

legal same-sex union overseas will not need to reregister in the United Kingdom to be recognized. There will be a formal, court-based process for dissolution of a civil partnership.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Report: China Has Its First Open Gay

China Daily reported Nov. 11 that Zheng Yuntao from Guangdong "is thought to be the first gay man in China to broadcast his sexual orientation."

"I am a gay man," he said. "I announced my homosexuality to the public on [the] last World AIDS Day on a local television program."

Zheng told the paper he is lucky to have grown up in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, where society is heavily influenced by the province's "more tolerant" neighbor, Hong Kong. He has a degree in English literature from Guangdong University and is translating gay-themed Western literature into Chinese, he said.

Man Who Didn't Reveal HIV Status Cleared

A New Zealand man who did not tell his sex partner he was HIV-positive has been cleared of wrongdoing by the Wellington District Court, the Australian AIDS publication *Positive Living* reported.

Judge Susan Thomas said the man took reasonable precautions to protect his partner by using condoms during intercourse and not ejaculating during oral sex.

The New Zealand AIDS Foundation applauded the ruling. "Relying on HIV-positive people to tell you, and assuming that unprotected intercourse is safe if HIV is not mentioned, is a much riskier strategy [than] the consistent and proper use of condoms," said executive director Rachael Le Mesurier.

Fiji Bans Anti-Gay March

Authorities in Fiji have banned a march by anti-gay Methodists, local media reported Nov. 10.

The Fiji Methodist Church had planned to turn out 3,000 people Nov. 19 to protest against a recent court ruling that consensual adult gay sex in private is protected by the constitution. But Central Division Regional Development Commissioner Inoke Devo, who is responsible for issuing parade permits, said the proposed march would be discriminatory toward the gay community and refused to issue the document.

Singapore Bans Gay Web Site, Fines Another One

Singapore's Media Development Authority banned one gay Web site and fined another one, local media reported Oct. 28.

The banned site, FluffBoy.com, is hosted outside Singapore but offers substantial Singaporean content. The authority said the site recruits underage boys for sex, promotes homosexual promiscuity and contains nude photos.

The local site SGBoy.com was fined \$2,950 for displaying "offensive content" and ordered to remove it.

The authority said both sites were in violation of the nation's Internet Code of Practice, which prohibits depictions of "nudity or genitalia in a manner calculated to titillate" as well as promotion of homosexuality or pedophilia.

Singapore has a list of 100 banned Web sites—98 of which offer porn and two of which promote religious extremism, the reports said.

N.Z. Gays Not Rushing to Altar

Only 205 civil unions have taken place in the six months since New Zealand began offering them, local media reported. And some of the unions were between opposite-sex partners.

More than 5,000 heterosexual weddings took place during the same period. New Zealand has a population of 4.1 million.

Provisional figures indicate slightly more gay men



The rugged good looks of one of the main characters in the Brazilian soap opera *América* keeps the fans coming back despite (or because of?) gay kissing.

than lesbians are tying the knot, the reports said. The details were not available on the Statistics New Zealand Web site at press time.

Gay activists think there will be more civil union ceremonies as summer weather arrives in the Southern Hemisphere.

AMERICAS

Brazilian Gays Stage Kiss-In

Hundreds of gays staged a kiss-in Nov. 8 outside Brazil's Congress after a television network censored a widely anticipated kiss between two male characters on the popular series *América*.

Brazilian media said that the kiss was filmed but that the Globo network axed it in the final edit. It would have been the first same-sex kiss in Brazilian television history.

Tens of millions of additional viewers watched the series' season finale after advance media coverage of the kiss between rancher's son Júnior and farmhand Zeca reached fever pitch. A Globo spokesperson said the kiss was cut because the program airs at 8 p.m.

Gay Logo Channel Launches in Latin America

Pay-per-view programming from the U.S. gay cable channel Logo is being launched in Mexico and Brazil.

Six-hour programming blocks, which will change weekly, began airing Nov. 4 on Sky Mexico and will start Nov. 19 on Sky Brazil.

"We're really proud and excited to be the first MTVN operation outside the U.S. to launch such an innovative service as Logo TV," said Pierluigi Gazzolo, MTV Networks Latin America managing director. "This is an incredible opportunity to serve an audience that is currently underserved."

MIDEAST/AFRICA

Saudi Police Raid Drag Pageant

Saudi police raided a drag pageant Nov. 3 at a hotel in the city of Al Qatif, *ADN Kronos International* reported.

Five men were arrested and many others rushed away, "leaving behind shoes and head scarves," the report said. Police also found evaluation sheets, beauty products, makeup, lingerie and sex toys, *ADN* noted.

Israeli Couple Demand Recognition of Their Marriage

A gay couple who married in Canada filed a petition with Israel's High Court of Justice demanding that the Population Registry recognize their marriage, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported Nov. 1.

Attorney Jonathan Herland, a 29-year-old Canadian, and Ayal Wallrauch, a 26-year-old Israeli, have lived together in Israel for two years. They got married in July in Toronto.

"By refusing to register the petitioners as a married couple, the Population Registry deviates from its authority, behaving with unlawful discrimination against the petitioners and same-sex couples in general," the couple wrote in their petition.

Canada is one of four nations where same-sex couples can marry. **io**

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.

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