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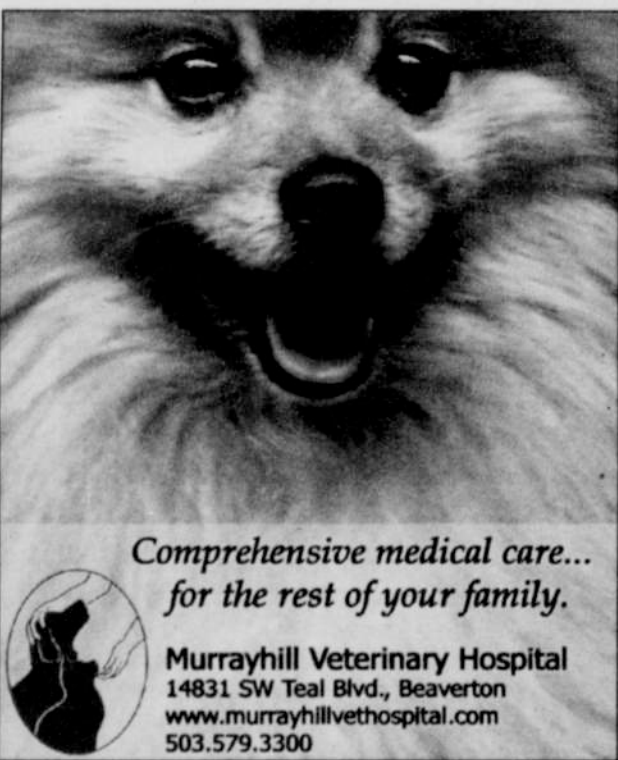
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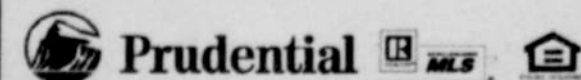


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EUROPE

GERMAN POLICE KEEP LISTS OF GAYS

German gay activists are screaming foul after media revealed that state police in three states keep lists of gays and gay meeting spots, *Deutsche Welle* reported.

Programs allow officers in Bavaria, Thuringia and North Rhine-Westphalia to categorize suspects as homosexual and crime scenes as "locations frequented by gays and lesbians." Gay Member of Parliament Volker Beck said the practice reminds him of the "pink lists" kept by the Nazis.

The gay police group VelsPol noted that one such program, Police Integration Procedures System, lists "location frequented by homosexuals" right next to "peepshow," "brothel" and "prostitution area."

**ANGLICAN GAY PRIESTS
CAN MARRY BUT MUST
NOT HAVE SEX**

When Britain's civil partnerships law comes into force in December, gay Anglican priests will be allowed to get hitched, but they must remain chaste, the church said July 25.

Anglican leaders said the policy is the only way both to abide by the law and follow church doctrine. The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement accused the church of "double dealing, duplicity and disregard for decency."

"The Bishops' Statement betrays contempt, once more, for lesbian and gay relationships and should be rejected as unloving, unpastoral and unworkable," said general secretary Richard Kirker. "At a time where lesbian and gay people—yet alone lesbian and gay Christians—are looking to the church to affirm their families and to help build stability and provide a safe space for them, the church spits in their face."

The worldwide Anglican Communion has been brought to the brink of schism over the issue of gay clergy—after the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire elected an openly gay bishop and the Anglican Church of Canada's Vancouver-area diocese began blessing gay relationships.

**ANTI-GAYS TRASH
LATVIA'S FIRST
PRIDE PARADE**

Latvia saw its first Gay Pride parade July 23 after the Riga Regional Administrative Court slapped down a ban on it issued by city leaders three days earlier.

The approximately 150 marchers were heavily outnumbered by around 1,000 anti-gay protesters who hurled insults, bottles and rotten eggs; blocked the streets; and forced the parade to be rerouted. The protesters chanted "No sodomy" and "Gays fuck the nation."

In the end, police formed a human chain around the marchers to keep them safe. At least six anti-gay demonstrators were arrested.

The parade ended at an Anglican church, where a "Rainbow Mass" was celebrated by Maris Sants, a former minister in Latvia's dominant Lutheran church who was defrocked after he came out.

When the service ended, anti-gays blocked the church exits. Police escorted the marchers

from the building and bused them to safety.

"I have never experienced so much hate before," Swedish marcher Rickard Lundgren told the Stockholm Web site QX.se. "The hate was shining in their eyes."

Officials in the capital city banned the march

July 20 after Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis denounced it as "a parade of sexual minorities [taking] place in the middle of our capital city next to the Dom [Cathedral]."

"This is not acceptable," he said. "Latvia is a state based on Christian values. We cannot promote things that are unacceptable to a large part of society."

A city spokesman claimed the march would harm gays and lesbians by reducing tolerance for them. "The majority of society was against it, and it could result in

unrest," said Ugis Vidauskis on behalf of Eriks Skapars, Riga city executive director.

**2,442 GAY COUPLES HAVE MARRIED
IN BELGIUM**

Belgium has conducted 2,442 same-sex marriages since it became the second nation to extend full marriage rights to gays in 2003, according to new Interior Ministry statistics.

That is about 3 percent of the nation's total marriages during that time period. Some observers believe the percentage will rise once Belgium OKs adoption by same-sex couples.

Full marriage also is available to same-sex couples in Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and Massachusetts. Foreign couples are welcome to marry in Canada, and there are no waiting periods except in Quebec.

**AUSTRIA RECOGNIZES
NAZIS' GAY VICTIMS**

Austria's Parliament added gays and lesbians July 7 to the Nazi Victims Compensation Act, thereby granting them equal access to survivors' funds. The gay organization Homosexual Initiative Vienna has fought for the change for 20

years—but isn't sure it will make any difference now.

"We fear that there may not be any gay and lesbian survivors still alive who could file an application under the new provision," said secretary-general Kurt Krickler. "All those homosexual victims that had filed applications in the past but were turned down have died. It was certainly the cynical intention of the two government parties—the conservative People's Party and the right-wing Freedom Party—to drag out this issue as long as possible."



Volker Beck, a gay member of Parliament, compared lists kept by German police to "pink lists" of Nazi Germany.



Richard Kirker called Anglican policy toward gay priests "unworkable."

**FIRST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
TAKES PLACE IN SPAIN**

Spain saw its first same-sex marriage July 11.

A law extending ordinary marriage to same-sex couples and legalizing gay adoption took effect July 3, following a 187-147 vote by the Congress of Deputies.

After eight days of paperwork, the first gay couple were able to tie the knot. The wedding, between psychiatrist Carlos Baturín, 69, and store window decorator Emilio Menéndez, 50, took place in the city council chambers of the Madrid suburb of Tres Cantos.

They have been together for 30 years. "We're normal people who love each other and want to be happy," Menéndez told reporters. "The happiest day of our lives was when we fell in love with each other.... There have been many wonderful days; today is yet another wonderful day."

Baturín, who is from the United States, added, "Today we are even more a family."

Full same-sex marriage also is legal in Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada and Massachusetts.

**BINATIONAL SAME-SEX COUPLES
CAN MARRY IN SPAIN**

Despite an earlier court statement to the contrary, an authoritative official body has now said that nonresidents of Spain will be allowed to marry a same-sex Spanish partner in Spain regardless of whether the nonresident's home nation allows gay marriage.

Spain legalized full same-sex marriage July 3. The Junta de Fiscales de Sala, a board of lawyers that assists the fiscal general del Estado, who is similar to a national attorney general, issued its decision July 26.

However, the decision does not necessarily bind local marriage officials, who can refuse to perform such a marriage. Should such a refusal occur, it could lead to a binding court ruling on the matter.

The question of whether two foreigners of the same sex can get married in Spain apparently has not been addressed yet.

ACTIVISTS CALL FOR GAY BAR SECURITY

Saying three of its members have received death threats from Islamic fundamentalists, the U.K. gay direct action group OutRage is calling on gay bars to begin bag and body searches of customers.

"Gay venues could be bombed by Islamic terrorists," said OutRage leader Peter Tatchell. "Muslim fundamentalists have a violent hatred of lesbians and gay men. They believe we should be killed."

Tatchell said he, campaign coordinator Brett Lock and Muslim affairs spokesman Aaron Saeed have been warned that they are on a "hit list" and will be "beheaded" and "chopped up" in accordance with "Islamic law."

"Just you wait and see," one caller told Tatchell. "The punishment for sodomy is death."

The threats began after OutRage stepped up its campaign in defense of gay Muslims fleeing attempted "honor killings" in Algeria, Iran, Palestine and the United Kingdom. Police identified the phone number from which the threats came, but it was a prepay mobile phone that could not be traced.



Peter Tatchell of OutRage feels threatened by Muslim fundamentalists.