

AIDS prediction by *Futurist* magazine grim

The November-December issue of *Futurist* magazine predicts that AIDS could claim 50 million lives throughout the world in the 1990s, exceeding the toll of the Black Plague in the Middle Ages.

The magazine also said millions of Americans may eventually become ill with the disease at an economic cost to the nation of \$66 billion. Although the chief victims have been gay and bisexual men and intravenous drug users, *Futurist* also predicted that AIDS is not likely to spread rapidly within the general heterosexual population.

On that note it's good to report that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has given approval to test a blood purifying device manufactured by a Seattle company.

The column-shaped device, called PROSORBA, holds some promise in filtering a diseased patient's blood outside the body. People taking part in the test must test positive for the AIDS virus and suffer from an infection such as pneumonia.

In PROSORBA therapy, one or two pints of blood are removed from a patient, and the fluid part of the blood, or plasma, is separated from the blood cells. The plasma is then filtered through the column to remove blocking factors called "circulating immune complexes," which consist of infectious or irritating agents called antigens.

No trend toward AIDS testing in workplace

Drug screening is on the rise when hiring middle and upper management, but there is no trend toward AIDS testing of prospects seeking that type of employment, according to a

recent survey released by the National Association of Corporate and Professional Recruiters.

Ninety percent of recruiters polled at their national convention in Chicago saw no trend toward AIDS testing in the middle or upper management levels, and 70 percent predict there will be no testing for lower management candidates either.

However, corporate human resource and search executives said they would hesitate to

... Between the Lines ...

BY JACK RILEY

refer the following job candidates: those with a history of drug abuse (87 percent), those with a history of alcoholism (78 percent) and homosexuals (45 percent). As long as homosexuality is grouped with serious negative connotations it is easy to understand why many young gay executives moving up in the business world are forced to protect their identity or face severe professional discrimination in their later careers.

Judge bars release of AIDS test

A Kansas judge has issued a permanent injunction barring a man's doctors from informing his ex-wife that he tested

positive for the AIDS virus.

The New York Times reported that gay rights advocates are calling the decision a precedent and said it bolstered a finding of the Presidential AIDS Commission, which said that ensuring the confidentiality of test results was necessary to the eventual control of the disease.

The case involved a man who tested positive in March and sued his health-maintenance organization after officials there told him they were going to disclose the test results to his former wife. The man, identified only as John Doe, took his case to the Civil Liberties Union.

Doe's healthcare provider also covered his ex-wife and had done an HIV test on her after he tested positive. She tested negative. The two had been separated for two years and had not had sex during that time.

Judge Marion Chipman of the District Court in Johnson County, Kansas, said: "The release of John Doe's HIV results may not only subject him to ridicule and contempt of his family and friends and the community at large, but could endanger his job and, consequently, his medical benefits."

The decision marked the first time a court has enjoined a healthcare provider from releasing confidential HIV results.

It underscores one major concern in the battle against AIDS: if people are afraid to talk to their doctors, then they will not talk to their doctors.

High cost of healthcare, AIDS, concern Portland adults

A privately-sponsored survey of 300 adults in Portland recently found that the high cost of healthcare was overwhelmingly perceived to be the biggest healthcare problem facing people today. According to a *Business Journal* story, comments relating to high cost

were volunteered by 42 percent of respondents in a telephone survey. This was followed by AIDS (14 percent), people who have no insurance (5 percent) and healthcare for the elderly (4 percent).



E. Ann Hinds

Gay "genetics" topic of *Parents* magazine article

Sexual orientation is largely determined by biological conditions existing before birth. That's what two psychologists, David and Barbara Bjorklund, reported in the October issue of *Parents* magazine.

They cite studies involving animals exposed to sex hormones prenatally and then observed as adults. "Homosexuality is not something boys 'catch' from being around homosexual men," said the Bjorklunds. They also point to another study that found little evidence that a dominant mother and weak father contribute to a homosexual son.

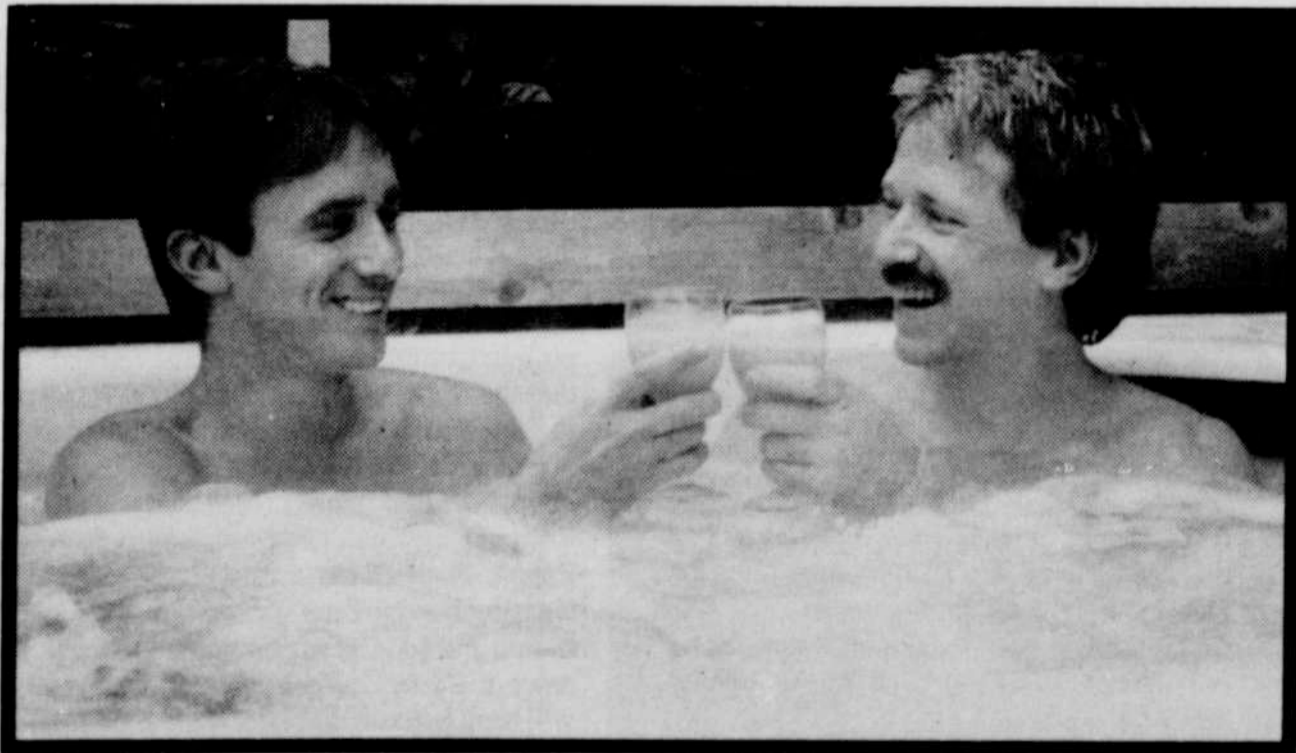
So if you've had the feeling that "I've always felt that I was gay," then you are probably right. Controversy over whether gays are born or made is at the very heart of issues involving gay civil rights. Pick up a copy of the article at the public library periodicals room.

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