

The home and décor series *Find and Design* made the error of being too accepting when it helped a gay couple transform their game room into a nursery for their adopted baby, the authority said.

"The episode contained several scenes of the gay couple with their baby as well as the presenter's congratulations and acknowledgment of them as a family unit in a way which normalizes their gay lifestyle and unconventional family setup," the regulator said April 24. "This is in breach of the Free-to-Air TV Program Code, which disallows programs that promote, justify or glamorize gay lifestyles."

Gay sex is illegal in Singapore and could lead to a two-year jail sentence.

Last year, Channel 5 was fined \$3,700 for showing a lesbian kiss on the imported U.S. series *Without a Trace*.

EUROPE

Spanish Activist Awarded Government Honors

Veteran Spanish gay activist Jordi Petit of Barcelona was awarded the Catalan government's Cross of Saint George on April 22.

"[It] is the highest award that is granted in Catalonia, a very honorific distinction that each year the government of Catalonia grants to a few people, more or less 20, who have distinguished themselves by their work or their life—in science, art, culture,



Spanish gay activist Jordi Petit was awarded the Catalan government's Cross of Saint George for contributions to a social movement.

social movements, etc.," Petit said in an interview.

The ceremony, followed by a champagne reception, was heavily covered by all media. "So many people have congratulated me, including strangers in the street," Petit said.

The awards were handed out by José Montilla, president of the autonomous Catalan government.

Latvian Officials Want to Fence in Pride

Latvia's prime minister and integration minister said April 24 that they want Riga's Gay Pride parade to again take place at a fenced-in park, to protect celebrants from violent anti-gay protesters.

Last year, armed with a court ruling that the ban on the 2006 parade was unconstitutional, more than 500 queer people marched inside Vermales Park under heavy police protection, dodging a paint bomb, an ice cream cone and a few firecrackers.

In 2006, after the City Council banned the parade, organizers held a service at a church and meetings at a hotel. The attendees were attacked by Christian, ultranationalist and neo-Nazi protesters who pelted them with eggs, rotten food and feces.

In 2005, about 150 people attempted to march in the streets. They were outnumbered by about 1,000 anti-gay protesters who hurled insults, bottles and rotten eggs; blocked the streets; and forced the parade to be rerouted. The protesters chanted, "No sodomy" and "Gays fuck the nation."

The move to again fence in Pride was criticized by Ilze Brands-Kehre, director of the Latvian Human Rights Center, who accused the government of interfering with freedom of assembly. **JO**



Ilze Brands-Kehre, director of the Latvian Human Rights Center, said the move to contain Riga's Pride event behind a fence interferes with freedom of assembly.

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.

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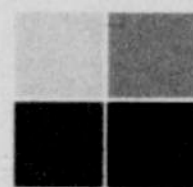
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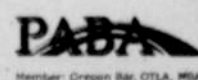
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