



This beautiful queen graced Taipei's third Pride parade Oct. 1.

JULES QUARTLY, TAIPEI TIMES
for a conductor training class, *The Moscow Times* reported. The train line's doctors deemed the 30-year-old man unfit because his 1992 military record said he suffered from the "psychopathic mental disorder" of homosexuality. The court ordered the railroad to accept the unnamed man's application for the course, declared that military records cannot be used to determine health status for purposes of employment and said that homosexuality is not a disorder.

ASIA/PACIFIC

PRIME MINISTER: SINGAPORE SHOULD NOT HAVE GAY PARADES

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Oct. 6 that there should be no gay parades in the city-state because people would disapprove. "I don't think we're homophobic," Lee said, answering a question at a Foreign Correspondents Association event. "Homosexuals are people like you and me. But there's some segment of Singaporeans who vehemently disagree with that, and we have to be

aware of that.

"Gay Pride—well, you can do that in Sydney, in London, in San Francisco. But I'm not sure if I want to do that in Singapore. I think it would be offensive to a large number of Singaporeans and will be very divisive.... It is not a wise thing to do."

HONG KONG APPEALS SODOMY CASE

The Hong Kong government has appealed an Aug. 24 High Court ruling that struck down a law that punished male sodomy with life in prison when one or both partners are younger than 21.

The case was brought by a 20-year-old gay man, William Roy Leung, who said the law discriminated against him. Judge Michael Hartmann had called the statute "grave and arbitrary interference with the right of gay men to self-autonomy in the most intimate aspects of their private lives."

The government said it is appealing because of "significant public concern."

GAYS MARCH IN TAIPEI

Thousands of gays and lesbians marched in Taipei's third Pride parade Oct. 1.

"We want society to treat us like normal human beings and not see us like aliens or sick people," marcher Vodka Wang, 23, told Reuters.

Pride spokesman Ashley Wu said: "Although Taiwan's society has become more liberal in recent years, there are still some politicians that make comments discriminating against homosexuals. Gays are also discriminated in the legal system."

THAILAND UNVEILS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT

Thailand has begun offering a free cocktail of anti-HIV drugs to everyone who needs them, under its new universal health care scheme.

"The main reason for Thailand doing so well is that it produces its own drugs," Paul Cawthorne of Doctors Without Borders told the Inter Press Service news agency. "The drugs are cheap and affordable."

Out of a population of 64 million, Thailand is believed to have some 600,000 HIV-positive residents. An additional 300,000 people have died of AIDS-related causes. **JG**

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.

BRIT CELEBS PROTEST IRAN

Several public figures joined an Oct. 4 protest in London against Iran's ongoing harassment and executions of gay men.

They included actor Jeremy Sheffield, rap star Q Boy, comedian Scott Cappurro, *Big Brother* contestant Josh Rafter and gay MP Chris Bryant. The action outside Iran's embassy also received letters of support from Boy George, actor Simon Callow and *Little Britain* television star Matt Lucas.

"We are here to condemn Iran's execution and torture of gay men and to demand international action against the tyrannical Iranian regime," said protest co-organizer Peter Tatchell of the gay direct-action group OutRage. "The international community should issue an ultimatum to Iran: Either respect human rights, or face economic sanctions. There can be no normal relations with an abnormal regime that executes gay people, unchaste women, Muslims who renounce their faith and political, religious and ethnic minorities."

Two gay teens were hanged July 19 in the Iranian city of Mashad. The government claimed they raped another boy, but "underground gay groups inside Iran tell us that the two teen-agers were lovers," said Tatchell.

OutRage says its inside sources report that "the Iranian government routinely makes up false allegations—such as rape, drug-taking and spying—to discredit the people it executes and to discourage public protests."

Iranian police also have been using the Internet to entrap gay men—arranging dates, then arresting and flogging them.

DATA SURFACE FROM 1949 BRITISH SEX SURVEY

Newly discovered results from a 1949 British sex survey show high rates of homosexuality at the time.

According to the British Broadcasting Corp., which found the data in a university archive, the findings were "suppressed" 56 years ago because they were "so scandalous." About 20 percent of both men and women told investigators they had engaged in gay sex.

It was the United Kingdom's first nationwide sex survey.

RUSSIAN GAY MAN WINS DISCRIMINATION CASE

St. Petersburg's Frunzensky District Court ruled in September that October Railway broke the law when it rejected a gay man's application

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