

Just news

Brown McDonald takes Houston AIDS project job

BY ERIK ETLIN

Brown McDonald, former director of the Cascade AIDS Project, was selected from a field of candidates nationwide to be the new director of the AIDS project in Houston, Texas.

McDonald's history with the AIDS crisis stems from his four year involvement as director of C.A.P. in Portland. During that time, McDonald developed a strong sense of how the community and the political machine can work together to benefit an organization such as C.A.P. whose primary goal is to educate the public about AIDS and safe sexual practices.

In McDonald's term as director of C.A.P. he coordinated and implemented several successful community events as well as political activities. McDonald was also instrumental in molding the organization from an informal "living-room" setting to a four full-time employee office. He also activated countless volunteers for C.A.P.

McDonald's new position in Houston began June 26th with the writing of a one million dollar grant proposal to cover the costs of serving the Houston community for the next three years.

McDonald is looking forward to the new challenges of running a major project in a city the size of Houston. He is also anticipating successes equal to those attained in Portland in education and increasing the awareness of the public to the real implications and consequences of not learning about the AIDS virus.

NY Times ad deplores Supreme Court anti-sodomy decision

Marking the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision holding that the Constitution does not protect private sexual conduct of consenting adults of the same sex, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc. (GLAAD) has placed a full-page ad in the *New York Times* deploring the ruling.

Nearly 300 law professors and professionals, including Yale Law School Dean Guido Calabresi, Alan Dershowitz, and Ira Glasser of the American Civil Liberties Union signed the open letter to the Supreme Court protesting the *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision.

"The majority failed to explain," the letter says, "how the Constitution can be deemed to protect the liberty to use contraceptives, to have an abortion if one chooses, to use pornography in one's home, and to live with whom one wishes — but not the liberty to engage in the most intimate and personal relations with another consenting adult." The letter declared that "the majority opinion poses a grave threat to the constitutional freedoms

of all Americans, gay and non-gay alike."

Public opinion polls have shown that a substantial majority of the American people disagree with the Court's decision. The open letter urged readers to tell the Court they opposed the decision and to send the advertisement to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., who was the swing vote in the 5-4 decision, to alert him to the continuing unpopularity of the decision. Other individual rights cases, in which Justice Powell may again cast a deciding vote, will shortly come before the Court.

The full-page advertisement is the first ever taken out by a non-profit gay and lesbian organization in the *New York Times*, according to Gerald Malis, who co-ordinated GLAAD's effort marking the first anniversary of the decision. Full-page advertisements have also appeared in the *New York Law Journal* and the *New York Native*.

Powell has retired. Reagan gets another chance. Those who want to prevent decades more of *Bowers v. Hardwick*, reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and increased intrusion into privacy by the religionists can write to their senators.

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