

**MALAYSIA**

Malacca Museums officials have asked police to arrest transvestites who use the museums' outdoor historical sites to meet and sometimes service customers.

The largest concentration of hookers can be found in the St. Paul's Hill area around the ruins of the nation's oldest Christian church and cemetery. The prostitutes also have been seen servicing customers in an antique train, a fire engine and an airplane that are part of museum exhibits.

Malacca Museums Corp. General Manager Jamil Mukmin said the transvestites are turning the sites into a vice den.

**NEPAL**

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission is working to protect two young lesbians threatened by violence in rural Nepal.

On March 27, Maya T., 18, and Indira R., 17, were handed over to police of the Pathari Village Development Committee by their relatives as neighbors jeered the couple.



According to IGLHRC, "At the station, the two reportedly told police, 'No one will separate us and no one will stop us from loving each other.'"

They were held for two days and released without charges on the condition they not see each other again. Their families have kept them apart since.

But IGLHRC says news of the relationship continues to rile neighbors and the women's lives may be in danger.

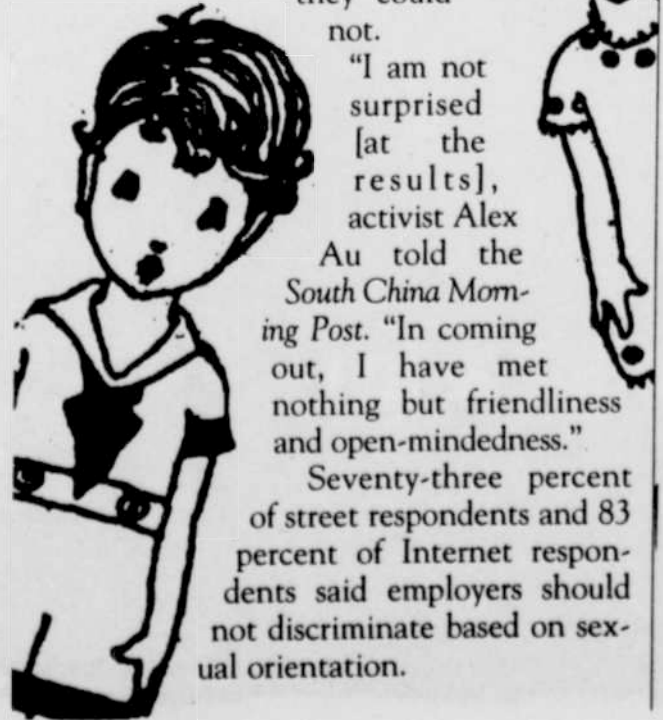
The group is calling for immediate protest letters to Basudev Bhattarai, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Pathari Biratnagar Police Office, Biratnagar; and to the Hon. Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Prime Minister, Government Offices, Singha Durbar, Katmandu.

**SINGAPORE**

A majority of Singaporeans could accept a gay brother, sister, son or daughter, an informal survey has found.

Gay activists questioned 491 adults. Forty-six percent of those interviewed on the street and 74 percent of those polled online said they could accept the relative. Twenty-six percent of street respondents and 9 percent of Internet respondents said they could not.

"I am not surprised [at the results], activist Alex Au told the *South China Morning Post*. "In coming out, I have met nothing but friendliness and open-mindedness." Seventy-three percent of street respondents and 83 percent of Internet respondents said employers should not discriminate based on sexual orientation.



Singapore police denied a permit for a gay conference May 24.

It was the first time organizers of a gay event had applied for a public entertainment license, which is required for all public gatherings of more than eight people.

"The mainstream moral values of Singaporeans are conservative, and the Penal Code has provisions against certain homosexual practices," the police said in a letter to activists. "It will therefore be contrary to the public interest to grant a public entertainment license."

Gay sex is banned in Singapore. Sodomy, fellatio and cunnilingus between males and females are also prohibited except when the acts are foreplay to penile-vaginal sex.

It is also illegal for a male to abet or procure "an act of gross indecency" with another male.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The last man kicked out of the British military for being gay was reinstated in May with his pay, seniority and rank restored, *The Guardian* reported.

Britain's military gay ban was struck down last August by the European Court of Human Rights.

Richard Young, 25, a Royal Navy chef, said he is "ecstatic" to have his job back.

Actor Sir John Gielgud, 96, died May 21 at his home near Aylesbury, England, of what a spokesman called "old age."



Gielgud appeared in countless plays, many of them Shakespearean, and in more than 50 films, including *Arthur*, for which he won an Academy Award in 1982.

Many contemporary critics considered him the greatest classical actor of their time.

Gielgud's longtime partner, Martin Hensler, died last year.

British gay men apparently are having more unprotected sex, fueling a surge in cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.

In London, gonorrhea is up by a third since 1997. In Manchester, syphilis cases have risen from one or two per year to 30 in 1999.

"What we have here are two diseases we thought we had conquered," said John Ashton, regional director for Public Health in the North West. "The rise in transmission of these diseases can only indicate that people are abandoning the safe-sex message."

**ZIMBABWE**

Former President Canaan Banana, convicted for sexual assault of male staff members in the 1980s, will serve one year in jail.

He had been found guilty of sodomy, abuse of power and unnatural acts in 1999 but remained free pending a Supreme Court appeal, which he lost May 29.

Among those Banana intimidated into having sex were his bodyguard, cook and gardener.

The incidents came to light starting in 1995, when a bodyguard, Jesta Dube, shot to death a colleague who had taunted him by calling him "Banana's wife."

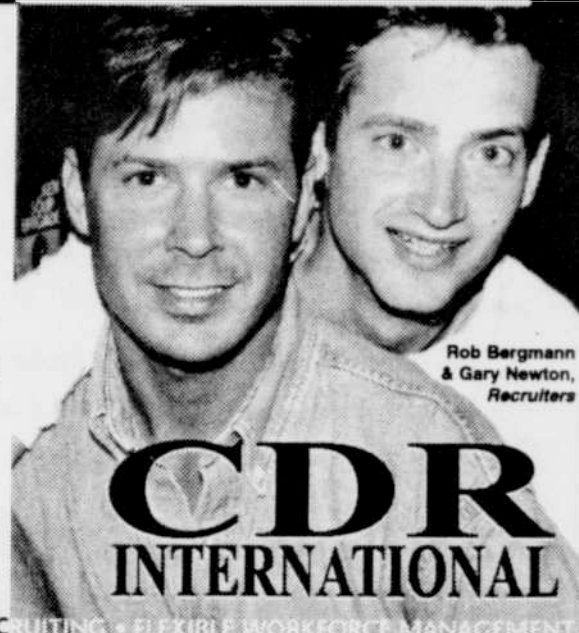
Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.

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