



Patricia Prendiville, executive director of the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, is advocating for a stronger message against Nigeria's anti-gay bill.

Kaczynski has called gays "perverse," and his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, shocked attendees at a National Forum on Europe meeting Feb. 20 in Ireland when he warned that if homosexuality "were to be promoted on a grand scale, the human race would disappear. Imagine what grand changes would occur in mores if the traditional links between men and women were set aside."

President Kaczynski banned the Gay Pride parade in 2004 and 2005 when he was mayor of Warsaw and said he'd do it again if he were mayor today. "I don't think it's appropriate that they should promote their sexual orientation," he said at the Irish meeting.

AMERICAS

Canadian Court Hands Gays Partial Victory

Canada's Supreme Court ruled March 1 that the federal government violated the constitution when it limited same-sex couples' eligibility for retroactive Canada Pension Plan benefits to people whose partners died after 1997.

The government established that cutoff in 2000 when Parliament granted same-sex couples full pension rights.

The Supreme Court, however, did not order payment of retroactive benefits all the way back to 1985, when equality rights took effect under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That would have cost the government around \$100 million paid to

some 1,500 claimants in the huge class-action suit.

Instead, the court ordered payment of one year's back pension as compensation to people whose partners died between 1985 and 1997. The individuals also will receive a pension of around \$500 a month from now on.

"Achieving an appropriate balance between fairness to individual litigants and respecting the legislative role of Parliament may mean that charter remedies will be directed more toward government action in the future and less toward the correction of past wrongs," the court explained.

Latin Pop Star Comes Out

Mexican pop music star Christián Chávez of the group RBD came out on the band's Web site March 2 after photos of his 2005 same-sex marriage in Canada were published by the Web site LatinGossip.com.

"I don't want to keep on lying and lie to myself because of fear," he said. "[The photos] show a part of me, a part that I was not prepared to speak of in fear of rejection, of criticism, but especially for my family and its consequences.

"I think it's time to grow up, not only as a human being, but also as an artist," Chávez wrote. "I believe love is the purest feeling that exists, and in this career filled with loneliness, having the opportunity to share those moments with someone, that when you look into their eyes, you forget all the negative things, it's a gift of life that I cherish more than fame.

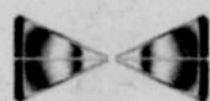
"I don't think this is a defect; I won't deny it," Chávez said. "Although I'm scared and filled with uncertainty, I know that I can rely on the support of my fans; their love is bigger than all of this. I ask them from the bottom of my heart not to judge me for being honest and to feel proud of who they are and never make the same mistake I did."

RBD is popular throughout much of Latin America and among Latinos in the United States. 10

REX WOCKNER 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.



Mexican pop star Christián Chávez of RBD came out to fans on his band's Web site.



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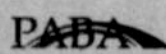
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