

PROFESSIONAL *notes*

2022 EuroPride celebration, a week of events culminating in a march/parade for LGBTQ rights. Planning was well underway for the numerous events and those from throughout Europe and elsewhere (thousands were expected) were busily booking hotels and transportation, when suddenly on August 27 Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic announced at a news conference that EuroPride would be cancelled. He stated unhappiness at having to do this, but had determined that it would be impossible to hold the event in Belgrade safely. It seems likely he was influenced by some mass demonstrations against the event that had taken place in recent weeks. Even organizers vowed to go ahead anyway, over the opposition of the government. The city of Serbia had been encouraged to apply by the nation's out lesbian prime minister, Ana Brnabić. Steve Taylor, a board member of European Pride Organizers Association, which "licenses" the festival, told the press: "From our perspective, nothing has changed. The event is going ahead as planned." But there will presumably be no official permit and questions immediately occurred about security of a large-scale event that was not officially sanctioned by the national government.

SINGAPORE – *The Guardian* reported on August 21 that Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced in an address to the nation that the government will seek repeal of Section 377A of the Penal Code, a statute derived from the British colonial period that outlawed sex between men. The prime minister said that this would conform the law with current social attitudes and "provide some relief to gay Singaporeans," even though as a practical matter the government indicated a few years ago that it would not seek to enforce the law against consenting adults acting in private. At the same time, Prime Minister Lee said that the government was not ready to

change the legal definition of marriage. "Even as we repeal 377A, we will uphold and safeguard the institution of marriage. Under the law, only marriages between one man and one woman are recognized in Singapore," he said. The prime minister did not indicate when the repeal would take place.

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By Arthur S. Leonard

TOM COLEMAN of the Spectrum Institute, a Los Angeles-based legal/educational think-tank, has organized a webinar to mark the 50th anniversary of LGBT student activism, focusing on the 1960s and 1970s, including interviews with several individuals active then who have gone on to important careers, including California judge Steve Lachs, Texas Judge and transgender advocate Phyllis Frye, Law Professor Barbara Kritchevsky, lobbyist George Raya, and bisexual law student Mary Stevens. Brad Sears of the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School is the "host" for the webinar, Tom Coleman will introduce the speakers and provide historical commentary, and historian Professor David Reichard will discuss student organizing of those times. Loyola law student Maria Reyes Olmedo will speak about the emergence of non-binary, transgender, and law students of color as LGBTQ+ activities. Those who register for the event will receive a copy of an extensive "Memory Book" documenting that period (including biographical sketches and pictures of many LGBTQ law students and lawyers who were actively involved in the LGBT legal rights movement of the 1970s) in the form of a pdf file. For more information: <https://lgbtlegalhistory.com>; webinar@spectruminstitute.org.

The **NATIONAL LGBTQ+ BAR** will honor **JAMES COWAN**, the U.S. Head

of Legal and Associate General Counsel Litigation – US & Canada, of Shell USA, Inc., at its 2022 Houston Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award Reception on October 19, 2022. An email notice of the event indicated that the location was yet to be determined. For more information email seth@lgbtqbar.org.

