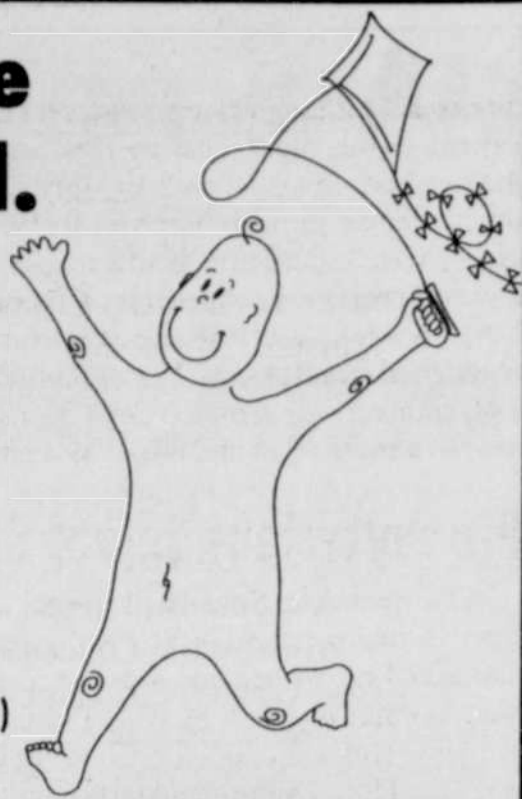


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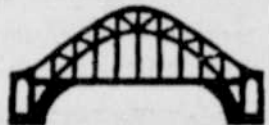
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world news

AUSTRIA

In an unprecedented move, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky met with gay activists this fall, after they criticized him for making a speech about Nazis without mentioning gays and lesbians.

During the meeting, Vranitzky promised to urge the social-affairs ministry to pay "compensation" to gays who were imprisoned by the Nazis. Austria previously compensated other victims of the Third Reich.

Vranitzky also agreed to appoint a gay-issues contact person in his office and to launch a commission that will try to figure out how gays can achieve full legal and social equality.

The activists, Gudrun Hauer, Kurt Krickler and Waltraud Riegler, represent Homosexual Initiative Vienna, Austria's most-established gay organization.



The percentage of Austrian persons newly infected with HIV who are gay has risen from 25 percent in 1990 to 36 percent in the first six months of 1992, reported *Lambda Nachrichten*.

BRAZIL

A new study conducted by the Grupo Gay de Bahia found that a gay man is murdered in Rio de Janeiro every five days and that 1,200 gays have been assassinated nationwide since 1980. The findings were reported Nov. 22 in the daily newspaper *O Globo*.

GGB gathered the data from police records, news articles and interviews with families. The group said the figures would be even more startling if families did not often misrepresent anti-gay killings.

GGB charged that police ignore anti-gay murders unless rich or famous gays are involved, such as businessman Aparico Basilio da Silva, whose case was solved 10 days after he was found dead of 97 stab wounds.

HUNGARY

Under the guise of enforcing the National Health Act, Budapest police are forcing gays to name other gays and creating an elaborate directory of the homosexual population, charged Hungarian gay leaders. The health act authorizes mandatory contact-tracing, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association urges concerned persons to demand that Hungary destroy its "pink lists" and embrace voluntary, anonymous STD and HIV testing. ILGA also wants health officials to start informing HIV-positive people of their status via in-person counseling rather than through the mail.

Write to the Honorable Gabor Fodor, MP, Chairman, Human Rights Committee, Parliament, Feherhaz Szechenyi, Rakpart, Budapest V., Hungary. Send a copy to ILGA Action Secretariat, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 520 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



Yoko Ono's Budapest art gallery opened last month with an AIDS exhibition featuring the work of the late gay artist Keith Haring. Ono, widow of Beatle John Lennon, launched Gallery '56 with her Hungarian-born husband, Samuel Havadtoy.

INDIA

Forty gay activists protested in New Delhi last month outside the Second International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific after they were denied entry to the meeting.

They demanded that money be routed to gay groups fighting the epidemic and criticized the World Health Organization, sponsor of the conference, for focusing its Asian and African HIV efforts on heterosexual transmission.

Activist Ashok Row Kavi, editor of India's gay magazine *Bombay Dost*, called WHO's contention that 80 percent of HIV transmission in Asia is heterosexual "a lie," saying that WHO refuses to acknowledge that "Asia has more bisexual men than the West."

Dr. Ravi Sandhu of New Zealand, a confer-

ence spokesman, said WHO does not fund gay groups for fear of upsetting conservative WHO donors.

About 1,400 AIDS experts from 60 countries attended the confab.

IRELAND

The pro-choice movement in the Republic of Ireland is celebrating a major victory after the recent elections. By a margin of 60 percent to 40 percent, voters passed referendums allowing freedom of information about abortion and freedom to travel outside the country for abortions, according to Breifne O'Riley, a spokesman for the Consulate General of Ireland in San Francisco.

Voters shot down a measure that would have overturned a recent Irish Supreme Court ruling allowing abortions in the country to save the life of the mother, according to O'Riley.

The election marks a significant change in public opinion. In 1983, voters amended the Irish Constitution to include a "right to life" for fetuses. The Supreme Court ruled that the language could not prohibit abortions when the pregnant woman's life is in danger. This ruling was made in the highly publicized case involving a 14-year-old rape victim who said she would commit suicide if she were forced to incubate the spawn of the man who raped her.

"Most Irish people prefer that abortion is not performed in the country," explained O'Riley, "except in cases of extreme hardship." Public opinion seems less offended by abortions performed in nearby Great Britain.

NEW ZEALAND

A new AGB McNair survey found that 85 percent of New Zealanders believe discrimination against gays should be illegal.

Eighty-five percent also said they do not mind working with gays, 86 percent said it should be illegal to fire gays based on sexuality and 76 percent said it should be illegal not to hire gays based on sexuality.

New Zealand is one of the last industrialized nations where gays are banned from police forces.

Police Ministry spokesman Neville Trendle told Wellington's *The Evening Post* the ban is necessary to preserve public image and because some officers wouldn't accept gays, and the idea of gay officers body-searching suspects and prisoners is problematic.

YUGOSLAVIA

"Homosexuals are lying low" in Serbia, said a letter to *Gai Pied* from the Belgrade group Arkadia.

"After the Croats, homosexuals are the Serbs' biggest enemies," wrote spokesman Degan Mladenovic.

Mladenovic said a leader of the ruling SPS party, Rados Smisanic, recently told the Serbian magazine *Vreme* that Serbia's "opposition [in the war] is under the direct influence of Western gay organizations. It is hard for us to imagine the force and power of these organizations," Smisanic reportedly said.

"Things are going from bad to worse," Mladenovic wrote. "The Orthodox Church is systematically persecuting gays.... There are only 11 AIDS beds in the entire country, and the 'good' hemophiliacs are separated from the 'bad' gays.... Gay life has disappeared.

"In Belgrade, gays can meet only in a park," he continued. "In the provinces, gays are reduced to cruising in toilets, with all the danger that carries. In the south, it's a horror. At Nis, the second-largest city...it's very dangerous to be openly homosexual. When you arrive from Belgrade you have the impression you've gone back 50 years."

Homosexuality is illegal under Serbian Penal Code Law 110-3. The penalty is one year in prison.

In neighboring Slovenia, gay life is mostly unaffected by the wars, says the group's Roza Klub. In Croatia, the gay group Klub 91 is still active but is frequently distracted from its work, leaders say.

Compiled by Rex Wockner and Irene K. Hislop