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WORLD news

EUROPE

About 100 people, including members of the Dutch and European parliaments, showed up for the 22nd European regional conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association from Oct. 4 to 8 in Bucharest, Romania. The gathering coincided with ongoing governmental efforts to repeal the Romanian penal code's anti-gay Article 200—a requirement imposed by the European Union as a precondition of membership.

It states: "Same-sex relations taking place in public or resulting in a public scandal shall be punished by one to five years' imprisonment. Enticing or seducing a person to practice same-sex relations as well as propaganda, association or other forms of proselytizing with the same aim shall be punished by one to five years' imprisonment."

The conference, which was addressed by U.S. Ambassador Jim Rosapepe and representatives of the embassies of Denmark, Finland and Sweden, was big news in the Romanian media. It also attracted a police presence to protect delegates from anti-gay protesters, who turned out to be few in number.

Local gay leader Adrian Coman of the group ACCEPT told the *Washington Blade*: "This opposition is not strong. There is no public support [for it]. In general, Romanians are not very sympathetic to [Article 200]."

The association's next European gathering will be in the Netherlands. The group's next world conference will be in August 2001 in Oakland, Calif.

NEW ZEALAND

The Auckland City Council has given \$11,961 to next year's HERO Parade, a big annual gay blowout. Deputy Mayor David Hay opposed the funding because councilors did not attach guidelines to it on how parade participants would be allowed to project their sexuality, *OUT!* magazine said.

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea has deported 117 foreigners infected with HIV since 1985, including 10 from the United States and 38 from Thailand, according to its National Institute of Health. Others came from Myanmar, Nigeria, Nepal, China, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Ghana.

National Assembly member Kim Hong-shin is urging a halt to the practice. "The government should establish special treatment facilities for AIDS-infected foreigners on a humanitarian basis instead of deporting them," he said.

UNITED KINGDOM

London's main gay weekly newspaper, the *Pink Paper*, is transforming itself into a glossy newsmagazine that will be sold at newsstands instead of distributed free at gay venues. It will sell for about \$2.60.

"We are changing the *Pink Paper* from a tabloid newspaper to a glossy, full-color current affairs magazine similar to *Time*, *Newsweek* and the *New Statesman*," editors said in a recent issue. "Although the *Pink Paper* is one of the most well-known community newspa-

pers in the country, ironically, we're also the most invisible. Only those who visit gay bars and clubs...get to read our coverage. Every other community newspaper, from the *Voice* and *Asian Times* to *Irish World* and *Saga* magazine, is on sale in the high street. As the nature and scope of the gay world in the U.K. changes, we want to take our place on the news shelves, too."

Chronos Publishing is launching a new free listings publication called *Rainbow Tickets* to replace the *Pink Paper* in gay venues. It will include "pages of community, social, scene and club events as well as comprehensive listings for theater and cinema," editors said.

TAIWAN

Taiwanese gay activist Chi Chia-wei on Oct. 18 asked the Republic of China's Council of Grand Justice to explain why couples of the same gender cannot marry.

In May, the Taipei District Court rejected his



request for a public notarization of his marriage to his partner. An appeal to the Taiwan High Court also was rejected.

Chi wants the council to explain the legal basis for the rulings, because no law prohibits gay marriage. The district court said recognizing a same-sex relationship would "impair social morals and tarnish traditional ethics."

