

added that he and partner Michael Link are preparing to adopt a second child.

"I would say 90 percent of the fans wrote really, really nice letters,"

Link told reporters.

"Most of them said: 'We love your music. We like you. But we don't want to marry you. And we don't care what you do when you go to your bedroom.'"

"But when I read it [our being outed] like that on the front page, I went into shock," he continued.

"When we came back after our holiday, when I went to the butcher, the baker and so on, I felt as if I was naked in their eyes. But they were just as friendly as before."

Lindner sings syrupy *Volksmusik*, and many of his fans are middle-aged residents of conservative Bavaria, whose folk ballads and drinking songs are the inspiration for the genre.

Britain's *The Guardian* newspaper described *Volksmusik* as "an amalgam of country and western, pub crooning and '70s glam rock."

**GUATEMALA**

Openly gay U.S. journalist Larry Lee, 41, was murdered Dec. 28 in Guatemala City, where he was based.

Lee, a member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, was found stabbed to death in his apartment.

He worked for Bridge News, a financial wire service.

**INTERNATIONAL**

On Dec. 21, the European Court of Human Rights struck down a Portuguese ruling that had stripped a gay man of his parental rights because of his sexual orientation.

The court ruled unanimously that the Lisbon Court of Appeal had discriminated against João Manuel Salgueiro da Silva Mouta based on his sexuality and violated his "right to respect for private and family life" as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Portuguese court had said homosexuality is "an abnormality, and children must not grow up in the shadow of abnormal situations."

Salgueiro da Silva Mouta had been allowed to visit his 9-year-old daughter only if he did not refer to her that he is gay.

Portugal has 90 days to appeal the new ruling



to a 17-member Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights.

The New York-based nonprofit organization Aid for AIDS says it has sent more than \$2 million in leftover anti-HIV drugs from the United States to 170 people with HIV in 18 South American nations.

A similar program operates in San Diego, where drugs left over when people die or change medications are routed to a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico.

In both instances, the drugs go directly to physicians who care for people with HIV, to avoid any possibility of interference by corrupt government workers.

**IRELAND**

Gay pop music star Stephen Gately of the Irish megaband Boyzone may move to the Netherlands, where he and his Dutch lover, Eloy de Jong, would be permitted to adopt a child.



Stephen Gately

"I think I'd make a good dad," Gately told reporters on Dec. 28. "Keith out of the group has a kid. My sister has a kid and my brother has a boy. There's lots of kids always around me."

**THAILAND**

Demanding that the government license local production of the antiviral drug ddI, more than 50 activists staged a three-day protest outside the public health ministry last month.

Negotiations with the U.S. company Bristol-Myers Squibb, which holds the patent on the drug, have dragged on too long and the Government Pharmaceutical Organization should invoke international law on compulsory licensing and produce ddI itself, the demonstrators said.

Bristol-Myers sells the drug in Thailand for \$1.25 per pill—\$150 for a month's supply—which is beyond the reach of most Thais. Protester Paisal Tanut of the HIV Network said generic ddI could be sold for half as much.

One in 60 Thais is HIV-positive, and 35,412 have died of AIDS-related conditions.

Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.



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