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world briefs

AFRICA

Famed African novelist Marcel Sony Labou Tansi died of AIDS complications June 14 at age 48, reported the Associated Press.

The news service said Tansi was renowned for his satire and criticism of colonialist Africa and the dictators who followed independence. His best-known books are *The Shameful State*, *The People Before*, and *Life and a Half*.

Tansi was elected to the Congo National Assembly in 1993 but refused to attend any sessions in defiance of the government, AP said.

AUSTRALIA

The South Sydney Council has announced plans to protect Oxford Street's gay identity in the same way it guards Chinatown's Chinese identity, reported the *Melbourne Star Observer*.

A spokesman said the council will support gay public-art projects and require new development to be consistent with the street's atmosphere.

BRITAIN

The neo-fascist British National Party jammed London's first gay radio station during its first week of broadcast earlier this summer, reported London's *Capital Gay*.

BNP pirates flooded Freedom FM's frequency with transmissions of their own, the newspaper said.

Authorities halted the interference after a lesbian ham-radio operator used tracking equipment to locate the illegal transmitter.

Freedom FM had a special license to transmit experimentally for one month. The station's application to return to the air for a second month is under consideration by the Radio Authority.



Two lesbians married legally on June 28 in London, reported the Reuter news service.

One of the women had had a sex-change operation but is still legally considered male, so the marriage will be allowed.

Tina-Louise Dixon will tie the knot with Tracie-Anne Scott, who used to be a merchant seaman, has been married twice before, and has fathered three children.



All new British judges will now receive gay-sensitivity training, according to *Capital Gay*.

The Judicial Studies Board said the new module in its three-day training course will encourage sensitive questioning of defendants and witnesses and discourage unwitting outings.

The change came following input from the bar association's Lesbian and Gay Group.

CANADA

Toronto's new Triangle Program is the country's first public high school for gay and lesbian students, reported *Wayves*, a Nova Scotia gay newspaper.

Special instruction will be offered in gay and lesbian history, literature and experience.

The Toronto Board of Education said it created the program because too many gay and lesbian teens quit high school in order to escape homophobia and heterosexism.

GERMANY

A monument to gay victims of the Nazis was erected June 24 in downtown Cologne by the ÖTV trade union, following lobbying from its Gay and Lesbian Working Party, according to a press release.

The memorial is near Hohenzollern Bridge, a popular gay cruising spot before and after World War II.

Cologne Chief Mayor Norbert Burger and gay Member of Parliament Volker Beck spoke at the unveiling.

Other cities with such monuments include Amsterdam, The Hague, Bologna, Berlin and Frankfurt am Main. There are also monuments at

the Mauthausen and Neuengamme concentration camps and in Berlin's Nollendorfplatz subway station.

GREECE

Omikron (the first letter of the Greek word for "homosexual") is a new gay magazine in Greece. It is published by EOK, the Hellenic Homosexual Community.

Each issue contains an English summary section.

To subscribe to the publication, send e-mail to eok@acrogate.ath.forthnet.gr.

MACEDONIA

The bar association in Macedonia (formerly part of Yugoslavia) voted June 7 to ban homosexuals and alcoholics from becoming lawyers, reported the newspaper *Dnevnik*.

It said the public doesn't trust them.

Gay men and lesbians who already are licensed to practice law will be allowed to continue.

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands will legalize same-sex marriage this summer, reports Henk Krol, editor of *De Gay Krant*, the country's leading gay newspaper.

"The minister of justice and the secretary of state for internal affairs have announced that the marriage rules will be changed," Krol said in an e-mail message. "Their new rules, that will include gays and lesbians without any restrictions, will be sent to Parliament before the summer holidays."

"Only [the] CDA [party] and small Christian groups are against it," Krol said. "We have 150 members of Parliament—42 are against, 14 don't know yet, 94 will pass the new bill!"

More than 100 Dutch cities and towns already allow gay men and lesbians to record their relationships in a symbolic "marriage register." Krol says that when same-sex marriage is legalized, the 800 couples that have signed these registers will automatically be legally married.

The registers were created following lobbying from the Friends of De Gay Krant Foundation, Krol said.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but it is technically "registered partnership" and does not include the rights to adoption, church weddings, artificial insemination or in-vitro fertilization. The Netherlands will be the first country to allow lesbians and gay men to marry under the exact same laws as heterosexuals.



De Gay Krant is now available on the Internet, sponsored by Apple, The Netherlands and Dynamac Eindhoven.

Point World Wide Web browsing software at <http://www.bart.nl/~gaykrant.html>.

The service includes news in English.

TURKEY

Gay men, transvestites and prostitutes are organizing in Turkey's red-light districts for self-protection, reported Brazil's IPS wire service.

The campaign was launched in the western city of Izmir by brothel owner Aysel Firmali.

VIETNAM

Vietnam has recorded 2,520 cases of HIV infection—80 percent of them among drug addicts and more than half in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), the National AIDS Protection Committee reported on June 7.

Compiled by Rex Wockner