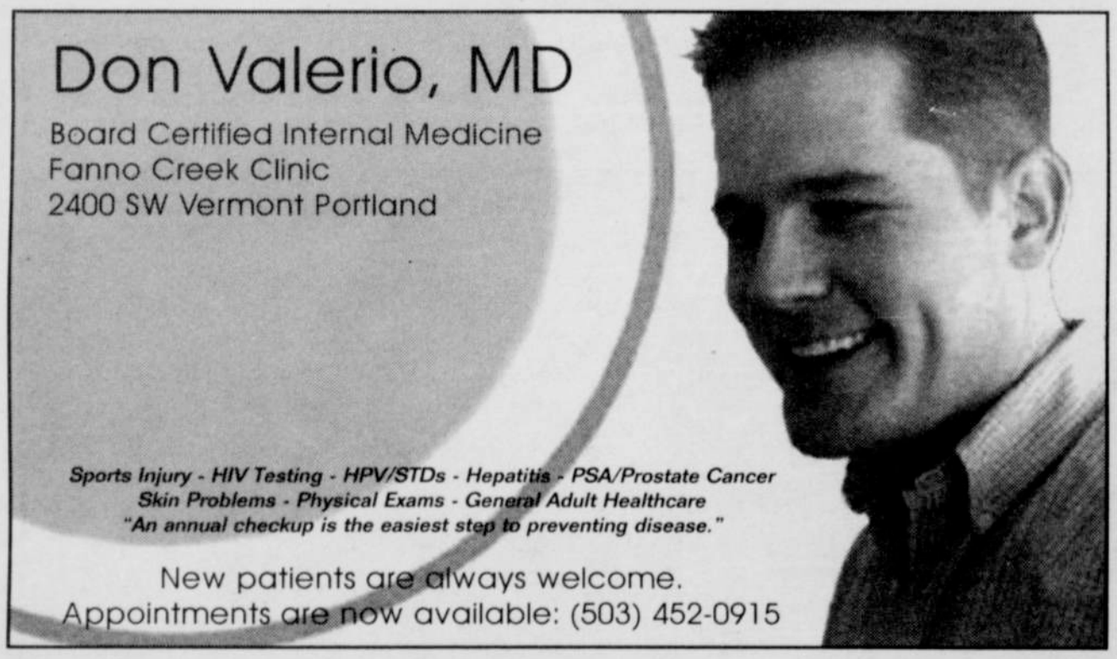
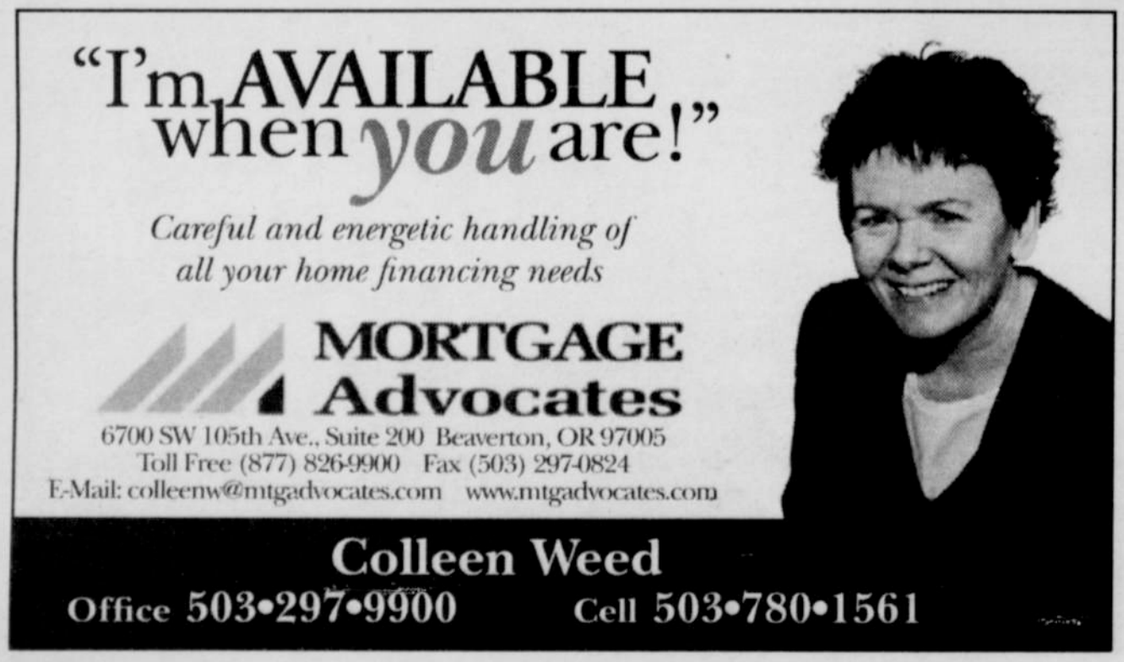




WORLD news

AMERICAS

Televisa Network to Get Gay-Sensitivity Training

Activists from the U.S. Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and Mexico City's Pride Committee Mexico will train staff of Mexico's biggest television network, Televisa, in hopes of improving its depictions of gays and lesbians.

A significant chunk of Spanish-language programming seen in the United States is produced by Televisa—airing on the Univisión network.

"This is an important first step in what we hope will be a productive collaboration between Televisa and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community," said Televisa general programming director Xavier Labrada.

GLAAD's people of color media director, Mónica Taher, said, "Spanish-language media have often portrayed LGBT people in a sensationalistic and stereotyped manner."

EUROPE

Gay Harassment Increases in Copenhagen

Gays and lesbians in Copenhagen, one of the world's gay-friendliest cities, are reporting increased homophobic harassment, *The Copenhagen Post* said April 11.

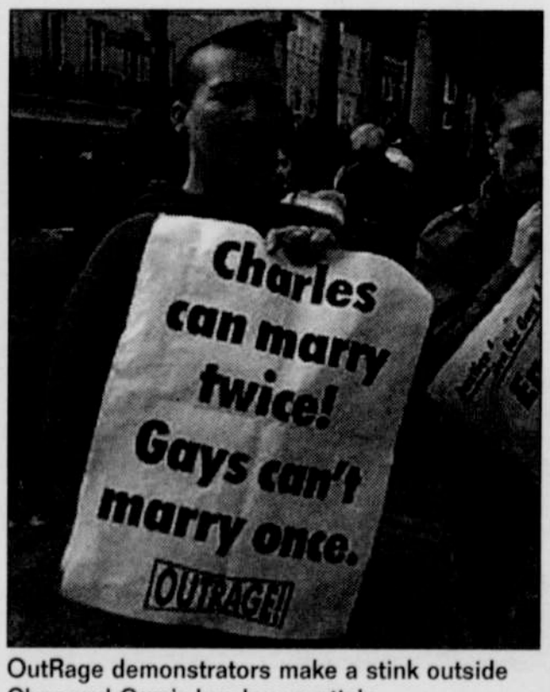
A survey by the National Association of Gays and Lesbians found that 90 percent of respondents have experienced verbal abuse or physical violence based on their sexuality.

Organized groups of attackers apparently have begun lying in wait outside gay bars and in cruisy parks. Gay men report increased trouble on Studiestræde street and in Ørstedspark. Lesbians are having trouble at Rådhusplads square.

"There are more attacks, and they've become more violent," LBL consultant Kim Foss told the daily newspaper *metroXpress*.

Gays Protest at Charles and Camilla's Wedding

Members of the London direct-action group OutRage staged a pro-same-sex-marriage protest April 9 outside the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles.



OutRage demonstrators make a stink outside Chas and Cam's low-key nuptials.

Three of the protesters were briefly detained under the Terrorism Act.

"Lord Falconer justified the Charles and Camilla wedding on the grounds that the Human Rights Act says everyone is entitled to marry," said OutRage's Peter Tatchell. "Why, then, is his government refusing to allow same-sex couples to get married?"

Protester Brett Lock added: "If the government and the church can engineer the law to allow Charles and Camilla to marry, why can't they amend the law to legalize marriage for lesbians and gays? The new same-sex civil partnerships law is not legal equality."

Slovenia Considers Same-Sex Partnerships

The former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia is considering a same-sex partnership bill.

The government discussed the measure, drafted by the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs, at a regularly scheduled meeting March 31 and sent it to Parliament for a first reading.

The bill addresses issues such as housing, inheritance, property, joint income, access to health information and hospital visitation. If it passes, additional laws will be changed to embrace same-sex relationships, government officials said.

Bulgaria Gets Gay Radio

Bulgaria's first gay radio program, *Gemini*, has launched on Radio NET, an over-the-air broadcaster.

Past and future topics of discussion include discrimination, social isolation, anti-gay violence, family, school, love, partnerships, religion, the armed forces, prostitution, media coverage, online dating, sports and the arts.

EuroPride Heads to Oslo

EuroPride, the annual pan-European queer blowout, heads to Oslo, Norway, this year.

Eleven days of music, art, stage, film, literary, party and religious events will be centered around the June 25 Pride parade. It will be the first time EuroPride has been held in a country that is not a member of the European Union.

More than 50,000 visitors are expected. For more information visit www.europride.no.

GLBT Families Conference in Paris

The Third International Conference on LGBT Families will take place Oct. 25 and 26 in Paris.

Attendees will include researchers, academics, judges, social workers, lawyers and others.

The conference is organized by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Parents and Future Parents. It has received support from several major French research institutes.

The 27th European conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association will be held in Paris simultaneously. For more information visit www.conference-apgl.org.

ILGA Blasts Ratzinger

The International Lesbian and Gay Association expressed "dismay and deep concerns over the election of ultraconservative and homophobic Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to the papacy."

"It appears as if hatemongering is now the quickest route to promotion in the Vatican," said co-secretary general Kursad Kahramanoglu.

In an important church document issued in 2003, Ratzinger wrote: "Homosexual acts go against the natural moral law.... They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

"The approval or legalization of evil is something far different from the toleration of evil," he

Kursad Kahramanoglu condemns Joseph Ratzinger's appointment as pope, citing his virulent homophobia.