



Polish Deputy Minister of Education Miroslaw Orzechowski said gays should not work with children.

But he added: "If we're talking about not having homosexual propaganda in Polish schools, I fully agree with those who feel this way. Such propaganda should not be in schools; it definitely doesn't serve youth well. It's not in the interest of any society to increase the number of homosexuals—that's obvious."

Kaczynski previously has called gays "perverse," and his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, has warned that if homosexuality "were to be promoted on a grand scale, the human race would disappear."

In response to the Euro resolution, Patricia Prendiville, executive director of the European branch of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, said, "Homophobia is, unfortunately, alive and well across Europe, and the firm stance of the European Parliament is crucial for furthering the fight against discrimination and prejudice, which LGBT people in Europe face on a daily basis."

AMERICAS

Toronto Gets Gay Radio Station

Canada's first commercial gay radio station, Proud FM, is now on the air in Toronto on 103.9 FM.

It broadcasts current hits, classic gay anthems, dance and classical music, and "unique and inclusive" talk shows. The station says its low-power 50-watt signal reaches most of the city, and it hopes to have about 455,000 listeners a week.

Outgames Hands Creditors Crumbs

The financially disastrous first World Outgames, held last summer in Montreal, will pay its biggest creditors 15 or 20 cents of each dollar owed them.

Creditors voted to accept the settlement April 25 rather than see the Outgames declare bankruptcy, which would have made it difficult for the Outgames to collect money it is still owed, leaving its creditors in a worse situation.



Former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said because people are born gay, gay sex should not be illegal.

The Outgames lost more than \$5 million Canadian. Some \$3 million of that has been written off by governments that loaned the organization money.

There are 308 creditors remaining who are owed about \$2.3 million. Of those, 121 who are owed \$500 or less will get all their money, *The Montreal Gazette* said.

More than 100 who are owed more than \$500 have agreed to accept a flat settlement of \$500.

That will leave about 80 larger creditors who will receive pennies on the dollar. The Canadian dollar is worth about 90 cents U.S.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Former PM Against Criminalizing Gay Sex

Former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the nation's founding leader, suggested April 23 that if people are born gay, then gay sex should not be illegal.

"If in fact it is true—and I have asked doctors this—that you are genetically born a homosexual, because that's the nature of the genetic random transmission of genes, you can't help it, so why should we criminalize it?" Lee told a meeting of the ruling party's youth wing, according to *The Straits Times* newspaper. "Let's not go around like this moral police...barging into people's rooms. That's not our business."

"Gross indecency" between men is punishable with up to two years in prison in Singapore, though the ban doesn't seem to be enforced.

Lee, who was prime minister from 1959 to 1990, serves as a special Cabinet minister in the government of his son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Thai Gays Seek Constitutional Protection

Thai gays have begun campaigning for gay protections in the new constitution being drafted in the wake of last September's military coup d'état.

"We hope the guarantee of rights for the third sex in the constitution will pave the way for amendments in other laws to give gays equal rights," Natee Teerarotjanapongs of the Thai Political Gay Group told Reuters. He said that, despite Thailand's relatively gay-friendly reputation, there is still "clear prejudice."

The Royal Thai Army ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sept. 19, 2006. After the bloodless coup, the military called off an election, dissolved Parliament, suspended the constitution, detained Cabinet members, prohibited political activity, stifled the media and instituted martial law.

Coup leaders promised that a new democratic government would be in place within a year. An interim charter was drafted, and retired Gen. Surayud Chulanont was installed as interim prime minister. **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.

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