

## The Whole Picture Project

To the Editor:

Why is our concept of the AIDS crisis like an elephant? Because we ourselves are like the proverbial blind pack: each has a hand on a part, but none has an understanding of the whole.

Our knowledge remains fragmentary because the mass media, both Gay and straight, have failed to provide a coverage of AIDS that is grounded on vigorous investigative reporting, sharpened by exhaustive follow-up, and integrated into a comprehensive point of view. For example, for more than six months now a major San Francisco hospital has kept *unused* on its shelves an anti-viral drug that many AIDS people desperately need but cannot obtain except by going to Mexico. Who in the media is pressing hard-nosed questions about such bureaucratic bungles? No one.

Partly as a result of the inadequacy of the media, people who have life-saving information cannot get it into the hands of those who need it most, medical researchers needlessly

duplicate each others' studies, a swelling tide of homophobia sweeps along a public starved for reliable information, and an ill-informed government responds with halting, piecemeal, and uncoordinated policies.

In order to get a more comprehensive media understanding of AIDS, we the undersigned propose to create a unique new endeavor: The Whole-Picture Project. This will be a nonprofit institute that will underwrite the expenses and salary of a Lesbian or Gay reporter for one year. The reporter, a seasoned journalist yet to be determined, will travel around the country vigorously pursuing all significant AIDS leads, uncovering any suspicious dark corners, cross-examining medical experts, scrutinizing public office holders, and integrating the latest findings into a comprehensive overview. By so doing, the reporter will uncover new developments and integrate information in a way that no one in the mass media now has the means or motivation to do, thereby helping to enlighten people with AIDS, the government and the public at large.

The Whole-Picture Project foresees an initial one-year budget of \$75,000 to pay for the salary, travelling expenses, secretarial support and other costs of a top-notch Lesbian or

Gay reporter. We seek donors, both large and small, across the nation who would be willing to underwrite such a project, serve on its Board of Directors, select the journalist in question, and review his or her work. We ourselves (all veteran Gay activists) are only the facilitators of the project and will retire from its services once its Board and contributors are established.

If you or anyone you know can help us create and maintain such a project, please get in touch with us at once at The Whole-Picture Project, 2215-R Market Street, #238, San Francisco, CA 94114 (telephone: [415] 547-2200). We assure you both of complete confidentiality and of the seriousness and capability of the project. Remember, throwing money after AIDS research is not enough. We need to have access to the whole picture.

Sincerely,

Ben Gardiner  
Hank Wilson  
Burt Gerrits  
Arthur Evans

## Military homophobia a civil rights issue

To the editor:

Your recent editorial: *Military Homophobia Institutionalized*, Nov. 1985, read just as homophobic as the institution you seem to complain about.

While it can be established that the military is indeed an entity unto itself, the issue of homosexuals in the military is not a personal choice issue. It is a civil rights issue.

It is not for us to discern the motives or reasons why homosexuals enlist in the military. Equity, fairness and justice demand that, if we are asked to pay through our taxes for the military-industrial complex, then we should be able to participate in it; for whatever reason one may have.

The existing blanket exclusion of gay men and woman from the military is blatantly discriminatory, anti-national defense, and can be construed to be "Taxation without representation."

Roberto Reyes-Colon

# OUT *Across the Nation*

## Walters case due in court

by Eve Sicular

Portland native Charlotte Walters will finally have her day in court January 21 in Boston. Walters, a former employee of Harvard's Buildings and Grounds Department, and the first woman hired to work in a 30- to 35-man crew, is suing the university for sexual harassment and negligent handling of her complaints, first filed over five years ago.

Walters' case is being heard by Justice Garrity, whose controversial decision on school bussing upheld it as desegregation policy in Boston in the 1970s. One of the points Walters seeks in this suit is a training program to prevent sexual harassment among staff, faculty and students at Harvard. She hopes this will encourage lasting change. Walters' own experience as a harassed worker included one incident in which another B&G worker threw a firecracker in her face, an episode later characterized by management as "acceptable horseplay among men."

## Crisiline receives AT&T Grant

The NGTF Fund for Human Dignity has received a grant of \$10,000 from the AT&T Foundation in support of the Crisiline project. The grant, which was announced less than a week after the Fund Board of Directors voted to adopt the national toll-free gay/lesbian community line as a direct Fund pro-

ject, marks the first grant by a major corporation to the Fund, the oldest national foundation serving the gay and lesbian community.

"We value both the vital role the Fund plays in fostering public understanding of gay people, and the important service Crisiline provides in connection with the AIDS epidemic," Charles E. Evans, Vice President of Health & Social Action Programs for the AT&T Foundation, said in awarding the grant. The AT&T Foundation is the principal source of philanthropy for American Telephone & Telegraph, one of the nation's largest corporations.

Fund Executive Director Lance Ringel emphasized the significance of corporate support for a Fund program, adding that while corporate support comprises a significant part of the budgets of many non-profits, until now the Fund had received no major corporate support, despite a number of foundation grants and strong support from private individuals.

"We are very pleased that AT&T has contributed support to this project," said Fund Board Co-Chairs Catherine Maiorisi and Bruce Voeller. "In assuming responsibility for the Crisiline, the Fund Board made clear its belief that it is important to provide a service like the Crisiline to the gay and lesbian community nationwide."

The Board voted to adopt the project and its attendant Clearinghouse after the National Gay Task Force, the line's original sponsor, asked the Fund to do so. The line was founded at NGTF in 1982, and since then a dedicated corps of highly trained volunteers (35 to 40 people at any given time) has provided help to thousands of callers from all over the nation with information and referrals concerning AIDS, anti-gay/lesbian violence, lesbian/gay youth, etc. Many thousands more attempt to call the Crisiline each month, but are unable to get through due to the extraordinary volume of calls. The shifting of

NGTF program personnel to Washington, D.C. prompted the proposal that the New York-based Fund adopt the line.

The Fund for Human Dignity, founded in 1974, is a national educational foundation with the stated purpose of educating the public about the lives of lesbian and gay Americans, and educating gay and lesbian Americans about their own status in society. Fund grants have played a key role in the continuation of NGTF's educational work.

## I.N.S. OKs gay Cuban

The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has granted permanent residence status to a gay Cuban refugee. This signals an apparent reversal of the long-standing policy of the I.N.S. that gay men and women cannot lawfully enter the United States. Santiago Reyes is the first beneficiary of this action. He came to the United States in the Mariel boat lift of 1980.

The I.N.S. stalled Reyes for more than six months until National Gay Rights Advocates entered the case. NGRA Legal Director, Leonard Graff, said: "The I.N.S. issued his permanent resident visa just one week after we notified the I.N.S. that we were representing Mr. Reyes. NGRA has sued the I.N.S. before and won and they know we would not hesitate to sue them again." In 1982, NGRA won a landmark decision in the case of *Carl Hill v. INS*.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Legal Director, said: "The questions the I.N.S. asked Mr. Reyes were appalling. Their files contain all the explicit details of his sex life. Government action of this type is repugnant to all Ameri-

cans and we're not going to tolerate it."

Jeff Appleman, a San Francisco attorney who specializes in immigration law worked with NGRA on this case.

## Alcohol education

The National Association of Lesbian & Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP)'s Training & Education Committee is forming a network of educators concerned with gay and lesbian community education about alcohol use and abuse. Formed at the first national NALGAP conference, held in Chicago, September 26-29, 1985, the Training & Education Committee hopes that this network will be an effective way to share resources in this area.

Recognizing only in recent years that this community has long been neglected, city and state agencies responsible for alcoholism services are beginning to question ways of targeting gay men and lesbians for alcohol education. The past few years have seen some efforts made in training alcoholism service providers in combating homophobia; but few resources have been allocated toward community-wide educational activities.

NALGAP's Training & Education Committee will be a mechanism for resource sharing: Who is doing what? Planning what? All health educators involved in this area of work are urged to join in this networking by calling Robert A. Kajdan at (213) 201-6730 or Ron Vachon at (212) 566-6110; or write to Ron Vachon, Director, Office of Gay & Lesbian Health Concerns, New York City Department of Health, 125-Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013.