

that three in four Canadians would feel somewhat comfortable having a gay friend and one in three have one. (Outlines)

Supporters of fired bishop hold protest

EVREUX, FRANCE -- Thousands of French citizens protested the recent firing of Bishop Jacques Gaillot who disagreed with the Vatican on homosexuality and other church doctrine. About 5,000 people protested Gaillot's firing by demonstrating in the streets of Evreux, where Gaillot, 59, had been bishop since 1982. The crowd gathered to hear his last sermon on Sunday, Jan. 22, at the Gothic cathedral located in Normandy, about 55 miles northwest of Paris.

The Vatican removed Gaillot from his post on Jan. 13, because throughout his term Gaillot said the church should show more tolerance for gay people, support the use of condoms to fight AIDS, ordain married men as priests, and oppose the use of all nuclear weapons. Gaillot also criticized church-run schools and protested on behalf of the homeless, immigrants, and workers.

A public opinion poll in the Catholic weekly, *La Vie*, released on Jan. 18 revealed that 64 percent of the French disapproved of Gaillot's firing while only 10 percent supported it.

"When I think of what happened to me, I think of the Spanish Inquisition," said Gaillot. "But the church is my family. After this, I will find some way, perhaps in a monastery, to continue my work, to reflect, to continue my work with the outcasts of life -- prisoners, victims of AIDS, the homeless." (*The Washington Blade*)

Dating magazine for HIV-positive individuals

SEATTLE -- Taking note of changes in the AIDS epidemic in this country, a new publication aimed at socially active people living with HIV has been launched.

The Positive Planet is subtitled "The Global HIV Dating Magazine and HIV Treatment Catalogue," and offers free personal ads as part of the subscription price "to help positives find dating partners in a way that feels normal," according to a statement issued by the publishers.

Positive Planet also features resources aimed at helping subscribers find products and services around the world dealing with HIV.

For subscription, membership information or gift certificates, contact: *The Positive Planet*, 323 Broadway Avenue East, #1205, Seattle, WA 98102, or call (206)233-7998 (FAX: (206)329-6091) or send e-mail to hivdates@cyberquest.com for details. (*News-Telegraph*)

Hollywood Hearsay

LOS ANGELES -- *El Pais* is the publication which first reported Mel Gibson's anti-gay remarks, comments the actor later acknowledged and defended. But we're a little less sure about the Spanish paper's latest report, as it looks like a wild game of international media telephone. *El Pais* quotes two other publications -- the French weekly *Voice* and Italy's *Corriere della Sera* -- about a rumor that actor Keanu Reeves, 29, and record producer David Geffen, 51, were recently married in a Hebrew ceremony (complete with the traditional breaking of the glass) in a Los Angeles restaurant. *El Pais* quotes *Voice* as saying that the wedding was performed by an Orthodox rabbi who believes it is normal to unite two people of the same sex. The guest list allegedly included Liz Taylor, Steven Spielberg, and models Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer. As for their attire, the groom (Reeves) was said to be garbed in a white jacket and dark pants while the groom (Geffen) preferred a black tuxedo. (*Frontiers*)

Polyurethane used for new thinner, tougher condom

LONDON -- Better sex through chemistry -- or at least safer sex. That is the possible motto for a new line of condoms, called Avanti -- which promises to be tougher, yet more sensitive and compatible with oil-based lubricants. The new material for the condom developed by the British company London International Group is a form of polyurethane, the material which in liquid form is used to seal and shine wooden floors.

"The thinness of Avanti improves sensation and can heighten pleasure during sexual intercourse," said Bill Potter, director of scientific affairs at London International. The new polyurethane material used in the condoms is said to be stronger than latex and therefore can be made thinner.

Other advantages of the newly developed condoms are that the polyurethane material will not deteriorate with the use of oil-based lubricants such as Vaseline or Crisco, a problem with latex condoms, and Avanti is an alternative for persons who are allergic to latex. Early tests indicate that the condom is comparable in effectiveness to latex condoms and may be stronger protection against the HIV virus.

The new polyurethane condoms are the first major advance in condom technology since the 1930s. The condoms are to go on sale later this year. (*Volume*) ▼

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OITM's Quote of the Month

"I pledge allegiance to -- and wrap myself in -- the flag of the United States Against Anything Un-American, and to the Republicans for which it stands, two nations, under Jesus, rich against poor, with curtailed liberty and justice for all (except blacks, homosexuals, women who want abortions, Communists, welfare queens, treehuggers, feminazis, illegal immigrants, children of illegal immigrants, and you if you don't watch your step)."

Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, in a recent installment of his nationally syndicated cartoon, *Life In Hell*.



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