

WORLDnews

eventually may lead to a full-blown Anglican schism, some observers believe.

COSTA RICAN COPS FACE PUNISHMENT FOR ATTACK ON GAYS

Two agents from Costa Rica's Department of Criminal Investigations may be suspended or fired after San José police arrested them for shouting insults at men leaving a gay bar and for firing their pistols and attacking a taxi driver at the scene, InsideCostaRica.com reported June 22.

The department's internal affairs unit is investigating the incident. The agents were turned over to the Public Ministry, which will process their cases through the judicial system.

VENEZUELAN STAGE KISS-IN AT SUPREME COURT

Gay activists staged a kiss-in June 14 outside Venezuela's Supreme Court of Justice in Caracas, demanding marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Dozens of people took part in the protest, chanting, "We're Venezuelans, too" and "Marriages now, no more fucking around."

"We had to repeat the protest 10 times because every 15 minutes another journalist showed up," said Santiago Farías of the gay group Affirmative Union.

EUROPE

SPAIN LEGALIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Spanish lawmakers legalized gay marriage June 30 following criticism by conservative religious groups.

The law gives homosexual couples the same rights as heterosexual couples, including adoption, inheritance and pension rights. The measure was passed by a vote of 187-147.

This victory for civil rights activists comes after a setback last month when the Senate rejected the bill. Opponents presented lawmakers with a petition signed by 600,000 people against same-sex unions June 29.

"Today, Spanish society is responding to a group of people who have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, their dignity offended, their identity denied and their freedom restricted," Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero told Parliament.

Spain is the fourth country to legalize gay marriage, after Canada, the Netherlands and Belgium.

CZECH PM SUPPORTS PARTNER BILL

Czech Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek said June 12 that he supports a proposed same-sex registered partnership bill and wants his party's members in the Chamber of Deputies to vote for it.

"It is a good law," said Paroubek, a Social Democrat.

The Gay and Lesbian League had requested Paroubek's support for the bill shortly after he was appointed prime minister in April. A similar measure was rejected by the Chamber of Deputies in February.

POLISH GAYS MARCH DESPITE BAN

Some 2,500 queers marched June 11 in Warsaw, Poland, even though Mayor Lech Kaczyn-

ski banned the Gay Pride parade.

Kaczynski had said he opposed both "propagating gay orientation" and holding the event on the same day Warsaw unveiled a monument to anti-Nazi hero Gen. Stefan Rowecki.

Around 300 anti-gay protesters hurled eggs and shouted slurs at the marchers. Ten people were arrested and three were injured, including a policeman.

Deputy Prime Minister Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka and Deputy Speaker of Parliament Tomasz Nalecz joined a queer rally outside Parliament.

SLOVENIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES PARTNERSHIP LAW

Slovenia's National Assembly approved a same-sex partnership bill June 22 by a vote of 44-3. A total of 43 other deputies were missing for the vote.

Gay rights groups denounced the bill, saying that they were shut out of the process and that it doesn't go nearly far enough. The measure grants registered couples spousal rights in the areas of property, support, hospital visitation and, partially, inheritance.

"The new bill, which is bringing only partial rights, is discriminatory, treating LGBT citizens as second-class citizens," said Tatjana Greif of SKUC-LL, the Lesbian Section of the Students' Cultural Center. "We do not want to participate in the process of 'virtual democracy.' However, we see the new law as the first and fundamental step towards introducing more equal legislation for sexual minorities in Slovenia. Our mission



Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek speaks out in favor of a same-sex registered partnership bill in the Czech Chamber of Deputies.

and our goal for the future is to take all the necessary steps to improve the existing law."

ASIA/PACIFIC

SINGAPORE BANS CIRCUIT PARTY

Singapore has banned the large gay circuit party Nation after allowing it the past four years.

Police refused a permit for the event, calling it "contrary to public interest in general."

The party, which is organized by Fridae.com, will be moved to Phuket, Thailand. It is scheduled for Nov. 4 to 6, sponsored by Motorola and Subaru.

Phuket province Gov. Udomsak Assawarangura said he welcomes the event.

About 8,000 people attended last year's party, 40 percent of them from overseas. They pumped an estimated \$6 million into the Singaporean economy. [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.

Rad Cat Raw Diet

Premium Raw Food For Cats

cat (kat) n. - a

domesticated carnivore

All free-range poultry and organic ingredients.

503-736-4649

www.RadFood.com

'Feed your felines like the carnivores they are.'

Available in fine markets and pet stores throughout the Portland area.

Check our website for new locations.

Created locally - for the love of cats.

German Formula Inc.

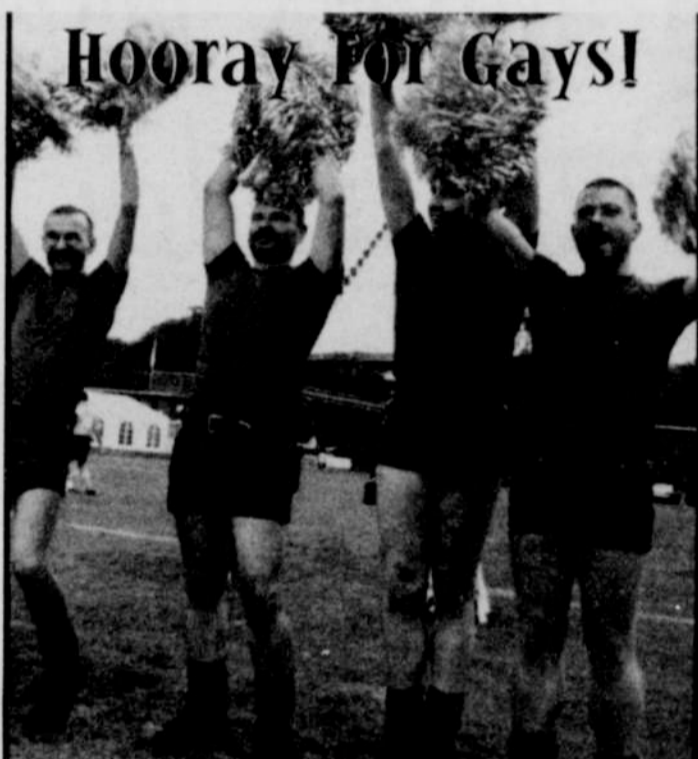
Repair Facility & Collision Center
BMW, Mercedes & Porsche exclusively



All work performed by Craftsmen
with pride since 1979

(503) 238-1707

100 NE 11th Ave service@germanformula.com



We believe you are perfect
just the way you are.

Rose City Mortgage Specialists
supports diversity, gay pride,
community, and dogs.

Rose City
Mortgage Specialists

503.768.4248
www.RoseCityMtg.com

Cotton Cloud

Futons and Furniture

701 NE Broadway
Near Lloyd Center

503-335-0758

Mon-Sat: 10 AM - 7:30 PM

Sun: Noon - 5:00 PM

www.cottoncloudfutons.com



European Design
Memory Foam Beds

Over 200 covers
& 12 mattresses to
fit your lifestyle!

Choose from Portland's
largest selection of wood
& metal sofa beds.

FREE FUTON
COVER
WITH PURCHASE OF ANY FUTON & FRAME
NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS EXP 9/30/05



Cotton Cloud Futon brings you a brand new line of
Viscoelastic memory foam mattresses.... The same
body-molding/pressure-relieving foam that
you see on TV, but at a much better price!