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WORLD news

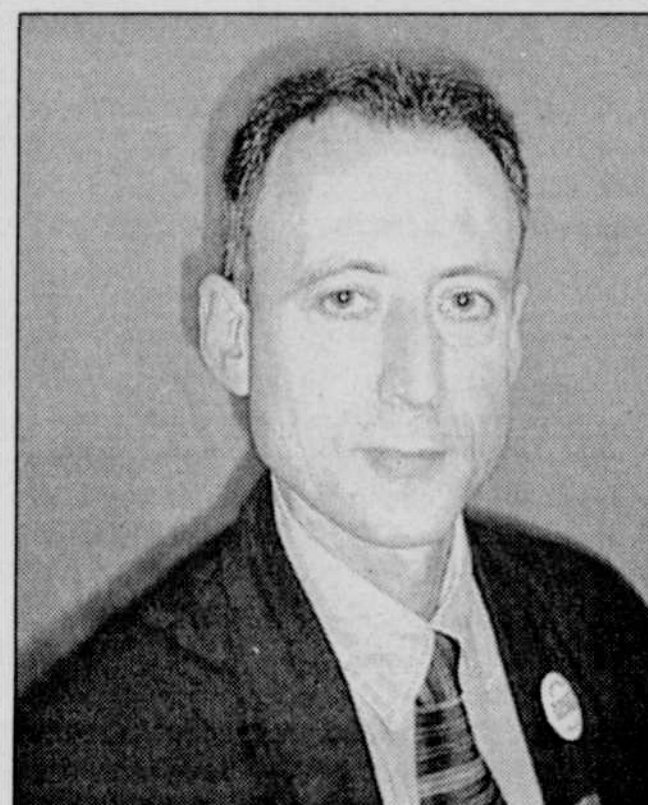
BRAZIL

President Bush wants to take HIV drugs away from Brazilian people with AIDS. His administration has lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organization alleging that Brazil's generic production of seven common HIV drugs violates WTO rules and U.S. drug company patents.

More than 100,000 Brazilians are being kept alive by the locally produced copies of the exorbitantly priced brand-name drugs. During a public health emergency, Brazilian law allows for generic production of drugs that otherwise would require authorization of the patent holder.

UNITED KINGDOM

Notorious British gay activist Peter Tatchell slipped through a security cordon four



Peter Tatchell

times Jan. 27 to confront Conservative Party chief William Hague and the leaders of Britain's Jewish, Catholic and Anglican religions. The incidents occurred during the National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration at Westminster Central Hall.

Tatchell confronted Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks first, telling him: "I hope you will remember the words of tolerance and compassion spoken here tonight next time there is a vote on gay human rights. Your support for Section 28 causes great pain to the gay community."

Section 28 is an 11-year-old law prohibiting cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools. According to Tatchell, Sacks responded, "Peter, I hear the pain of the gay community."

Tatchell replied: "If you hear our pain, please do not vote again to support discrimination against homosexuals. Don't deny us human rights."

Sacks responded, "Thank you, Peter, I am listening."

After being ejected from the hall, Tatchell re-entered and confronted Catholic Cardinal Murphy O'Connor and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey.

He said: "Your support for discrimination against homosexuals colludes with the prejudice that makes possible awful crimes like the Holocaust. It is wrong for you to endorse the humanitarian values of this commemoration and then continue to oppose the repeal of Section 28 and the equalization of the age of consent."

Carey replied, "Yes, I understand what you are saying." O'Connor said: "Very well. We will see."

Tatchell again was removed from the hall but later found his way back in and confronted Hague, saying, "Please remember tonight's message of tolerance and compassion next time there is a vote on Section 28."

Hague said: "Thank you, Peter. Don't worry, I will." Hague then made a hasty exit with his startled wife, Ffion, Tatchell said.

A gay man with Irish and British citizenship lost a challenge to U.K. immigration law Jan. 24. Lawyers for Nigel McCollum argued that the government's refusal to grant residency to his lover, Brazilian citizen Renato Lozano, violated McCollum's European rights "to respect for private and family life" and to "free movement" within the European Union, deterring him from remaining and working in the European Union.

But a High Court judge said Lozano has no legal right to be treated differently than any other unmarried, non-E.U. citizen seeking residency in Britain. Gay groups condemned the ruling.

David Allison of OutRage! told *The Guardian*: "The appearance is that the law has been made to look an ass here. The immigration rules should apply equally regardless of sexuality, and they should be changed when that is not the case."

A spokesman for the Stonewall Immigration Group said: "There seems to be little justification for the term 'family member' to apply only to a married spouse or a blood relative. That does not reflect society."

British law does allow a gay partner to immigrate but only if the relationship has lasted more than two years, which Lozano's and McCollum's has, and if the partner applies from outside the United Kingdom through ordinary channels, which Lozano has not done. Government lawyers accused the couple of trying to "jump the queue" with their unique challenge based on European law.

The Rev. Charles Raven of St. John the Baptist church in Kidderminster, England, is withholding \$22,000 of his congregation's annual \$58,700 contribution to the Church of England's Worcester diocese because he disagrees with Bishop Peter Selby's stance on homosexuality. Selby supports ordination of open gays, including those with lovers.

A survey by the men's magazine *FHM* has found 20 percent of British women have had sex with another woman. A total of 46 percent have wanted to have sex with another woman, the poll revealed.

ROMANIA

Police in Bucharest raided the gay Casablanca Disco Club on Jan. 19.

A total of 30 patrons who were not carrying identification were taken to Police Station 14, photographed and fingerprinted, sources said. The raid followed by two days public allegations by the gay organization Accept that an activist had been insulted and abused after being summoned to a police station.

GUYANA

A bill banning bias based on sexual orientation and other factors that passed Guyana's National Assembly 55 to 0 has been returned to the parliament by President Bharrat Jagdeo for reconsideration. The unprecedented move followed his Jan. 25 meeting with religious leaders who oppose protecting gays.

If the Assembly passes the measure a second time—by a two-thirds vote—then Jagdeo must sign it or dissolve parliament. Guyana—site of the infamous 1978 mass suicide by more than 900 followers of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones—is on the north coast of South America.

AUSTRALIA

A drag queen is running for premier of Queensland, where Brisbane is located.

Peacock Alley

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