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## national news

### AIDS Action Council honors leaders, decries Clinton

"I take no pride and I take an enormous amount of shame in the effort I put into electing a president whose leadership has been so profoundly shallow, so profoundly opportunistic that, in my view, he is an enemy of people with AIDS," said Sean Strub, publisher of *POZ* magazine. His audience of high-rollers sat in a theater halfway between the White House and the Capitol on June 22, as Strub accepted an award from the nation's largest HIV public policy group, the AIDS Action Council. They offered no dissent.

"These awards ceremonies always make me feel a little sad because they remind me that doing what you are supposed to do is an extraordinary act," said another award recipient, Phill Wilson. He is public policy director with AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) received the Public Policy Award for his work in saving funding for Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS. He used the opportunity to praise his predecessor, Stuart McKinney, who died of AIDS nearly a decade ago, and McKinney's wife, Lucy, who has become a housing advocate for people with AIDS.

Other recipients were: The Aaron Diamond Foundation and designer Isaac Mizrahi, Community Service Award; Munim-Murray Productions and reporter Mia Navarro, Media Award; and Tim Sweeney, Advocacy Award.

Last up was Elizabeth Glazer's posthumous award. Tension filled the air as AIDS czar Patsy Fleming mounted the stage to accept the award for the family. The applause was noticeably restrained, but there were no boos. And it was over.

Bob Roehr

### NEA supports queer history month

The National Education Association, the 2.2-million-member national teachers' union, voted to support Lesbian and Gay History Month at its Representative Assembly in July. The NEA's Resolution B-8, "Sexual Orientation Education," was amended to include a clause to that effect.

Resolution B-8 was passed by the Representative Assembly in July 1994. It states that the NEA recognizes the importance of raising the awareness of and increasing the sensitivity to sexual orientation in our society and supports the development of ongoing training programs for education employees to identify and eliminate sexual orientation stereotyping in the educational setting.

Kristine Chatwood

### Researchers study STDs in lesbians

Information on sexually transmitted diseases among lesbians is seriously lacking. In an attempt to remedy this, two Washington researchers, Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, an infectious diseases fellow at the University of Washington, and Kathleen Stine, a nurse practitioner, are recruiting women to participate in a large-scale project to ask questions about the sexual behaviors of lesbians and

bisexual women.

According to a story in Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, the researchers will spend the next 18 months questioning participants about their sexual behaviors, the history of illnesses in their families, prior surgeries and ailments, smoking, drinking and drug use. They hope to track the research subjects over time. For information about the study call (206) 720-4372 or (206) 720-4333.

Kristine Chatwood

### Hands Off Washington gets new chief

Kelly Evans, a former field organizer for the National Abortion Rights Action League, has been chosen as the new campaign director for Hands Off Washington, the group fighting attempts to place the anti-sexual-minority Initiatives 166 and 167 on the Washington ballot. In addition to her work with NARAL, Evans was the campaign manager for Mike Kreidler's unsuccessful bid for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evans sees parallels in the struggle to maintain a woman's right to choose and the fight for gay and lesbian rights. "The same people who are attacking a woman's right to choose are attacking gays and lesbians," she told *Seattle Gay News*. "I joined Hands Off Washington because I am personally and professionally committed to the vision of Hands Off Washington and the progressive movement. It's not just a job for me."

Kristine Chatwood

### Hepatitis A campaign targets gay men, travelers

Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases have launched a campaign to warn of the risks of hepatitis A, a contagious viral infection of the liver. The campaign consists of television and radio public service announcements targeted to two groups at high risk for contracting hepatitis A: sexually active gay men and business and leisure travelers to hepatitis A endemic areas. These areas include Mexico, parts of the Caribbean, South and Central America, Africa, Asia (except Japan), the Mediterranean basin, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Each PSA includes a toll-free phone number callers can use to request free informational brochures. The number for gay men is 1-800-VAX-9585; the number for travelers is 1-800-HEP-A-VAX.

Hepatitis A is a debilitating illness that can be prevented through vaccination. Persons at risk should contact their physicians to get vaccinated. There is currently no cure for the disease, the symptoms of which can last for up to a year.

Kristine Chatwood

### Ithaca says yes to same-sex marriage

The Ithaca, N.Y., Common Council unanimously approved on July 6 a nonbinding resolution in support of issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, according to the Associated Press. The action came in response to a request from a gay male couple for a marriage license.

When Toshav Greene and Philip Storrs applied for a license in June, their application was rejected by the city clerk. Subsequent discussions with the mayor and the city attorney led to the vote by the Common Council. The issue is being researched by the city attorney, Charles Guttman, who is also talking with sexual-minority-rights attorneys and legal organizations. The state of New York has the power to block any city action with a court injunction.

Kristine Chatwood