

# News2

Continued from page 26 bition was "artistic expression."

#### Jailed for a kiss

FITZROY, AUSTRALIA—A gay Australian Army captain alleges he was thrown in jail after publicly kissing his boyfriend at the local McDonalds. Jamie Polich, 31, and his partner Duncan Phillips, 30, said they were locked up for four hours at a police station for public drunkenness—although they claim they only had a few drinks before their late night snack. Polich said he was arrested by two policemen after he gave his boyfriend a "playful kiss." Phillips was also jailed when he later confronted police at the station for what he described as an "abuse of power." Polich's case goes to court in late October.

#### Fear cancels festival

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA—Francisco Madrigal, director of Costa Rica's gay/lesbian Association Triangulo Rosa, filed a complaint in the Supreme Court against Roman Arrieta Villalobos, the Archbishop of San Jose, and Minor de Jesus Calvo, parish priest. Triangulo Rosa also placed a complaint with the Defensoria de los Habitantes, the government's ombudsmen organization, against the President of Costa Rica, Dr. Miguel Angel Rodriguez. The complaints were filed as a result of public statements made by the three in the nation's media with respect to a planned gay/lesbian festival which was to have been held in August. The festival was canceled because of the fear of violence against participants. On August 2, a national religious holiday, Dr. Rodriguez was quoted in the press as saying "It's important that the indicated authorities not grant any permits for any type of public activities for this festival." Arrieta stated, "I fervently desire that legal means be found to impede this festival from being carried out...." Calvo criticized the relationships of gay couples as going against nature and being "corrupt and loose." He also said that he would like to be part of any demonstration against the activity.

SUNDAY

Jello Shooters • 50/50 Raffle

5:00pm - Pool Tournament with Trophy

Prizes at Midnight

Presentation of Mr. Brass Rall

with Leather Sash

### Right type of park arrests

LINZ, AUSTRIA—Police arrested a gang of seven Turkish thugs who victimized more than 50 gay men since March. The attackers lured the men into bushes in downtown parks then punched, kicked and robbed them, officials said.

### Man fights blood ban

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—A Melbourne man who was rejected as a blood donor after disclosing his homosexuality has launched legal action against the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, accusing it of discrimination. The man, identified as Scott, told the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal that the Red Cross had no right to judge his sexual habits. Counsel for the Red Cross told the hearing that the service was bound by the Therapeutic Goods Act to refuse the blood of those in HIV high risk categories, and was bound by the National Blood Transfusion Committee's guidelines and the Code of Good Manufacturing Practice. The tribunal has reserved its deci-

#### Gay photo undoes MP

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND—Tommy Graham has become the first MP to be expelled from the Labour Party for eight years. Graham, a 33-year party member, said he would seek judicial review of the decision and had no intention of resigning. Labour's National Constitutional Committee found Graham guilty on five charges — offering a film negative of a sexually compromising photograph of a gay trade union official to other union officials in return for the personnel file of an election opponent; offering a photograph to a third unidentified man; bad-mouthing MP Irene Adams, calling her "a drunken whore;" election irregularities in 1996; and a catch-all charge of bringing the party into disrepute.

#### Gay teachers protected

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Schoolteachers cannot be fired for revealing they are gay, Colombia's highest court has ruled. In a 5-4 vote, the Constitutional Court overturned as discriminatory a 1979 law which made a teacher's homosexuality grounds for dismissal. No teachers had been fired under the 1979 law, but the court action was important to prevent that from happening. The decision applied to teachers from grade school through university.

## Sodomy trial

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—One day after jailed dissident Anwar Ibrahim appeared in court with a swollen black eye and bruises, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said "it's not impossible" that Anwar, his former deputy, inflicted his own injuries to gain a public relations advantage as he battles to clear his name of sodomy charges. Mahathir said it was premature to blame police for the beating. Mahathir promised to investigate Anwar's assertion that he was beaten unconscious on his first night in custody. In court, Anwar was charged with engaging in homosexual sex. He pleaded not guilty. Anwar has pleaded not guilty to five counts of sodomy and five counts of corruption; four of the five corruption charges involving allegations that he tried to interfere with police investigations into the sex charges. No trial date was set. The men who allegedly confessed to having sexual relations with Anwar have appealed their sodomy convictions. Anwar said the confessions were coerced while in detention and believes all allegations have been fabricated by the government.

### Transsexual mayor

QUELLENDORF, GERMANY-The mayor of this tiny village announced this summer he'd start wearing women's clothes and eventually have a sex-change operation. Six of the village council's eight members have approved a referendum for Nov. 29 on whether Mayor Norbert Michael Lindner should be impeached. Uwe Pforte, deputy mayor and council member, said the mayor had lost the public's trust in this village of 1048 people. The mayor's critics had collected 175 signatures on a petition seeking his ouster. Lindner, elected to a seven-year term in 1996, was not permitted to address the council meeting. Lindner, who is married and has four daughters, heads a small environmental firm and his family has strongly supported him publicly.



**Anniversary Fundraiser** 

For Hospice at Charlotte

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

October 23, 24 & 25

Special Anniversary Schedule

SATURDAY

Jello Shooters

50/50 Raffle

Leatherman Demonstration

Prizes at Midnight

FRIDAY

Jello Shooters

50/50 Raffle

Meet the Contestants

Prizes at Midnight