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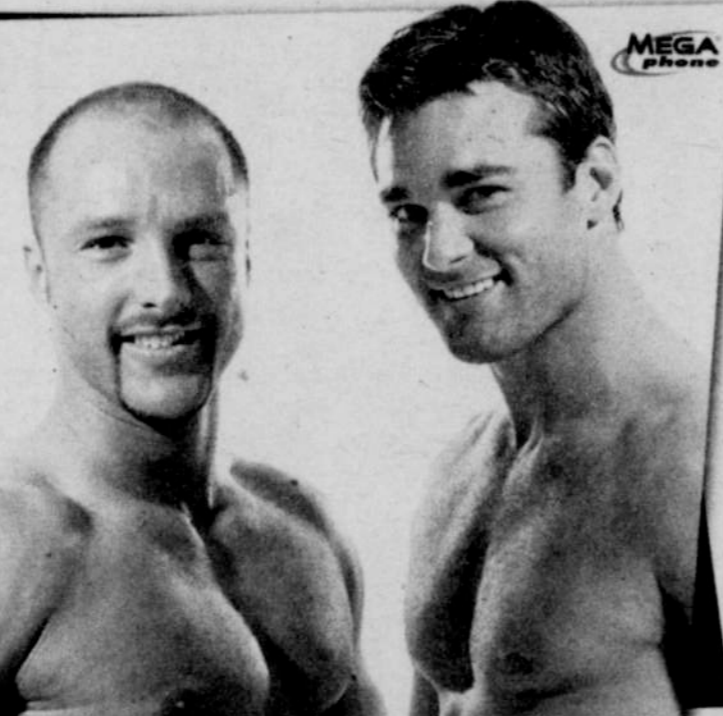
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MIDEAST/AFRICA

South African AIDS Leader Marries

Well-known South African AIDS activist Zackie Achmat and his activist boyfriend, Dalli Weyers, were married Jan. 5 near Cape Town. South Africa is one of six nations where same-sex couples have access to full marriage.

Hundreds of people attended the wedding, including Mayor Helen Zille. Gay High Court Judge Edwin Cameron conducted the ceremony, sporting eye glitter for the occasion.

The wedding cake was a chocolate brownie tower with a king and a cowboy on top.

Achmat, 45, is the founder and chairman of the Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa's leading AIDS activist organization.

"We decided that the marriage statement as a same-sex couple was a profound one, and we want the union to be seen as equal," Weyers told *The Sunday Times* before the wedding.

Same-sex marriage also is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States (Massachusetts only). Numerous nations (and eight U.S. states and the District of Columbia) offer civil unions or registered partnerships that grant same-sex couples some, most or all of the rights and obligations of matrimony.

HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS OF SIX MOROCCANS UPHeld

A Moroccan appeals court Jan. 15 upheld the convictions of six men from Ksar el Kbir who were jailed for homosexual acts in late November after a YouTube video showing them at a supposed same-sex wedding celebration provoked public outrage.

The 10-month sentence against the party's alleged organizer, who also was charged with selling alcohol, was upheld in full, while the other five men saw their sentences reduced from between four and six months to between two and four months.

Amnesty International says the men are prisoners of conscience, and the men's lawyers claim that prosecutors have presented no evidence that any crime took place.

Morocco's Penal Code Article 489 bans "lewd or unnatural acts with an individual of the same sex" under penalty of six months to three years in prison and a fine of \$15 to \$150.

Human Rights Watch has said the men were convicted "without apparent evidence."

"The men's rights to privacy and freedom of expression have been violated," said North Africa programs director Sarah Leah Whitson. "They should be set free."



South African AIDS activist Zackie Achmat took advantage of the country's full-marriage equality and wed his same-sex partner Jan. 5.

AMERICAS

Brazilian Gay Activist Murdered

Brazilian gay activist Francisco Tício de Oliveira Soares was stabbed to death Jan. 3. His naked body was found in the hair salon he ran in the northeastern city of Crato.

Police have speculated the killing was a crime of passion, given that nothing was stolen from the salon. Tício, 38, organized several local Gay Pride parades and had been involved in gay activism for more than two decades.

EUROPE

Dutch Artist Receives Death Threats Over Gay Muslim Photos

Dutch artist Sooreh Hera, an Iranian exile, has received death threats and gone into hiding after a museum in The Hague planned to display her photos of gay men wearing masks of the prophet Muhammad.

"They said to me, 'We're going to burn you naked or put a bullet in your mouth,'" Hera, 34, told London's *The Times*. "They condemn homosexuality, but in countries like Iran or Saudi Arabia it is common for married men to maintain relations with other men."

The municipal museum later decided not to mount the photos because, said director Wim van Krimpen, "certain people in our society might perceive it as offensive."

Hera accused van Krimpen of "censorship" and caving in to "pressure from Islamists" and withdrew the rest of her pictures from the exhibition.

A museum in Gouda then said it will put up the photos. The director of that institution has received death threats and is under police protection, *The Times* said.

HELP WANTED

ART DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

This position is responsible for the design, the feel, the look and the creative energy of the newsmagazine. Duties include cover design, text layout, CMYK color management and archiving digital materials. Experience with newspaper layout, FTP uploads, Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator is necessary. Other duties include basic Web site maintenance. An understanding of the culture of the gay, lesbian bi and trans community is a definite asset.

The *Just Out* art director is an integral part of the staff. The ability to work collaboratively is necessary. We are a small paper, and interaction with editorial, sales and marketing staff is all a part of the job.

Ideally this will be a 3/4 time position; however, the days needed to work are not flexible. *Just Out* is on a fixed publishing schedule. Compensation is DOE.

If interested please send detailed cover letter, with salary requirements and résumé to marty@justout.com.

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