Venues to Open

Major venues are being planned for Silom’s Soi 4, with the former Molly’s Jump expected to reopen sometime this month as an open air bar with low-priced drinks, as well as a Chinese restaurant down at the end of the soi opposite Sphinx.

The restaurant will be called Little Hong Kong.

Molly’s Jump, opposite Telephone, will be called Gallery or Balcony, according to rumour. Both are expected to begin operations this month.

Rome Club Set to Dazzle

Bangkok’s most dazzling drag queens, clad in gaudy costumes and spacey big hair, will greet patrons to the Rome Club on Wednesday evenings beginning sometime in March for the most extravagant fun in town.

Rome invites you to “leave your scruples behind and come wallow in pure decadent paradise with fellow pleasure-seekers who aren’t afraid to live a little.”

Music will be spun by the best DJs featuring “fun, funky, campy, cheezy but ultimately boogie-woogie get-down grooves.”

Party-goers will also be privileged to see the “tackiest films ever” about “Vegas glitz” including Casino and Viva Las Vegas.

Every week will feature a look-a-like contest. Contestants will dress like glitzy Vegas celebrities and parade their personas for compelling prizes, Rome says.

Contestants will need to sign up by Saturday to prepare for the following Wednesday’s show. Upon signing up, contestants will receive a bio file with a picture, music recording and so forth on the celebrity they are impersonating. And the dress code? “Not naked” says Rome.

Get Pink Ink at these locations!

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Queer Report

The Sicilian gay man who torched himself in the Vatican’s St. Peter’s Square Jan. 13 has died of his burns. Alfredo Ormando, 40, set himself alight then rushed toward the entrance to the basilica. Documents found in his nearby coat said he was protesting society’s and his family’s failure to understand homosexuals.

British Columbia’s groundbreaking law giving gay and lesbian couples the same rights and obligations as heterosexuals in the areas of child support, custody and access took effect Feb. 4; Christian preachers and 50 of their supporters marched through downtown Nassau, Bahamas, Feb. 3 to protest a planned stop by a gay cruise at a private island owned by Norwegian Cruise Line. Two unnamed European men have become the first gays to receive aid from the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust.

Marriage law and the month-old “Registration of Partnership” law are now virtually identical in The Netherlands. The government said Feb. 6 it is removing the only clause that made the two laws significantly different: Registered partners will now be permitted to adopt children.

Eighty-two gay men, 42 transvestites and six lesbians were murdered last year in Brazil because of their sexuality, according to a new report from Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB), which states homosexuals are the most hated of all minorities there.

‘‘According to a survey carried out by Datalonia and Agenda do Estado, of all social minorities in Brazil, homosexuals are the main victims of prejudice and discrimination, more hated than blacks, Jews, women, indigenous or elderly people. Homosexuals are insulted and assaulted by strangers and relatives, thrown out of their homes, beaten by the police, rejected by churches and by the military,’’ GGB said.

A gay shepherd in Africa Nuovo, Italy, was tortured and left for dead by the Ndrangheta Calabrian Mafia Jan. 30, police said; British foreign-intelligence service MI6 has sent its first gay couple off on a spy mission; Gay groups and trade unions are staging The 1998 International Conference on Trade Unions, Homosexuality and Work in Amsterdam this summer prior to the Gay Games; Thirty-eight thousand people marched through Melbourne, Australia’s St. Kilda area Feb. 1 in the city’s third annual Pride March.

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Monogamy or not to be

I don’t believe in monogamy and this is why: it’s restrictive, impractical and highly unrealistic. Your average guy is little more than a biological machine raging with hormones, and expecting such a one to remain “faithful” till death do you part is one sure way to get your heart broken. It doesn’t happen. Am I being cynical? Perhaps. And just the same, perhaps I’m being pragmatic.

I’ve talked to lots of guys - young and old - and with few exceptions, strict monogamy is rare indeed. What they say, and what they do, are often two different things. Most of us who believe that monogamy would be “nice” but they themselves are unable to abide by it.

As with so many things, one has to look to Mother Nature for a little guidance. Males most often make it their primary duty to get as many of their genes into the gene pool as possible - roughly translated, that means having sex with as many creatures as possible. The female, on the other hand, often settled in with the responsibility for the offspring. Is far more choosy in her choice of a partner: she wants the best, strongest, most fit, healthiest, the most perfect partner available. And rightly so. She also has little interest in non-monogamous relationships because “sharing” her mate with others will lead to a loss of resources for herself and her offspring. (You can argue the sexism of this if you will, but this is standard biological fare.)

Consequently, when two men get together, their primary urge is to - surprise - have sex with as many people as possible. They may not understand this. They may not be aware of it. They are simply driven - by genes, by hormones, by all the things that make up the male species of any type of animal.

If you carry on with this line of thinking, you’ll soon realise the pointlessness of trying to force two men to be monogamous. Fact is, they may very well be incapable of it. When Mother Nature calls, one tends to respond, willingly or not.

My point in making this point is simply this: why not acknowledge this to be the case and get on with it.

Sex and love are two vastly different things. Finding someone sexually attractive is not difficult; finding someone to love. And when you find that someone, expecting them to be able to satisfy your sexual needs for the rest of your life is probably a bit absurd.

Far better - and far more practical - is to acknowledge the fact that once in awhile you will feel that certain urge to go out and do that certain thing - and leave it at that. After all, how many times do you wake up in the morning next to that hot stud and discover you can’t get rid of him fast enough?

There’s something to be said for being generous enough to allow your partner some sexual freedom. As long as you know, at the end of the day, he’ll come home to you, what real difference does it make? - Nick Wilde
Queer Resources

Aids
BODANG DROP IN CENTRE: 836 Galaxy Lane, Rama 4, 232-8421, 232-8422. Provides services for people with HIV/AIDS.

HALF: AIDS Advice, 1848/28-0494, 294-3619 12am-12am. Free service for people with AIDS.

HOTLINE: Counselling Centre and HIV/AIDS Clinic. 14163 Anusarn Rd, Bangkok 10302.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS): 135 Soi 7, Sukhumvit Rd, 24081.

SIA-ADS MAILING LIST: South East Asia Aids mailing list. If you want to receive it, ask me in Bangkok.

STI: http://www.sti.org/ The site of the World Health Organization. For more on STI.

Books
BULL DOG BOOKS, PO Box 155, Broadway, NSW Australia 2007. Publisher of This Sort of Thing.

DI BOOK HOUSE: On Sukhumvit nr Soi 12, this book shop has a few gay titles.

Queer Cyber space
AFLI is an electronic mailing list focusing on issues related to Asian and Pacific Islander lesbian and bisexual women. To subscribe send mail to: sflq-request@cong.org.au.

COLONY SALINA: www.atopa-asia.com/colony.shtml
CREPES & CO: www.sala.net/crepes
DI STATION: http://www.di-station.com
DREDD: We're dedicated to helping gay things gay in Thailand.

Filipino Queer Directory: www.tibo.org/baka/bakas.html

Queer Spirits: Good site for gay Muslims at www.qeep.org/me/WestHollywood/Sights/89777

SYPHIX: www.syp.com/thai.php

SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARIBU GRAS: www.maribugras.com.au

Le Café Royale
HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND PIANO BAR
Le Café Royale is situated in the very heart of Boyosot, the centre of Pattaya's gay night life. It is in walking distance of a score of Go Go Bars and refreshment spots catering exclusively to a gay male clientele.

Le Café Royale offers guests most comfortable Standard, Superior and Deluxe rooms and Suites, all of which are quiet, air-conditioned, with full facilities and provided with en-suite shower room with toilet.

The hotel's Coffee Shop, Restaurant and Terrace Bar are open 24hrs.

Ait is renowned Piano Bar and Restaurant opens from 7.30 p.m. (19.30 hr) to around 4 (04) on the morning. Our resident pianist entertains until midnight (24.00 hr) and thereafter a vocalist and accompanying musicians entertain until closing time.

Contact us for a reservation.


Star Boys: 194/2224 Thanon Pattaya 2, South Pattaya. 038/425852.

Toy Boys Night Club: 325/100 Pattaya Soi 3, South Pattaya, 038/422939, 422973, 428737.

Why Not?: 325/25 Pattaya Soi 1, South Pattaya, 038/424049.

Venues/Bangkok

ALIBURY (guy): 71/1 Sukhumvit 115, 258-8920. NEWI Posh Men's Club, Sukhothai with massage, gym, pool, steam room, 3pm to midnight daily. Elegant, private, parking.

ANGELO SAINTA (guy): 1025/111 Thanon Phloenchit, 2592719, 2592719. Gym, private room, video room and more.

BANYON (guy): 50 Soi Athakan Pratat, near Sukhumvit Soi 21, 20216. World class men's club, one of the finest in the world. Parking.

BARBARI (guy): 1032 Thanon Surinong, 2531078. Favourite from days gone by: still drawing patrons.

BIG BOY COCKTAIL LOUNGE (guy): 1/1 Sukhumvit 11 (Soi Chai Yot), 2533727, 2519872. Popular with ex-paras.

BLUE STAR (guy): 379/1 Soi Pratunam, Sukhumvit 2323121.

Second Door, Popular, naughty, slightly sleazy.


CHARLIES HIDEAWAY: 8/5 Sukhumvit Rd Soi 2 Quiet bar next to Divinity. Classic atmosphere.

Tower of Babble

You've just got to make your way to the Rome Club one of these fine Wednesdays (see our page 1 story!) for their outrageous party night. It promises to be fab - absolutely fab - and Whirlybird can't wait to see the hair, nails and fishnet stockings! On tap will be the tattiest films ever. "Come wallow in pure decadent paradise" - who can argue with that? Slated to begin sometime this month!

Another must-see is the new Men's Club called Albury. Located off Sukhumvit 11 (go down Sukhumvit 11 to the end of the soi, turn right, and then immediately left at next soi) this classy facility has inexpensive food, an impressive troupe of masurers, weight-lifting equipment, elegant rooms - you'll have to see for yourself! Albury is open daily 3pm to midnight and there is no entrance fee. Lots of parking in a very private, cozy location. Beautifully done.

Utopia has added many more tables to the downstairs cafe. Do drop by for good food, reasonable prices and a bit of shopping. The personas on the Utopia web site, by the way, are extremely popular. Pop a visit to http://www.utopia-asia.com.

Speaking of Website, you'll want to point your babby browsers to the Crepes and Co site at http://www.sala.net/crepes for the lowdown on this charming restaurant. Be sure to visit Telephone 108 at http://www.telephonepub.com. You'll be glad you did: let's see, there's gossip (can't get enough of that, now, can we?), personals, a bit of music here and there and much more. You'll also want to check out nearby Sphinx at http://www.khnet.com/sphinx. Sphinx, by the way, has a slew of cocktails and shots (B52s and Blow Jobs are the most popular) on offer. They continue to add to the marvelous decor and the fresh flowers are fabulous.

Telefon is busy revamping the kitchen and new menu items are being planned for this month. Nung's art hanging is finishing with lots of pieces sold (Whirlybird was seriously tempted!).

JJ Park packs them in on the weekend with samuk fun shows. The singers continue to eoom good stuff. It's a relaxing change of pace from hectic neighbour DJ Station, which also continues to pack them in. For a bit of karaoke, head over to Zoom on the left side of the soi.

During the first day of In & Out at the World Trade Centre, those bringing same-sex partners got in two-for-one. Amazing Thailand indeed!

If you've got a friend in town looking for a place to stay (apartments being what they are, your friend will probably appreciate it!), check the gay and lesbian friendly hotel off Sukhumvit 22. Singles are 1,100 bath nightly, and doubles are 1,200 bath. Swimming pool, sauna, coffee shop and business centre, plus a breakfast buffet are part of the deal. Contact Utropia or visit their web site for more information.

A bit farther afield: if you're going to Chiang Mai check out the new Sparoma gym and sauna. Call (053) 243-992 for more information and directions. Sparoma features a sauna, steam bath, restaurant, jacuzzis, movies and massage and much more. It's on the 7th floor of Silvers and House.

Spotted at a second hand shop in Sydney: "We exchange anything. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"
Queer of the Month

It was through Plato’s *Symposium* and *Phaedrus* that Socrates has exercised his most potent influence on the gay imagination. In these two dialogues, Socrates examines how love begins in the erotic passion of an older man for a beautiful boy. The passion of a man for a boy is a kind of divine madness - in its grip, we neglect our material needs, we act generously, without regard for mercenary calculation.

Although philosophers have - even to this day - studiously attempted to ignore the forthright homosexual love that is the basis of the *Phaedrus* and *Symposium*, gay readers have always found their way to these texts. What they have discovered there has often struck them with the force of revelation.

Socrates was born in 469 B.C. in the Greek city-state of Athens. In 399 B.C. he was tried on charges of corrupting the morals of Athenian youth and for religious heresies. He steadfastly denied guilt and was executed by poisoning.

I rank Socrates as the most influential gay person in history because of the essential philosophic underpinnings he provided - and has continued to provide - for gay men and women’s search for identity and self-knowledge. Who we are began, in a sense, with him. - The Gay 100, Paul Russell

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