

Between the lines

Federal judge orders equality; "Common Interests" not for gays; cykotine and AIDS

BY JACK RILEY

Judge hits "outmoded stereotypes"

A federal judge in San Francisco (not on the President's list for a Supreme Court appointment) has slapped the Department of Defense for ordering longer investigations of gays who apply for jobs with the agency's civilian contractors.

U.S. District Judge Thelton E. Henderson ruled in a suit filed by High Tech Gays, a Silicon Valley-based group. The group contended that their members were singled out by the agency for unduly delayed security clearances.

Judge Henderson said the Constitution's guarantee of equal treatment under the law requires gays and non-gays to be treated equally when applying for the jobs.

Henderson wrote that the department's policy of more extensive security checks of homosexuals "relied on outmoded stereotypes and amounted to irrational prejudice in handling their applications."

Gay is a "no-go"

The Oregonian has launched a new classified personals column dubbed "Common Interests." Common, that is, if you

are straight and single.

If you've entertained the idea of using Common Interests to find a friend, chances are you will fare much better in *Willamette Week* where terminology such as "gay" is acceptable.

The phone operators at *The Oregonian* screen incoming calls and are quick to point out that acceptable abbreviations are F for female, M for male, S for single, D for divorced, B for black and W for white. "Everything else must be spelled out," the operator insists. When asked if gay would be accepted if written out, the operator says, "Gay is a no-go . . . this is a good-taste family newspaper."

Despite chemicals to keep the ink from rubbing off onto my hands, I get the urge to wash up after reading *The Oregonian* anyway.

AMA urges compassion

Members of the American Medical Association (not all doctors belong) have been warned by the AMA's Ethics Committee that they cannot refuse to treat patients infected with the AIDS virus.

While there have been few documented cases where doctors have refused AIDS patients, recent studies have revealed that some doctors harbor disquieting prejudices against AIDS patients in general.

The AMA guidelines acknowledge that AIDS patients need "competent, compassionate

treatment," but also urge doctors to report to public health officials the names of infected patients "who refuse to refrain from activities that might result in further transmission of the disease."

Unsafe sex: Breaking the habit

Psychologists have long known that telling a person to stop habitually dangerous behavior or face death does not always work. People continue to smoke after dire warnings and people continue to practice unsafe sex even after being bombarded with messages from every angle.

But the American Psychology Association believes voluntary, confidential AIDS testing, coupled with counseling, is the best hope for reducing the number of Americans who continue to practice unsafe sex.

Dr. Thomas Coates, co-director of the University of California's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, says that without a cure or vaccine, the focus must be on motivating people at risk to change their behavior.

Coates surveyed 502 gay and bisexual men last year and found that of the 77 found positive for the AIDS antibody, only 12 percent continued to practice unprotected anal intercourse. By comparison, twice as many men who had not been tested still reported practicing this dangerous behavior.

Understandably, the APA is calling for more counseling programs aimed at population sectors most susceptible to AIDS infection.

Drugs and AIDS: Link gets tighter

If you have tested AIDS positive (or believe you have been exposed to the virus) then

you'd better face up to one ugly fact: if you continue to use recreational drugs you stand a risk of prematurely triggering full-blown AIDS symptoms.

That's the word from Dr. Anthony Pauci of the National Institutes of Health after his study of human cells infected with the AIDS virus.

Pauci says drug use helps trigger release of a protein substance, cykotine, into the bloodstream. Cykotine has been directly linked to activation of the dormant AIDS virus.

"AIDS positive people can delay symptoms of the disease by adopting a lifestyle that limits cykotine secretion," Pauci claims.

They should Stoops so low

Within hours of *Willamette Week's* release of a page-one story labeling Michael Stoops a pedophile the jokes started rolling in — as they usually do when someone who normally occupies a position of high esteem in the community is put in an embarrassing situation.

Offensive jokes were copied and passed around by straight workers in Portland offices not 24 hours after *Willamette Week's* sensational story hit the streets. Not only was Stoops labeled "homosexual" (which has been no secret for some time) but he was fingered as a child abuser (which he has repeatedly denied).

Whatever the outcome of Stoops's situation, he will carry a stigma that only other people can attach — whether through a newspaper article or a mimeographed office memo. While an investigation may clear Stoops of child-abuse charges, nothing will erase a few malicious words.

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