

Homeless with AIDS population mushrooms

Of the estimated United States homeless population of two million, a survey has revealed that from 28,000 to 32,000 homeless people have AIDS or AIDS-related complex. Even worse, it is forecast that this AIDS group is likely to increase by 87 percent in just the next year.

Imagine being homeless and having to deal with AIDS!

The report was issued by the Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. of New York City. It was based on questionnaires circulated to more than 500 public and private agencies in 46 cities and localities nationwide.

The Partnership also proposed a national agenda for dealing with the issue of homelessness and called for an increase in the minimum wage, modest increases in the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor, and uniform minimum amounts for welfare benefits, which now vary greatly from state to state.

Nearly one-third of the nation's homeless people are impaired by alcohol or drug dependency, and about one in five suffer severe mental illness, according to that survey.

Grade school principal "compromised security"

Another man who was involved with the same prostitute as US Rep. Barney Frank has resigned as principal of Chevy Chase Elementary School in Rockville, Md.

The resignation of the principal, Gabriel Massaro, was announced by Superintendent Harry Pitt, who said his investigation had found that Massaro had "compromised" school security. He did not elaborate.

The principal acknowledged that he had a four-year association with the prostitute, Stephen Gobie. Gobie said that Massaro

... **Between the Lines** ...

B Y J A C K R I L E Y

allowed him to use a guidance counselor's office at night to make phone calls to set up appointments for his prostitution service.

Dear Abby: thanks for the opinion

Perhaps you don't read Dear Abby in The Oregonian, but millions of other readers and I find a moment or two every day to catch up on the little things that bother people in day-to-day life.

Just the other day, a woman writing as "Only his Mother" asked Abby to give an opinion on her son's request that she call him before visiting his apartment. She explained: "I used to drop in any time and was always welcome. Now he has a roommate and things have changed. His roommate is a very nice fellow. He even offered to take care of me if I ever got sick. (My son is a flight attendant with a big airline, and he's out of town a lot.)"

The writer added that she was born in Mexico and she felt it was untraditional for a mother to make an appointment to visit her own son.

Well, Abby fielded that problem as if it was just another ordinary letter and advised her to honor her son's wishes and his roommate's privacy and just "call first."

How refreshing.

"Chicken Soup" gets at least one laugh

The critics have all lined up and taken at least one good potshot at television's "Chicken Soup" starring longtime standup comic Jackie Mason. But Mason does get a few good lines.

This TV sitcom has Jackie still living with his outspoken mama who frets over her son courting a gentile. At one point, Rita Karin, who plays the stereotypical smothering Jewish mom, cries out to Jackie, "Why can't you be gay like other normal men?"

That's about as close as network television gets to dealing with 10 percent of the nation's population.

Lawmakers should move against hate crimes

According to The New York Times, the only thing standing in the way of a New York State Assembly law aimed at bias crimes is the unwillingness of some legislators to include "sexual orientation" as a protected category.

The racial attack at Howard Beach three years ago and the recent series of harassments against Jewish students have attracted all the headlines. Yet attacks on homosexuals — or those thought to be homosexual — are said to be the fastest-growing category of bias-crimes in the nation.

Congress is also mulling a bias crime bill that would authorize the United States Justice Department to gather national statistics on hate crimes. Incredibly, no such statistics are being compiled.

New York's proposed bias-crime bill would authorize prosecutors to upgrade the severity of the charge against an assailant in such crimes.

Hippocrates would have rolled over in his grave

There is a plastic surgeon in Seattle — Dr. Curran Smith — who wanted his fellow doctors to consider it ethical to *require* an HIV test from all patients before elective surgery. Not only that, in a proposal to the 100th annual meeting of the Washington State Medical Association in Spokane recently, Dr. Smith asked his fellow doctors to also consider it ethical to refuse to perform elective surgery if the patient refused to take the test or if the person is carrying the virus.

It's a relief to report that the association handily rejected Dr. Smith's proposal and reaffirmed the position "that has been developed over thousands of years in care of the ill," as association President Dr. George Schneider put it.

"The doctors are saying that, just because an individual has a disease in which there may be a risk to the physician or health-care team, medical care should not be withheld," Dr. Schneider added.

Gay "mayor" to explain title

Portland's unofficial gay mayor, Sanford Director, is scheduled to be a guest November 7 on community access television's new gay talk show "Nightscene."

According to a press release, Sandy will explain to program host Lanny Swerdlow how he acquired the mayoral title. In this column last month, I referred to Director as "self-appointed." I apologize for that statement since it is a fact that Director was given that title by gay "royalty" at a social function some time ago.

It just seems that every time I see Director's name in print, the "gay mayor" title is always nearby. See what I mean. ▼

Creative ideas for holiday greeting cards, ornaments and gift wrap.

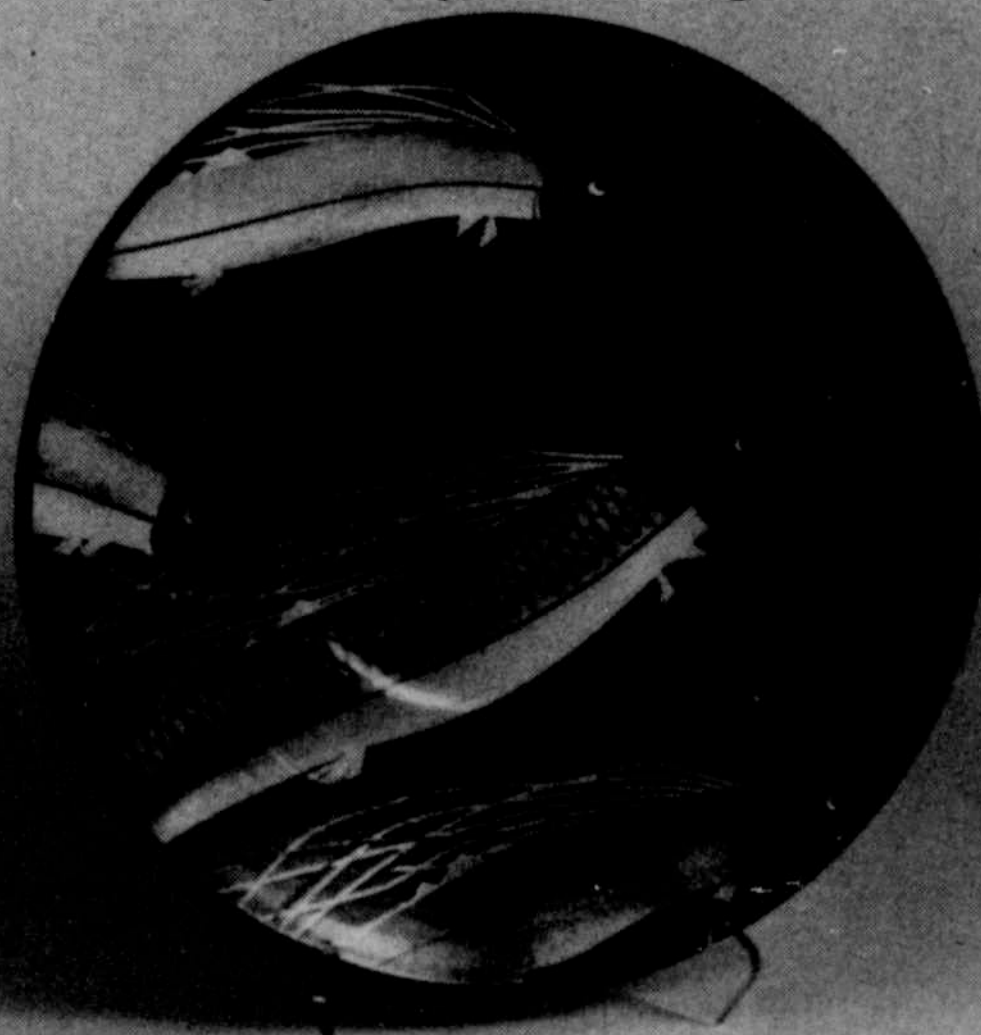
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