

## You scream, I scream, we all scream for testing

The US Government is expanding mandatory HIV antibody testing in more of its agencies. Beginning February 1, the Job Corps will screen personnel and applicants for the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus. The Job Corps, started under President Lyndon Johnson, gives job training to young people. Between 60-65 percent of the 40,000 full-time students are black.

The State Department began HIV antibody testing in January. The Armed Forces have been testing recruits and personnel since October, 1985.

Applicants who test positive to the HIV antibody are rejected by all of the agencies.

The Pentagon recently released figures detailing the results of the military testing program. Out of 640,000 recruits tested, 974 (917 men and 57 women) tested positive. The overall positive rate has remained at 1.5 cases per 1000.

In a related story, the *Navy Times* reported that over half of all enforced discharges in the Navy were for homosexuality. In 1983, nearly 1800 service personnel were discharged for being gay. This figure represents 55 percent of all discharges issued. According to the magazine,

"Military regulations require that a discharge be sought whenever there is probable cause to believe that a member is homosexual or bisexual."

Sources: *The Advocate*, *Washington Blade*, *Gay Community News*

## Anonymous testing in Lane County

An AIDS advocacy group in Eugene is providing anonymous HIV antibody testing despite a Lane County Health Department decision to offer the test only confidentially. The Midvalley Action Committee, a Eugene AIDS advocacy and education group, has established an alternative testing program that will offer anonymous testing, in which tests are not recorded by name. Anonymous tests are offered in a majority of Oregon counties.

Response to the Midvalley VAC plan has been enormous, according to spokesperson Scott Seibert. Early publication of plans for anonymous testing resulted in a flood of phone calls. Seibert reports that all available appointments are filled through mid-February. "An alternative site is clearly the answer," he stated.

In December the State Health Division authorized the option of anonymous test-

ing. Three Oregon counties, including Lane County decided to offer confidential testing only, in which test results are reported to the state by name of the testee.

Despite veiled threats of economic retaliation by the County against the health facility, White Bird Clinic, on whose premises the testing will be offered after hours, Seibert says that the plans for anonymous testing will go ahead. "We've stopped thinking about what the County thinks and we're doing what we need to do."

## Drug may hinder development of AIDS

Ribavirin, an antiviral drug, may delay the onset of AIDS in those already infected with the HIV virus, but who have not developed frank AIDS. According to information from the manufacturer, Viratek of Costa Mesa, California, none of a group of 52 infected persons taking large doses of ribavirin developed AIDS. During the same 28-week period, six members of a group taking a smaller dosage developed AIDS, while out of a group taking a placebo, 10 developed AIDS.

AIDS patient advocacy groups cautioned enthusiasm, because of the brevity of the

study and the manufacturer's refusal to release important details about the study and the drug's side effects, according to the *Washington Post*.

## ACLU rallies

The ACLU sponsored a rally on January 22 to raise funds and garner support for House Bill 2325, which would add sexual orientation to existing civil rights statutes. Over 300 people attended the rally at the Metropolitan Community Church.

Keynote speaker, Barbara Roberts, Oregon Secretary of State, addressed the enthusiastic crowd. Quoting Susan B. Anthony, Roberts challenged the audience not to let "another season of silence" pass without gaining protection from discrimination for Oregon's gay citizens.

Speakers from the ACLU, however, stressed the need for active support for the bill from all over the state. On Lobby Day at the Oregon Legislature in Salem, February 23, the ACLU needs testimony and advocacy from gays and gay-rights supporters from the length and breadth of Oregon. If you are from rural Oregon, or have supportive friends or family from outside the Willamette Valley, please see to it that your legislator is lobbied for support on HB 2325. Every vote will be important. •

## Just news

### Censorship censored

Oregon Supreme Court smashes pro-censorship law.

BY NANCY R. WALSETH

In an opinion critical of the United States Supreme Court's repeated refusals over the past several decades to extend First Amendment protection to obscene materials, the Oregon Supreme Court, in a case entitled *State v. Henry*, has stricken down as unconstitutional an Oregon law prescribing criminal penalties for the dissemination of material depicting or containing "nudity, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual conduct or sexual excitement."

In the wake of recent United States Supreme Court civil rights rulings and last summer's Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, the significance of last week's Oregon Supreme Court ruling cannot be overstated.

The opinion, written by Justice Robert E. Jones (former Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge), looks to the Constitution of the State of Oregon, rather than to the Constitution of the United States, in describing the parameters of freedom of expression in Oregon.

This acknowledgment of the power of the Oregon Constitution points up one of the most overlooked and profoundly important elements of our federalist form of government: Any state may, under its own

laws and constitution, afford more protection of fundamental rights than is required of all states under present interpretation of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution.

Theoretically, the highest appellate court of Georgia could strike down Georgia's anti-sodomy law even though the United States Supreme Court recently refused to hold it unconstitutional under the federal Constitution. Unlikely in the current religious climate, but possible. The point is, when the United States Supreme Court refused to recognize any particular federal constitutional rights, it's not necessarily time to pack for Sweden, as most state constitutions contain their own civil rights guarantees.

*State v. Henry* struck only one part of Oregon's obscenity laws, that which had prohibited simple dissemination of obscene materials even in the absence of an intention to harm other citizens with it. The Court acknowledged a legitimate state interest in protection of "unwilling viewers, captive audiences, minors and beleaguered neighbors . . ." but cautioned that "[this form of expression] may not be punished in the interest of a uniform vision on how human sexuality should be regarded or portrayed." •

## IF YOUR DOCTOR ISN'T HELPING YOU, MAYBE YOU NEED ANOTHER KIND OF DOCTOR

If you are suffering from chronic health problems such as allergy, headache, constipation, arthritis, fatigue, or lower back pain, a naturopathic doctor may be able to help where others have failed. Naturopaths are trained in laboratory and clinical diagnosis, botanical medicine, homeopathy, nutrition, spinal manipulation, massage, counseling, and other natural therapies that enhance your body's own healing powers (they also *feel* good.) These therapies often will help when conventional medical methods do not. They can also be used as preventive medicine to enhance your immune system or keep more serious illnesses from developing.

The PORTLAND NATUROPATHIC CLINIC, located at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, is known throughout the country as the foremost teaching clinic in natural healing methods, and specializes in the treatment of chronic or acute illnesses without surgery or synthetic drugs.



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