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world briefs

BRAZIL

Campy turkeys are the stars of a new Brazilian anti-AIDS campaign.

The word "turkey" refers to both a bird and a penis in Portuguese, just as "cock" does in English.



The televised turkeys are dressed up like Carmen Miranda, pirates and other Carnival characters, said Andre Caldeira of the Master Comunicacao ad agency, which created the spots.

The turkeys also appear on 2.5 million condom-sized wallets which are being handed out this week.

BRITAIN

More British gay men tested HIV positive in 1996 than in any year since the epidemic began, BBC Radio 5 Live's *Out This Week* reported Feb. 4, citing new government statistics.

New infections rose 11 percent to 1,634.

But the statistics could be deceptive if the increase merely means more people decided to get tested because of the success of the new protease-inhibitor-based drug regimens, officials said.

Other officials suggested, however, that the existence of the new treatment "cocktails" is causing some people to be less vigilant about safer sex.

CHILE

People with AIDS in Chile should soon have access to 3TC and ddI, reports correspondent Tim Frasca. Presently they get only AZT.

But the government health care system remains unwilling to purchase the new protease inhibitors, which have a price tag of up to \$7,000 each per year per patient.

To halt HIV-disease progression in most individuals, at least one protease inhibitor must be included in the patient's antiviral "cocktail."

COLOMBIA

Ignoring strong pressure from the Catholic Church, Carnival organizers in the port city of Barranquilla allowed a contingent of gay men and transvestites to march in the Grand Parade on Feb. 2 and elect their own Carnival Queen, reported *El Espectador*.

"This is about art and culture. We're not at all immoral like the archbishop is saying," one transvestite marcher told local television news.

CYBERSPACE

Groups and individuals can automatically join every International Lesbian and Gay Association campaign of 1997 by e-mailing the organization: Send messages to actions@ilga.org

The message must include a name and postal address.

Most ILGA actions take the form of protest letters to homophobic officials and others in positions of authority.

The Long Yang Club Global Village, a World Wide Web site for gay Asians, is offering special articles for Chinese New Year along with its regular menu of news, personals, listings and advice.

The URL is <http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~silklink>

INTERNATIONAL

Full information on the 1997 International Lesbian and Gay Association World Conference is available at the Internet World Wide Web site <http://www.macman.org/ilga>

This year's confab, titled "Challenge & Pride," will be held in Cologne, Germany, from June 29 to July 5.

EUROPE

The European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee on Jan. 27 refused to extend equal benefits to gay and lesbian European Union staff who have legal partnerships in their home countries.

"If [the EU] can't even treat its own employees equally, then what hope is there for women, ethnic minorities and lesbians and gays in Europe as a whole?" said Marion Opriel, co-president of EGALITE, the European institution's sexual minority group.

FRANCE

France's Socialist Party introduced a domestic-partnership bill in the National Assembly on Feb. 3.

The measure creates "social-union contracts" to "provide a legal dimension for the union of those women and men who, though unmarried, still jointly plan on having a true, lasting life together," supporters said.

In a communiqué to the media, the Socialists declared: "Totally preserving the role and the institution of marriage, it takes away no right whatsoever and does not amend rules pertaining to the status of children but it does open up new room for freedom in accordance with the Republic's principles."

France granted asylum to an Algerian gay man in January, saying his life was in danger in Algeria due to his sexual orientation.

The man, identified only as L. Favsal, had founded AIDS and human-rights organizations in his home country. As a result, he was frequently assaulted and arrested by police, and chased and beaten by Muslims, he said.

It was the first time France's Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons accepted a refugee on sexual-orientation grounds.

MEXICO

Mexico City's First Sexual Diversity Film Festival hits screens across the capital from March 13 to April 4.

In addition to national and international movies and experimental films and videos, organizers have planned conferences, contests, art expositions and appearances by filmmakers.

Cosponsors of the festival include MTV Latino, *Cine Premiere* magazine, the Mexican Film Institute, the Goethe Institute, the gay group Colectivo Sol and The Mexican Network of People Living with HIV.

For more information, phone Arturo Castelan at 011-52-5-562-7541. Or send e-mail to castelan@laneta.apc.org

SWITZERLAND

A new global battle is needed against AIDS, South African President Nelson Mandela told the World Economic Forum in Davos on Feb. 3.

"The AIDS pandemic is getting worse at a rate that makes a collective global effort imperative," Mandela said. "Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our response."

Worldwide, 6,000 people are infected with HIV daily.

Government officials and international leaders gather annually in the Swiss resort town to debate the world's problems.

Compiled by Rex Wockner. Translation assistance was given by Charlie Fineman.

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