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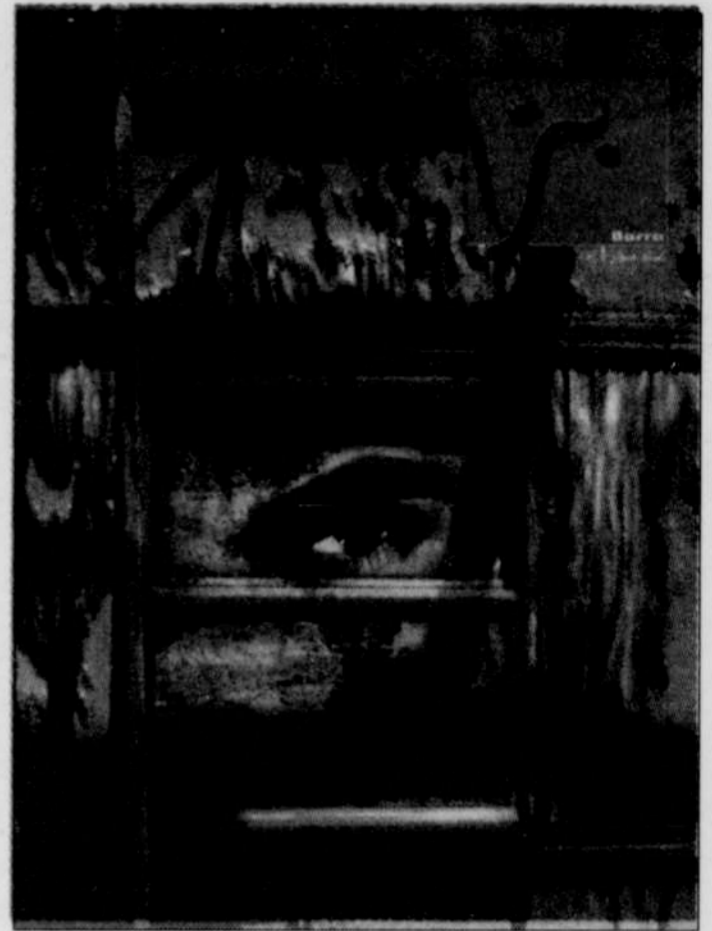
**WORLDnews**

**MIDEAST/AFRICA**

**GAY MAGAZINE LAUNCHES IN BEIRUT**

Beirut has its first gay magazine, *The Daily Star* reported Oct. 10. *Out* is published quarterly by the gay organization Helem.

Helem coordinator Georges Azzi told the *Star* that Lebanon is the only Arab country where gays can find refuge and that Helem is the "first Arab nongovernmental organization openly fighting for their rights." Lebanon punishes "unnatural sexual intercourse" with up to a year in jail.



*Out* is Lebanon's first gay magazine.

**UGANDA BANS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed a constitutional amendment Sept. 28 banning same-sex marriage. The measure passed Parliament in August.

It says that "marriage is lawful only if entered into between a man and a woman" and emphasizes that "it is unlawful for same-sex couples to marry." Criminal penalties for entering into a same-sex marriage will be added in an upcoming revision of the penal code.

Gay sex already was banned in Uganda.

**AMERICAS**

**ONTARIO WOOS U.S. GAY DOCTORS**

The Canadian province of Ontario is trying to solve its doctor shortage by wooing gay doctors from the United States.

Openly gay Health Minister George Smitherman attended the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association conference in late September and played up the fact that same-sex couples can get married in Canada. According to Reuters, Ontario is short about 2,200 doctors; as a result, 1.2 million people have no access to a family physician.

"Canada is sort of a shining example of the way things ought to be from a political perspective," GLMA executive director Joel Ginsberg told the wire service. "There's no question that [Ontario] must be attractive to people in a position to consider moving."

**SVEND ROBINSON WANTS TO RE-ENTER POLITICS**

Canada's first openly gay member of Parliament is re-entering politics and will run for the Vancouver-Centre seat in the next federal election.

Svend Robinson, who represented a suburban Vancouver district for 25 years, resigned in 2004 after stealing a \$50,000 diamond ring from a jewelry sale. He pleaded guilty to theft and was sentenced to 100 hours of community service.

Robinson later revealed he suffers from bipolar disorder.



Svend Robinson, a bipolar diamond thief, intends to run for Parliament in Canada.

**EUROPE**

**CROATIAN GAYS COME OUT IN NEWSPAPER AD**

Several hundred Croatian queers signed an ad placed in two large daily newspapers Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, Reuters reported.

The ad, titled "We don't want to hide anymore," ran in the *Jutarnji List* and *Vecernji List* newspapers. But despite the headline, the ad's

signers used only their first names.

"This is a symbolic coming out, but it shows that gays in Croatia are mustering courage to fully reveal their identities," Dorino Manzin of the gay group Step Out told the wire service.

More information about the campaign can be found at [www.comingout.gay.hr](http://www.comingout.gay.hr).

**POLISH CANDIDATE DEFAMES GAYS**

Poland's probable next prime minister defamed gays Oct. 3.

Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz—selected by the victorious parties in the recent election as their candidate for prime minister—told *Newsweek* that homosexuality is "unnatural."

"The family is natural, and the state must stand guard over the family," he said. But, he added: "I don't care if someone is a homosexual or not, and even if I found out something like that, I wouldn't judge a person differently than on their actions alone. But if that person tries to infect others with their homosexuality, then the state must intervene in this violation of freedom."

Marcinkiewicz would become prime minister after appointment by the president and confirmation by Parliament.

**SPANIARDS LIKE GAY MARRIAGE**

The people of Spain oppose the opposition Popular Party's plan to file suit to undo the nation's recent legalization of same-sex marriage, a poll has found.

About 60 percent of 1,000 adults questioned Oct. 1 called the move "a negative development." Only 29.9 percent said it was "a positive development." The rest were unsure or didn't answer the question. The poll's margin of error was 3.1 percent.

The Congress of Deputies legalized same-sex marriage June 30 in a 187-147 vote with four abstentions. Full marriage also is available to same-sex couples in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands and Massachusetts.

**LITHUANIAN ANTI-GAYS PROTEST NONEXISTENT PRIDE MARCH**

There are no plans to stage Lithuania's first Gay Pride parade anytime in the foreseeable future, but that didn't stop 50 anti-gays from protesting the very notion of such a parade Sept. 30.

Supported by several large Christian denominations, the demonstrators gathered in Vilnius' Europe Square in hopes of fending off a future "attack by homosexuals," they said in a statement. They carried signs that read "Down with homophiles" and "No to gay marriage."