

Voices in the Wilderness

It is clear that testing positive for HIV antibodies has psychologically devastating effects on a person, his or her family, and friends. This is especially true with many public health officials and scientists dogmatically proclaiming that 100 percent of seropositive persons will eventually die of AIDS.

Those who test positive will have to deal with the psychological stresses of fear and discrimination for the rest of their lives. Because the immune system is adversely affected by stress of any kind, an immune system already suppressed by HIV would seem to be severely compromised by continuous stress of this magnitude.

—Dr. James E. D'Eramo's column, AIDScope, appears regularly in Bay Windows, New England's largest gay and lesbian newspaper. Dr. D'Eramo has a doctorate in infectious diseases from the University of Texas Medical Center in Houston. He has specialized training in medical counseling and psychotherapy, and is in private practice in Manhattan. (Bay Windows, April 6-12, 1989)

Buzz, buzz

A proud conservative Democrat with strong family ties" is how her campaign director described newly elected Congresswoman Judy Long, according to *In These Times*.

Long represents Indiana's 4th Congressional District, the district which spawned Dan Quayle.

"Eschewing feminist identification, Long projected herself as acceptable in mostly male terms to a largely conservative electorate," wrote ITT's George Fish in a recent issue.

Which just goes to show that some women in the Democratic party are no less immune to the lure of conservative politics than are Republican men.



ILLUSTRATION: E. ANN HINDS

What's going on here?

B Y J A Y B R O W N

"G" word taboo at ART/AIDS

What with all the gay men who were involved in last month's ART/AIDS benefit, one might surmise that the "G" word would appear at least once in materials promoting the week-long event. One would, however, search in vain. While photographs of gay men were used in the beautiful ART/AIDS poster and other materials, the "G" word was conspicuous by its absence.

Jerry West, one of those men, lived his life as a gay artist; he would be appalled at the hypocrisy.

Evangelist's child prostitution ring busted

Evangelist Tony Leyva was sentenced to 20 years in prison after he admitted guilt in a child prostitution ring. The courtroom audience in Roanoke, VA, which included some of Leyva's victims and their families, cheered when Federal District Judge James Turk told the evangelist that everyone who had ever heard him preach morality "ought to kick you good" according to *The New York Times*.

Leyva, 42, is also serving a sentence on state charges of sexually abusing two boys in Salem, VA. Rias Edward Morris, 47, an organist for the Tony Leyva Evangelistic Association of Columbus, GA, was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Freddie H. Herring, 50, of the Light-house Assembly in Douglassville, GA, was sentenced to 12 years. All three men pleaded

guilty to interstate transportation of boys for prostitution.

The men procured the boys in their travels along the revival circuit, using their influence over the boys' families. Over the past 20 years, Leyva had sexual relations with at least 30 boys, many brought to him by their mothers.

The Fourth Reich?

Is it only coincidence that Oregon's governor signed legislation authorizing the state's most ambitious prison construction program in a century on the centenary of the birth of Adolph Hitler?

On the same day, a legislative panel okayed a bill which will recriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. The latter, of course, is so that come next election, the powers that be can say, "Well, we did something about drugs." And the rubes will believe them!

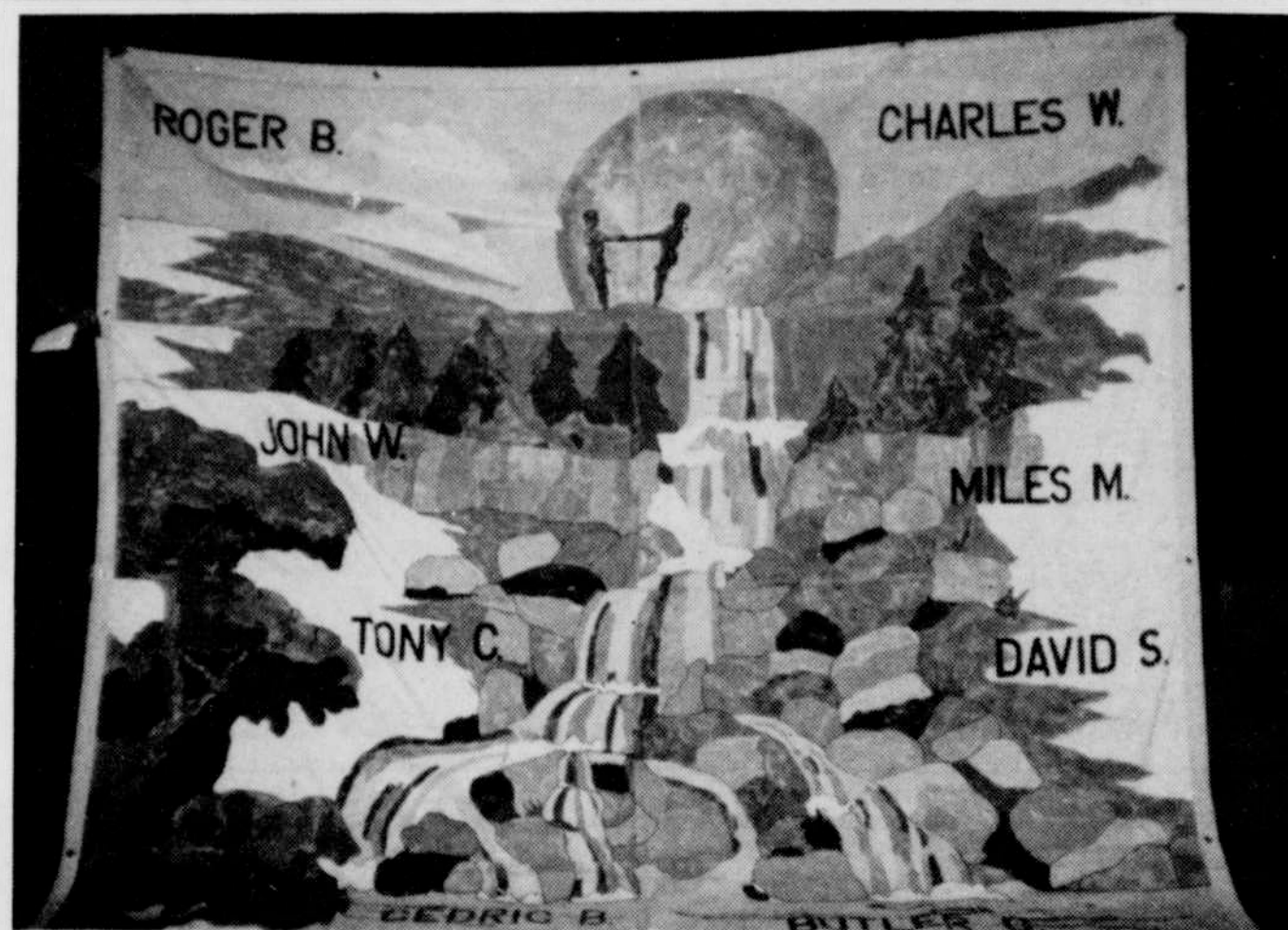


PHOTO BY FRED MENARD

Family squabbles

A flap involving two high profile organizations in the gay community was averted when human figures in a painting were covered. The painting was exhibited in the rotunda of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts by the Portland Chapter of the Names Project during the Portland Gay Men's Chorus concerts in April. The painting, which measures 12 feet square and is executed in bright colors, memorializes eight men who died of AIDS. (See photo above.)

When the local Names Project people were approached by PGMC with complaints that the

painting "was drawing the wrong kind of attention," the Names Project volunteered to cover the human figures with a banner.

"PGMC tried to be helpful to the Names Project by giving it access to our audiences but out of context, the 'Men au naturel' panel made no sense," PGMC's Richard Brown said in a telephone interview. "It looked like a billboard for a nudist camp. The people who complained to PGMC felt that showing it in that way was disrespectful to the meaning of the quilt."

The 144 square foot painting — the equivalent of eight quilt panels — was hung in the rotunda and was not identified as part of the Names Project Quilt.

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