

NEWS

Surgeon General urges early sex education

by Jay Brown

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, in a report on AIDS issued on October 22, urges sex education that includes information on homosexual, as well as heterosexual, relationships in the curriculum as early as elementary school. In the controversial report, Dr. Koop opposes compulsory testing for exposure to HIV and rejects quarantining or tattooing individuals exposed to the virus.

Dr. Koop recommends comprehensive sex education as a defense against AIDS, "so that children can grow up knowing the behavior to avoid to protect themselves. The need is critical, and the price of neglect is high."

In his report, Dr. Koop said: "Many people, especially our youth, are not receiving information that is vital to their future health and well-being because of our reticence in dealing with the subjects of sex, sexual practices and homosexuality."

"This silence must end. We can no longer afford to sidestep frank, open discussions about sexual practices — homosexual and heterosexual. Education about AIDS should start at an early age so that children can grow up knowing the behaviors to avoid to protect themselves from exposure to the AIDS virus."

Stressing that casual, non-sexual contact with people infected with the virus is not dangerous, Dr. Koop said, "We would know by now if AIDS were passed by casual, non-sexual contact." AIDS is spread primarily through sexual contact and the sharing of intravenous drug needles and syringes," Dr. Koop said. "It is contagious in the same way that sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and gonorrhea, are contagious," he added.

"The best protection against infection right now, barring abstinence, is the use of a condom," Dr. Koop warned. "A condom should be used during sexual relations from start to finish, with anyone whom you know or suspect is infected," he added.

Dismissing compulsory testing for antibodies to HIV as potentially "unmanageable and cost-prohibitive" Dr. Koop said, "The information in this booklet, if adopted, will protect the American public and contain the AIDS epidemic."

The Surgeon General's report on AIDS is available from the U.S. Public Health Service by writing to AIDS, Box 14252, Washington, D.C., 20044.

Co-workers walk out on PWA

When Paul Cronan, a person with AIDS, returned to work for the first time in 17 months, most of his co-workers walked off the job in protest. Cronan's return to his job with the New England Telephone Company was part of a settlement of a lawsuit against the company.

Cronan, who had worked for New England Telephone for 12 years prior to his diagnosis, filed a \$1.75 million lawsuit in Massachusetts Superior Court last December. He charged that the company had discriminated against him based on a handicap; had breached his right to privacy and had coerced him not to return to work.

Prior to the walkout Cronan's co-workers asked the company if they could minimize contact with him by getting their daily assign-

ments in a parking lot rather than inside a building. When the company refused to change procedure, 29 out of 39 regular technicians refused to enter the building.

Cronan's successful lawsuit against New England Telephone Company could set major precedents because of rulings made by state and federal courts in the case. The company asked a federal court to take the Cronan case under purview of Federal Labor Relations Act. Federal District Judge W.J. Skinner sent the case back to state court, ruling that state laws on discrimination and privacy preempt federal labor law or union agreement.

This ruling allowed Cronan to bring civil suit and ask for compensatory damages. The financial terms of the settlement have not been disclosed.

National Lawyers Guild adopts gay rights resolutions

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association has adopted three important resolutions supporting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. The NLADA is now on record as advocating legislation barring discrimination based on sexual orientation, strong legal protections against AIDS-related discrimination, and repeal of state sodomy laws. The resolutions were submitted by National Gay Rights Advocates, the California-based public interest law firm.

"It is particularly significant that these resolutions were approved in Georgia, a state that imposes a 20-year prison sentence on all relationships not involved in procreation," said Leonard Graff, NGLA Legal Director. "It is of critical importance to have legal associations supporting policies which embrace fundamental liberties."

Jean O'Leary, NGLA Executive Director, praised the NLADA for having the courage to take a leadership position in the battle for gay civil rights. "These resolutions are another sign that support for gay and lesbian right is increasing, even in oppressive times. The NLADA resolution will have a positive impact on lawyers around the nation," she said.

The NLADA is comprised of over 1100 organizations representing more than 15,000 lawyers.

Don't forget!
to vote!
Nov. 4
1986



Genoa

FIFTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY

NORTHERN ITALIAN CUISINE
SEVEN-COURSE DINNERS

2832 S.E. BELMONT • 238-1464

Shedding some light

by Rodger Larson

Maybe being the editor of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin doesn't put one in the same league as a movie star or a major league football player, but on September 1st Bill Cox joined the ranks of public figures to have come out as persons with AIDS. Cox took this courageous step in an editorial which announced his resignation from his position with the newspaper. "Today is my last day as managing editor of the Star Bulletin. I am going on disability because of illness. The illness is AIDS," Cox said. He revealed his illness to his readers and staff so that his disclosure might help reduce the stigma of having the dread disease.

"I did it because I wanted to help others with the disease feel less alone and because I'm a communicator," he said in an interview September 2nd with the Washington Post. "The dilemma for people with AIDS is that by treating it as a secret we help breed more shame. The best way to get rid of that is to be more open. As a journalist, I have spent my career trying to shed light in dark corners. AIDS is surely one of our darkest corners. It can use some light," Cox noted in his editorial.

The former editor said in the interview with the Post that he has been "lucky" in reactions to his illness. He described employers and co-workers as being very supportive. Cox did not discuss his personal life in his editorial, however in the interview with the Washington

Post when asked about his risk of getting AIDS, he said, "I am gay."

Cox said that he had been involved for two years in a relationship with another man, who has been "Warm and helpful," since the diagnosis. Cox said he had "not lived an open lifestyle," but his policy was "not to lie" about his homosexuality. He said he had taken precautions to minimize his risk of getting AIDS.

Advertising in *Just Out* works...
our advertisers say so.

TAKE CONTROL

Stop smoking • Weight control
Motivation • Self esteem
Stress management
to enhance your health.

10%
OFF FIRST VISIT WITH THIS AD
CALL NOW



Portland
Hypnosis Center

2330 NW Flanders, Suite 105

224-1277

THE COUNSELING ALTERNATIVE

RIGHT STEP
RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Administration and Staff of

RIGHT STEP RECOVERY PROGRAM

are pleased to announce the opening of the first inpatient,
chemical dependency facility in the West for gay men and
lesbians and invite you to join them in a community
celebration of this happy occasion from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M.

on November 20, 1986.

17645 N.W. St. Helens Road, (Hwy. 30)
Portland, Oregon 97231

RSVP 1-800-221-9053

In Oregon, 1-503-621-3201

Christopher Eskeli, Ph.D., Administrator
Cyndy Bourke, M.Ed., Program Manager
Debbie Van Straten, Community Marketing Representative