

## Seattle AIDS agencies receives high praises

SEATTLE (AP) — The cooperation in Seattle among homosexual, ethnic and other groups in combating the spread of AIDS can be a model for the rest of the country, members of a National Commission on AIDS committee said.

"Many times when we travel around, the communities say 'you bring us hope.' As we sit here today, I want to say that you bring us hope," commission member Larry Kessler told representatives from two AIDS relief organizations on Monday.

The Rev. Scott Allen, chairman of the NAC subcommittee that took testimony from AIDS groups, health workers and public officials, remarked on the region's compassion and spirit of cooperation.

"Seattle has much to be proud of. ... I come from a part of the country where compassion (for victims) is in very big demand and has a lack of existence," said Allen, who lives in Dallas.

Allen's group has held similar hearings in Dallas and Boston this summer, preparing to draft a report on AIDS treatment for the full commission. The NAC was created by Congress last August to recommend AIDS policy to Congress and the president.

Northwest AIDS Foundation director Nancy Campbell said she was unsure what action would result from the report, but was impressed by the concern of committee members.

"The questions here reflect that this group is interested," she said in an interview.

Campbell described for the committee her foundation's beginnings, and the services it now offers, including providing social workers for AIDS victims, legal assistance, food and shelter, and help in getting medical treatment.

Campbell stressed the cooperation aspect. "Since the earliest days of the epidemic in Washington State ... the key players, public and private have trusted each other. We have used collaboration, rather than competition as our operating model to assure that service we provide meets critical needs without gaps or duplication of service."

She noted that mortality rates in King County AIDS patients are relatively low, the result of early planning and an efficient care system.

"We were fortunate because we weren't a front-line city, a San Francisco or L.A.," she said.

She stressed that AIDS has not been controlled in Seattle or anywhere, and the epidemic may be approaching a crisis stage.

"This is the essential part. If we don't get ahead of this right now we will fall apart in the next five years and look no different from those other cities," she said after the hearing.

Campbell and Catlin Fallwood of the People of Color Against AIDS Network stressed the need for AIDS prevention, as well as treatment for King County's 800 AIDS victims and estimated 9,000 who carry the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

Fallwood said her group, which has staff in Seattle, Tacoma and Yakima, distributes AIDS education materials and condoms at 160 sites.

Committee members were keenly interested in how needle-exchange programs in Tacoma and Seattle are helping to prevent the disease's spread.

Charlton Clay, assistant coordinator of the Seattle needle exchange, told committee members it "appears to be the most direct, positive and highly appreciated HIV prevention program among people who use IV drugs."

He said not only do drug users avoid the spread of AIDS through shared needles, they can also be more easily reached for medical and drug treatment.

"This is an inexpensive, effective method to prevent death," Dave Purchase of the Tacoma program said.

Purchase said the exchange, which gives out sterile needles, condoms, food and clothing, has helped change drug-using practices. He said poor sexual practices, such as failing to use a condom, will be harder to change.

## TAYLOR'S

Continued from Page 4

Walker mentioned Goodtimes Cafe and Bar, 375 E. 7th, and The Butte Tavern, 211 Washington St., as spots likely to try and take advantage of the opportunity.

Goodtimes currently has a blues jam every Thursday night.

"On music nights business has gone up about 100 percent," said Goodtimes owner Jim Jensen. "The bands that were calling Taylor's are calling me now."

Plans for the old Taylor's building are currently up in the air. At the moment Taylor is in control of the building. However, in three years the lease reverts back to two of his sisters and will need to be renegotiated at that time.

Taylor said he is negotiating with three prospective buyers right now.

"I don't care too much who rents the place," he said. "I just want to get the best person in there that I can."

Taylor said he is not interested in having another tavern in the building. And whoever he leases the building to will have to make repairs and do some remodeling to update the structure. He would rather see any new operators use the building as a coffee shop or restaurant.

He also said he still hasn't heard a word from Dingman.

"He hasn't contacted me or anything," Taylor said. "We've always got along, so I thought he would at least call or something."

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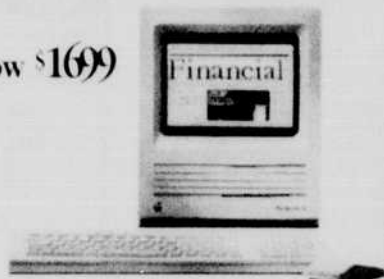
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