

COMMUNITY ALERT!!

Progress against AIDS threatened by relapse into unsafe sex:

- ▼ In Chicago, new HIV infections within a study group of gay men doubled from 1988 to 1989.
- ▼ In Los Angeles, 30% of the clients at the Gay and Lesbian health clinic are diagnosed with gonorrhea.
- ▼ In Seattle, gonorrhea among gay men tripled from 1988 to 1989.
- ▼ In Oregon 1989 saw a 58% increase in hepatitis B among gay men.

The activities that result in gonorrhea, hepatitis B and other sexually transmitted diseases are the same that lead to infection with HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS.

THE GOOD NEWS...

- ▼ Free, anonymous HIV testing is available in every county in Oregon.
- ▼ There is now more reason than ever to know whether you have been infected with HIV. Early treatment, if you are infected, could prolong your life.
- ▼ Each and every one of us can do our part to keep our community alive.

If you haven't taken the HIV antibody test, or if it's been awhile... consider it again.

Call your local health department or the Oregon AIDS Hotline at 223-AIDS (Portland), or 1-800-777-AIDS.

It's Up To You!

Brought to you by the Oregon Health Division and Cascade AIDS Project.

Just how liberal is Bud Clark?

Oregonian political columnist Steve Duin off-handedly remarked after the May 15 city elections, "Now that the Liberal Axis has completed its takeover of the Portland City Council, add *Dress Like Darcelle Day* to your June calendar."

Well, it is comforting to know that Commissioner and ex-cop Bob Koch got unseated by Gretchen Kafoury, who is sympathetic to gay causes. But we're not certain where the Mayor stands on one gay-related issue.

Clark said that he is not sure whether the city should extend some job benefits to unmarried couples. About 15 city workers have been circulating petitions asking the city to recognize longtime partnerships, whether the partners are of the opposite or same sex. Recognition of those partnerships could affect the city's policies on parental leave, sick leave, funeral leave and medical benefits.

Said our liberal Mayor: "Generally, I believe in the establishment of family and strong relationships. And a lot of the laws we have, have tended to break families apart."

What?

... Between the Lines ...

BY JACK RILEY

Inquiring minds want to know...

The supermarket tabloids have now been joined by mainstream newspapers in "outing" celebrities.

We've grown accustomed to glimpsing headlines in check-out stands blaring "Barbara Streisand's Only Son Hangs Out in Gay Bars." The tabs love to get personal. But now they've been joined by the New York Post and the New York Daily News in spreading rumors about celebs who allegedly are having gay affairs.

A recent Post article titled "Outing" articles pick up steam," mentioned John Travolta, Kristy McNichol and Richard Chamberlain. Two days later in May, the Daily News ran a front page story quoting David Bowie's ex-wife as saying she caught Bowie and Mick Jagger in bed once, and that it was only one of Bowie's many gay affairs.

Outing articles, according to the Post, "are storming the closets of allegedly gay celebrities for the sake of truth justice and improved newsstand sales."

According to the Bay Area Reporter, "Such reporting...is unknown in mainstream American Journalism."

Do-it-yourself community policing

Those big burly guys with nightsticks and real guns on their hips don't draw paychecks from the City of Portland. Stark street merchants have hired their own police force to patrol the neighborhood.

The stretch of street from Broadway to 13th Avenue has been getting a little rough lately. For a time you couldn't walk one single block without being panhandled or harassed by tough looking guys with mean looking dogs. There have been the muggings and beatings in the neighborhood, too.

The merchants — both gay and straight — pooled their funds and rented a two man uniformed patrol to keep an eye on things for their area.

To date, it has turned out well. The panhandlers don't hang around much anymore, and the street has actually gotten downright quiet in the evenings.

Portland area businesses, according to the Oregonian, are spending \$4 million a year for private security forces to control crime.

While the city moves ever so slowly toward community policing (neighborhood storefronts and foot patrols), we can expect the three test neighborhoods to quiet down, but anticipate that nearby neighborhoods will experience an increase in trouble as the problem elements move elsewhere. No doubt when the Old Town community policing project gets in full swing this summer, the Stark Street neighborhood too can expect an increase in criminal visitors.

The private foot patrols will be waiting for them. Our hats off to all the participating businesses. We hope City Hall will consider some special tax breaks for business people who are being forced to hire their own police.

The upper Stark Street merchants funding this project include the Fish Grotto, Silverado, Scandals, CC Slaughters, Jakes, Mark Spencer Hotel, Club Portland, Spartacus Enterprises, Kent Hotel, Three Sisters Tavern and City Nightclub. The next time you patronize one of these establishments, please mention that you appreciate their efforts to make our neighborhood safer. I do.

Anti-drug rally marred by hatred of gays

About 4,000 Oregon youths marched through downtown Portland May 11 as part of the state's fifth annual Say No to Drugs March.

The students, from all parts of the state and 47 public and private schools, carried banners

and signs with slogans such as "Say Yes to Clean and Sober Friends."

But as the children marched up Southwest Broadway, someone began handing out stickers saying "Homosexuality? Just Say No." Many of the kids picked up the stickers and carried them on their march through downtown.

Once again, if anyone has a clue as to who these individuals are who printed and distributed the stickers, please let me know. I think they should have their names printed so that everyone can see who they are and what they represent.

Community summit to focus on bigotry, hate

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is bringing together a number of community organizations June 22 for a special meeting to combat increased forms of bias and hate that have occurred in Portland area communities recently.

By pulling different factions together, the commission hopes to come up with some workable solutions. Cross burnings, hate letters, hate graffiti and verbal harassment of groups and individuals are on the rise. This meeting is long overdue.

A hot line, where individuals can phone in to report incidents of harassment, will surely be one suggestion. Since the police rarely respond unless there is property damage or threat to life, this hot line could help community groups tackle problems not covered by law enforcement.

The summit is being co-sponsored by US West and Portland Community College. It will take place at PCC's Sylvania campus.

A wolf called Judy

Ogden Nash once observed that middle age occurs "when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else."

We do know that the onset of middle age is a very special time. We all know of those guys who suddenly show up at Slaughters in a UCLA sweatshirt and a new pair of neon green Body Glove sunglasses from Nordies, and their college days have passed two decades ago.

Other people think that it's about time for a tattoo, oblivious to the fact that few men or women look terrific in sleeveless T-shirts after 35 or so winters.

It has come to pass that our exalted bartender Judy (CC Slaughters and The Eagle), has seen fit to have a rather large wolf head tattooed on his upper left arm. It's a rather mild-mannered wolf (no fangs or red tongue slopped over its clenched lips). Rather, it looks a little like a Doberman who has been slipped a Valium.

Well, if we can have a fish called Wanda, then we can easily accommodate a wolf called Judy.



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