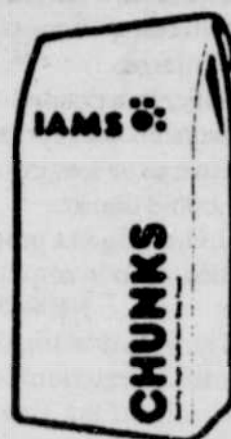


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national news

AIDS activists to protest Republican homophobia

On Aug. 17, AIDS activists from across the nation will converge on Houston, Texas, in a direct challenge to George Bush and the Republican Party. Members of ACT UP and other activist organizations will carry out a week of protests designed to expose the complete inadequacy of the past three Republican administrations in dealing with the AIDS crisis. "The time for talk is over," says Jim Hull, one of the national organizers. "The Republicans have been told numerous times over the past 11 years how to begin solving this crisis, and they have refused to do anything."

Beginning with a march from central Houston to the Astrodome convention site on Monday, Aug. 17, demonstrators will rove about the city every day of the following week, focusing on targets such as Republican senators or representatives and state delegates to the convention. Several hundred AIDS activists are expected to come to Houston. "Many people are just fed up with the total lack of concern and even open hatred for people living with HIV disease shown by Republican Party officials over the past 11 years," said march organizer Phil Dunn, who is a member of the Portland organization R.A.T.S. For more information, contact R.A.T.S. at 240-0377.

NEA convention votes compassion for gay youth

The 1992 National Education Association Representative Assembly, the world's largest democratic body, with over 8,500 delegates, voted in Washington, D.C., to provide copies of *Oregon's Sexual Minority Youth: An At-Risk Population: Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth* to every state affiliate and to the 300 largest local associations. Also, NEA was instructed to monitor legislative action that would limit basic civil rights and develop strategies for the elimination of such restrictions. This would include legislation such as that proposed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance and Coloradans for Family Values.

In other business, the NEA body voted to coordinate the creation of NAMES Project panels for members who have died of AIDS; pursue the release of the *Health and Human Service Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide* report, including the section discussing gay and lesbian youth; to develop, in coordination with the NEA Gay and Lesbian Caucus, a training program for local elected leaders to improve their awareness and sensitivity to concerns of gay and lesbian education employees.

1992 Walk across Washington

The Walk across Washington, a grassroots event to raise the public's consciousness of the needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, will occur again this year, leaving Seattle on Sept. 6 and arriving in Spokane on Sept. 20. Eight people will be making the entire trek of almost 330 miles, averaging 26 miles a day, hoping to increase visibility and to provide role models for sexual minority youth and the public at large. By starting and stopping from schools in a different town each day, the walkers will symbolically emphasize the needs of sexual minority youth, starting with education.

The event is being sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the Association of Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocates, Lambert House and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Endorsements and contributions from other organizations and individuals are welcomed as well and may be sent to: Walk across Washington, c/o AGLYA, PO Box 25551, Seattle, WA 98125; phone (503) 292-3454.

Bush administration escalates genocide

The Bush administration has quietly asserted that it has the power to declare any Indian tribe in the nation extinct, even if the tribe is officially recognized by treaty. The new policy is stated deep in the text of a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision last month denying recognition to the Miami tribe of Indiana.

"It isn't the policy or the desire of the Secretary of the Interior to seek to reduce the number of tribes or set out to take away tribal status from any legitimate tribe," Interior Department spokesman Bob Walker told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, admitting however, "I can't speculate what policy may be five years from now." Arlinda Locklear, a lawyer for the Miamis and a member of another unrecognized tribe, the Lumbee, commented, "The BIA can now roam and reconsider the tribal status of any tribe it chooses. It's a shocking conclusion."

White supremacists in disarray

Tom Metzger and his son John, who lost a \$12.5 million civil suit in Portland in 1990 for their complicity in the beating death of Ethiopian Mulugeta Seraw, were deported from Canada after addressing a group of 150 neo-Nazis in Toronto. Officials in California are considering arresting Tom Metzger on his return for probation violations.

In Washington, three state leaders of Aryan Nations have resigned in a disagreement over recruitment practices. The three, closely linked to the skinhead movement, through which Aryan Nations has sought to attract younger members to its aging ranks, objected to a lack of understanding of youth and women by the Aryan Nations hierarchy.

At an annual gathering of white supremacist groups in northern Idaho, the Aryan World Congress, sponsored by Aryan Nations, Thom Robb, grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, called on white supremacists to promote their beliefs within a framework society accepts. Aligning himself with the image and ideology of David Duke, Robb claimed, "I'm not interested in hating anybody. Hating is insane."

National Latino/Latina HIV risk-reduction campaign launched

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, in collaboration with the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, has announced the inauguration of "Siempre con Condom" (translated: "always with a condom"), the first national HIV risk-reduction program for gay and bisexual Latinos. Reggie Williams, executive director of the task force, a national advocacy program for gay men of color, said, "It is truly monumental that our organization has been part of developing an appropriate model for this population, which has for so long been neglected by the gay and lesbian community."

The Latino/o risk-reduction program currently consists of an English-language and a Spanish-language workshop that focus on individual skill building and support within the community to practice safer sex on a consistent basis. Visuals for the program include invitations for risk-reduction workshops and a series of six posters with safer-sex messages.

Compiled by Jim Hunger, Wayne Turner,
Steve Michael.