

The barriers are down; let's volunteer for testing

Most of the people, estimated to be in the millions, who are infected with the AIDS virus have never been tested. Some ignorantly believe there is no way they could have contracted the HIV infection. But if you have had unprotected sex or have shared a needle with anyone in the past 10 years, then you could be infected, even though you look and feel healthy as a horse.

The HIV test is now highly accurate and its ability to predict the development of AIDS is affirmed. That barrier is down.

... Between the Lines ...

BY JACK RILEY

Confidentiality of testing is in place. At the Multnomah County Health Division your name is only a number. But if you test positive, immediate counseling is available.

Discrimination in the workplace is diminishing, from a legal standpoint anyway. President Bush is endorsing new laws to make AIDS discrimination even in the private workplace illegal. Those barriers are coming down — and fast.

The New York City Gay Men's Health Crisis, a private organization providing AIDS services, has just reversed its long-standing position and now endorses voluntary testing.

So what are you waiting for?

An alarm no one knows how to shut off

My old wallet is stuffed; not with cash, but with scraps of paper collected over years of meeting people and taking names and phone numbers. Names I would probably not remember and phone numbers I would never call. So once in a while I clean house and start over.

The other day during a periodic wallet purge I came across a yellowed and tattered old "Zippy" cartoon strip. I was going to toss it away, but on second look, I was a little amazed at how prophetic that strip had become in little more than one year.

"AIDS is a siren wail DISTANT at first," the first panel of the strip opens. "An ALARM no one knows how to shut off...filling the SILENCE around it." In the final panels with Zippy and his pal Griffy standing in awe: "...and when its SCREAM invades the heart of someone CLOSE...AIDS is an alarm with a human face."

Well, in the past years AIDS took on a human face for me, and like so many hundreds of thousands of people, that face belonged to someone dear and close. I guess I've stopped counting.

Playing catch-22 with AZT

The good news, of course, is that AZT has been declared effective for people with HIV infection who show no symptoms, expanding by 400,000 the number of people eligible for AZT treatment, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The bad news: where are those additional 400,000 people going to find the \$5 billion to

pay for the additional treatments? Worse yet, insurance companies may not pay for AZT because the drug is not licensed to HIV-infected patients who are asymptomatic.

In other words, unless you develop AIDS or ARC symptoms, you will have to pay for AZT out of your own pocket. At an estimated \$8,000 a year, there will be very few who can afford to take this drug that promises to keep the disease at bay. Since symptoms may take up to 10 years to manifest themselves, we are talking about a great deal of money.

"No Butt Fucking" T-shirt leads to protest

Conservative student newspaper backers at the University of Iowa created a campus uproar among students and faculty recently with a display including T-shirts depicting two men having sex. Underneath a slashed circle were the words "Stop AIDS."

The students, who helped distribute the off-campus publication The Campus Review

to other students on campus, explained that "It points out the obvious: to stop AIDS you have to stop homosexual intercourse."

Some groups on campus representing gays and lesbians did not see it that way and set up a counter-display next to the Review's. The display described the Review representation as "discrimination" and a situation that only "invites harassment" of gay and lesbian students.

No word on how many of the \$10 T-shirts were sold.

Maybe it pays to advertise

A "very responsible" gay male is using Willamette Week classifieds to advertise for a small house to rent. That's not so unusual, although "Rich" went on to say that he is a full-time student and "also a Future Police Officer."

In San Francisco, the police department has actively recruited qualified gays and lesbians for years. That's the prudent political

thing to do in a city with a large gay and lesbian population. In Portland, it's hard enough to establish even token liaison with local cops, let alone to expect them to recruit one of our own to join the force. The gay and lesbian population in the Portland area would certainly warrant such a policy.

Well, we hope Rich finds his one- or two-bedroom apartment, gets his degree and finds a police department that will give him an equal opportunity for employment, regardless of his orientation.

Reach for a crayon and "Draw Yourself Out!"

274.9591

ANN HINDS art medium



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY 1989-1990 LECTURE SERIES

Internationally recognized leaders in their fields . . . the most exciting ideas and controversies. . . and the crucial technological issues of our times
Presentations + Q&A, 7:30-9:30 PM: Civic Auditorium or Schnitzer Hall
Presented by the Institute for Science, Engineering and Public Policy

Only One Earth

Friday, October 6th, 1989
featuring U.S. Astronaut
Rusty Schweickart
and Russian Cosmonaut
Yuri Romanenko



In one of the most unique lecture programs in history, a Soviet Cosmonaut and an American Astronaut will appear together to speak about U.S./Soviet cooperation in space exploration and development—featuring a multi-media presentation. The space explorers discuss future space technology and applications: energy production, resource conservation, and combating environmental pollution.



Stephen Jay Gould

Friday, October 13th

Stephen Jay Gould is an evolutionary biologist, MacArthur Foundation fellow, Professor of Geology at Harvard, prolific writer and die-hard Yankees fan. His essays appear in *Natural History* and *Discover*, and have been collected in four books (*Ever Since Darwin*, *The Panda's Thumb*, *Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes*, *The Flamingo's Smile*.) Gould has crusaded against both creationists and genetic determinists. He and Niles Eldridge first proposed the theory of punctuated equilibrium challenging orthodox gradualism.



Philip Morrison

Friday, November 17th

Philip Morrison, Physics Professor at MIT, is more than just an extraordinary astrophysicist. Says Carl Sagan, "The people who attend his lectures never forget them." Co-author of the PSSC Science Curriculum, PBS's *The Ring of Truth* expresses Morrison's vision of science. In 1954, he began to examine two fascinating and fundamental questions about cosmic rays: Where do they come from and how are they made? He and Giuseppe Conconi published a paper that grew into the field of study known as the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

David Suzuki

Saturday, December 16th

David Suzuki, Professor of Genetics and internationally renowned host of the award-winning CBC series *The Nature of Things* and *A Planet for the Taking*. He has published over 300 popular science articles and 13 books. His latest book, written with P. Knudtson, *GENETHICS: The Ethics of Engineering Life* (1988), is an exploration of the relation between modern genetics and human values.



Fritjof Capra

Friday, January 19, 1990

Fritjof Capra, Ph.D., physicist, systems theorist and futurist, teaches at the Univ. of California at Berkeley. In *The Tao of Physics* he demonstrated parallels between ancient mystical traditions and the discoveries of 20th century physics. In *The Turning Point* he sees a future that works: the holistic approach to health and healing, the integration of Eastern and Western approaches to psychotherapy, ecological and feminist perspectives, economic alternatives and global politics.



Jane Goodall

Friday, April 6, 1990

On July 14, 1960, Jane Goodall stepped from a government launch onto the sandy shore of Lake Tanganyika with no training for scientific research. Now, as she completes her twenty-ninth consecutive year of study at Gombe, she and her work have become legendary. She is credited with the first recorded observations of chimpanzees eating meat and using and making tools. Goodall is one of the most publicly recognized and respected scientists in the world.



Tickets: G.I. Joe's Ticketmaster
or call PCPA at 248-4496