

AIDSGate?

by Billy Russo

I was surprised a couple of months ago when I opened issue number 117 of *New York Native* to the full page headline: AIDSGATE BEGINS [followed by] SHOULD GALLO & ESSEX BE IN JAIL?

In a searing editorial, publisher and editor-in-chief, Charles L. Ortleb accuses Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute and Dr. Max Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health of falsifying test results and other scientific fraud.

Ortleb bases his allegations on the following:

1. ... that Gallo's lab 'stole' the discovery [the HTLV-III/LAV controversy] from the French, after ignoring the French discov-



The Roseburg Report

ery for over a year, thereby setting treatment and vaccine research back immeasurably.

2. That the linking of an AIDS-associated virus with HTLV-I and HTLV-II was a deliberate attempt to confuse scientists and the public, to enjoy acclaim, and to obtain grants and other benefits ...
- Ortleb goes on to support his allegations

with the following facts: through his position at the National Institutes of Health, Gallo has imposed a high level security clearance on the virus, which eliminated many scientists from doing research. Secondly, samples of the virus are available to other researchers only through Dr. Gallo. And lastly, only papers co-authored by Gallo may be published from work done on HTLV-III, giving Gallo total censorship power.

Ortleb accuses Dr. Essex of collaboration.

On the surface most of this may seem irrelevant; however, as Ortleb points out, "... the crucial decisions we make about our own health, and the decisions our doctors make, are life-and-death decisions — they cannot be based on fraudulent science. We cannot tolerate inertia on the part of scientists and public health administrators who feel they can look the other way while scientists steal viruses and push them into phony categories."

In another editorial entitled "Waltzing With Mathilde," Ortleb attacks Dr. Mathilde Krim, founder and chairperson of the AIDS Medical Foundation, for moralizing at our expense. According to Ortleb, Krim stated during a television interview that AIDS is an epidemic not because of the total number of cases but because of the rate at which it was replicating itself among the degenerate and unrepentant. She concluded that the entire population of the earth conceivably could perish within the next 60 years.

I don't think that the *New York Native's* aggressive posture regarding this epidemic is especially unreasonable. Over 1,900 people have died of the disease in New York City alone. And anyone in the gay community who defends the national scientific/political response to this plague is either uninformed or a blatant Waxed Fruit. When I received my copy of issue 118 and saw letters from many gay activists defending the above mentioned scientists I was aghast at all these condescending Waxed Fruits (Waxed Fruit is a label members of the Faerie movement assigned to gay Uncle Toms).

Ortleb wasn't too impressed, either. In response to their letters supporting Gallo, Krim, et al, he calls the executive director of the Lambda Defense and Education Fund a hypocrite, the head of the National Gay Task Force "wimp of the year," and Nathan Fain of the Gay Men's Health Crisis "the Uncle Tom of the homophile movement." Ortleb is fighting mad, and he isn't taking any shit.

And how can he expect fair treatment with people like Dr. James O. Mason in charge of The Centers for Disease Control? Mason was formerly head of health care for the Mormon Church; his office supervised the church's cure for homosexuality — aversion therapy by electric shock.

At best our nation's leaders are pleased that they can get away with pointing an accusing finger at the queers and say we're responsible for the century's worst epidemic; however, I fear that they have something much worse in store for us.

The *Native's* AIDSGATE stance is commendable. Ortleb has nothing to gain by

speaking out against the establishment's mediocre response to this life-and-death issue. And we'd be a stronger community today if more of our nation's activists took such personal risks and focused more of their energy on bringing the homophile community together instead of using their positions to further their personal careers.

For information regarding advertising call 236-1252

MRCSS

Mens Resource Center Counseling Service

GAY THERAPISTS

- Professional Counseling
- Low Fees — Sliding Scale
- Individuals, Couples, Groups
- Hypnotherapy
- Evening & Weekend

235-3433

Problems. . . . We Can Work It Out!

Family	Business	Traffic	Workers Comp.
Divorce Custody Support Modification Visitations Gay Couple Agreements & Breakups	Contracts Licensing Admin. Hearings Partnerships Corporations Small Businesses	Tickets Suspensions Accidents Drunk Driving	Hearings Appeals Preparation
			Other
			Wills Bankruptcy Property Medical Consents

Ben Merrill
295-2456
408 SW Second, Suite 519
Downtown Portland 97204

Sandy's Recorded Phone Fantasies



Call Direct • No Membership Necessary

1-976-4848

No Minors • \$2 Toll

WANTED!

ONE HUNDRED CARING MEN AND WOMEN

Community Health Support Services/PAL Project provides peer counseling, practical support, and referral assistance to persons facing AIDS and life-threatening or life-changing illness, using trained volunteers.

DESCRIPTION: Compassionate persons willing to donate up to eight hours per week for six months in any of the following areas:

Personal Active Listeners (PALs) — Forty people with a natural ability to listen and reflect what they hear without judging. Next training is tentatively scheduled for the middle two weekends in September.

Practical Support Volunteers — Forty people able to provide cooking, cleaning, and transportation assistance. Good casserole or chicken soup recipes a plus . . .

Office Volunteers — Fifteen people able to work a few hours per week in daytime phone and office support.

Public Relations and Marketing Volunteers — Five people with strong writing skills or marketing background to assist PAL Project and Cascade AIDS Project with media exposure and fundraising.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact our office at 223-5907, write PAL Project, 408 SW 2nd Avenue — Room 403, Portland OR 97204, or call Steve Fulmer at 236-2429.

UNLIMITED REWARDS OFFERED

Your short-term investment in time will contribute to the lives of many suffering people and their loved ones for years to come. Volunteer today. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away . . .

AFFECTION
NOT REJECTION

