

The doll carries a chain saw, and the words "cut here" are written on its neck. The well-known toy store Hamleys also is refusing to stock the product.

**BELARUS**

Belarus' only gay publication has been banned by the State Committee for Mass Media. "The magazine was registered as an educational and cultural publication but has been running erotic content for more than a year now," the panel said in a notice canceling the registration of *Forum Lambda*.

The publication plans to file suit in the nation's Supreme Arbitrage Court with help from the Belarus Association of Journalists. "*Forum Lambda* has never been any more explicit than *Men's Health*," its editor said.

**THAILAND**

The Bangkok Gay Group staged an HIV education play for 50 gay inmates March 29 at the Bangkok Remand Prison.

Although the production promoted protection, condoms are not allowed in Thai jails because they would encourage abnormal behavior, officials have told activists. The gay group, which also organizes Bangkok's pride parade, plans to perform the HIV show in parks and juvenile detention centers as well.

**ISRAEL**

The Association of Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender People—formerly the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights—celebrated its 25th anniversary March 25.

More than 100 people gathered at the group's headquarters in the heart of Tel Aviv's Nachalat Binyamin pedestrian mall. "To call it a great success would be an understatement," the association said in a press release.



Hagai El-Ad

Amnesty International Secretary General Pierre Sane visited Jerusalem's gay center March 27, marking the first time the group's head has paid a call on a gay affiliate.

Officials asked him to reverse a policy of not translating reports on anti-gay abuses into Arabic. Center executive director Hagai El-Ad said the policy sends an "alienating message...to gays and lesbians in the same countries where they need AI's support more than anywhere else."

**CANADA**

The province of Alberta will tweak its laws to treat gays more fairly, Alberta Justice spokesman Bart Johnson said April 2.

The announcement followed an Alberta Court of Queen's Bench ruling that the province's inheritance laws conflict with the nation's Charter of Rights and Freedoms by discriminating based on sexual orientation. As a result of the ruling, gays will have spousal status when contesting wills and estates after the death of a partner.

**SLOVAKIA**

Members of the Slovak Parliament met with gays for the first time March 20.

Representatives of several groups appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on

Human Rights and Nationality to ask for a registered partnership law and a ban on workplace discrimination. "[Slovakia's] homosexual minority is forced to live with fear and guilt for their emotional and sexual orientation...resulting in suicidal tendencies, neurosis and suppressed yearning for human relationships," activist Ivan Pozgai told the panel, according to the *Slovak Spectator*.

**DUBAI**

Police in the Gulf emirate of Dubai shut down the Diamond Club bar April 1 for playing host to a gay night, the *Gulf News* reported.



Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum reportedly ordered the closure personally, charging that the establishment was "violating the Islamic laws of the country and indulging in immoral activities." The

authorities learned about the event when organizers distributed 2,500 fliers urging Dubai gays to come out of the closet.

**INTERNATIONAL**

With funding from the European Union, the International Lesbian and Gay Association has launched a Spanish-language *Informative Bulletin* for Latin America. "This bulletin comes into being as a necessity to strengthen the organizations, associations, spaces, groups and collectives of the GLBT community and to contribute to the improvement of the information and communication networks that already exist," said co-editor Claudia Acevedo of Guatemala.

The first issue of the glossy magazine had 28 pages. To subscribe, write Boletin Informativo ILGA-LAC, Apartado Postal 1289, Guatemala City, Guatemala; fax 011-502-232-1021; or e-mail oasisilgalac@intelnet.net.gt.

**HUNGARY**

Police in Budapest want to question gay porn star Henrik for having unsafe sex on and off screen after he found out he was HIV-positive in 1997. He is likely guilty of murder, according to spokesman Valter Fulop.

"He worked on a homosexual porn film in 1998 without using protection," the official said. Henrik also has had sex with more than 200 other men while moonlighting as a prostitute named DJ Bobo, Fulop added.

**NEW ZEALAND**

The New Zealand Parliament passed a law March 29 giving gay and straight couples who have been together for three years the same property rights as married couples. In the event of a breakup, assets acquired during the relationship will be split 50-50.

Couples who do not want to be covered by the Property Relations Bill can draw up a costly contract to opt out of the law's provisions. The measure will take effect in February 2002. **□**

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.

**Request for Quotes**

**EVALUATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES FUNCTIONS**

Multnomah County, Oregon, is soliciting quotes for a study to evaluate how various human resources functions are provided. Primary organizational values include excellent service to the public, good value for the tax dollar, and being an employer of choice.

Public sector experience is required; experience with large public sector employers is preferred. Quotes must be received no later than April 25, 2001.

Interested parties should contact Ellen Ullrick at (503) 988-5015 X22202 or [ellen.l.ullrick@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:ellen.l.ullrick@co.multnomah.or.us) for a complete project description.



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