



PAZ Y LIBERACION

P.O. Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266
U.S.A.

#16

March - May, 1989

HONG KONG GAYS LOBBY FOR LAW REFORM

The "Hong Kong Ten Percent Club", a three year old gay social and activist organization has announced that they are holding discussions with individual members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council as part of their campaign to reform Hong Kong's anti-gay laws, which presently carry a life term for a conviction of sodomy, even for consenting adults in their own home.

Julian Chan, Chairperson of the "Ten Percent Club" said his members were prepared to put their jobs and family life at risk by standing up for what they believe in.

Criticizing the claim that homosexuality was an alien practice which offended Chinese tradition and morality, Mr. Chan pointed out that there were records of gays in Chinese history stretching back as far as the Shang Dynasty in BC 1122.

Passport, the news magazine of Gay Asia, reported as this issue went to press, that a new organization has been formed, called the Association for the Welfare of Gays & Lesbians, to lobby for law reform. Headed by Rev. Fung Chi-wood, an Anglican minister, the group welcomes both gays and heterosexuals to join.

CHILEAN GROUP GETS GRANT

The Colectiva Lesbica Feminista Ayuquelen (CLA) of Santiago, Chile, has been awarded a grant from the European Human Rights Foundation in the amount of 5,000 Dutch Guilders (US\$2,500) for their project to establish a national bulletin in Chile for lesbians and gay men. The successful grant application was made by the International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA), headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.

MEXICO BIDS FOR ILGA CONFERENCE

The Colectivo Sol of Mexico City reports that Mexican groups are bidding to host the 1991 International Lesbian & Gay Association Annual Conference in México. The decision will be made this July at the Vienna conference. If the bid is successful this would be the first time for the conference to be held outside of Europe or the USA/Canada.

Additionally, the Colectivo Sol's Mexican Homosexual Information & Documentation Center is requesting donations of materials in any language to add to their collection which is open to the public. "We have a great need to enrich our gay & lesbian archives and we are counting on some help from friends in the USA and elsewhere," says Juan Jacobo Hernandez, director of the Center. Write to: Colectivo Sol, Apartado Postal 13-320, México, D.F. 03500, México. The Center also includes an Office of Information About AIDS. Write in English o Español.

INDIA MAY BAN SEX WITH FOREIGNERS

The Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, Dr. A.S. Paintal, has proposed that sexual contact between Indians and foreigners be banned, in order to halt the spread of AIDS.

According to Campaign of Australia, Dr. Paintal claims that Indians only get the disease from foreigners. The proposal that the Indian Parliament pass the necessary legislation to outlaw such sexual contact was welcomed by most Indian government departments. Indian Health Minister Moti Lal Vohra supports the proposal and is assisting with the formulation of the new law.

The Law Ministry, however, said the suggested statute would clearly violate constitutional provisions relating
(See India/Trikone on Page 4)

ARGENTINA GROUP IN CRISIS

The Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA) reports that they are in a total crisis, as they have no funds to carry out their work. They especially need contributions to help purchase typewriters and to cover their activity costs and for publishing their "Stop AIDS" brochure and the CHA magazine "Vamos A Andar".

"Vamos A Andar" (We Are Going To Walk Freely) is published as funds permit and they just got out issue #11. The 34 page publication in Spanish is available for a \$5 US cash donation, which helps with the heavy mailing costs. CHA reports that "Vamos A Andar" is the only publication in Argentina now and that CHA has just formed a group in Córdoba. Their STOP SIDA project has produced a colorful "What is AIDS" brochure & the campaign now covers the States of Córdoba, Buenos Aires, Mendoza, San Juan, Tucuman, Chaco & Corrientes.

Presently CHA is organizing a campaign called "Sexual Freedom is a Human Right" to raise the consciousness of the general public as well as gays and lesbians.

CHA reports that the repression at the hands of the Federal Police and their Morality Division continues with "kidnapings" of gays in bars and on the streets. CHA requests letters of support to be sent to Enrique Nosiglia, Ministerio del Interior, Balcarce 66, 1064 Buenos Aires, and to Dr. Raúl Alfonsín, Presidente, Casa de Gobierno, Balcarce 50, 1064 Buenos Aires. Copies to CHA, C.C. 45, Sucursal 37, 1437 Buenos Aires, Argentina, will be appreciated. (PyL has a free translation service into Spanish for protest letters. Write to PyL.) Contributions to CHA can also be sent by American Express Int'l money order made out to Alejandro Zalazar, their presidente.

FAMOUS QUOTES

Aziz Ahmed, Bangladesh (In Trikon 9/88)

"Things have changed in the last ten years, and they are still changing. I grew up thinking I am the only gay man in the world, and now, twelve years after that, I am aware that there are millions of South Asian gays and lesbians. We have a lot of power in our hands. As we become more visible as gays and lesbians we challenge the myth that there are no lesbian or gay South Asians. We also draw strength from each other."

AIDS ORGANIZATION IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela's Acción Ciudadana Contra EL SIDA (Citizen's Action Against AIDS) has published a 12 page booklet in Spanish about AIDS and Safe Sex. The two year old organization has been a major force in providing factual information about AIDS and how to prevent it to the Venezuelan media and the general public. Edgar Carrasco, the former Director of the gay group and publication, "Entendido", is the Coordinator of ACCS and would be happy to exchange information with other AIDS information groups in Spanish or English. Write to ACCS, Apartado Postal 14.614, Caracas 1011, Venezuela. Edgar reports that there are presently no lesbian or gay organizations or publications in Venezuela outside of the ACCS organization. There are plenty of gay bars and discos and people to fill them, but unfortunately no support for lesbian and gay liberation groups.

THAILAND & SINGAPORE AIDS ACTIONS

Thailand recently observed AIDS Awareness Week as part of the International AIDS Day, with the aim being mass public education. The highlight was an anti-AIDS parade in Bangkok, the first time in Thai history that gays had marched in public.

A gay Thai student at Mahidol University has produced an educational video called "Your Choice". The video is a drama about a Bangkok barboy and his AIDS-knowledgeable friend. The barboy tests positive to HIV. The video is being shown at the university and in Bangkok gay bars to very favorable responses, especially from barboys.

Singapore also held International AIDS Day benefits with proceeds going to the newly formed Action for AIDS Singapore. This new group intends to help promote education, welfare and research into the illness. It is a private organization with government approval.



PUERTO RICO GROUP EXPANDING

The Colectivo de Concientización Gay (CCG), the "Collective for Gay Awareness", the four year old group in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is now looking for a fixed site where they can hold their meetings and an office where people can come to when they wish.

At present the CCG doesn't have sufficient income to rent a meeting place and office, so they are looking for someone in San Juan who would donate a small office space. Readers from the USA Mainland, who might be in a position to help out financially, can write in English or Spanish to CCG, Apartado 1003, Estación Viejo San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902, USA.

In February, 1989, CCG held the Second National Conference titled "Perspectives of Homosexuality and Lesbianism in Puerto Rico" with participation of representatives from the arts, religion, psychology and feminist concerns, who presented their visions and experiences about lesbianism and homosexuality.

The CCG in December sponsored a workshop on "Sexuality & The Lesbian Experience" for women only. CCG is very active with the Fundación SIDA (AIDS Foundation of Puerto Rico), providing volunteers as well as paid staff members.

CCG now has available their attractive T shirts with "Estamos En Todas Partes" and the CCG Lambda logo. Sales of the T shirts have become a major source of income for them, so rush off your \$8.50, postage included, telling them your size. Personal checks are fine for USA readers.



Global Lesbianism

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Back issues of GLOBAL LESBIANISM I and II are still available (I is only available as a photocopy).

Only \$4 each or both for \$7 including postage. Make checks payable to: Connexions, 4228 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609.

Connexions, An International Women's Quarterly

VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN COLOMBIA

Colombia's four year old Colectivo Orgullo Gay (Gay Pride Collective) has just published issue #14 in January 1989 of their informative 16 page magazine "De Ambiente". The group CORG finds it difficult to march forward for gay and lesbian rights due to the conditions in Colombia today, where the Gay Community is the victim and target of increasing violence, resulting in assassinations, kidnappings, police raids, discrimination, etc. Most violence seems to come from military/police related "clean-up Colombia" hit squads.

With world attention on the human rights abuses in Colombia against homosexuals as well as other minority groups, CORG is hopeful that 1989 will bring relief. Protest letters to the President, Dr. Virgilio Barco Vargas, Casa de Narino, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Bogotá, D.E., Colombia, will be most helpful. Copies to CORG will be appreciated. (For free translations of your letter into Spanish, just rush off your letter to PyL. Our volunteers are begging for more translation work!)

For a copy of "De Ambiente", send a \$5 cash contribution to CORG, Apartado Aéreo 37272, Bogotá, C O L O M B I A .

3rd BRAZILIAN CONFERENCE

Atoba, the three year old group from Rio de Janeiro, organized the 3rd National Brazilian Lesbian and Gay Conference in January, 1989.

The title of the conference was "Stonewall Inn, 20 Years After - The Fight Continues" and it was attended by seventeen groups from every corner of Brazil. Workshops for the three day gathering included: The National State of the Movement, The International Movement & the ILGA, Women, Transvestites, AIDS, Youth, Violence and Religion.

The group Atoba would like to exchange information with other groups and individuals worldwide. Write to them at Rua Prof. Carvalho de Melo, 471; Magalhaes Bastos; Rio de Janeiro-RJ 21730; B R A Z I L .

INDIA/TRIKONE (From Page 1)

to the right of privacy.

The new TriKone (Gay & Lesbian South Asian Support Group) Chapter in Patna, India, reports that a national debate on the proposed law is likely to be held soon. Approximately 345 people have tested positive for the AIDS antibody (HIV) test in India.

The Patna TriKone Chapter thanks all readers for their letters and contributions. The national newsletter project is still under consideration as more support within India is sought. The headquarters office of TriKone has moved to P.O. Box 21354, San Jose, California 95151, USA. Their 6 page publication, TriKone, is one of the most interesting and informative publications in existence. Subscriptions are \$10 North America, \$15 overseas, and free for readers in South Asia. Their February 1989 issue carried details of 17 articles about homosexuality in India published in India and the USA, all of which are available from TriKone. TriKone regularly features "coming out" stories by lesbians and gay men in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries, plus personal ads from South Asians and news of the TriKone Chapters around the world.

OUR WORLD - TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Our World is a new monthly international travel magazine for gay men and lesbians. This 48 page, high quality publication is packed with articles and color photos of gay destinations around the world. Issue #1 includes articles on gay and lesbian vacation spots in Hawaii, the Bavarian Alps, Hydra (a Greek Island), The Inns of Sidney, Australian Lifesavers (female and male) & features on the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras and Womantrek, the women oriented tours service offering such fun excursions as African Safaris, bicycling through China and llama packing in Washington State.

Future editions of OUR WORLD will have photos and articles about exciting lesbian and gay trips and tours, such as sailing the Caribbean on a private yacht, expeditions to China & Nepal, tours of New York City, Grand Canyon Whitewater rafting, and lots more! Our World is available in bookstores or write to them at 1104 North Nova Road, Suite 251, Daytona Beach, Florida 32017, USA. One year subscriptions are \$44 in the USA and \$52 elsewhere. Sample copy \$4.95. Free brochure. Issue #2, March 1989, takes us to Sitges in Spain, Mexico's Yucatan, an Oasis in the Arizona Desert, the Caribbean, and to a Rocky Mountain site. Articles, news and ads are aimed equally at women and men.

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1 Year (12 Issues) only \$44.
Sample copy \$4.95. Free brochure.

**Mail to: Our World Publishing
1104 North Nova Road, Suite 251
Daytona Beach, Florida 32017**

The KIMETA SOCIETY is a non profit corporation in Canada dedicated to providing funding for worthwhile projects of lesbian and gay organizations in AALA Countries (Asia, Africa, Latin America, etc.). Projects that have political significance to benefit lesbians and gays are of special interest. Write to Gary Kinsman, Kimeta Society, 291 Ontario St., Apt 5, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2V8, C A N A D A .

PASSPORT is a fantastic publication dedicated to crossing cultures and borders, with the emphasis on Asian men. It features news briefs and articles on Gay Asia, pictures and 10 pages of personal ads. Subscriptions for 12 issues are \$25 US from IWI, 2315-R Market St #16, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA. Single copies are \$3.50 USA & \$5 US elsewhere.

EAST/WEST MAGAZINE is the publication of the Long Yang Club, the world's largest East/West social organization for gay men. Branches in Hong Kong, Singapore & Malaysia. East/West features Asian travel and cultural articles, maps and classifieds. Subscriptions are \$12.50 US for 6 months or \$25.00 yearly for outside of Europe. Write to the Honorable Secretary, LYC, BOM/WISDOM, London WOLN JXX, E N G L A N D .

The ILIS Newsletter of the International Lesbian Information Service, the dynamic international Lesbian political and service organization, is now accepting free personal ads worldwide from women who wish to have penfriends from other lands and cultures. Write to ILIS, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Subscriptions and full memberships are only \$15. An American Express international money order will do the trick!

The GAY & LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB welcome anyone interested in stamp collecting in any country to drop them a line. GLHSC is 6 years old and publishes a very informative quarterly journal. Subscriptions are \$6 US a year in the USA & Canada and \$8 elsewhere. A free sample copy and information about the club are available upon request. Write to GLHSC, Ed S. Centeno, P.O. Box 3940, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, U.S.A.

SPEAK OUT is the publication of the International Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization (IGLYO) and subscriptions are only \$10 from their new address: IGLYO, c/o LIJO, P.O. Box 542, NL 1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The IGLYO also has a free penpal program for lesbian and gay youth. Subscribe today!!

WANTED: Wealthy activist oriented person to fund "Faz y Liberación" as publisher. \$1000 a month, less all income, includes full time services of present editor. Contact John Hubert, Editor/Publisher.



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#17
June-July, 1989

GAY OFFICES BOMBED IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

The Grupo Orgullo Homosexual de Liberación (GOHL), the "Gay Pride Group for Liberation", reports that a bomb exploded outside their offices in Guadalajara, México at 3:30 PM on Thursday, March 23rd. No one was injured and material damages were limited to the door and wall, though the police closed the street due to downed high tension wires. The GOHL offices fortunately were closed because of vacations.

GOHL is currently in the middle of an intensive campaign against AIDS, and GOHL suspects that a Far Right group was responsible for the bombing, possibly in relation to the AIDS campaign. The campaign emphasizes the use of condoms to prevent AIDS which has provoked anger from the ultra conservatives and the Catholic Church.

According to Dr. Francisco Galván Díaz, writing in "El Nacional", a major daily in México, Padre Guadalupe Rábago, Rector of the Guadalajara Seminary teaches that "homosexuality is a deformation and must be combated". Dr. Galván Díaz further reports that another conservative group has called for the creation of concentration camps for all those infected with AIDS and HIV, as well as for all homosexuals, and their exclusion from public life.

In a similar spirit, the two largest pharmacies in Jalisco State, the Levy Pharmacy chain and the Guadalajara Pharmacy chain, refuse to sell condoms or any type of contraceptive device under the pretense of "defending life, morals, the family, matrimonial fidelity, and respect for the human race". "They fail to see that AIDS kills and that

condoms and free information about AIDS prevention preserves life," concludes Dr. Galván Díaz.

Additionally, in the past 12 months, eight gay men have been violently assassinated in Guadalajara without any arrests being made.

GOHL is requesting that letters of protest and support be sent to México's president, asking him to investigate the bombing thoroughly and to guarantee the protection of GOHL members and the lesbian and gay citizens of Guadalajara.

Write to Presidente Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Palacio Nacional, México, D.F., México. Copies of letters should be sent to GOHL, A.P. 1-1693, Guadalajara, Jalisco 44100, México. For a free translation of your letter into Spanish, send it to PyL, P.O. Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266, USA.

Seven years old, GOHL is one of the most accomplished groups in Latin America. Their offices at Madero 538 and 540 in downtown Guadalajara house their Gay Community Center and their popular Disco Boop's.

Recently, in cooperation with the International Lesbian & Gay Association, they started publishing the ILGA Latin American Information Bulletin in Spanish. Issue #3, just released, is 74 pages and covers news from all over Latin America. Write to GOHL for further information.



ASIAN LESBIAN NETWORK FORMED

The Asian Lesbian Network (ALN) has been formed in Thailand. Supported by the International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS), headquartered in Amsterdam, the Asian Lesbian Network aims to establish a space exclusively for Lesbians to meet each other in Bangkok, as well as to encourage similar groups throughout Asia.

Tang Unchana Suwannanond, the ALN organizer, recently completed two years work in Amsterdam with an organization called the Foundation Against Traffic in Women, counseling Thai women brought to Amsterdam for purposes of prostitution. Tang has now returned to Bangkok to work with a women's center around prostitutes' rights and to organize the Asian Lesbian Network.

A low-cost hostel for traveling lesbians and other women is the Network's first successful project. Opened in early 1989, the hostel, called "The Ladies Lodge", provides foreign women a safe lodging in Thailand and a chance to meet with Thai lesbians. Local Thai lesbians also use the hostel as a meeting place.

Another major project is the planning of a conference for Asian Lesbians, scheduled for December, 1989 in Bangkok. The meeting will be for activists who want to build a supportive regional network, to share organizing experiences and to plan future actions. Asian Lesbians from outside of Asia are very welcome. Contributions of money and material for the conference will be most appreciated.

To contact the Asian Lesbian Network, write to: The Ladies Lodge, P.O. Box 322, Rajdamnern, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. Please do not use the word lesbian on the envelope.

ITALIAN GAYS & COMMUNISTS JOIN FORCES

Italian Communists and Gays have joined together to create a higher public profile and greater political influence for the Italian Lesbian and Gay community. Previously

the state policy was one of tolerance of gays so long as they remained invisible.

Since 1979, ARCI-Gay, a part of the left-wing ARCI cultural movement (Italian Association for Recreation and Culture) which has over a million members, has led the way. Three years ago, when many different homosexual organizations decided to merge into ARCI-Gay, it became the main national lesbian and gay men's movement in Italy, with 25 branches all over the country.

Despite fierce opposition from the Catholic Church, in 1982 the Communist-led Bologna City Council gave ARCI-Gay an office in the city's ancient quarters, now the national headquarters of ARCI-Gay.

ARCI-Gay involvements include questions of civil rights, AIDS, military service, sex education in schools and cultural activities. In the 1987 general election seven openly gay candidates ran on a civil liberties and gay rights platform as part of the Italian Communist Party list of candidates. For more information, write to ARCI-Gay; Piazza di Porta Saragozza, 2; P.O. Box 691; 40100 Bologna; Italy.

MEXICAN WOMEN'S NEWS IN ENGLISH

"Correspondencia" is a 30 page English language magazine featuring news and analysis of the women's movement in México. Published by Mujer a Mujer/Woman to Woman in Mexico City & San Antonio, Texas, the magazine is entirely in English and costs only \$5 US for 4 issues.

Organized by Lesbians, this four year old group focuses on the overall Mexican women's movement, with the goal of bringing USA women and Mexican women closer together. Woman to Woman also features 3 or 4 eight day exchange trips to México during the year for activist women. Write to them at P.O. Box 12322, San Antonio, TX 78212 (Tel: 512/735-2629) or A.P. 24-553, Col. Roma, 06701 México, D.F., MEXICO.



U.S. MILITARY EXPEL GAY YOUTH IN BERLIN

Last August at the 5th International Lesbian and Gay Youth Conference in West Berlin about 30 of our girls and boys (the way they like to refer to themselves) decided to have a little fun, so they attended the popular annual "Folksfest" sponsored by the United States Armed Forces for the public's enjoyment.

After a while the MP's came to our young men and women and forced them to stand in line and marched them out of the Folksfest grounds and all the way out of the U.S. Zone of West Berlin!

According to Jon Voss of Sweden's Reporter, the U.S. Military claimed that the kids had been kissing each other! Horrors!!

The International Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization (IGLYO), like the other two international political/service networking organizations, ILGA & ILIS, moves its headquarters every two years or so, to another city and sponsoring group, generally in Europe. IGLYO recently moved from Oslo, Norway to Amsterdam, and can be contacted at: IGLYO, c/o LHJO, P.O. Box 542, NL 1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Subscriptions to their quarterly magazine are \$10 US (by international money order) and all ages are encouraged to subscribe and support IGLYO. Memberships are \$20 US. They also have a penpal program for youth.

HOMOPHOBIA IN MOROCCO

In Morocco, the popular magazine "Kalima" was suspended for one issue (censured) due to a plain speaking and direct article about male prostitution in Marrakech. So far homosexuality is not a theme for debate or discussion in Morocco, only of condemnation and silence.

ADVANCES IN TURKEY

"Gay Hotsa" of Bilbao, Spain reports that gays in Turkey are making some progress. While gays and

transvestites are still the object of police raids in Istanbul and Ankara, a two year old gay group associated with the Radical Party is bringing about change. Last summer 7 members of the group went on a hunger strike which was covered by the mass media and supported by the international gay and lesbian movement, headed up by the protest campaign of the International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA). As a result homosexuality has become a theme of public discussion in this Islamic country. For the first time, the potent Turkey press has opened a discussion about modern gay people.

PyL PRISON PENPAL PROGRAM

A recent article in the "Gay Community News" of Boston about PyL and our penpal lists has resulted in over 40 letters from prisoners in the USA, mostly gay and lesbian, who want to have penfriends.

Thus, PyL is setting up a Prison Penpal Program and urges your participation. Alan Portillo, a PyL volunteer, will serve as the Director of the Prison Penpal Program. Alan says that these prisoners, some doing long terms for simply picking up an underage hustler, are crying out for your compassion and friendship. While most are sincere, Alan recommends that you use your own common sense after your correspondence starts. If he or she asks for material things, like money, perhaps the correspondent is not sincere. Most will be rewarding experiences. "We need to remember our sisters and brothers in prison", says Alan.

Our first list of prisoners wanting penfriends is enclosed. If you could write to one that would be fine. If you would like more names or would like to be on a list sent to our prison correspondents, please rush off a note to Alan at the PyL address.



ARCI GAY

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Matthew Broderick.

MICHAEL PARIS

STRAIGHT TALK

Recently, a reporter asked Matthew Broderick how it felt "being straight" to kiss co-star Brian Kerwin in *Torch Song Trilogy*.

To which Broderick replied: "Who said I was straight?"

Harvey Fierstein, who gave Broderick his first acting job as his gay, adopted son off-Broadway in *Torch Song*, cackled. "It was a brave, but unnecessary thing for him to do, to say that to the press. I said, 'Honey, I want you to be proud of being straight. It's okay to be straight, it really is. And don't ever apologize if that's what you are.'"

PAZ Y LIBERACION

Editor: John Hubert

Translators:

Jorge Araujo Mendizabal
Tracy Boucher
Demetrio Boniche

Correspondence:

Español: Antonio Martinez
Asian: Adi and Caoky
Prisoners: Alan Portillo

Subscriptions: \$3 for 4 issues. Free in AALA countries. All contributions greatly appreciated and well spent. Sponsors for 1989 give \$100 towards mailing & printing costs.

Published in 4 Editions:
English, Spanish, Asian & Africa/Middle East.

READERS' COLUMN

Dear PyL,

I was wondering if you have any information about Lesbian/Gay Support groups in Thailand, my home country. I would like to take them some publications on my next visit, so that their community can be exposed to the U.S. Lesbian & Gay movement. I want to help my brothers and sisters in Thailand who have nothing and nobody to help them.

N.N., Seattle, Washington

Dear N.N.,

A new "Asian Lesbian Network" has just been formed and can be written to at: The Ladies Lodge, P.O. Box 322, Rajdamern, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. (See report this issue). So far no all-male or mixed female/male groups have started that we know of. Hopefully, real soon!

PyL

Dear PyL,

I thank you for opening avenues for me to express my feelings, dreams and aspirations. I am thankful for the door you open to let me be in contact with so many gay penpals all over the world. I am slowly, but surely learning to come to terms with myself. Penpals that become friends encourage growth. I hope to grow and one day offer my help to others too.

J.T., Singapore

Dear PyL,

I'm writing to request your list of worldwide penpals. At this time I am a prisoner of the State of Texas. In 1985 I was sentenced to 20 years for consensual contact with underage hustlers. My hope and dream is to one day live in a land where the people are more tolerant, where the laws and the

courts come closer to being just. It is very difficult for a prisoner here to find penpals in the outside. With few exceptions, like "GCN" of Boston, the gay community fails to recognize our existence at all.

During my adjustment to the prison experience my penpals have made a difference for me. I like to believe that I've done the same for others, both inside and outside prison. Truly, more of our brothers and sisters need to take a little time to help others.

R.H., Huntsville, Texas

(Ed:-See new PyL Prison Penpal Project report this issue and the first Prison Penpal List. R.H. is the third one on the list.)

Dear PyL,

I'd like to write some protest letters to extend my membership. Can you tell me what I need to do?

B.H., Louisiana

Dear B.H.,

In PyL #16 there were two protest letter campaigns to Colombia and Argentina and in this issue, one to Mexico. All three are urgent and important campaigns, supported by the ILGA.

Draft out a short, courteous letter based on the material in the PyL article. Try to keep it to less than one page.

Paragraph I might mention the complaint, in one or two sentences, taken from the PyL article. Identify the problem.

Paragraph II might have some of your philosophy about human rights. Paragraph III might close with the hope that the addressee will personally investigate the matter and protect the human rights of all citizens equally, including lesbians and gays. Send PyL a copy for the 6 months extension of your subscription for each protest letter you write.---PyL

Hot-Publications-Hot!

The ILIS Newsletter of the International Lesbian Information Service ("ILIS Network"). 24 pages in English & Spanish. Worldwide Lesbian networking, political and service info., contact ads. \$15 US full membership and subscription. ILIS, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ¡A Must!

SPEAK OUT, International Lesbian & Gay Youth quarterly. \$10 US for subscription, \$20 membership. Send Int'l M.O. for all overseas publications. IGLYO, c/o LHJO, P.O. Box 542, NL 1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ¡Support Our Youth!

TRIKONE, bi-monthly newsletter covering South Asia (India Sub-continent area)-\$10 North America, \$15 overseas. Trikone, P.O. Box 21354, San Jose, California 95151, USA. (news, coming out stories, contact ads: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, etc)

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#18

August-October, 1989

THAILAND TO HOST GAY CONFERENCE

"Asian Wind", the English language publication of the Japanese International Lesbian & Gay Association (JILGA), has announced that the 3rd Asian Gay Conference will be held in August 1990 in Bangkok, Thailand. JILGA, sponsoring group of the first two Asian Gay Conferences in 1986 and 1988 will work with "Neon Magazine", the host organization for the 1990 conference. It is expected to be a big hit, with a gay tour of Bangkok and other surprises already being arranged. Asian and non-Asian organizations worldwide are invited. Write to Mr. Nukul Benchamet; Neon Magazine; 290/1 Phichai Road; Dusit, Bangkok 10300; Thailand.

JILGA, who serves as the Asian Information Pool for the ILGA is planning visits to South Korea, Hong Kong, and Malaysia to offer help to existing groups and to try to plant seeds, working towards the formation of new gay & lesbian groups in these countries.

MEXICAN LESBIAN GROUP OPENS OFFICE

The Grupo Lésbico Patlatonalli of Guadalajara, México has inaugurated their new "Casa Lésbica" (Lesbian Home) at Belgica 672-B. With lots of enthusiasm, through without much money they managed to rent their own place, paint and decorate their office and meeting room with couches, chairs, tables, posters, photographs and lots of plants. Patlatonalli feels it is important to women still in their closets to have a safe, secure and private meeting place where they can come to and find the open-armed welcome of the Grupo Lésbico Patlatonalli. All Guadalajara groups joined Patlatonalli for their joyous house warming ceremony and inauguration. Patlatonalli welcomes people to write and visit

(continued - page 3)

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN BRAZIL

The Grupo Gay da Bahia (The Gay Group of the State of Bahia) reports that in the last 8 years, 320 gays & lesbians have been assassinated in Brazil, victims of macho intolerance. Despite constitutional guarantees for all Brazilians and the legality of homosexuality, gays and lesbians in Brazil live under the rule of "apartheid" and a sentence of death.

Two common sayings are: "It is worse to be homosexual than to die" and "I prefer my son to be a thief or dead, than to be homosexual". In 1987, for example, Colonel Pomponet of Bahia killed his son Augusto Cesar upon discovering his gay orientation, believing that what he did was right. Homosexuals are humiliated, driven from their homes and jobs, stoned, jailed without motive and assassinated with impunity. A gay or lesbian is assassinated every 10 days according to GGB.

GGB and the other groups in Brazil are doing their best to eliminate this macho violence through protests and educational efforts. Some government leaders and other civic and cultural personalities are backing them.

However, some of the trashier popular daily journals actually encourage violence against gay people. In Salvador, the city where GGB is located, the newspaper "A Tarde" constantly attacks and insults GGB and homosexuals in general, writing such lines as "To kill a homosexual is not a murder: it is a hunting trophy" and "Keep the city clean: Kill a homosexual every day" (A Tarde, 11/15/88).

GGB requests letters to the Editor of "A Tarde" protesting against their disrespect for the human rights of gay people. Also they urge a letter

(continued - page 4)

INT'L. LESBIAN PUBLICATION GROWS

The International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS Network), headquartered in Amsterdam, has upgraded their bilingual "ILIS Newsletter" to 24 pages, packed with activist information in English and Spanish.

The Spring 1989 issue includes an interview with GALF, the Lesbian group in Perú, news on Argentinian Dykes, an interview with a Nicaraguan Lesbian, a story on Kowalski and Thompson, free contact ads for wimmin and much more. Subscriptions, including full membership, are only \$15 US for individuals and \$60 US for organizations. Please send by Int'l Money Order to: ILIS, c/o COC, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

INT'L. YOUTH MEET IN COPENHAGEN

The Sixth Annual International Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Youth Conference was held in Denmark from July 30 to August 3rd. Sponsored by the International Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization (IGLYO), this year's Conference Theme was "Sexuality" and a variety of workshops and discussions were held around this theme.

A Symposium on Intolerance is being planned to be held at the European Youth Center in Strasbourg, France, & IGLYO is requesting stories about intolerance written by youth to help them bring your case to the attention of the European Council and other world bodies.

New youth groups joining IGLYO from the USA include organizations from Tucson, Minneapolis, Stanford, and Penn State University. Memberships for groups or individuals are only \$20 US and subscriptions to their magnificent publication, "Speak Out", are \$10 US. American Express Int'l. Money Orders will be easiest to cash. IGLYO also has a penpal scheme for youth. Write to: IGLYO, c/o LHJO, P.O. Box 542, NL-1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Top age for voting membership is 26 but everyone is welcome to join & subscribe to "Speak Out". If your local youth or university group is not already an IGLYO

member, please bring this to their attention...or consider a Xmas gift membership for them.

GAY MARRIAGES LEGALIZED IN DENMARK

Denmark has become the first country in the world to legalize marriages between people of the same sex. The new law gives homosexual marriage the status of "registered partnership" with full inheritance rights and requiring official divorce proceedings for dissolution.

Registered partners, besides automatically inheriting from each other, will have the duty to support each other, and will be taxed as married couples and will have access to the same social services as heterosexual couples.

At least one member of the partnership needs to be a Danish citizen and have her/his residence in Denmark. The new law does not require the Lutheran State Church to bless homosexual marriages and also did not give us adoption rights. Danish activists expect that both rights will be won in the future.

USA NATIONAL LATIN ORGANIZATION

The Latino/a Lesbian y Gay Organization (LLEGO) has sent Pyl 25 copies of their informative bi-monthly publication "LLEGO Información". The first five pages are in English and include the History of LLEGO, Stories about AIDS, News of Latino/a groups across the USA and more. Page 6 is in Spanish. Readers interested in a copy can send a 25 cent stamp to Pyl, P.O.Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266. Memberships in LLEGO, which include the newsletter, are \$15 a yr. Write: LLEGO; 714 G St., S.E.; Washington, D.C. 20003, USA.

ASIAN LESBIAN CONFERENCE UPDATE

The International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS Network) in Amsterdam has announced that the first Asian Lesbian Conference will be held around June 1990, not this year in December, as announced in
(continued next page)

PyL #17. That will give everyone more time to get ready and will assure Bangkok's center stage position in 1990 for Asian Lesbian & Gay Liberation. For more information write to the ILIS address on page 2.

GRUPO LESBICO PATLATONALLI (from page 1)

them and they also appreciate donations for their Library for Women. Patlatonalli offers psychological and legal consultations, workshops on Personal Defense, Lesbian Identity, Lesbian Mothers, Lesbian Art & Feminist Creativity and much more. Write to Grupo Patlatonalli; Apartado Postal 1-623; 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco; México.

AFRICAN GROUP FIGHTS APARTHEID

The Gay & Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand (GLOW) is a multi-racial lesbian and gay organization committed to opposing apartheid. Formed in 1988 in the Soweto, Johannesburg area, the group is composed of blacks and whites with women making up about 25% of the membership. Blacks are in the majority. Prominent gay anti-apartheid activist, Simon Nkoli, who was recently acquitted of treason in the 3 year long Vaal 22 trial, is the Chairperson of GLOW.

GLOW aims to fulfill both a political and a social function. The group is interested in getting in touch with international organizations to maintain a flow of information both ways. They would also like to help other groups throughout Africa to get started. GLOW may be contacted c/o Glen Shelton, South African Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 31044, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa, or directly to: GLOW, P.O. Box 23297 Joubert Park, Johannesburg 2044, South Africa. Sometimes censorship of mail occurs, thus two addresses.

FAMOUS QUOTES

Aziz Ahmed, Bangladesh (In Trikone 9/88)

"Things have changed in the last ten years, and they are still changing. I grew up thinking I am the only gay man in the world, and now, twelve years after that, I am aware that there are millions of South Asian gays and lesbians. We have a lot of power in our hands. As we become more visible as gays and lesbians we challenge the myth that there are no lesbian or gay South Asians. We also draw strength from each other."

NEW LESBIAN GROUP IN GREECE

Lesbians in Thessaloniki, Greece are seeking contacts with other groups around the world to help them build an information base. Books, pamphlets posters, magazines and newspaper articles will be appreciated. Write to Dora Phillipakopoulou; Kallia Kornelia; Stefanou Tatti 1; GR 54622 Thessaloniki; Greece.

GAY GROUP IN EGYPT

A gay group in Egypt has been meeting for about two years in private residences. However, due to fear of harassment and arrest, they feel it is necessary to continue operating underground, restricting opportunities to reach out to other needy lesbians and gays in Egypt and making outside contacts difficult. They can be written to, in care of the ILGA Information Secretariat, RFSL, Box 350, S-10124 Stockholm, Sweden.

GAY LIBERATION GROUP - GHANA

The Gay Liberation Group (GLG) of Nkawkaw, Ghana, is trying to get off the ground. They presently have 14 members and meet secretly. They express a fear of going public and request moral and financial support (for printing, etc) from groups and individuals. Write to Festus Owusu Sekyere, P.O. Box 282, Nkawkaw-E/R, Ghana, West Africa.

PAKISTANI SEEKS POLITICAL ASYLUM

Trikone, the USA based South Asian support organization, and ILGA, the Sweden based International Lesbian & Gay Association, are asking people worldwide to write protest letters to support a gay Pakistani living in West Berlin who has asked for political asylum on the basis of his sexual orientation. Having lived 8 years in West Berlin, he says that it is impossible for him to go back to Pakistan because punishments are very severe for homosexuality. The West German government wants to deport him since they say there is no death sentence for homosexuality in Pakistan, the sentence being a public whipping
(continued next page)

and flogging. However, flogging methods used against gays in Pakistan are often fatal. The last public flogging of two homosexuals in Karachi, the capital, resulted in the death of one man during the punishment.

VIOLENCE IN BRAZIL (from page 1)

to the President of the Salvador City Council with copies of both to GGB.

The addresses are: Redator Chefe Do Jornal "A Tarde"; Av. Magalhães Neto, s/n; Caminho das Arvores; Salvador, Bahia; Brasil, and Presidente Da Camara Municipal De Salvador; Praça Municipal; Salvador, Bahia; Brasil. You can write to GGB in English, Portuguese or Spanish at: GGB; C.P. 2552; 40020 Salvador, Bahia; Brasil.

Nine year old GGB publishes a 3 times a year 8 page bulletin in Portuguese. Subscriptions are \$5 US by int'l money order or cash. They also accept personal ads in any language for a \$2 contribution. The group is presently distributing 5000 condoms a month as part of the GGB campaign against AIDS. They participate several times a month in TV & radio debates and interviews about homosexuality & AIDS, write protest letters, attend conferences and meet with representatives of other Brazilian and int'l groups. GGB has become the first overseas chapter of the USA based Black & White Men Together and was the first Latin American group to become a member of the Int'l Lesbian & Gay Assn.

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS

Passport - Gay Asian news & articles, plus 10 pages of personal ads with emphasis on Asian men. 12 issues \$25US. IWI, 2215-R Market St #236, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA. Single copies \$3.50 USA & \$5 elsewhere.

Correspondencia - 30 page English language magazine about women's movement in Mexico. Also feature USA/Mexico exchange trips. Write: Woman to Woman, P.O. Box 12322, San Antonio, TX 78212, USA.

East/West Magazine - Asian travel & cultural articles, classifieds, male oriented. \$12.50 US for 6 months or \$25 year by Int'l. M.O. Write: LYC, BCM/WISDOM, London WC1N 3XX, England.

Macho Tips - 66 pages of news, stories & features in Spanish about Gay Mexico. Some Lesbian pages. Guide, maps, classifieds. \$3.75 from IWI, 2215-R Market St #236, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA.



NETWORKING ADS

Work Needed - 38 yr old veteran with 2 yrs liberal arts degree. Would like gay boss or company, major metro area. Has travel funds to relocate. Job interest-General Asst/Helper. Expert: clerical/office, mail, driving & delivery, filing & supervising. All office machinery & data processing. Salary open. Write Glen Hilliard; RFD #1, Box 20; Sontag, MS 39665. Phone (601) 587-7132.

Female Seeks information on clubs or magazines with personal ads reaching England & Germany, and Hong Kong/Singapore. Write to Caroline Williams, P.O. Box 11364, Wilmington, Delaware 19850, USA

READER'S COLUMN

Dear PyL,

If PyL isn't paying for itself, you have every reason to raise the price. The expenses are about triple the income. All right, raise the annual subscription rate to \$10. People will pay it. We don't subscribe to PyL for entertainment, but for information. To put my money where my mouth is, I'm sending \$10 for a subscription. I'm also sending two protest letters to be translated into Spanish.

-Nina Wouk, Menlo Park, California

Dear PyL,

\$3 is too little. Charge \$10 for 4 issues and, if possible, use the excess funds to subsidize issues to poorer countries.

-Peter McKnight, Norwalk, Conn.

(Ed: These letters make sense, so up goes the subscription rate for most people. Also thanks to Nina for being our #1 Protest Letter Writer in 1989 and for the extra 45 cent stamps for mailing free copies of PyL to Asia & Latin America.)

Hot-Publications-Hot!

The ILIS Newsletter of the International Lesbian Information Service ("ILIS Network"). 24 pages in English & Spanish. Worldwide Lesbian networking, political and service info., contact ads. \$15 US full membership and subscription. ILIS, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ¡A Must!

SPEAK OUT, International Lesbian & Gay Youth quarterly. \$10 US for subscription, \$20 membership. Send Int'l M.O. for all overseas publications. IGLYO, c/o LHJO, P.O. Box 542, NL 1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ¡Support Our Youth!

TRIKONE, bi-monthly newsletter covering South Asia (India Sub-continent area)-\$10 North America, \$15 overseas. Trikone, P.O. Box 21354, San Jose, California 95151, USA. (news, coming out stories, contact ads: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, etc.)

PAZ Y LIBERACION

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Translators:

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PAZ Y LIBERACION

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#19
November-December, 1989

MEXICO AWARDED 1991 ILGA WORLD CONFERENCE

Guadalajara, México was chosen during the July World Conference in Vienna to be the host city for the 13th International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference in 1991. This will be the first time that the ILGA Conference has been held in an AALA Country (also known as the so called "Third World").

GOHL, the "Gay Pride Group for Liberation", an eight year old multi-purpose organization, presented the successful bid at the Vienna Conference. Pedro Preciado Negrete, Director of GOHL and their Lesbian & Gay Community Service Center, invites active participation from USA and Canadian organizations and individuals to help make this historic conference a success. Write to: GOHL; Apartado Postal 1-1693; 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco; México.

INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT TO GET LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

In the Indian sub-continent there is a strong assumption that homosexuality is a "white disease" brought by colonialism, or by the Moghals. Even in Asian communities in the USA & Europe, it is assumed that the West has contaminated the minds and desires of lesbians and gays, causing their homosexuality.

Additionally, in the Indian sub-continent there is no context whereby the issue of being gay can be discussed. It is up to the Asian lesbians and gays to actually create the debate themselves. SHAKTI of London and Trikone, in the USA, are embarking on the task of starting this debate.

Within the history of the sub-continent there has always been homosexuality. Sex between those of the same gender is discussed in many

(continued - page 4)

THAILAND ACTIVIST GROUP FORMS

Natee Teerarojja Napongs, a Thai gay activist and leader of a gay dance troupe "Purple String", which has been putting on safe sex shows for the past year, has established an AIDS education group called F.A.C.T. - Fraternity for AIDS Cessation in Thailand.

F.A.C.T. sends out teams of outreach volunteers to Bangkok's major cruise areas to talk to men on sex hunts and to pass out brochures. F.A.C.T. is also counseling bar-boys who are facing HIV positive status.

Natee, who participated in the recent International AIDS Conference in Montreal, has been contracted by the Thai Public Health Ministry and the World Health Organization to do a series of 200 safe sex shows, with the emphasis being on the promotion of condoms. The shows feature demonstrations of how to correctly put on a "toong yahng" (condom), with vegetables substituting for the real thing, and contests between representatives of different bars to see who does it best!

Thailand, a country without sexual hang-ups, has 400 bars and nightclubs in Bangkok, of which 55 are gay bars. Bangkok has an estimated 1,200 bar-boys, who dance, wait on tables, perform sex shows in some clubs, and often go home with customers.

F.A.C.T., the first gay organization in Thailand in recent history, can be written to at: Khun Natee/F.A.C.T., 100/28 M. 14 Soi Charoenpatana, Pattanakarn Road, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Contributions should be made out to Natee Teerarojja Napongs and sent via international money order.



SHAKTI

south asian lesbian and gay network

GAY ARAB GROUP IN U.S.A.

The Arabic Society is a new gay Arab group in Washington, D.C. They have about 15 to 20 members and would like to hear from other Gay Arabs around the USA and overseas. Should you be interested in starting a Gay Arab group in your city, they would be pleased to help you. For more information, write to Ramzi Zakharia, The Arabic Society, P.O. Box 4971, Washington, D.C. 20008.

INT'L. YOUTH OPEN N.AMERICAN BUREAU

The International Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization (IGLYO), headquartered in Amsterdam, has opened their first Bureau in Washington, D.C., covering the USA, Canada & México.

Bruce Douglas, the Director of the IGLYO North American Bureau, asks that all youth groups and interested individuals contact him at ILGYO; Suite 109; 4410 Massachusetts Ave, NW; Washington, D.C. 20016. IGLYO would appreciate help in updating their mailing list of youth groups, university groups, etc. Bruce says, "We are excited about expanding operations in North America. We need your help!"

WHAT IS IGLYO?

The International Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization is a seven year old effort to further the interests of lesbian & gay youth worldwide. They hold a yearly world conference, the 1989 being held in Copenhagen, Denmark, and publish a quarterly news letter "Speak Out". The Administrative IGLYO Bureau is in Amsterdam where the Dutch IGLYO volunteers busily attend to answering letters, dealing with problems, reading all kind of magazines, editing "Speak Out", arranging the Pen Pal scheme, doing publicity, mailings, and drinking coffee to keep themselves awake!

The upper age limit for participation in IGLYO activities is 26 years. IGLYO is presently campaigning to add more memberships in the USA & Canada. "Speak Out" is sent free to lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and student

groups worldwide. Others can subscribe for \$10.00 (any age) and memberships, including "Speak Out" are \$20 or more. Write to IGLYO, c/o LHJO, P.O. Box 542, 1000 AM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Send funds via int'l. money order.

BANGKOK CONFERENCE PLANS SET

The 3rd Asian Gay Conference, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand August 24-26, 1990, will feature discussions on AIDS, Law, Lifestyle, the Twining Project (weaker groups with more established groups), and Gay Films and Art.

Tours of Bangkok and hiking and swimming outings are being planned. The conference is open to everyone, Asian or non-Asian. Write to Teishiro Minami, the chief organizer, at JILGA, 201 Hohyu Bldg, 2-11-9 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.

Asian Wind, the English language publication of the Asian Information Pool & JILGA, has increased its size to 12 pages. They seek news items about Asia and are now accepting personal ads for \$5 US. Copies of Asian Wind are \$4 from the JILGA address above. All funds and contributions go to support the Asian Information Pool outreach, including travel to other Asian countries for the purpose of expanding the gay movement in all Asian nations. Three members of JILGA (Japanese ILGA Support Group) will be visiting South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore in the coming months on behalf of the Asian Information Pool.

INT'L. WOMEN'S CENTER IN MEXICO

"Oasis" is the name of a new international women's center in Tepoztlan, México, a beautiful magic village 1 1/2 hours from Mexico City and 30 minutes from Cuernavaca.

Oasis has an international library and documentation center, offers womyn's dances and rituals, space for meetings, and possibilities to give concerts and workshops. Camping facilities are available at \$3 per night, as well as "sleeping in" at \$3 per night or \$5 with use of kitchen.

(continued - page 3)



INT'L. WOMEN'S CENTER - MEXICO
(from page 2)

Oasis seeks feminist and lesbian books and magazines, bedding and office supplies, plus money for running Oasis. Write in English or Spanish to: Oasis; c/o Safuega; Lista de Correos; Tepoztlan, Morelos 62520; M E X I C O.

PUERTO RICAN GROUP RECEIVES GRANTS

The Colectivo de Concientización Gay (CCG), the "Collective for Gay Awareness", has received two grants; \$500 from the Kimeta Society of Canada to establish a Lesbian & Gay Hotline, and a similar amount from the National Community Funds, via the Episcopal Church of Levittown, to support their newsletter.

CCG is presently trying to organize a parents group and a MCC church affiliate. They have also established support groups and a telephone line for people affected with AIDS or HIV.

CCG is seeking funds to establish a permanent office in San Juan. Write them at: CCG, Apartado 1003, Estación Viejo San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902. For a free copy of their latest newsletter in Spanish, send a 25 cent stamp to PyL, Box 66450, Houston.

SINGAPORE CLOSES ALL GAY DISCOS

Passport Magazine reports that the homophobic government of the city state of Singapore has finally decided to close all Gay Clubs and Discos. July 23, 1989 saw the closure of "Shadow", the last gay disco in Singapore.

Previously Big Brother Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, in order to prevent AIDS (you can catch it from dancing, you know!) locked up "Niche" and "Legends", the two other popular gay night spots.

East-West Magazine of London reports that before the closure of Niche, plain clothes police visited Niche for four nights in a row, questioning customers and taking photographs, obviously in an attempt to intimidate the gay patrons.

Letters of protest may be sent to: Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister; Government House; Singapore; Singapore. Short friendly letters urging P.M. Lee to defend equal human rights for all citizens, including lesbians and gays, will help the most. Every letter will assist our friends in Singapore to gain their freedom!

THAI BILINGUAL GAY MAGAZINE

Midway Magazine is a three year old publication in Thailand with a slick cover and more than 25 pages of color photos of Thai men. Midway has a bilingual format offering its text in Thai and English. For a sample copy, send \$6.00, including postage, to IWI, 2215R Market St #236, San Francisco, CA 94114.

WHAT IS THE ILGA?

The ILGA is an entirely volunteer organization comprised of various Secretariats, each run by an established lesbian and gay organization. The Secretariats are generally operated by a group for a couple of years, after which the responsibilities pass to a new organization. The heart and soul of the ILGA has been European activist groups for the past 11 years. However, in recent years, they have successfully brought in many new members from AALA Countries (Asia, Africa, Latin America) and are campaigning to add many more groups from North America to their active membership list.

At present the Information Secretariat is located in Sweden, the Action Secretariat in West Germany, the Financial Secretariat in England and the Women's Secretariat in The Netherlands.

Additionally, the ILGA has Information Pools for Latin America, headquartered in México; for Asia, located in Japan; and for Eastern Europe, run by a group in Austria.

The ILGA also has numerous on-going projects, each one which is administered by a separate ILGA member organization. Such projects include the Lesbian & Gay Prisoners Project, Gays & Lesbians in the Military, Christian Churches, ILGA Archives, ICEBERG (to uncover

(continued - page 4)

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INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT (from page 1)

Hindu texts and sex manuals. Homo-
sexual activity was also depicted in
religious statues.

SHAKTI, the South Asian Lesbian &
Gay Network in London, England, has
established a political arm, SHAKTI
SWARAJ, to campaign for lesbian and
gay rights both within the United Kin
gdom and especially within the sub-
continent which includes India, Pakis
tan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal,
Bhutan & Tibet. SHAKTI will be join-
ing TriKone of the USA and KHUSH of
Canada in this historic effort.

SHAKTI considers that the first
step is to educate our own communitie
s about the historical context of
homosexuality within the sub-contin-
ent and then to develop the language
to discuss and debate the idea of
"gay" relationships, a relatively new
idea for the Indian sub-continent,
where two people of the same gender
may wish to live together within an
emotional and sexual bond akin to
marriage between heterosexual couples.

One year old, SHAKTI provides regu
lar events and discos based on South
Asian music for their local groups in
London, Lancaster, Birmingham, Brad-
ford and Manchester. They have sever
al sub-groups such as SHAKTI PARIVAR,
a self help network for parents of
lesbians and gay men; Women in SHAKTI,
a support group for South Asian les-
bians; SHAKTI Arts Group, which devel
ops visual and performing arts with
lesbian and gay themes related to
South Asian culture; and a 12 page
newsletter "SHAKTI KHABAR". They are
presently setting up an HIV/AIDS
worker group and a business develop-
ment arm.

For more information, write to
Shivananda Khan, Director, SHAKTI,
BM Box 3167, London WC1N 3XX, England.
For a copy of "SHAKTI KHABAR", send
a \$3 or more contribution.



WHAT IS THE ILGA? (from page 3)

and combat discrimination) and
Amnesty International. The ILGA has
applied for observer status in the
United Nations and the Council of
Europe. They publish the "Pink Book",
a country-by-country survey of the
current situation for Lesbian & Gay
rights, as well as the ILGA Bulletin,
a bi-monthly with details of ILGA
activities and actions.

Protest letter campaigns have pro-
ven to be one of the ILGA's most impor
tant tools. Countries are sensitive
of their international reputations,
especially in regard to human rights.
At present the ILGA has twenty Actions
in progress, covering political, gov-
ernmental or police problems in Brazil,
South Africa, Greece, Austria, Chile,
Turkey, Spain, England, México, Belg-
ium, Australia, Ireland, Colombia and
Argentina.

For more information about the ILGA
and memberships, write to the ILGA
Information Secretariat, c/o RFSL,
Box 350, S-101 24 Stockholm, Sweden.



India



READERS' COLUMN

Dear PyL,

I am enclosing a check for \$15.00, an outright
contribution to PyL to help out. This is 1/2 of my
prison pay for a month. But I wanted to help out.
Please don't put my name in PyL as it may do harm to
me if it gets out in here. I do need someone to write
to, but can't do that now. I wanted to show that not
all prisoners rip people off when they are written to.

Trenton, New Jersey

Dear PyL,

I'll be very happy and grateful if you could
mail me a copy of the Asian Edition of "Peace & Liber-
ation". I'm quite eager to go thru it 'cause it has
got items and many listings from India. India is very
different you know, unlike other countries. No one
ever comes out openly. People don't or rather haven't
learned to respect love, love of all sorts. We're
still way back.

Suneel Chauhan
Poona, India

Dear PyL,

How delightful to find #1 of the African/Middle
East "Peace & Liberation" in my post box this week.
It is a fine piece of news. In these parts NO gay
publications are tolerated, regardless of content.
Even newsletters are officially "pornography" in almost
all of Sub-Saharan Africa. So, your discreet newsletter
will be doubly welcome.

N.B.
Nairobi, Kenya

(Ed: PyL would especially appreciate more contacts in
Africa and Arab lands. We'll send them a free sub-
scription discreetly.)