

**WORLD news**

dancehall singers whose lyrics promote murder of gays.

The council ordered the city's chief executive to write to the large record store chains Virgin Megastore, HMV and MVC and suggest they pull such music from their shelves.

Councilors also will ask the city's three members of Parliament to lobby the U.K. government to ban incitement to hatred against queers.

"This unanimous vote by all parties in the council is a significant victory in the long battle against murder and hate music," Green Councilor Simon Williams said. "The sale of music inciting the hanging, shooting and burning of gay people is not an acceptable part of freedom of expression."

**SIZZLA IS UNREPENTANT**

Jamaican dancehall music star Sizzla, barred from entering the United Kingdom because of his anti-gay lyrics, will not apologize for them, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Nov. 25.

"They've got to apologize to God because they break God's law," he told the BBC's iXtra station. "Why must I apologize to corruption? How can I do that? I sing 'fire burn for homosexuals' and sometime in some street I walk, I see them and me no touch them. If I don't like what you're doing, I don't come there; if you don't like what I'm doing or what I say, you don't come where I'm at."



Sizzla: No friend of gays

Sizzla was banned from the United Kingdom while police and government agencies examine lyrics such as "fire fi di man dem weh go ride man behind," which means "burn the man who rides a man from behind."

**NORWAY REJECTS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Norway's Parliament rejected a bill Nov. 18 to make the nation's marriage law gender-neutral.

Norway already offers gay registered partnerships that grant every right of marriage except access to adoption.

The bill was opposed by Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik's Christian Democratic Party and by right-wing parliamentarians.



Kjell Magne Bondevik: Also no friend of gays

**ASIA**

**CHINA ISSUES ESTIMATE OF GAY POPULATION**

China has 5 million to 12.5 million gay men—2 percent to 4 percent of the male population—the Ministry of Health said Dec. 2.

It estimated that about 1.35 percent of them are infected with HIV, based on limited testing.

The statistics were a first for China. According to *People's Daily*, "information on gay people is being collected in each province" via 42 "monitoring spots."

The paper said that condoms are being given away for free and that HIV prevention information is being disseminated.

"The number of female homosexuals, also called lesbians, is much less than that of males," according to a version of the story that ran on the News Guangdong Web site.

**FILIPINO CITY BANS FEMININE MEN**

The Philippines' most Islamic city, Marawi City, has banned men from going out in public wearing female attire, makeup, earrings "or other ornaments to express their inclinations for femininity," *The Philippine Star* reported Dec. 4.

The City Council also banned skintight blue jeans, tube tops and other skimpy attire. Women must not "induce impure thoughts or lustful desires."

Mayor Omar Solitario Ali said the moves are part of a "cleaning and cleansing" drive to improve the city's image.

"Since Marawi City is the only Islamic city in the country and a part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, we have to comply with the culture, religion and tradition of the Muslims but without going against the country's constitution," he told the paper.

People who violate the rules will have paint dumped on their heads by the muttawa, the religious police.

Officials also banned video games and prohibited karaoke bars from being located near mosques or schools.

**ARMY MAJOR INVESTIGATED FOR SEX CRIMES**

A Philippine Army major, Ferdinand Ramos, has been placed on "technical arrest" for allegedly forcing male military trainees to fellate him and each other and engage in other gay sex acts, the Asian News Network reported Nov. 22.

Ramos was chief of civil military operations at Camp O'Donnell in the Tarlac province, a position from which he has been suspended.

Investigators will determine if Ramos violated Article of War 96, which deals with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

The alleged actions came to light after a trainee gave a videotape to a television investigative reporting program. The show aired parts of the tape in which Ramos apparently forced a trainee to fellate him and made male trainees have sex with each other.

**ONE-FIFTH OF AUSTRALIAN LESBIAN COUPLES HAVE KIDS**

About 20 percent of Australian lesbian couples have children living with them, according to a study presented by the federal minister for family and community services.

The report, *Diversity and Change in Australian Families*, also found that 5 percent of gay male couples have kids living with them, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported Nov. 24.

Research author David de Vaus of La Trobe University suggested 28,144 lesbian couples and 41,535 male couples are living in Australia, which has a population of 19,913,144. Single gays and lesbians with children were not included in the study.

De Vaus also found that gay and lesbian couples are more educated than their heterosexual counterparts—with coupled gay men twice as likely as coupled straight men to have a college degree. Coupled homosexuals also make more money than coupled straight people. About 30 percent of coupled gay men are in the highest income brackets, compared with 23 percent of coupled straight men. About 23 percent of coupled lesbians are in the highest income brackets, compared with 7 percent of coupled straight women. □

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.

**Multnomah Antiques**  
For The Holidays  
Dining Tables & Chairs  
China ~ Silver ~ Glass ~ Table Linens  
Mon.-Sat. 10:00am - 5:30pm • Sun. Noon-4:00pm  
In Multnomah Village • 7764 SW Capitol Hwy. • 503.245.8283

**LAW OFFICE OF JAMES D. MCVITTIE, PC**

Don't let voters tell you your rights.  
PROTECT your relationships with the proper legal assistance.

**JAMES D. MCVITTIE**  
Attorney-at-Law, Lic. in OR & WA

503.224.6611 TEL  
806 SW BROADWAY, STE.800  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205  
WWW.MCVITTIE-LAW.COM

**Your #1 choice**  
24/7/365

503.227.1212

**PALM SPRINGS**

**GREG GRAY** Sotheby's  
(760) 833-5434

**DBL REALTORS**  
EXCEPTIONAL HOMES  
1345 N Palm Canyon Dr  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

CONDOS • VACATION HOMES • HOTEL PROPERTIES • APARTMENT BLDGS.

**Big City Produce**

Little Store...  
Big on Diversity.

2004 BEST Award winner -  
Best Sustainable Food System

722 N. Sumner  
(at N. Albina), Portland  
503-460-3830

**Raines Globe Travel**

Person to Person Travel Planning  
International Specialists  
Vacation Packages • Cruises • Tours • Group Travel

Downtown Salem Since 1948  
129 Commercial NE • 503-399-1800 • 800-971-7210

Call Chris for personalized service.

**Herzog-Meier**

**D. Fulps/George Kettner**  
503-644-9121 • cars@herzogmeier.com

Drivers wanted.

It's a you parade.

**Bowser Boutique**

Check out our huge selection of beautiful gifts, unique art, dog decor  
Holiday ornaments and accessories galore!  
New load of breed-specific handbags for the holidays  
Delicious freshly baked gourmet treats for your dog  
Perfect gifts for the Dog Lover in your life!

**All breeds!**

826 NW 23rd  
Portland, Oregon 97210  
503-222-0197