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EUROPE

Spain's Congress of Deputies Passes Trans Bill

The Justice Committee of Spain's Congress of Deputies passed a bill Nov. 7 that allows confirmed transgender people to change their name and gender on official documents without undergoing sex-change surgery.

They would need to be diagnosed as transsexual and receive two years of medical, surgical or hormonal treatment but would not have to alter their genitalia.

The measure does not need passage by the full chamber to become law. It now advances to a similar Senate committee, where it likely will be approved. If it should fail in the Senate, the bill will return to the Congress of Deputies committee, which will have final say.

St. Maarten Bashers Sentenced

Four people who bashed two gay CBS News journalists on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten in April have been sent to prison.

Glen Cockly, Micheline Delaney, Allan Daniel and Michel Javois were found guilty of public violence and causing grievous bodily harm and were sentenced to between six months and six years.

Evening News senior producer Richard Jefferson and 48 Hours producer-researcher Ryan Smith, who were on vacation, were beaten with a tire iron outside the Sunset Beach Bar by up to six people who identified themselves as gay-bashers. Smith suffered brain damage and had trouble speaking for several months.



British gay activist Peter Tatchell will challenge the National Blood Service's ban on gay donors.

donations from promiscuous heterosexuals who have lots of unprotected sex with many different partners," Tatchell said. "A straight businessman who regularly travels to the U.S. and who has unsafe sex with large numbers of women in a city like New York...is at high risk of HIV. In contrast, a gay man on the isolated Shetland Islands who has had only a few same-sex encounters in his life—all limited to very low-risk active anal sex with a condom—has almost no chance of getting HIV."

ASIA/PACIFIC

Singapore Continues to Ban Gay Sex

The final version of government-proposed amendments to Singapore's penal code will legalize oral and anal sex for straight people but not for gays.

The amendments, hammered out over a three-year period, were made public Nov. 9.

A note from the Home Affairs Ministry that accompanied the amendment proposals said Singapore is "a conservative society, [and] many do not tolerate homosexuality."

But the government said it will not be "proactive" in enforcing the remaining ban on male-male sex, which carries a penalty of up to two years in prison.

Another clause set for repeal punishes "unnatural" sex of any sort with up to life in prison.

AMERICAS

Canadian Parliament Considers Reopening Marriage Debate

Canada's Conservative government will introduce a motion in Parliament in December allowing MPs to vote on whether to reopen debate on the 2005 legalization of same-sex marriage.

The motion is expected to fail, but the Conservatives pledged during the last election campaign to orchestrate a reconsideration of the issue and are keeping their promise to do so.

Outgames Lost Money

The first World Outgames, staged last summer in Montreal, lost \$5.3 million, Quebec government auditors said Nov. 14.

Organizers had reported a \$200,000 surplus, but provincial accountants claim to have set the record straight.

Games co-chairwoman Marielle Dupéré blamed "a lack of public support and the competing Gay Games in Chicago" for the deficit.



Richard Jefferson, one of the two American tourists brutally attacked on the island of St. Maarten, shows his head wounds.

Brit Gay Leader Targets Blood Ban

Prominent British gay activist Peter Tatchell says the National Blood Service's ban on gay blood donors is "unscientific" and "homophobic."

Writing in *The Guardian* newspaper Nov. 3, he said the gay rights group OutRage and the National Union of Students will fight to have the ban lifted.

"A man who has had oral or anal sex with another man only once in his life, perhaps more than 40 years ago...is prohibited from donating blood," Tatchell said. "The ban also applies to men who have never had unprotected oral or anal sex, having always used a condom. Even a man whose same-sex experience is limited to a few sucks behind the bike sheds when he was a schoolboy is banned as a blood donor."

On the other hand, "the NBS happily accepts

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