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WORLD news

HONDURAS

Police in San Pedro Sula are arresting cross-dressing sex workers on Morazán Boulevard and relocating them to another part of town, according to a Nov. 18 report from the U.S.-based National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization. The street is being developed as a tourist area.

"It goes without saying...that this news causes great alarm to the members of the LGBT community as well as human rights organizations around the world," LLEGÓ executive director Martín Ornelas-Quintero said in letters sent to Honduran President Ricardo Maduro and San Pedro Sula Mayor Oscar Eduardo Kilgore López.



This is the scene that greeted Central Station founder Ilya Abaturon when he finally was let into his club

RUSSIA

The Moscow gay club Central Station was looted and trashed during or just after the October hostage crisis at the Dubrovka Theater, which is in the same building, the *Moscow Times* reported Nov. 19.

Central Station founder Ilya Abaturon said tens of thousands of dollars of cash, liquor and sound equipment were stolen, either by special security forces who used the club as a staging area to storm the theater or by builders and police who had access to the venue after the special agents left. He also found the words "Wretched Faggots" scrawled on a wall, and some furniture was busted up.

UNITED KINGDOM

Britain will abolish several anti-gay sex laws—including ones concerned with buggery, gross indecency and soliciting by men—Home Secretary David Blunkett said Nov. 19.

"The law on sex offenses is widely recognized as archaic, incoherent and discriminatory," he said. "Much of it belongs in an age before the light bulb or motor."

The laws targeting gay sex, Blunkett said, "criminalize consensual sexual activity in private between men, which would not be illegal between heterosexuals or between women." Some news reports said the changes effectively legalize what the British call "cottaging"—seeking out and having sexual encounters in public toilets, wooded areas and such—as long as the encounters are not visible to passersby; however, a new law will punish sexual acts that take place in public view with up to six months in jail.

Legislation permitting unmarried and same-sex couples to adopt children passed Nov. 4 and 5 through Britain's House of Commons and House of Lords.

The vote was 344-145 in the Commons and 215-184 in the Lords, which rejected the measure Oct. 16 and sent it back to the Commons. About 5,000 children are awaiting adoption in the United Kingdom.

Britain's Independent Television Commission has suspended airing of an ad for Inter-

net company Yahoo! after gay activists and celebrities denounced it as homophobic. In the commercial, a man who is left tied to a tree naked after his bachelor party is stalked by a predatory homosexual in a raincoat.

ARGENTINA

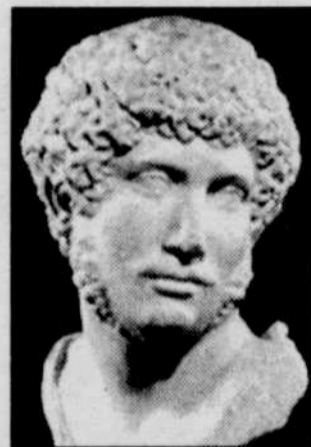
A civil unions bill was introduced in the Parliament of the Buenos Aires province last month. Hebe Febles' proposal sets up a registry and extends all provincial marriage rights to registered same-sex and opposite-sex couples in areas such as sick and bereavement leave, housing and social security.

The proposal defines "family" as "the loving union of two individuals who, as a couple, commit before society to create a functional and mutually responsible union, a union that must be born of two adults' mutual, loving and free choice." Civil union bills also are under consideration by the Buenos Aires City Council, the Mendoza Parliament and the national Congress.

THAILAND

More than 300 cops from Bangkok's Crime Suppression Division raided the gay bar Pharaoh in the city's Sapan Kwai neighborhood Nov. 22.

Owner Boonthanu Suppaphan was charged with illegally operating a nightclub and providing lewd shows and services for commercial purposes, according to the *Bangkok Post*. Police also arrested several employees and about 100 underwear-clad customers.



Hadrian



Antinous

ITALY

A lost temple that Roman emperor Hadrian built to honor his male lover has been discovered during new excavations 18 miles east of Rome, Reuters reported Nov. 15.

"We are convinced that we have found the missing monument to Antinous," said Anna Maria Reggiani, superintendent of archaeology for the Lazio region. Hadrian, who lived from A.D. 76 to A.D. 138 and ruled from A.D. 117 to A.D. 138, erected the huge semicircular structure to assuage his grief after Antinous, a teenager, drowned in the Nile in A.D. 130.

SOUTH KOREA

Nasty definitions of homosexuality are set to disappear from South Korean dictionaries following a Nov. 15 settlement arranged by the National Human Rights Commission. Gay groups had filed a complaint with the agency objecting to phrases such as "sexual perversion."

SOUTH AFRICA

Five gay nightclubs in a one-block area of Johannesburg have been ordered closed because of zoning violations.

They are located at Henri and Juta streets in the Braamfontein neighborhood, the city's only district with a cluster of gay bars. The establishments are owned by Shane Grant, who is fighting mad.

"Just because it's a gay club, they're going for me," he told the *Sunday Times*. "Now the fight will only start. Since Day One [three years ago]