbia and Montenegro. **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.



A place where gardeners, novice or expert, can find good plants, good tools, good dirt, and helpful advice on sustainable gardening practices.

OPEN 7 GARDENING DAYS A WEEK — 9AM TO 6PM
JUST SOUTH OF FREMONT — 3433 NE 24TH AVE.
503.287.3200



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

By Appointment

Most
Insurances
Accepted

Bridge City Family Medical Clinic, PC

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

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

Monday - Friday 503.460.0405
8:30 - 5:00pm Fax: 503-460-0434
www.bridgecitymedical.com



Shea Steel
Realtor
503-282-4000 Ext 112
sheasteel
@remax.net

Dawnie Grubstein
Senior Loan Officer
503-807-1799
dawniegrubstein
@comcast.net

RE/MAX
Signature Properties

Indigo
Financing Services, Inc.

We cover
both sides
of the fence.

We'll find you a
home and get
you the loan.

Call now and we'll
give you \$200 off of
your closing costs!

pitch catch

sports have seasons but **guy-on-guy action**
happens year-round, baby

Want to make it safer to play? Test for STDs every 3 months.

Multnomah County STD Clinic • 503.988.3700 • All, confidential, all the time