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Just Out, 8, May, 1987

Chicago collegiate games include gay baiting

Answering personal ads has led to harassment of Chicago-area gays. An ad, which ran in the *Chicago Reader*, a free weekly, read "Attractive GWM, 24, shy, and U of C Hyde Parker, wishes to meet discreet students and locals only for close friendship." Men who responded to the ad initially received no further communication. However, weeks later, the respondents were the subjects of a well-coordinated hate letter campaign directed at employers, co-workers, and family members.

The phony personal ad was apparently placed by a group called the Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist, who claimed in a letter to the *Chicago Tribune* that they would "be the complete ruination of homosexuality." Included in the packet received by associates of the gay men was a photocopy of the original letter written in response to the personal ad, and a letter written on Great White Brotherhood letterhead threatening the reader to "AVOID THIS HOMOSEXUAL AT ALL COST."

At least fifteen respondents were victims of the phony ads. Organized anti-gay violence again surfaced in Chicago shortly after the ad incident. Two men entered the offices of the *Windy City Times*, a Chicago gay news-weekly, and attacked those present. Three staff members were injured.

Anti-gay incidents have been increasing at the University of Chicago and observers believe that right-wing groups on campus are behind all the activities, according to the *Advocate*, and *Gay Chicago* magazine.

Priscilla Martin opens mouth, receives suit

A local man employed at a Portland abortion clinic has filed a \$250,000 defamation suit against an anti-abortion protestor who allegedly accused him of having AIDS. In his suit, Tim Shuck, who is employed by Lovejoy Surgicenter, contends that the statements made by Priscilla Martin were false and caused him severe emotional distress. Martin, a veteran of anti-abortion and anti-gay protests, told the *Oregonian* that it was inappropriate for Shuck to be working at a medical facility.

Let there be testing in our time

The Peace Corps has announced a new testing policy that requires applicants to be screened for HIV antibodies. Applicants who do not supply a negative test result will be disqualified from placement. According to the internal memorandum, volunteers already overseas will not be required to take the test unless they show signs of AIDS-related diseases.

The memorandum says that health concerns for volunteers are an important reason for implementing testing, but "political consequences" are another. "The health of our in-country hosts is a crucial consideration and it is important, in terms of the credibility of our programs, that host country governments know that we have done everything we can [to curtail the spread of AIDS]."

A Peace Corps spokesman stated, "The Peace Corps is a well-meaning organization, like a family," according to the *Washington Blade*.



Individual health insurance policy and HIV testing

The AIDS/HIV Policy Committee, which proposes Oregon state policy regarding AIDS, last month accepted the recommendations of its insurance subcommittee regarding health insurance risk pools and individual health insurance policies. The subcommittee recommended that the legislature enact Senate Bill 583, which would establish a risk pool to provide coverage for those unable to obtain insurance in a conventional manner. With the risk pool in place, the committee then recommends that insurance underwriters be allowed to require HIV antibody tests as a condition of application for individual coverage, and inquire about positive test results in the past.

These recommendations affect only health policies of individuals; insurance companies are not allowed to require antibody tests in most group insurance policies.

Essentially, the risk pool would offer coverage, at rates from 130% to 150% above normal health insurance rates, to those individuals that the testing program would winnow out of conventional coverage. However, the committee recommended to allow testing *only* if the risk pool is enacted. If the legislature does not enact the risk pool (and several committee members felt that the bill's chances were slim) then the full committee will again address the question of testing as a precondition of insurability.

Fundraiser beats activist in San Francisco

Harry Britt, San Francisco Supervisor, was defeated last month by Democratic Party fund-raiser Nancy Pelosi in the race for the California 5th Congressional seat. Britt had hoped to be the first open gay elected to Congress.

Final returns showed Britt losing to Pelosi by about 4,000 votes (3.8 percent of the vote), a much smaller margin than many predicted. Britt's supporters said that his candidacy had united gay voters and showed the gay voting block was a force to be reckoned with.

However, from the outside, the sound and the fury brought up by Britt's candidacy was more like gay tribal warfare, than coalition politics. Pelosi prevailed by simply remaining above the fray.

Love sans condom = assault

An Army private has been accused of aggravated assault at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for reportedly having sexual relations with two soldiers when he knew he had tested positive to the AIDS virus. Counsel for the soldier claims that the Army is attempting to characterize "the AIDS virus [as] the weapon in our assault." A Defense Department spokesman said that the military had the power to discipline soldiers who failed to protect the health of other soldiers.

Neither of the soldiers "assaulted," a man and a woman, had developed antibodies to HIV, but the woman was pregnant from the encounter.

In a related story, a New York man has pled guilty to manslaughter after he was forced to drop his "heat of passion" defense in the slaying of a male sex partner. The defendant initially claimed that he killed his long-time friend in the "heat of passion" after the friend revealed he had AIDS.

Evidence in the case revealed that the defendant had sexual relations with his girlfriend seven hours after the slaying, and neither used a condom nor told the girlfriend about her risk.

Entertainment, briefly

She Always Said, Pablo, an "intellectual vaudeville" by Frank Galati, opened in March at Chicago's Goodman Theatre. With music by Virgil Thomson and Igor Stravinsky, sets in the style of Pablo Picasso, and text from the writings of Gertrude Stein and Picasso, the show is advertised as a fusion of painting, literature, art, and biography. A new ballet by Derek Deane, based on Oscar Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray*, premiered in Birmingham, England, in March. Composer Philip Glass is collaborating with novelist Doris Lessing on a new opera based on her novel *The Making of a Representative for Planet Eight*. Playwright Eric Bentley's play *Round 2* opened in Los Angeles. Inspired by Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, Bentley set his play of romantic interweaving in the 1970s within a circle of ten gay men. Has anyone noticed, in the title of Stephen Frears new movie about Joe Orton, *Prick Up Your Ears*, that "ears" is an anagram of arse?"

Here a rubber, there a rubber, everywhere a rubber, rubber

A roll in the hay that results in a condom in the hay may be dangerous to farm animals, report animal welfare groups in Britain. The resilience of latex, fine for its intended usage, poses a threat to cows and pigs who may ingest used rubbers left in the countryside, and then choke to death. A British Veterinary Association spokesman said, "Cattle and pigs are very inquisitive and will eat anything." A farmer observed, "It really is time that some guidance on the disposal of these things was given," reports the *London Sunday Times*.

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