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world briefs

ARGENTINA

Thirty police officers raided the gay bar Gas Oil in Buenos Aires' "Gay Zone" on Aug. 11, according to a press release from 20 Argentine organizations.

About 130 people were detained and 67 were jailed and verbally abused for 10 hours in lice- and insect-infested cells, according to the report.

The police had a search warrant alleging "corruption" and confiscated a sculpture of a penis and condoms as proof, the press release said.

Several TV cameras were rolling as the men were led from the bar, the organizations reported.

Another gay bar, Petroleo, was raided Aug. 12 in the beach resort Mar del Plata, the press release said.

Sixty people were arrested, strip-searched and verbally bashed by police, the report said. TV crews were again present to out the club's patrons.

Police reportedly found 30 packets of cocaine in the disco, which the press release suggested were planted by the officers or their accomplices.

At press time, the 20 organizations, most of them gay, were planning to picket the Buenos Aires Central Police Department on Aug. 17.

AUSTRALIA

The Equal Opportunity Tribunal in the Australian state of New South Wales ruled July 20 that the NIB insurance company discriminated against a gay couple by refusing to grant them family health coverage, reported Sydney's *Capital Q*.

The judges said NIB must "comply with any relevant laws in force in the State of New South Wales," including the 1977 law that bans discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the provision of goods and services.

The ruling likely impacts all other insurance companies in the state.

The case was brought by Andrew Hope, 32, and William Brown, 36, of Newcastle, NSW, who wanted to insure their two-year-old son as well.

BRITAIN

A seven-year study of the sex diaries of 400 British gay men found that 70 percent did not always use a condom for penetrative sex.

The men kept the diaries at the request of researchers at the University of Essex.



CHINA

A new program in Chinese universities will teach 80,000 students in Shanghai and in Henan province that condoms can prevent AIDS, reported the Reuter news service.

Xie Mouhong of the State Education Commission's health department said the move is the first of its-kind.

If the program, which begins in September, is deemed successful, it will go national in early 1996, Xie said.

EUROPE

Among the 15 nations of the European Union, France, Italy and Spain have 75 percent of the AIDS cases, said a July 26 European Union report.

About 120,000 people have developed AIDS in the 15 countries.

RUSSIA

A new Russian law requiring foreigners who visit for more than three months to prove they are HIV negative, which was scheduled to take effect Aug. 1, has been delayed for at least three months because officials aren't ready to implement it, reported The Moscow Times.

Once the law comes into effect, long-term

visitors will need to present a certificate of HIV-negative status when applying for a visa.

The law also targets several categories of Russian citizens for mandatory testing, including prisoners and workers whose jobs involve travel, such as sailors, cosmonauts and other unspecified groups.

SWAZILAND

The Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation has begun mandatory HIV testing of applicants for life-insurance policies valued at more than \$6,868, reported the Reuter news service.

"This is done to curb the high number of claims made to the corporation in which the cause of death is AIDS-related," a spokesman said.

Ten percent of Swaziland's 900,000 citizens are thought to be HIV positive.

ZIMBABWE

On July 27, Zimbabwe Information Minister Bornwell Chakaodza forced the Zimbabwe International Book Fair to dis-invite the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, which had planned to staff a literature table.



The book fair, which ran from Aug. 1 to 5, is southern Africa's largest, attracting 450 publishers from 40 countries. This year's theme was "freedom of expression."

Chakaodza accused the fair of promoting homosexuality and suggested President Robert Mugabe would boycott the event if lesbians and gay men were let in.

Later, in his opening address to the fair, Mugabe vociferously bashed sexual minorities, reported the Reuter news service.

"I find it extremely outrageous and repugnant to my human conscience that such immoral and repulsive organizations, like those of homosexuals, who offend both against the law of nature and the morals and religious beliefs espoused by our society, should have any advocates in our midst and even elsewhere in the world," Mugabe said. "If we accept homosexuality as a right, as is being argued by the association of sodomists and sexual perverts, what moral fiber shall our society ever have to deny organized drug addicts, or even those given to bestiality, the rights they might claim and allege they possess under the rubrics of individual freedom and human rights?... I don't believe they [homosexuals] have any rights at all."

The ZIBF Trust expressed "the greatest regret that [it] found itself with no option but to withdraw its acceptance of GALZ's application.... Its decision in no way compromises its commitment to freedom of expression...and the widest possible dissemination of reading materials," the organizers said.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) organized 70 congressmen who sent President Mugabe a letter on Aug. 8 denouncing his homophobic remarks.

Frank wrote: "Attacking decent individuals who are fully respectful of the rights of others, who are productive and responsible citizens, but who happen to be gay or lesbian is wrong."

In South Africa, about 100 supporters of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality picketed Zimbabwe's trade mission on Aug. 11 in protest against Mugabe's statements. (Sources: AP, Reuters, Amnesty International and GALZ and ZIBF press releases.)

Compiled by Rex Wockner

FOR HIV POSITIVE ONLY

A SPECIAL DENTAL CARE PROJECT TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH HIV



Project Dental Health at the Russell Street Clinic needs HIV participants for an Oral Care Project to study the overall health effects of regular dental care for people with HIV.

Eligibility:

- HIV positive
- 20 to 45 years of age
- Have a T4 count between 100 and 500
- Have at least 20 teeth

Participation:

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To participate in the Oral Care Project call: Melody Scheer, Russell St. Clinic/Project Dental Health (503) 494-6300

All participants will be paid \$15.00 for each examination and a \$25.00 bonus for the final exam. Participants will help in efforts to improve the quality of life for people with HIV.

Study director: Dr. David Rogenstein, Oregon Health Sciences University

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