

the festival program." The tribunal also recently allowed men-only sessions at a swimming pool after Muslim men claimed the presence of women violated their religious beliefs.

FRANCE

Disneyland Paris will see its first "Gay Day" Oct. 4. Disney is not involved in organizing the influx of homosexuals, who will wear white T-shirts to enhance their gaydar.

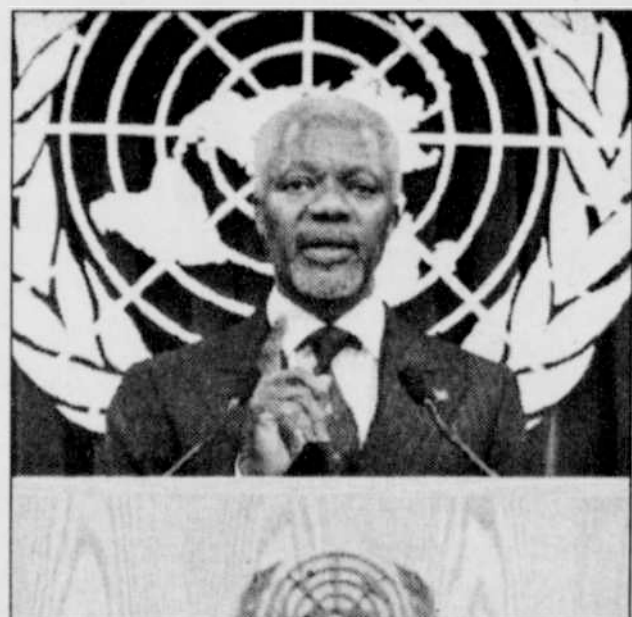
"It's a day like any other," a park spokesman told Reuters. "There is no discrimination at Disney either on the grounds of politics, religion or indeed sexual orientation."

In the United States, Christian political groups routinely fume about unofficial Gay Days at Disneyland and Disney World.

BULGARIA

Parliament banned bias based on sexual orientation and a number of other factors Sept. 16.

A nine-member commission will hear discrimination cases, will require the accused to prove the discrimination did not occur and will mete out penalties when appropriate. All nations planning to join the European Union are required to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination.



U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has been asked to help imprisoned Uzbek gay journalist Ruslan Sharipov

UZBEKISTAN

Imprisoned Uzbek gay journalist Ruslan Sharipov sent a letter Sept. 5 begging for help to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

According to human rights activists, Sharipov was coerced into pleading guilty to charges of sodomy, sex with minors and running a brothel after authorities tortured him and threatened to harm his mother. They say the government targeted him to silence his journalistic criticism of human rights abuses and police corruption. Sharipov received a 5 1/2-year sentence in August.

In the letter to Annan, Sharipov wrote: "Before I 'confessed' and 'plead guilty' at the trial...I was forced to write a 'death note,' in which I wrote, as dictated, a goodbye letter and declared that I committed suicide of my own volition. I was clearly told that if I would write any further appeals or complaints, I would commit suicide, that is, I would 'kill myself.'"

"I was tortured and pressured in ways I cannot describe with the aim of forcing me to confess and plead guilty at trial for a crime that I hadn't committed.... They put a gas mask on my head and sprayed an unknown substance into my throat, after which I could hardly breathe. They also injected an unknown substance into my veins and warned me that if I did not follow their instructions they would give me an injection of the AIDS virus. I could not withstand such excesses, and now I am writing only a small part of what I faced.... To be honest, I was horribly afraid after what they had done with me and...I was also afraid that they could do all this to my mother and younger brother, as well as to my lawyers...."

"Now I am afraid of my own shadow and the noise of the opening of the cell's doors, because I am waiting the next round of torture at the hands of the officers of the Mirzo-Ulugbek District Department of Internal Affairs and other structures of the system.... Soon, I will be sent to a prison colony to serve my sentence, where [I have been told that] some people are already waiting for me and I will have to answer for the 'damage' caused to independent Uzbekistan."

INDIA

Lawyers for the national government Sept. 8 told the Delhi High Court that gay sex must remain banned because of societal disapproval. "Indian society by and large disapproves of homosexuality, and disapproval was strong enough to justify it being treated as a criminal offense even where the adults indulge in it in private," they wrote.

The AIDS organization Naz Foundation sued to overturn Penal Code Section 377, which punishes gay sex, lesbian sex and bestiality with up to life in prison. It says the law interferes with its HIV prevention efforts.

But the government argued, "Deletion of the said section can well open the floodgates of delinquent behavior and be construed as providing unbridled license for the same." It also charged that Naz had no standing to bring the lawsuit because it has not been prosecuted under Section 377.

The court will consider the matter further Dec. 10.



Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad blamed homosexuality for the "frenzy to fulfill all lusts" in Malaysia

MALAYSIA

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad denounced homosexuality during his National Day speech Aug. 31.

"Crimes like rape, incest and horrific murder are happening every day in our country when they previously did not," he said. "This is because the culture of violence and sex is being spread via the television and videos from the West. There is a degradation of moral values due to pornographic videos, so much so that locals are also willing to act in pornographic films. Western films adulterate sex, violence, murder and war. Homosexuality is allowed; even religious leaders are openly gay. They are incensed, especially their journalists, many of whom are gay, when the practice is punished under our laws."

"This degradation of morals and frenzy to fulfill all lusts will weaken our spirit to fight and bring ill to society," Mahathir said. "Our ability to distinguish the good from the bad is diminishing. This, together with other things that disturb our thoughts, like the ideology of liberal democracy and human rights, means the colonization of our minds is complete." [E]

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.

	LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED <i>Home Delivered</i> FRESH LOCAL ORGANIC PRODUCE	New Location 2019 SE Belmont WITH RETAIL SPACE
	Organics to You HOME DELIVERY OF ORGANIC GOODS	(503)236-6496 www.organicstoyou.org

Know Someone With a
Drug or Alcohol Problem?

Free, confidential, statewide telephone assistance and crisis intervention for alcohol and drug problems

Call the Helpline
800-923-HELP

OREGON PARTNERSHIP
www.oregonpartnership.org

Retail Nursery - Landscape Services (OLBC#6774)

End of Season Sales:

October 2-8 - Dry Border Sale—Includes Lavenders and Penstemons 30% off

October 9-16 - Mixed Border Sale—Includes Anemones and Campanulas 30% off

JOYCREEK NURSERY

20300 NE Watson Rd
 Scappoose, OR 97056

For Information Call:
503/543-7474
 Open daily 9am-5pm

National Catalogue Sales ~ www.joycreek.com

LAURELHURST DENTISTRY

CLARICE JOHNSTON D.M.D.
 & ASSOCIATES

- Treatment explained and discussed
- Teeth whitening
- New patients welcome

503/233-3622
 2520 East Burnside

Experienced Reliable Trusted

ZACH NEWMAN

Real Estate Broker
 Multi-Million Dollar Producer

Down-to-earth style, no sales pressure, just the best advice and representation you can get. When buying or selling a home, call Zach for a free, private, no obligation consultation.

503-282-5164
ZachNewman@aol.com

RE/MAX equity group, inc.

2100 NE Broadway, Portland