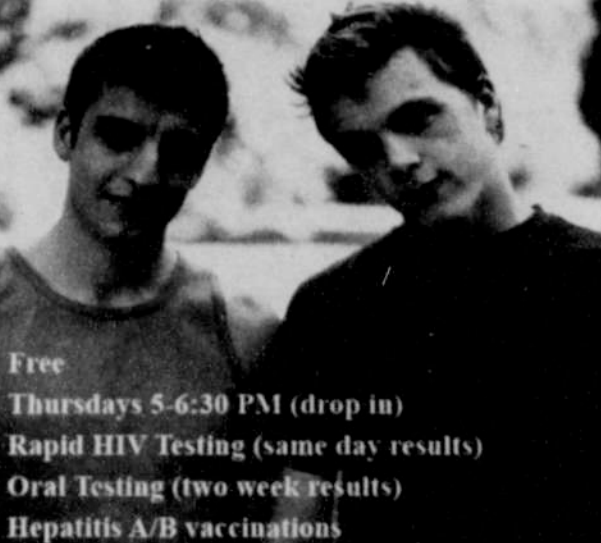


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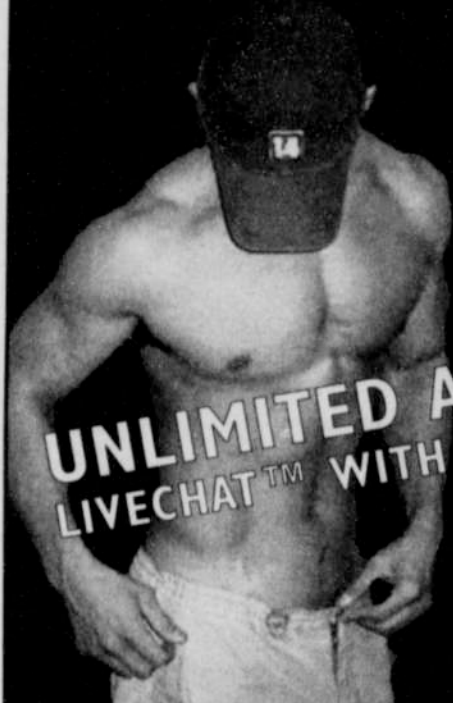
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AMERICAS

Calgary Mayor Upsets Gays

The mayor of Calgary, Alberta, Dave Bronconnier, upset gays Oct. 10 by allegedly saying during a debate that he doesn't "condone" the gay "lifestyle."

When a questioner complained that Tourism Calgary promotes the city to gay travelers, Bronconnier responded: "I hear your lifestyle question, and that's not something I can condone, but Tourism Calgary, they have their marketing.... Would it have been my choice for an article? Probably not."

But the next day, Bronconnier said his response had been misunderstood—and that it was the question itself that he didn't "condone."

"Her question was why are my tax dollars going to market this," Bronconnier told *The Calgary Herald*. "She actually had the ad in her hand. I defended Tourism Calgary's right to market our city to all groups, including people who are gay, so it's sort of a trumped-up matter, in my view."

EUROPE

Moscow Pride Organizers Lose Slander Case

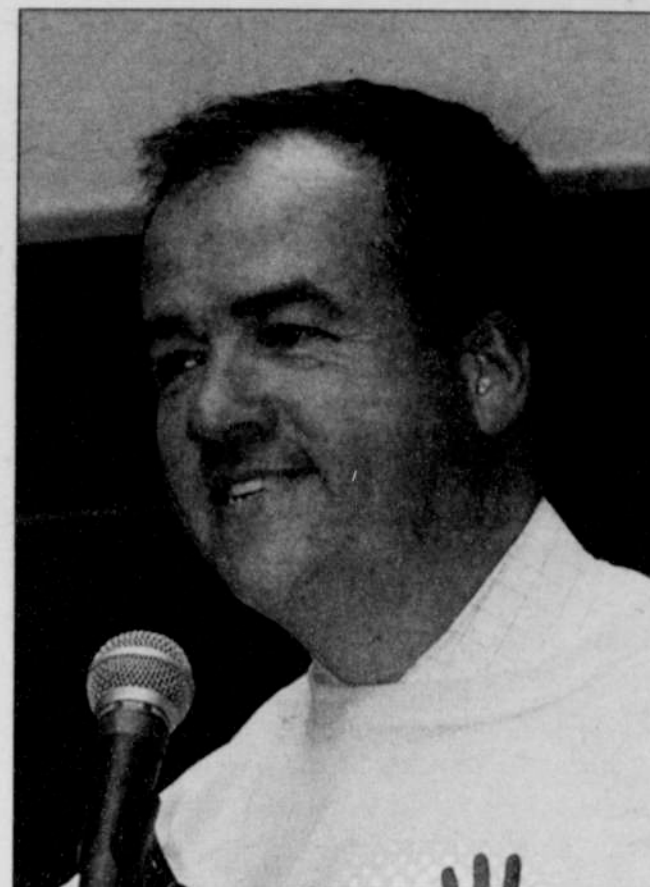
Moscow Gay Pride organizers lost an appeal of a slander case against Mayor Yuri Luzhkov on Oct. 11 and now plan to move to the European Court of Human Rights.

Nikolai Baev and Nikolai Alekseev sought a retraction of Luzhkov's statement that Gay Pride parades are "satanic" and asked for \$80 in damages.

Luzhkov said Jan. 29: "Last year, Moscow came under unprecedented pressure to sanction the gay parade, which can be described in no other way than as satanic. We did not let the parade take place then, and we are not going to allow it in the future.... Some European nations bless single-sex marriages and introduce sexual guides in schools. Such things are a deadly moral poison for children."

The appeals court, the Moscow City Court, agreed with a lower court that Luzhkov had not attacked Alekseev and Baev personally, but only the gay parade in general, and also concurred that Luzhkov was expressing a personal opinion.

"We are planning to send a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights," Alekseev said after the ruling. "It is absolutely clear that the aim of [the] Moscow mayor was not only to refuse the human rights event that we wanted to stage...but also to show us, as organizers of this event, in [an] unethical and immoral light."



Dave Bronconnier, mayor of Calgary, Alberta, was unclear about his stance on promoting his city to a gay market.

Luzhkov banned the city's first two Gay Pride parades this year and last year. When organizers responded by staging protest rallies, they were violently attacked by neofascists, skinheads, Christians and riot police.

Swedish Parties Support Same-Sex Marriage

Sweden's three opposition parties introduced a motion in Parliament to legalize full marriage for same-sex couples Oct. 5.

The opposition Social Democrats, Greens and Left Party support the move, along with three of the four parties that make up the governing coalition. Only the ruling Christian Democrats oppose the proposal.

In order for the measure to pass, only four MPs from the governing coalition will have to vote against the Christian Democrats' position.

Sweden has had a registered partnership law that grants same-sex couples all the rights of marriage since 1994.

16,100 U.K. Gay Couples Tied the Knot in 2006

More than 16,100 same-sex couples registered under the United Kingdom's marriage-like civil partnership law in 2006, its first full year of existence, the Office for National Statistics said Oct. 11.

About 4,000 of the ceremonies took place in London. About 90 percent of the unions were in England, 6 percent in Scotland, 3 percent in Wales and 1 percent in Northern Ireland.

The average age of men entering a partnership was 47; for women, it was 44. About 60 percent of the unions were between men.

A civil partnership carries the same rights and obligations as a marriage within the United Kingdom.

Istanbul Governor Tries to Terminate Gay Group

The Istanbul governor's office is trying to close down the Turkish gay rights group Lambda Istanbul.

The office claims the group's objectives—and even its name—are "against the law and morality."

The Provincial Associations Directorate of the Governor's Office, which oversees nongovernmental organizations, says Lambda's projects violate a civil code article that says "no association may be founded for purposes against law and morality," a constitu-



Moscow Pride organizer Nikolai Alekseev lost a slander suit against Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who called the event satanic.