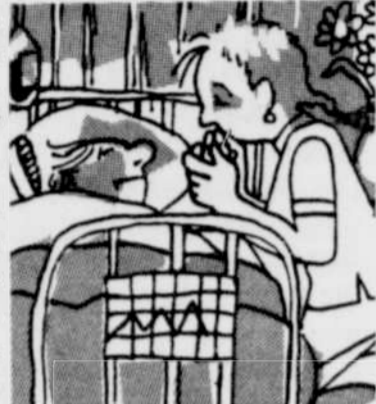


national news

Report warns of massive new HIV infections

A recently released report of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association warns that massive numbers of gay men, bisexuals and lesbians in the United States and Canada will become infected with HIV unless dramatic new steps are taken.

The 108-page report, titled "The Silent Crisis: Ongoing HIV Infections Among Gay Men, Bisexuals and Lesbians at Risk," is the result of the first broad-based summit of scholars and community leaders convened to address prevention of HIV disease in the sexual minority community. The report cites a study projecting that a majority of young, gay and bisexual men in the United States will eventually become infected.



The report identifies key themes and urgent priorities that emerged from the summit, among them: the rate of new infections among gay and bisexual men is staggering, especially among men of color and youth; prevention efforts must address the profound emotional and psychological issues affecting HIV-negative gay and bisexual men; building stronger communities and combating homophobia are essential to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS; and HIV is a lesbian issue, with disturbingly high rates of infection among certain populations of lesbian and bisexual women.

New Orleans to host physicians conference

The 12th annual Lesbian Physicians Conference will address "Women's Health in the Year 2000: Where Are We Headed?" Lesbian physicians from the United States and Canada will gather June 1-4 in New Orleans, La., to address critical issues affecting women's health.

Plenary sessions, discussions and workshops will address such topics as breast cancer, abortion, hormone therapies, violence and conflict resolution in the medical workplace, overcoming access barriers for women and lesbians of color, and ways to influence medical organization policies on lesbian health issues. Recipients of research grants from the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's Lesbian Health Fund will make presentations on their groundbreaking work.

For registration information, contact Deborah Romero at (415) 255-4547.

Lesbian reporter settles job bias lawsuit

Julie Brienza has announced a settlement of her federal lawsuit against the religious right broadcaster whose on-air campaign ended in her dismissal from United Press International five years ago.

Brienza contacted Victor Eliason, an evangelical minister, in the course of researching a freelance article for *The Washington Blade*, a gay and lesbian newspaper in Washington, D.C. When Eliason learned that she worked for UPI, he demanded the wire service fire her on the grounds that as a lesbian she could not be an objective reporter.

When UPI refused to fire Brienza, Eliason orchestrated an on-air campaign against her, giving out the phone numbers of UPI officials and prompting his listeners to jam the news agency's switchboard with demands for Brienza's dismissal. UPI eventually succumbed to the pressure and fired Brienza.

The settlement calls for Eliason to pay \$255,000 in damages and to acknowledge publicly that he accepts the "principle of equal employment opportunities for gay men and lesbians in the media." A decision in the lawsuit that Brienza filed against UPI is still pending.

Youth win big on Oscar night

Friends and supporters gathered at Club Zei in Washington, D.C., to watch the Academy Awards and to raise money for the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League.

"The Academy Awards Celebration for Youth" drew about 150 people and grossed about \$7,500 for SMYAL's programs.

In addition to the Oscar telecast, the event included musical, dramatic and dance entertainment by youth from SMYAL and a silent auction of items ranging from an autographed Speedo swimsuit donated by Olympic diver Greg Louganis (which fetched \$625) to the script of the "Chuckles Bites the Dust" episode of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

U.S. human rights violations

Amnesty International has released a report indicating that violations of human rights—especially those of racial minorities—are continuing in the United States. The report cited violations such as the use of the death penalty in cases of juvenile offenders, brutality and excessive force by police officers, and torture and ill-treatment in jails and prisons. In all of these areas Amnesty International has found violations of international human rights standards, including those of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the United States ratified in 1992.

The report was presented in March to the U.N. Human Rights Committee, a body of 18 experts which monitors states' compliance with the treaty.

AIDS education for federal employees under fire

In September 1993 President Clinton signed an executive order creating the Federal Workplace AIDS Education Initiative, a program which mandates AIDS education for federal employees. The program was targeted to reach 2 million employees.

Meanwhile, conservative groups have criticized the initiative as "pro-gay."

According to a report in *The Washington Times*, at least two congressional panels have announced plans to investigate the program in light of accusations that the curriculum promotes a "homosexual lifestyle."

Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.), chairman of the House National Security subcommittee on personnel, has said he will hold hearings later this year. Dornan has vowed that he will "beg federal workers of courage to come to [him] anonymously and help [him] build a case file."

The House Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee on civil service has already begun a preliminary inquiry, the *Times* reported.

Complaints about the classes range from claims that the trainer candidate test excluded all but "pro-gay" trainers to assertions by some federal workers that they had been subjected to graphic talk about sex practices.

Compiled by Jann Gilbert



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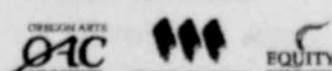
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