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A

Are you worried about staying negative?

I

Is it hard talking about being HIV negative with your HIV positive friends?

I

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Speak to Your Brothers
is a program of
Cascade AIDS Project



AUSTRALIA

The Australian military has the right to kick out any member who tests positive for HIV, chronic hepatitis B or chronic hepatitis C, a federal court in Brisbane ruled Jan. 13.

The court ordered the Equal Opportunity Commission to reconsider its finding that the policy was discriminatory, saying the risk of bloodshed during military service is too great to tolerate soldiers with permanent blood-borne infections.

CANADA

A Montreal gay man has filed suit charging that Quebec's refusal to let him marry his Mexican lover violates that province's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"For me and Manuel, marriage is important," says Martin Dube, a 26-year-old security guard. "We want the same rights as heterosexual couples."

Dube's lawyer says the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation, is in direct conflict with the Civil Code, which limits marriage to opposite-sex couples.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Circuit Noize magazine and the gay-travel newsletter "Out & About" have called for a boycott of the Cayman Islands.

They're angry that Cayman Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Transport Thomas Jefferson denied port access to a Norwegian Cruise Lines/Atlantis Events gay cruise that set sail Jan. 30.



In a letter to Norwegian Cruise Lines, Jefferson explained, "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."

Atlantis President Rich Campbell told reporters, "I find it astonishing that in 1998 you could elicit such a strong response to 900 well-heeled men who want to stop for seven hours of diving and shopping."

The Cayman Islands consists of three islands 500 miles south of Miami, halfway between Cuba and Honduras. Tourism accounts for 70 percent of its gross domestic product and 75 percent of foreign-currency earnings.

FRANCE

French Member of Parliament Andre Labarrere came out as gay during a Dec. 17 interview on Radio-Television Luxembourg, reports correspondent Olivier Razemon of the gay publication Ex AEquo.

Labarrere has written a book entitled *Le Baron Rouge* about a fictional gay politician. When asked by interviewer Thierry Demaiziere if he was gay himself, he responded, "Yes, I am."

Labarrere, a Socialist who is also mayor of the southwestern city of Pau, told radio listeners "there are plenty of other gay men" in French politics.

HUNGARY

Hungary's Self-Regulatory Advertising Board recently banned a billboard condom campaign charging that targeted only gay men.

The gay group Lambda Budapest, which produced the ads with a \$5,000 government grant, contested the finding, pointing out the posters depict a condom-wrapped middle finger pointing at the word AIDS.

"These ads don't say something homosexual, what they say affects everyone," says Lambda's Laszlo Laner.

Lambda plans to sue the outdoor-advertising company that refused to put up the ads and then brought them to the attention of the regulatory board. In addition, Lambda says its right to freedom of speech has been abridged.

MEXICO

Gay and lesbian groups joined with 60,000 demonstrators in Mexico City on Jan. 12 to protest the Dec. 22 massacre of 45 Tzotzil Indian refugees in Acteal, Chiapas, by pro-government paramilitary forces.

The protesters flooded Reforma Avenue, Mexico City's main street, shouting that President Ernesto Zedillo has blood on his hands.

The Chiapas slayings were in retaliation for the Indians' support of the Zapatista rebels, according to news reports.

NETHERLANDS

Same-sex marriage got underway in earnest Jan. 14 in the Netherlands, two weeks after the new "Registration of Partnership" law took effect.

Three male couples were allowed to marry earlier because of grave medical conditions, but everyone else was subject to Holland's two-week matrimonial waiting period.

The new law grants same-sex couples all the rights of marriage except access to adoption, a restriction that Parliament plans to remove later this year.

Childhood sweethearts Irma van Praag and Anna Kreuger, both 38, went first with a glittering ceremony at the Amsterdam Hilton at the stroke of midnight. They then spent their honeymoon in the suite where John Lennon and Yoko Ono celebrated their wedding with a week of "bed peace."

More than 100 gay weddings are planned this year, according to the newspaper *De Gay Krant*.

ROMANIA

Two U.S. gay activists visited Romania in mid-January to encourage authorities to legalize gay sex.

At a press conference, Jeri Laber of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Scott Long of Human Rights Watch presented a report entitled "Public Scandals: Sexual Orientation and Criminal Law in Romania."

"This report documents case after case of detentions, beatings and harassment directed at gay men and lesbians," Long said.

Romania bans gay sex that "provokes a public scandal" including sex in private that somehow upsets a third party.

It is an offense punishable by one to five years' imprisonment "to entice or seduce a person to practice same-sex acts, as well as to form propaganda associations, or to engage in other forms of proselytizing with the same aim."

■ Compiled by REX WOCKNER