

Media Gayz

Straight People and AIDS" made the cover of three major national publications in February. Is it a late-breaking story? Hardly. The magazines were responding to their own anguished hype about the intrusion of AIDS into the stately pleasure dome of straight sex. However, besides ramifying The New Prudery (it has been with us always) none of the stories revealed new evidence on increased incidence of AIDS in the "general population." That straight people can get AIDS isn't news; what is news is that the media is now acknowledging it.

Who would have thought that the benign little condom could have raised such a fuss? Rubbers were media stars in February, and the fuss over whether or not to allow advertising of condoms on network television provoked predictable hypocritical angst on all sides. Who needs ads anyway, when every second news story is about them.

Behind the public handwringing about providing condoms to students, etc. is still fear of gays. Despite the smiling faces of straight people in the ads, safe sex is a gay issue for many. Sanctioning condoms in 1987 is sanctioning gay sex. I remember, in the early 1970s, our high school sex education teacher passing out condoms in class. We blew them up like balloons and bounced them around the classroom. There was no outcry; at that time condoms prevented babies, they did not enable gay sex.

Similarly, the "does he, doesn't he" debate about Liberace's alleged AIDS condition masked a baser curiosity. Even the stentorian *New York Times* allowed that there was a controversy about Liberace's illness, thus allowing that august journal the opportunity to mention AIDS as a cause of death. The *Times* has held aloof from acknowledging AIDS in other deaths, e.g., Perry Ellis, Terry Nolan, et al.

However, the real enthusiasm for pursuing the AIDS question came from the desire to gossip that Liberace was gay.

Linda "come-out-of-your-closet-and-debate" Chavez is ubiquitous on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio (NPR) these days. Chavez, who was defeated by Barbara Mikulski in last year's Maryland senatorial race, doubles as a guest commentator and right-wing apologist.

NPR has recently re-invented the serial novel. In their version prominent writers are invited to write and read contributions to on-going fictional stories. Susan Stamborg's Sunday "Weekend Edition" has featured David Leavitt; Saturday evening's "All Things Considered" featured Rita May Brown.

The *Oregonian* is taking the high road to the trouble brewing between Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and Kristine Gebbie, director of the State Health Division. The broadcast media has reported the *contretemps* between the two rather gleefully. Meanwhile, as the *Oregonian* stands by filing its nails, Goldschmidt and Gebbie jockey to see who can best out-manuever and make the other seem the chump regarding the Health Division's AIDS budget request. •

— W. C. McRae



Travel Books Galore
gay guides too!



Maps for destinations
worldwide



Moneybelts
Passport carriers
Currency convertors
and other nifty things



Espresso and
the latest issue of
Just Out

Pioneer Courthouse Square
Open 9-9 Mon-Sat, 11-6 Sun

FOR THE FUN OF IT!

One of a
kind jewelry,
cards and
collectibles:
porcelain
masks,
flamingos,
designer
plungers,
handcarved
earrings from
Bali at \$9.95,
and more.
Great gifts
for yourself
and friends.

Come see us
soon just
**FOR THE
FUN OF IT!**

7821 SE STARK ST.
256-4142



408 SW 2nd, Ste. 412
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 223-8299

COUNSELING

Our staff of professional therapists offer a wide range of theoretical approaches to such issues as sexual orientation, relationships, childhood sexual/physical abuse, depression, anger, domestic violence, parenting and personal growth. Individual, couples and group therapy are offered to women, men, youth and families. Our fees are based on a sliding scale. Limited scholarships available for diagnosed and test-positive persons.

ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Cross-country ski/hot springs overnight: Spend 2 days skiing in the Wind River area in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington, and relax at Carson Hot Springs Saturday night. \$30 fee includes lodging, transportation and leadership. Men and women. March 7 and 8.

Storm Watch — Coast Trip: Hit some great weather at the Oregon coast, walk on the beach, take a hike, shop or browse the galleries at Cannon Beach. \$10 fee includes transportation and leader. March 21.

WORKSHOP

Iridology: It's All in the Eyes. The physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual health is visible in the iris of the eye. Participants will learn to read eyes. Facilitated by Faye Pietrokowsky for men and women. Tuition \$35.00. Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Limited scholarship available.

CALL PHOENIX RISING AT 223-8299 FOR MORE INFORMATION!!! Advance registration is necessary for all services and programs; some require a non-refundable deposit.

GROUPS

Lesbian Therapy Group, an 8-week series for women to work on relationships, depression, coming out, self-esteem, being single and any other personal issues. Date to be set when group fills. Target date April. Led by Phoenix Rising professional staff. Sliding scale \$10-43 per session.

Gay Men's Support Group: Ongoing groups for gay men, a place to get and give support on personal issues and areas of concern to the group. Facilitated by Chuck Nance, M.A., on Thursday evenings. \$25 per month.

Orientation Group for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: For Lesbians molested as children or adolescents. Information giving and sharing of experience. The focus of the group is on gaining skills to cope with feelings about the abuse, and how it affects our present lives. Led by Barbara Ford, M.S.W. Ten weeks, beginning April 8. Sliding scale, \$10-43 per week.

Therapy Groups for Lesbian Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Two ongoing therapy groups, one led by Kao Rhiannon, Ph.D., on Monday nights, and one led by Terri Tardiff, M.A., on Thursday nights. Sliding scale \$10-43 per session.

Adult Children of Alcoholics, a group for women. Are you never quite good enough? Do you sometimes not know what you feel? Do you guess at what is "normal"? Join this twelve-week therapy group for women, led by Trish Haas, A.C.S.W., beginning April 1. Sliding scale, \$10-43 per session.

Orientation Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics: Our current orientation group has proven to be so popular that we would like to plan another one in the future. The dates are not yet established, but if you're interested, call and we'll give you more information! 223-8299.



408 SW 2nd, Ste. 412
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 223-8299

The See Vue

Experience the unusual

Reservations (503) 547-3227
95590 Highway 101
6.2 miles South of
Yachats, Oregon 97498

