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world briefs

AUSTRALIA

Gay and lesbian Australians may now use sick leave to care for a lover, under a decision handed down in late November by the national Industrial Relations Commission, reported *Capital Q*.



The decision applies to all full-time workers regardless of their sexual orientation or employer's business.

BRAZIL

The eighth Brazilian Conference of Gays and Lesbians and the first Brazilian Conference of Gays and Lesbians Working with AIDS will take place Jan. 26 to Jan. 31 at the Universidade Popular do Trabalho in Curitiba, about 200 miles southwest of São Paulo.

Topics for the four-day general conference include activism/militancy, international issues, creation of a national gay organization, civil-union contracts, intergenerational issues, religion, violence, and visibility.

Topics for the two-day AIDS conference include the media, de-homosexualization of AIDS, queers vs. nongovernmental organizations, safer sex, governmental AIDS efforts, and alternative treatments.

To register, write Toni Reis and David Harrad, Comissao Organizadora, Caixa Postal 1095, 80001-970 Curitiba-PR, Brazil. Phone 011-55-41-232-9829; fax 011-55-41-222-3999.

CHINA

Two Chinese lesbian lovers killed themselves Dec. 4 by injecting Lysol because one wanted to marry a man and the other didn't want her to, reported the *Xin Min Evening Daily*.

The women, aged 22 and 26, lived in Suihua in Heilongjiang province and had been lovers for several years, the newspaper said.

Most Chinese gay men and lesbians conform to social pressure to marry.



Beijing will be the site of the United Nations fourth World Conference on Women, the theme of which will be "Action for Equality, Development and Peace." The conference will be held Sept. 4 to Sept. 15, 1995.

A forum for nongovernmental organizations will be held, also in Beijing, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8, 1995. The forum, open to all interested women and men, is a rare opportunity for people throughout the world to discuss key issues impacting women's lives, to meet with women from other countries, and to share strategies for the 21st century. (For related information, see calendar, Jan. 11.)

EGYPT

Officials deported Nigerian soccer player Yusif Omar on Dec. 11 because he tested positive for HIV, according to Reuters.

Omar, 22, had signed on with the professional team Olympic of Alexandria six months before. Omar is the 227th person to be kicked out of Egypt for testing HIV positive.

Three hundred seventy-five Egyptians have been diagnosed with AIDS and 178 have died, according to Health Minister Ali Abdel-Fattah el-Makhzanji.

GERMANY

The German AIDS-Help organization and the Benneton clothing company draped a 50-foot-long pink condom over the obelisk in front of Potsdam's Nikolai Church on Nov. 27 to mark World AIDS Day, according to an Associated Press report.

The church called the action an "abuse of freedom" but the city government disagreed and OK'd the stunt.

The prophylactic was designed by French artist Jean-Pierre Lostis.

POLAND

A survey by the Demoskop Institute found that half of the 958 Poles questioned think gay men and lesbians are treated worse than other members of society, according to the Polish Press Agency.

Fifty percent also said gypsies are treated poorly, 29 percent said Jews receive bad treatment, and 22 percent believe former communists face discrimination.

SAUDI ARABIA

Islamic morality can prevent AIDS, Saudi Arabian Deputy Gov. Prince Sattam ibn Abdel-Aziz said Nov. 29, addressing an AIDS conference in Riyadh, the nation's capital.

"One of the great sources of relief stems from teachings of Islam, which, like other divine religions, prohibits illegal sexual activities or drug abuse," the prince said.

Ninety Saudis have AIDS and 300 are infected with HIV, according to the Health Ministry.

The nation tests foreign workers and deports those who are HIV positive. It also bans young people from traveling alone to countries known for "sex tourism," such as Thailand.

SENEGAL

Residents of the town of Thies prevented the burial of a gay man at a Moslem cemetery Nov. 19, according to the newspaper *Le Soleil*, published in Dakar, the capital.

They halted the funeral procession and ordered the man's family to bury him outside of town, the newspaper said.

SOUTH AFRICA

In Cape Town, health workers and politicians wrapped a huge red ribbon around St. George's Cathedral on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

South African President Nelson Mandela stated: "AIDS knows no custom. It knows no color. It knows no boundaries. We have to work together wherever we are to preserve our nation, our continent and humanity as a whole."

UNITED NATIONS

On Dec. 12 the United Nations named Belgian doctor Peter Piot as its first AIDS czar, charged with mobilizing the resources of all U.N. agencies to fight the disease, reported Reuters.

Piot has been associate director of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS since 1992 and is a past president of the International AIDS Society.

Piot will head up the AIDS work of six U.N. agencies: the World Health Organization; the Children's Fund; the Development Program; the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Population Fund; and the World Bank.



Compiled by Rex Wockner