

jurists before this punishment can be implemented, which is perhaps similar to the punishment meted out by other heavenly religions."

Deputy Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamal told the BBC that "vigilante action" is not condoned. "We encourage the victims to inform the authorities if they are subjected to any attacks," he said.

However, the Interior Ministry is run by members of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a leading Shiite party, and gays say the council's Badr Brigades militia is among those attacking them.

"Saddam was a tyrant, but at least we had more freedom then," one Iraqi gay man told the network. "Nowadays, gay men are just killed for no reason."

ASIA/PACIFIC

Hong Kong Bans Brit Partnership Ceremonies at Consulate

Hong Kong's Home Affairs Bureau has told the British Consulate-General it cannot perform same-sex unions under the United Kingdom's new Civil Partnership Act.

The bureau said permitting the ceremonies would amount to an inappropriate taking of sides during ongoing local debate on legislation banning anti-gay discrimination.

The U.K. partnership law allows embassies and consulates to register same-sex unions when at least one partner is a British national and the host government does not object.

Some 3.5 million Hong Kong citizens hold British National (Overseas) passports—a travel document given to Hong Kongers who chose not to become solely citizens of China. In addition, about 200,000 British citizens live in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Several nations reportedly allow the unions at British consulates and embassies, including Australia, Belarus, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Israel, Japan, Moldova, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The Web site of the British Consulate-General in Hong Kong says the unions also are offered in the United States, but an April 21 statement on the Web site of the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., says: "For U.K. diplomatic missions to be able to carry out these registrations outside of the U.K., we have been asked to obtain confirmation from host governments that they have no objection. We have requested confirmation from the U.S. State Department and we are waiting for a reply."

The British unions are not offered in countries that have their own civil partnership or same-sex marriage legislation: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and Sweden. British nationals in those nations must formalize their union under local law, and the United Kingdom will then recognize it.

AMERICAS

CBS Producers Gay-Bashed in Caribbean

Two CBS television producers were severely gay-bashed April 6 on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, according to Florida's WFOR-TV.



Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis has flip-flopped between Latvia being a "Christian" and "democratic" country.

Evening News senior producer Richard Jefferson and 48 Hours producer-researcher Ryan Smith were beaten with a tire iron outside the Sunset Beach Bar by four men and two women who identified themselves as gay-bashers. The assailants had harassed the men earlier inside Bamboo Bernies nightclub.

The victims, who had been on vacation, were taken to St. Maarten Medical Center, then air-lifted to Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Smith has a skull fracture and brain damage and cannot speak properly. Jefferson suffered gashes on his head and back.

Jefferson returned to St. Maarten to pursue justice April 14.

"The longer this case goes unsolved, the more harm the people of St. Maarten are inflicting upon themselves and the reputation of the island as a vacation spot," he said, according to a Human Rights Campaign press release. "Justice will only be achieved when residents realize that hiding vicious criminals will only cause further damage to the island's reputation."

Canadian Court OKs Anti-Gay Ad

The highest court in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan ruled April 15 that Regina resident Hugh Owens did not violate the provincial Human Rights Code when he placed an ad in Saskatoon's *StarPhoenix* newspaper quoting anti-gay Bible passages and depicting two stick-figure men holding hands underneath the international "no" symbol.

A human rights board of inquiry and the Queen's Bench court had previously found Owens guilty of offending gays' dignity and exposing them to hatred and ridicule, but the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturned the rulings even though the ad was, according to the court, "bluntly presented and doubtlessly upsetting to many."

The complaint against Owens was filed by gay activist Gens Hellquist, who told the *StarPhoenix* he is disappointed that the Court of Appeal seems to be saying "that if you wrap up hatred and intolerance in religious dogma you can get away with it."

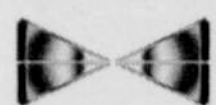
Ottawa Pride Is Bankrupt

The Gay Pride committee in the Canadian capital of Ottawa is "effectively bankrupt," the *Ottawa Citizen* reported April 19.

Ottawa-Gatineau Pride is \$162,700 in debt and needs an infusion of \$25,000 from the city government to stay afloat and stage this year's parade and festival, the committee said. "If we don't have a festival this year, then there's no guarantee we can pay back the creditors," committee member Tamara Stannis told the paper.

Ironically, \$66,000 of the existing debt is owed to the city. Another \$100,000 or so is owed to local businesses, some of which have agreed to accept repayment of 25 cents per dollar owed. 10

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.



MORGAN FINANCIAL, INC.

MORTGAGE LENDING & INVESTMENTS



Custom Financing that fits your Needs!

It is my goal to fit every borrower with the mortgage that best suits their interests and goals. It is of the utmost importance that you understand all of the potential options you have, and make the right decision.

It is important to me that you are comfortable with the financing from the minute you fill out an application to the day you move into your new home.

Pauline Hines Branch Manager

pauline@morfi.com

1920 NW Lovejoy • Portland, Oregon 97209

503-542-7894 Office

503-515-8761 Mobile

503-542-7895 Fax



WESTOVER HEIGHTS

C L I N I C

Offering general internal medicine and excelling in sexual health care

Serving the community for 22 years

2330 NW Flanders

Suite 207

503-226-6678

eco pdx
2200 N Interstate Ave
(across from the Gotham)
503.267.8181
www.ecopdx.com



Handmade furniture built solely from reclaimed, recycled & salvaged hardwood timbers. Naturally beautiful.

Canine Peak Performance



Sports Medicine & Physical Rehabilitation Center

- Post-injury
- Post-surgery
- Weight Management
- Assessment of the Canine Athlete

Carol J. Helfer, D.V.M.

4945 SW 77th • Portland, OR

503-291-7400

www.caninepeakperformance.com

AVENUE
HAIR DESIGN & NAILS

Hair Cut & Design
Hair Extensions
Bio-Ionic Hair Straightening
Perms & Color
Spa Manicure & Pedicure
Facials / Skin Care
Body Waxing
Body Wrapping

503.646.3843

Gift Certificates Available!

FREE Consultations!

Ask about our full day of pampering!

All services performed in private rooms!

Se habla Español.

Visit us online:

www.avenuehair.com

\$100 OFF
Hair Extensions

New clients only. Not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon. Expires 8/1/06.

4690 SW Washington Ave.
Beaverton, OR 97005



www.avenuehair.com

OR

\$45 Massage
Save \$20!

New clients only. Not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon. Expires 8/1/06.

4690 SW Washington Ave.
Beaverton, OR 97005



www.avenuehair.com