

FBI spies on AIDS activists

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI is spying on AIDS activists and gay rights groups, apparently out of fear they might resort to violence or throw infected blood during demonstrations, according to FBI documents and a civil rights group.

The documents, made public under the Freedom of Information Act and collected as part of a project for law students, indicate that informants gave the FBI information and that the bureau has had its own people at some meetings.

The documents were obtained by the Center for Constitutional Rights, based in New York City.

The records involve surveillance of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT UP, in 1990 and 1991. The FBI refused to release 177 pages of the 199-page file, claiming "ongoing law enforcement activity."

The Department of Justice told the center in releasing the file that the FBI also has files on the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a nonprofit group providing a range of services for people with AIDS, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Senior Action in a Gay Environment, said Michael E. Deutsch, legal director for the constitutional rights group.

The FBI's spokesman in New York, Joe Valiquette, said the FBI had no comment on its surveillance practices.

ACT UP said it announces at the start of every meeting undercover officers are probably present. "It's just a given they're there, and it's a waste of

their time," said Ann Northrop, an AIDS educator and a spokeswoman for ACT UP. "I think the Oklahoma bombing proves that they're looking in the wrong place for trouble."

The activist group has never committed violent acts, including throwing blood or condoms, Northrop said.

After a 1990 ACT UP protest outside the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., the FBI's office in Silver Spring, Md., issued a memo saying: "No infected blood or used condoms were exhibited or thrown."

Another memo, containing blacked-out material from an informant, describes ACT UP members pouring "theatrical blood over the fence" at a protest near the Capitol in Washington on Oct. 1, 1991.

ACT UP is known for its loud, highly emotional demonstrations. Members have carried makeshift coffins during protests, held "die-ins" and chained themselves to the White House gate.

"We are loud and angry, and we yell at people," Northrop said. "If you embarrass the government in public, it is just a given they will spy on you."

"This has been going on forever," said a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Eleanor Cooper, who has been an activist for more than two decades. "They're very good at spying on us, but they've never been good at spying on people like those miserable creatures in Oklahoma."

Adoptive parents ask to end death threats

CHICAGO (AP) — Baby Richard's adoptive parents appealed Monday for an end to death threats against his biological parents, the couple they fought for four years.

"Richard's emotional and physical well-being have always been our primary concern," said Robert and Kimberly Warburton, in a statement. "He was raised in an environment where violence and vengeance are not condoned and are not believed to be the solution. Thank you for considering our thoughts and feelings in this matter."

The Warburtons, reluctantly bowing to an Illinois Supreme Court order, relinquished custody of the 4-year-old boy to biological parents Otakar and Daniela Kirchner on April 30.

The Warburtons are still hoping the U.S. Supreme Court will give them back the youngster they took home from the hospital when he was 4 days old. But the high court has repeatedly refused to intervene in the case.

Mrs. Kirchner gave the boy up for adoption when he was 4 days old and told Kirchner — her then-estranged boyfriend — he had died. When he learned the truth 57 days later, Kirchner sued for custody, claiming his parental rights had been violated.

Attorney Loren Heinemann, who represents the Kirchners, said they have received a number of death threats as a result of their insistence on taking custody of the boy.

First lady advises husband; she does not run campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton freely gives her husband advice on his 1996 reelection campaign but is not overly preoccupied with details, said President Clinton's spokesman on Monday.

"I strongly suspect she's got a lot better sense than I do with her time," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said.

McCurry poked fun at a published account suggesting Mrs. Clinton had become the "unofficial political director" of the White House.

"The first lady is one of the president's closest and most trusted advisers and his wife," McCurry said. "And, as many spouses do, they talk about a whole range of things. So I don't think it's any surprise that they talk about everything ranging

from politics to the weather to what they're going to have for dinner."

He was responding to a story in Monday's *Washington Times* that said the first lady had taken the reins of her husband's 1996 campaign, including overseeing the search for a campaign manager.

"She advises the president," McCurry said. "I'm not aware that she's become overly preoccupied with the minutiae of an election campaign."

White House aides privately said Mrs. Clinton is actively engaged in planning for the 1996 campaign.

But, McCurry said, "There certainly is no formal role there and certainly nothing there that is anything but transparent."

Transsexual runs for county office

OIL CITY, Pa. (AP) — Kristine Holt's candidacy is causing pronoun problems all over Venango County.

Some voters refer to Holt as "he." Others call the candidate "she."

"Some even call her 'it,'" farmer Jim Ellis said.

With a voice that is not quite alto, not quite bass, Holt — who was Richard Holt just three years ago — meets the prejudice, anger and ridicule head-on.

"The issue of my transsexuality fades rather quickly when I begin interacting with people," Holt said. "People know me as more than just a queen walking down the street."

Holt's run in Tuesday's Democratic primary in the county commissioner's race has irritated and embarrassed some voters in the rural, conservative northwestern county, where hunting boots are more common than spike heels.

"He should go by Richard Holt," said resident Dave Miller,

recently over lunch at Father Time's Bar and Grill. "And somebody ought to sit down with him and get him to drop out of the race."

But other voters said they were impressed with Holt's intelligence, energy and honesty — including Ellis.

A registered Republican and self-described "redneck," Ellis said he rolled his eyes when he first heard a transsexual was running for office.

"I thought, 'Oh boy, this is just what we need,'" he said. "But ... she's in there digging to find out what the problems are so she can come up with the solutions."

Barb Criste, vice chairwoman of the county Democratic Party, said "The people who can't handle it are the people who have trouble with their own sexuality."

Holt, 38, is a candidate with a firm handshake and plenty of eye contact. Her brown hair brushes her broad shoulders, and she dresses conservatively,

with little makeup or jewelry.

None of her six Democratic opponents, including the lone incumbent, directly mentioned her transsexuality at public forums or in campaign literature. But opposition simmered below the surface.

The two current Republican commissioners unsuccessfully challenged her candidacy, saying she was registered to vote as Richard in Venango County and as Kristine in another county where she lived briefly.

And many voters blamed a transsexual commissioner might scare off industry. Times are tough and getting tougher, thanks to key employer Quaker State's recent announcement that it was moving its corporate headquarters to Dallas.

Ellis, head of a grass-roots taxpayers' group, said Holt was running a strong race but was unlikely to make it past the wide open primary.

If elected, Holt said she's well-prepared to handle whatever comes her way.

ALL DAY TUESDAY

SPAGHETTI **ALL YOU CAN EAT EVERY TUES!**

includes Garlic Bread
11:30 am-10 pm

\$2.99

PIZZA PETE'S

ITALIAN KITCHEN
2673 Willamette • 484-0996

SATURDAY SPECIAL

39¢


Cheeseburger

(Limit 10)


Saturdays Only
East Broadway Location Only

Carl's Jr.
East Broadway & Hilyard
(Limited time only)

The next best thing to the Holy Grail.



There aren't any guarantees that you'll live forever if you drink from this cup, but you will help the earth live longer. Reduce excess garbage and save trees by not using paper cups. Keep your bank account from turning to dust and save about \$100* a year when you use your cup. It doesn't take a trek across the world to find one, just across campus.



University of Oregon
Environmental Issues Committee

*When you buy one 20 oz. cup of coffee a day