

FRANCE

The head of the French Catholic Bishops' Conference, Monsignor Joseph Duval, said April 18 that the new gay-themed film *Priest* hurts Catholics and makes audiences into voyeurs, according to the newspaper *Le Figaro*.

"Saying that celibacy is difficult is self-evident. Who wouldn't believe that there are some failures?" Duval stated. "But betting on the commercial success of a film on this question means treating the audience like voyeurs."

GERMANY

For the first time, a representative of German sexual minority groups was allowed to speak at a Nazi death-camp ceremony, reported Reuters.

At services April 23 marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Sachsenhausen camp, gay historian Guenter Grau urged the government to compensate gay and lesbian victims of the Third Reich.

He said sexual minorities were denied a role in previous camp commemorations because organizers believed "the honor of other prisoners would be besmirched."

INDONESIA

There are some 90,000 undetected HIV infections in Indonesia, the world's fourth-most-populous country, the Ministry of Health estimated April 20, according to the official Antara news agency.

Only 69 AIDS cases and 214 HIV infections have been counted.

Despite being predominantly Moslem, Indonesia has a thriving sex industry.

A new inter-ministerial commission is attempting to coordinate the fight against AIDS.

JAPAN

The Japanese English-language gay magazine *Outrageous Tokyo* has set up an Internet World Wide Web site for its calendar.

Point your web browser at <http://shrine.cyber.ad.jp/cgi-bin/cgiwrap?user=darrell&script=html-cal.pl>.

The magazine itself is also on the web at <http://shrine.cyber.ad.jp/~darrell/outr/home/outr-home.html>.

ROMANIA

A court in Alba Iulia, Transylvania, approved April 19 Romania's first known sex-change operation, reported the newspaper *Tineretul Liber*.

The court was concerned that the 19-year-old transsexual would commit suicide or an act of self-mutilation if denied the operation, the report said.

Officials opted to classify the individual as "handicapped" due to "mental disability," the newspaper said.

SLOVENIA

Gay men and lesbians in Slovenia have set up the Slovene Queer Resources Directory on the Internet.

According to a press release, "You can find addresses of gay and lesbian organizations in Slovenia, a list of gay and lesbian press, and you can even read the first Slovene gay magazine."

Most of the material is in English.

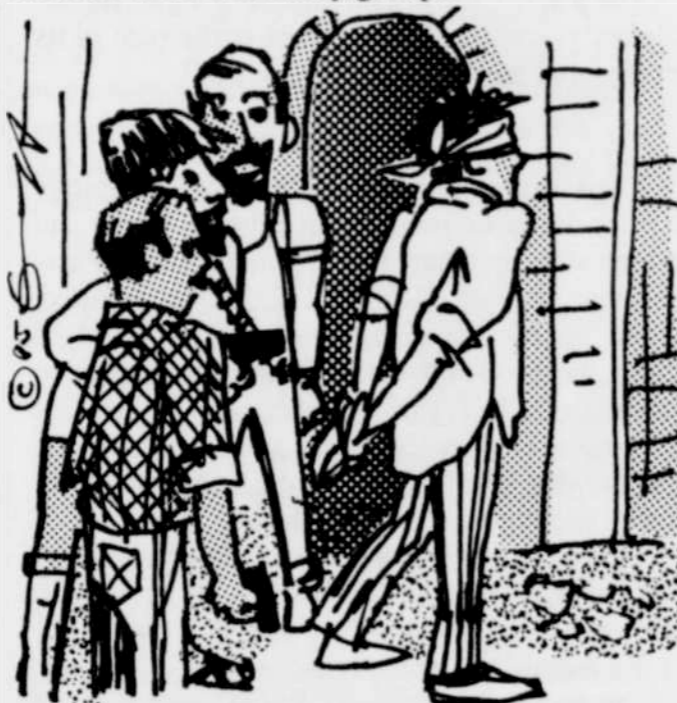
To access the Slovene QRD, point your World Wide Web browser at <http://www.kud-fp.si/~zoran/QRD/index.html>.

WEST BANK

Palestinian vigilantes shot and wounded an Arab man in the West Bank town of Nablus on April 18, apparently because he was gay, reported Reuters.

Three men kidnapped Mohammed al-Masri, 51, from his candy shop downtown and shot him at least six times in the legs, witnesses said.

Palestinians told Reuters the men claim to belong to a Palestine Liberation Organization secret service force. But a PLO source said the men were self-appointed "morality police" with no links to PLO security groups.



Residents told Reuters that the group the men belong to has kidnapped other gay men and prostitutes and shot two of them in the legs.

ZIMBABWE

Up to 25 percent of the sexually active population of Zimbabwe is HIV positive, health officials estimate, according to a story in *The Washington Post*.

The *Post* said the nation was slow to respond to AIDS because President Robert Mugabe, a Roman Catholic, opposed condom use.

Compiled by Rex Wockner. Translators for this column are Guido Gaietta, Mario Inchiosa, Peter Rauber, John Styber and Bjorn Skolander.



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Eligibility:

- HIV positive
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Study director: Dr. David Rosenstein, Oregon Health Sciences University

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