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AIDSUpdate

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

Volume I Number 9 - Nov.-Dec. 1986

AIDS Resource Center Receives \$18,000 Grant

Sanger Harris and its parent corporation, Federated Department Stores, has made a three-year \$18,000 grant to the AIDS Resource Center, according to Tony Anthony, president of the Foundation for Human Understanding.

"Our policy regarding gifts is that we will contribute to those programs and organizations that most closely help our customers and our employees. We think that this grant meets that criteria and we are happy to make a small contribution to the work that has already been done and the work that has yet to be done," said Linda Knight, Sanger Harris' senior vice president for marketing and public affairs.

have put more than just money back into the community," Nelson said, "they have taken a major step to erase a lot of ignorance about the consequences and transmission of AIDS."

Anthony noted that the Foundation and DGA still had the responsibility for the bulk of the AIDS Educator's salary. "We are extremely grateful for the grant as it helps put this salary at a level closer to reality. It also means that Mike Richards no longer has to take as much of a financial sacrifice as he has in the past," Anthony said.

Richards has served as AIDS Educator for the past four years, with only the last few months at the \$12,000 level. The boards of

Sanger Harris
... IN THE FIRST PLACE

The boards of directors for the Foundation and the Dallas Gay Alliance, meeting separately voted to immediately increase the salary of AIDS Educator Mike Richards from \$12,000 to \$18,000 in recognition of the grant.

Bill Nelson, president of DGA, noting the generosity of Sanger Harris and Federated Department Stores, said that the funds will have a far-reaching impact on the Dallas community, as many of the calls received at the center and much of the educational work done by Mike Richards is increasingly requested by heterosexuals. "Sanger Harris and Federated Department Stores

the Foundation and the DGA have committed themselves to securing additional funds from outside the community to support the position, as most fundraising endeavors directly support the AIDS Resource Center, the Gay Community Center, or the AIDS Financial Assistance Fund.

William Waybourn, immediate past president of the Foundation and who had worked on the grant request, said Sanger Harris and Federated Department Stores "exemplified the Dallas spirit of providing for our own and serve as good corporate role models for other corporations in Dallas to follow in the war against AIDS."



Everybody who was anybody was on Cedar Springs Halloween Night. (Story on page 6.)

SAT

AIDS INFORMATION LINE (521-5124) - 24 Hours - Every Day

OFFICE:
3920 Cedar Springs
(214) 528-4233

Resource Center Reaches Out

by Dave Lewis

Earlier this year the AIDS Resource Center announced that it would increase outreach to the community at large. As part of this program, some of the AIDS Information Line billboards recently posted in the Dallas area are in Spanish.

Recently, the AIDS Resource Center reached an agreement with the Dallas County Health Department which will assist this outreach effort. Under this agreement AIDS educators, employed by the Health Department, will work out of the AIDS Resource Center part-time.

JoAnn Valentine will be at the Center on Fridays from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. Ms Valentine works primarily with the Black community and with IV drug users. On Mondays from 1:00 to 6:00 PM, Yolanda Rivera will be at the Center. Her outreach efforts are directed at the Hispanic community and at prostitutes.

Marc Lerro, another County Health Department employee, will also be working out of the AIDS Resource Center. Mr. Lerro will be writing for *AIDS Update* and will be providing segments for *Lambda Weekly*, DGA's radio program (every Sunday at 1:00 PM on KNON 90.9). He will also be working on other educational, counseling and publications projects.

This issue of *AIDS Update* is published with financial assistance from Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Inc., in an endeavor to educate the gay community about AIDS and risk reduction practices.

pasta

Pasta, one of the most popular items in demand at the Food Bank of the AIDS Resource Center. Supplies of all the food items depend on the donations that come in from the public. The next time you're out shopping, how about picking up a dozen or so packages of spaghetti or macaroni and dropping them off at the Resource Center at 3920 Cedar Springs or at the Crossroads Market. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

AN OUTREACH PROJECT OF THE DALLAS GAY ALLIANCE AND THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

Call For More Federal Funding

"The situation demands both immediate action to stem the spread of infection and a long term national commitment to produce a vaccine and therapeutic drugs," says the *Institute of Medicine*, an affiliate of the National Academy of Sciences, in a recently released report.

The report by a panel of prominent scientists and public health officials urged that AIDS education be greatly expanded immediately and recommended that, by 1990, \$2 billion be spent annually for education and research. This would be five times the over \$410 million which Congress has appropriated for this fiscal year. For fiscal year 1988 (which begins October 1, 1987) the Public Health Service request will be \$471 million for all AIDS programs.

Public health policy makers hope that this comprehensive study will instill a sense of urgency and serve as a blueprint for a national strategy to combat the disease.

This report, released one week after Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued similar recommenda-

tions, warned that the proposed expenditures would be a fraction of the cost of caring for patients with the disease which are estimated to be from \$8 to \$16 billion by 1991. The institute's report said that half of the \$2 billion should be supported federal funds that are "not taken from other health or research budgets," and the other half should come from local and state governments, private industry, and the federal government.

The report called the federal government's past educational efforts as "woefully inadequate."

READERS DIGEST & AIDS DOWN UNDER

In Australia, the National Advisory Committee on AIDS and the Commonwealth Department of Health worked with the staff of the Australian edition of *Readers Digest* to produce a 16-page booklet on AIDS. The booklet covers the basic facts about AIDS and was included in a recent edition of the magazine.

Peter Lodden, national Australian AIDS coordinator, complimented the magazine's staff for its willingness to ensure that the contents of the booklet were sensitive to gays and gay issues.

"We discovered that there is very little knowledge about sexual practices in the United States at all," according to panel co-chair David Baltimore. "It's not just homophobia; there seems to be a phobia about the whole question."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said that President Reagan felt that sex education should be "a matter for parents, teachers and local school officials." Speakes said that the President believed that information on AIDS and other diseases should be made available but "generally opposes providing birth control methods and techniques to teenagers."

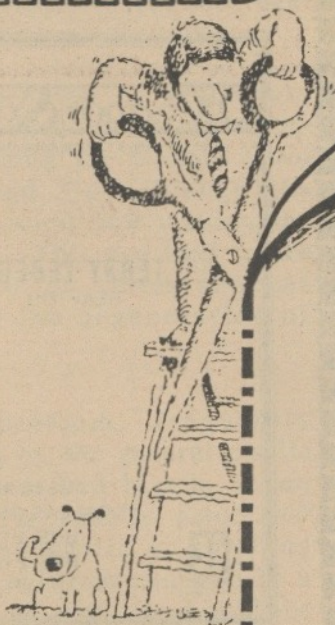
The Institute of Medicine panel realized that the government may be reluctant to confront issues of sexual behavior but the AIDS threat is of the magnitude that requires the leadership of the president.

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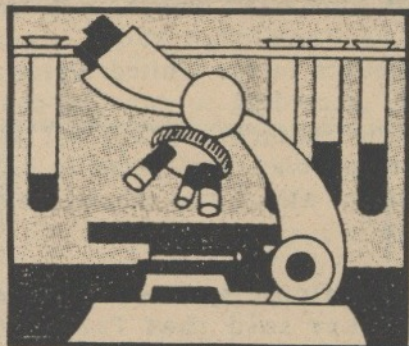
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.
Make checks payable to the Foundation for Human Understanding.

Mail to: AIDS Resource Center, Box 190712, Dallas, Texas 75219

I'm interested in:

- [] Answering Telephone Info. Line
- [] Producing *AIDS Update*
- [] Selling Ads in *AIDS Update*
- [] Visiting Persons With AIDS
- [] Helping Stuff/Address Mailings
- [] Speaking to Other Organizations
- [] Training Volunteers
- [] Investigating Discrimination Complaints

I can provide the following service to persons with AIDS:



AIDS RESEARCH

WOMEN WITH AIDS

At the Second International AIDS Conference in Paris, Monnie Callan presented a sensitive and insightful picture of how AIDS affects women, a psychological factor seldom recognized or addressed. Callan, a worker at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, presented the results of study of 64 women with AIDS.

Most of the women were young, with low incomes, and of a minority background. Of 35 women who received intensive psychosocial intervention, 21 had inadequate support with many living alone or with young children. Three of the children themselves had AIDS or AIDS related complex.

Callan told that women find their stress is intensified by the problems of child care, child custody cases, and informing their children of their illness. The women in the study who did not have close female relatives usually did not have an adequate system of support, often feeling isolated by the perception that AIDS only affects men.

Callan recommended a family oriented, multi-disciplinary program - with nurses, physicians, social workers, and therapists - as one way to deal with the problems of extra stress and isolation. ▽

UNRAVELING HIV

A virus is a parasite which invades a group of cells and takes over the cells' chemical machinery making them produce more viruses. Earlier this year, William A. Haseltine and associates at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston reported a previously unknown peculiarity about how the AIDS virus (HIV) manages its replication in infected cells.

The group found that one of the most important parts of the AIDS virus is the transactivator (tat)

gene. When the virus invades a cell the tat gene instructs it to synthesize a small amount of a kind of protein called a transactivator. This stimulates the cell to produce various parts of the HIV virus including more transactivator protein. The "feedback loop" accounts for the unusually rapid growth of the AIDS virus.

Protein production starts with genetic material, DNA, in the nucleus of a cell which directs the production of a similar substance, RNA, which acts as a template for the production of protein. Usually RNA is proportional to the amount of protein made by the cell. According to Haseltine and his co-workers, cells that contain the tat gene produced 500 to 1000 times as much protein as in normal cells, yet there was little if any increase in the amount of RNA. ▽

This finding may be helpful in developing drugs that would prevent further virus production by stopping RNA from manufacturing the protein.

AZT IN USE IN DALLAS

Azidothymidine (AZT), an experimental drug which can restore some of the immune system response in persons with AIDS has been received at the AIDS clinic at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Based on eligibility guidelines, doctors at the hospital have selected 35 patients to receive the drug. This is out of about 200 AIDS cases that Parkland is monitoring.

The guidelines used to determine who gets the semi-toxic drug are that the patient has recovered from one or more episodes of *pneumocystis carinii pneumonia*, is not receiving therapy for other AIDS conditions, and his liver is in good condition.

Those who have taken AZT have reported experiencing nausea as a side effect. Reduced ability to produce red and white blood cells is another complication.

The drug is produced by Burroughs Wellcome Co. of North

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man than his grey
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Carolina. Burroughs will provide the drug free to about 6500 people with AIDS who meet the medical guidelines and have had their application approved by an authorizing panel of physicians.

To receive an application, call the National Institutes of Health AZT Information Line at 800-943-9388 between 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM CST.

AZT is being released under the Investigational New Drug Treatment program. It must receive final approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before it becomes available to the general public.

FDA commissioner Frank M. Young said his agency has pledged to review all new drugs related to AIDS within six months. ▽

Wouldn't it be great
if an organization built
its foundation on helping
human beings understand
each other better?

The Foundation for Human Understanding

The Foundation for Human Understanding is a non-profit organization dedicated to the educational projects of the Dallas Gay Alliance, such as the AIDS Resource Center and the Gay Community Center. The Foundation invests in those projects important to the goals and aspirations of its donors, providing opportunities to pool their resources and have a significant impact on the quality of life in Dallas.

With Your Support, We Can Do Even More!

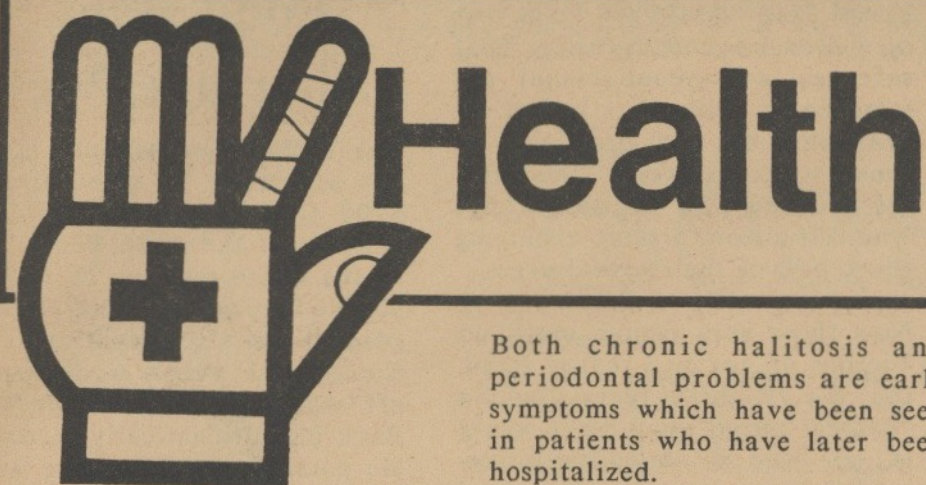
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by D.G. Sena, D.D.S.

Developments in the practice of dentistry have made very special advances in treating patients. Patients should accept aseptic techniques as a means of protecting both patient and dentist. Unfortunately, many patients resist, appearing to be insulted by an examination using surgical gloves.

The International Association of Dental Research has documented new steps for monitoring special patients, such as those with impaired immune systems. Early symptoms of many oral diseases are easily detected in the oral cavity.

One of the first signs which doctors and dentists see in patients at risk for AIDS is a periodontal problem. Symptoms can include:

- Bleeding gum tissues
- Ulcers on the gums
- Irritated gum areas
- Raised, growthy areas on the gums

Minocin is a new drug which has proven effective in the treatment of periodontal diseases. For most viral infections, oral herpes, fungal infections, and chandichasis, the normal procedure is palliative treatment followed with the drugs, zovirax and nystatin.

Smoking nicotine or other substances causes a temporary xerostomia, ceasing the normal fluid flushing and flow through the crevicular sulcus and making the mouth dry. This can lead to the development of caries and can accelerate the degeneration of tissue.

Another problem, frequently overlooked by the general public is halitosis or bad breath. Even though it is usually associated with eating garlic or smoking cigarettes, halitoses can also be a real problem and it should be recognized as such.

Both chronic halitosis and periodontal problems are early symptoms which have been seen in patients who have later been hospitalized.

In the absence of a vaccination or cure for AIDS, the rational approach is prevention. Prevention is not only practicing safer sex, practicing improved hygiene also helps to reduce your risk for AIDS.

Nutrition also contributes to strengthening your body's resistance to disease. Vitamin C is very essential to the soft mucous tissues of the mouth.

See your physician and dentist regularly. Ask him/her about any symptoms you notice in yourself or any questions you have.

If you are diagnosed with a medical or dental problem, follow your doctor's regimen of treat-

ment. Routinely, in my practice, I hear patients who return with either unfilled prescriptions or saving some pills for later. Infections in the body and especially in the supportive tissues of the mouth require full and complete treatment. Do not try to second guess the prescription of your doctor or dentist.

As a consulting member of the AIDS Resource Center, I am always available to you. ▽

EYE INFECTION DRUG

Dr. Gary Holland of the University of California at Los Angeles announced a new drug that can halt the advancement of an eye infection that can lead to blindness in AIDS victims.

Up to 45 percent of persons with AIDS are stricken by cytomegalovirus infections of the eye. The drug does not cure the infection but prevents further damage to the retina (the light sensitive layer in the back of the eye).

Most adults have been exposed to the cytomegalovirus but with little ill effect. There had been only thirty cases of cytomegalovirus reported before the outbreak of AIDS. ▽

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Vaccine for Taiwan A

Officials of the Dallas County Health Department are urging people in high risk groups for exposure to the AIDS virus to seek vaccination against this year's strain of influenza, *Taiwan A*. Dr. Charles Haley, the department's epidemiologist, recommends the vaccination for everyone but he stresses that people with damaged immune systems are at very high risk of influenza infection.

"Influenza kills more people annually than any other infectious disease, even in developed countries," Haley said. He added that even young, healthy people can become seriously ill or die from these viruses during the flu season.

Haley said people who have been exposed to the *Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)* should seek annual vaccinations before each flu season. Others especially vulnerable to flu infections include the elderly, people with heart and lung diseases or diabetes, people with cancer, and health care workers.

Influenza viruses vary from season to season, making it necessary for scientists to develop new vaccines to fight each year's latest strain. Once an individual has produced antibodies to a particular virus, that person remains permanently protected. The *Taiwan A* strain last appeared in the 1940s, so very few people under forty have immunity to this year's infection. Haley and others are urging people to contact their doctors to arrange a precautionary visit for vaccination. The vaccine is made from killed viruses and is no threat to people with damaged immune systems. ▽

ADVERTISE IN AIDS Update

BLACK & WHITE ADS	
Business Card	\$10
1/8 Page	\$25
1/4 Page	\$50
1/2 Page	\$75
3/4 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$150
TWO COLOR ADS	
1/2 Page	\$125
3/4 Page	\$150
Full Page	\$200

Twelve issues for the price of ten if paid in advance!
10% discount on 1/4 page or larger ads run consecutively in *AIDS Update* and *Dialog*.

Above prices are for camera-ready art. Graphics preparation services are available, call for information.

ABOUT SAFE SEX

by Debra Coates, M.S.W.

The following article is reprinted from the newsletter of the Oak Lawn Counseling Center's Buddy Project.

When clients come into the Oak Lawn Counseling Center and are asked about safe sex practices, what is most evident is the reluctance and sometimes the refusal to use safe sex methods. Some people will not even allow themselves to know what safe sex is.

Until there is an effective treatment for AIDS, we can no longer allow ourselves the freedom of sex without safety. All of us must accept that we can no longer practice the liberal art of sexual indulgence. We must curb our sexual appetites and resist the urges that prompt us to have indiscriminate sex with multiple partners.

The sexual revolution led us into an era of liberal sexual exploration. Not only could we allow ourselves the freedom of sexual expression, but we could experiment; and yes, we could even have multiple partners to gratify an ever increasing sexual libido. We could allow ourselves and our partners to be reduced to sexual toys and pretend that human relationships need only be accommodating of sexual desires and their fulfillment.

The medical professions continually spoke about the transmission of venereal disease and the increase year after year of the diseases, but their warnings were cast off as though they were jokes.

Still others in the community spoke of safe sex (though a dif-

ferent kind of safe sex from that of which we now speak). That safe sex was about sexual abstinence or celibacy. It fell on deaf ears or was practiced by those we considered "prudish". We ignored and taunted those who felt uncomfortable exploring the depths of their sexual urges.

Now these very people mock us. Victims of our own sexual greed, they say. Rightful recipients of a "natural purge" to rid the world of us, who so immodestly promoted sexual exploration and ridiculed them for their restraint!

We can have sex without fear of contracting a lethal disease. At this time, incorporating the "easiness" into it remains a problem. We can begin by learning what *SAFE SEX* means. Then we can use care creatively to expand the meaning and practice of safe sex.

We must examine the propensity for sexual exploitation of ourselves and others and emerge with a clearer understanding and more responsible attitude about where we want to be as a sexual people!

EDITOR'S NOTE: A good place to begin exploring what safe sex means is at the monthly *Hot, Horny, and Healthy* workshops at the AIDS Resource Center. These workshops are held on the first Saturday of every month at 1:00 PM at the Gay Community Center, 3920 Cedar Springs. The next one is on December 6. For more information, call 528-4233. ▽

Halloween Photos Raise Funds

On Halloween night, Cedar Springs was packed with every imaginable costume. As the night progressed, the crowd got happier until the street was shut down for an impromptu parade.

On the corner of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton, a group of volunteers from the *AIDS Visitation Committee* and the *AIDS Update* staff were helping people save the moment for posterity by selling Polaroid pictures at \$3.

Food Bank Shortage Met

The Dallas Gay Alliance (DGA) has approved an allocation of \$200 to re-stock the depleted reserves of the AIDS Food Bank. In the Board meeting of October 10, the Director of Social Services pointed out that donations from the general public had dropped off while demands on the Food Bank had dramatically increased. He pointed out that there was a serious shortage of juices, pasta and canned meat -- all important staples of the bank.

Although the DGA has moved to address the immediate need, the Board has requested the Social Services Department to inform the public of the need to re-stock this vital agency. The Food Bank feeds many of the 91 PWA's currently served by the AIDS Resource Center, as well as providing much of the food for the PWA House of the Oak Lawn Counseling Center.



Financial contributions for this effort can be sent to:

AIDS Resource Center
P.O. Box 190712
Dallas, Texas 75219

Donations of food and juices can be dropped by the AIDS Resource Center at 3920 Cedar Springs, or the Crossroads Market at 3930 Cedar Springs. ▽

HOT HORNY AND HEALTHY!

EROTICIZING SAFER SEX Workshop

Saturday, December 6
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Gay Community Center
3920 Cedar Springs

For More Information
Call (214) 528-4233

Sponsored by the AIDS Resource Center.
An outreach program of the Dallas Gay Alliance and the
Foundation for Human Understanding



juice

Fruit juices are one of the most nutritional items available at the Food Bank of the AIDS Resource Center. Supplies of all the food items depend on donations from the public. The next time you're in the grocery store, pick up some extra cans of juice for guys who really need it. You can drop off your donation at the AIDS Resource Center at 3920 Cedar Springs or at the Crossroads Market. Thanks.

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

AN OUTREACH PROJECT OF THE DALLAS GAY ALLIANCE AND THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

Seasons Greetings

from the staff and volunteers of the
AIDS Resource Center

A Holiday Gift That *Really* Keeps On Giving

This Holiday season, give a gift that will not only help someone enjoy the joy of the season, but will also provide the basic necessities which they are denied. A gift to the *AIDS Resource Center* could make a difference in whether or not someone sees another Holiday season.

ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 \$ _____

TO:

☐ Foundation for Human Understanding ☐ AIDS Resource Center
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☐ Check enclosed



☐ Charge to my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Acct. # _____

Expiration date: _____

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For every contribution of \$10 or more, the AIDS Resource Center will send a Holiday Greeting Card in your name to a designated friend or business.

Please send a Holiday Greeting Card to:

Name: _____

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Name: _____

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Name: _____

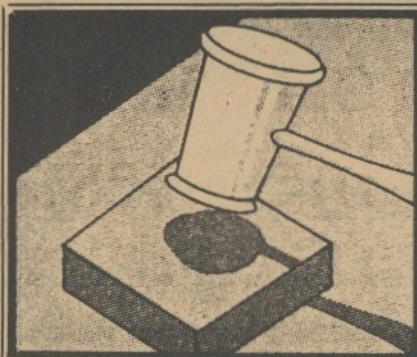
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send to: AIDS Resource Center - P.O.Box 190712 - Dallas, Texas 75219

List additional names on a separate sheet of paper.

AIDS - Your help and understanding is the cure!



AIDS LEGAL ISSUES

from Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

General Telephone and Electronics of the Southwest (GTE) has called back to work two employees who were removed from their jobs in October 1985 after they tested positive for HIV antibodies. Dallas attorney Robert Holt filed a complaint on the workers' behalf with the Department of Labor (DOL).

In July 1985, Tommy Proctor, a GTE draftsman, was asked by his supervisor to take an HIV antibody test because he had "a funny rash and coughed a lot." After he tested positive, he was removed from his job. Subsequently, sixty other employees were "voluntarily" tested. One of these tested positive and he was also removed.

GTE recalled the workers with full back pay and benefits before DOL made a final determination in the case. Holt believes, however, that DOL had made a preliminary finding of discrimination which was approved at the local and regional level and was awaiting action from Washington.

A federal district court judge has ruled constitutional a District of Columbia City Council act which prohibits health, life, and disability insurers from discriminating against individuals on the basis of HIV testing and prevents them from denying benefits to those who later develop AIDS, ARC, or HIV infection. Insurance industry trade organizations claimed that the City Council's act violated the Fifth Amendment.

The nation's largest insurance investigative organization has agreed to revoke its guidelines for identifying people at risk for AIDS. Equifax, Inc., announced its change of policy in response to a letter from National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), who indicated an intention to sue if the guidelines were not withdrawn.

Equifax is based in Atlanta. It had instructed its investigators to help insurance companies to screen out "high risk" applicants by focusing on such "lifestyle" indicators as marital status, gender, occupation, "living ar-

rangements," and the naming of unrelated beneficiaries.

In responding to NGRA, Equifax stated that the guidelines had been issued without the proper review and agreed not to focus on sexual orientation in future investigations.

The insurance industry argued that the Council had arbitrarily discounted the accuracy of HIV tests for underwriting purposes. The judge, Thomas Hogan, agreed with the industry that persuasive evidence exists supporting the accuracy of HIV testing and, therefore, the Council "should be encouraged to reconsider its decision." However, Hogan found that the concern about false test results, the need to assure affordable insurance and adequate treatment for persons with AIDS, and the importance of voluntary testing and counseling to the success of the public health program constitute rational bases for the law.

The insurance industry is expected to appeal Judge Hogan's decision.

At the eleventh hour, Governor Deukmejian (R) of California has vetoed for the second time legislation that would have added AIDS to the list of officially recognized handicaps under California's Fair Employment and Housing Act. Deukmejian still believes the legislation is "unnecessary and inappropriate."

M. William Nelson

Attorney At Law

1010 Regency Plaza
3710 Rawlins Street
Lock Box 9
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 526-9881

A Chicago woman has filed a multi-million-dollar suit against American Airlines, American's parent corporation, and one of American's ticket agents after he allegedly bit her, breaking the skin and "causing blood to flow." The agent later tested positive for HIV antibodies. The complaint seeks relief on four counts: battery, intentional infliction of mental distress, negligent hiring, and exemplary damages.

According to the complaint, the agent was collecting boarding passes at O'Hare Airport on February 10, 1986, for a flight for which the woman had a ticket. They became involved in a dispute, during which the agent bit the woman's left hand and kicked her right shin. Later, American Airlines told the woman's attorney that the agent tested positive for HIV antibodies. The agent reportedly submitted to the test voluntarily and was transferred to a job without public contact.

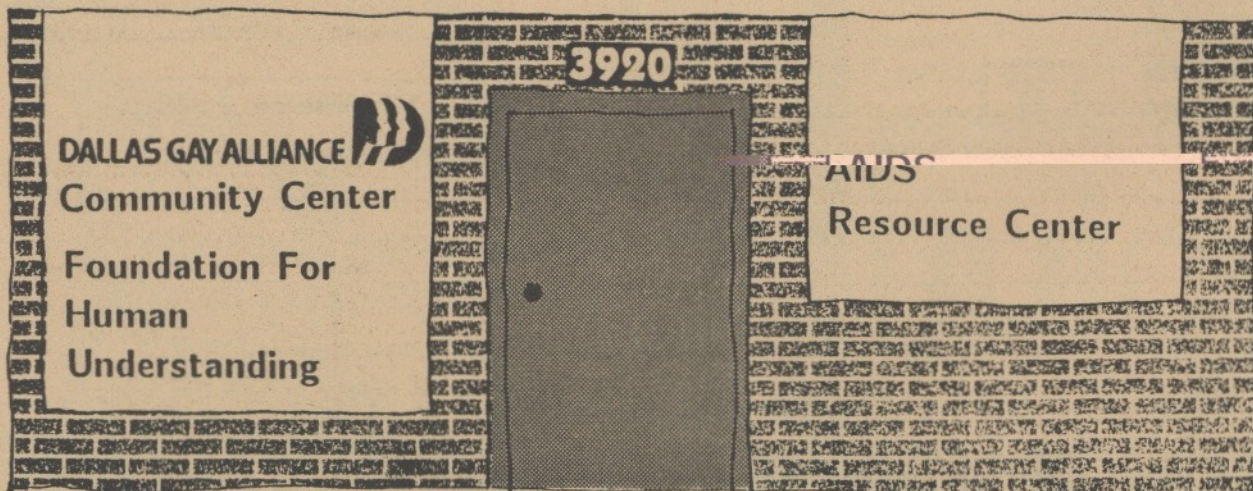
The complaint asserts that, since American employees come into close contact with passengers, serve them food and drink, and assist them in emergencies; the airline has a duty to the public "to be sure through physical examination or other method" that its employees are free from contagious diseases that could endanger passengers' health and safety.

Gay Community Center

- Voter Registration
- Housing Referrals
- Jobs Listings
- Information
- Meeting Space
- Social Activities
- Legal Referrals
- Medical Referrals
- Publications

AIDS Resource Center

- Information
- Referrals on Care & Counseling
- Legal Assistance
- Financial Assistance
- Funeral Assistance
- Seminars & Educational Materials
- Speaker's Bureau
- Food & Shelter Assistance
- Workplace & Patient Advocacy



3920 CEDAR SPRINGS 528-4233

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has approved a policy listing AIDS as a handicap. This policy will allow the commission to "accept and process complaints from persons who believe they have been discriminated against in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, or education because of AIDS, a related condition, or the perception of AIDS." ▼

WILLS GIVE YOU POWER

by Nancy Carol Carter

Before Gertrude died, she assumed her lesbian lover of decades, Alice, would get all her property. Gertrude was wrong. Her relatives claimed everything, leaving an aging Alice without income or the valuable things she and Gertrude had bought together.

Gertrude and Alice's story is true, and their names have not been changed to protect their identity. Although this story happened a long time ago, it is not unique. The same thing is still happening to gay men and lesbians in America today.

Fortunately, there is a simple and inexpensive way to prevent cases like Gertrude's and Alice's. Making a will assures that you decide who gets your property. Without a will, you can't make sure it goes to your lover, friends, relatives, or the charities of your choice.

Do I need a will?

Yes. It is the only way to have the final say about what happens to your money and property when you die. Without a valid will, your belongings will go to your relatives or to your state government. Your property can't go to friends, your lover, or the charity of your choosing if you do not leave a valid will.

Are wills expensive?

Usually not. Unless your estate is very large and diverse, you can probably have a lawyer draft your will for \$100 or less. This is not a lot of money when you consider that the one will you make today can be valid until you die.

Can I make my own will?

In some states you can draft a will in your own handwriting. This is called a "holographic" will and it must meet certain statutory requirements to be valid. While this may be all right for some people, we recommend seeing a lawyer for most gay men and women. You want your will to be "air tight" so it can withstand a challenge after your death.

What information do I need for the lawyer?

You need to decide which people and organizations you want to leave your estate to (these are

called beneficiaries). Next, you need to decide who you want to appoint to make sure your final wishes are carried out (this person is called the executor or executrix). And, you should also think about the type of funeral service, if any, and the disposition of your remains. For example, do you want a burial or cremation?

What if I think there is a possibility that someone may challenge my will?

You can ask your lawyer to include a couple of extra paragraphs that will give you added protection. One is called a "disinheritance clause" and the other is known as an "anti-contest" clause. Both are desirable if you suspect there is any chance of somebody contesting your will.

Can I change my will?

Yes. One will can last you a lifetime, but you can change or revoke it whenever you like. Sometimes it is not necessary to rewrite your entire will to make a change. Often you can simply add a "codicil," or amendment, to your current will. A codicil must be executed with the same formalities as a will. It may be good idea to review your will every few years to see if it still meets your needs.

Must my estate go through "probate"?

"Probate" is a court procedure which provides for the change of legal ownership of your property when you die. Whether your estate will have to go through probate will depend on the size of your estate and which state you live in.



Are there ways of avoiding taxes or probate?

Sometimes through "estate planning" you can minimize the amount of taxes to be paid. Estate planning can be done through various devices, such as insurance policies, joint ownership of property or setting up a trust.

What about joint ownership?

Many people buy a house, for example, together. They can own this property as "tenants in common" or as "joint tenants." If

you own property as joint tenants, when you die the property automatically passes to the other tenant.

When you own property as tenants in common, the disposition of your portion of the property is governed by the terms of your will. If you don't have a will, it will go to your relatives or to the state. It cannot go to your lover, friends or a charitable organization without a valid will.

Are there other documents I should have to help plan my future?

Yes, there are two instruments which can be very useful. One is known as a "medical directive" or "living will." Through this device you can insure that your life is not artificially prolonged by the application of certain life-sustaining procedures.

The other document is known as a "power of attorney" and is especially important for gay men and women. If you want your lover, or a close friend, to make medical decisions when you are unable to, a power of attorney is a must. A power of attorney is a common document and can be prepared for you by most lawyers.

The above article was reprinted from a brochure published by National Gay Rights Advocates, a non-profit public interest law firm.

If you want to have a will drawn up and are in need of a gay or gay-friendly attorney, referrals are available from the Dallas Gay Alliance Community Center and from the AIDS Resource Center.

I WANT TO JOIN DGA!

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

May we call you? Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
☐ YES ☐ NO

For Household -

Second Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Work Phone: _____

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to DGA.

☐ Charge to my ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Credit Card Number: _____

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SIGNATURE: _____

DALLAS GAY ALLIANCE

May we print your name as a supporter/contributor? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you want to be on our mailing list? ☐ YES ☐ NO

☐ Check here if you do not want to join the Dallas Gay Political Caucus (the Political Action Committee of the DGA) by contributing \$2.50 from your DGA dues.

Select Membership type:

- ☐ AIDS Update Subscription - \$10
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- ☐ Pledge - \$_____/month (minimum - \$5/month)

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WOMAN!!! DID WE PARTY! (back up and say that slow, then we'll talk). Sister, I've never seen so many flawless outfits. Let's see, it all started Texas/OU Weekend, (no, I won't bore you with all the details).

Let me tell you the **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** is now the one and only court in Dallas!! **GIRL!** The coronation for Emperor and Empress November 15TH was a fabulous Hollywood affair. The theme of Academy Award night was great considering the awards presented, Thank You! Your one and only was there to accept another check for the **AIDS Resource Center**. The Court is a wonderful jet setting crowd, Sister, and if you didn't go well what can I say! Limos, diamonds, and furs were everywhere!

Woman, let's get serious AIDS is a drag and let's face it we hope it will be past history soon. But it's not right now. Benefits keep popping up here and there and they are just "scand-lous" the ones I've been to anyway! Remember when we used to go out before we ever heard a thing about AIDS and we had to work at it to "make a statement," let me tell you the "statements" were everywhere November 1ST, at the **Dallas Design Center**.

AIDS IS A DRAG, was the benefit to attend in Texas during Halloween. Girleen and I got out our finest and even had our pic taken with **DIANA ROSS!!** Woman, she was "fahboo" in the red sequin gown. All the Dianas of the evening got together and gave us a show.

Girl, we made fashion statements that night. [Patti, I heard you were hopping in and out of dresses all night - Editor.] Woman, I saw some styles to die for.

Then there were the bartenders, Ed, Curtis, Pat, just to name a few. They were all so very attentive, I could fall in love with them all. [But, Patti, could they fall in love with you?] They were wonderful. I can't wait till next year. Got a good feeling it'll be an annual affair. Thanks to Mark Rogers and the many other "hostesses" it was a true success, raising over \$7000 for the **AIDS Resource Center** and the **Gay Community Center**.

The success carried itself further into East Dallas at **Denny's** where a few hostess got together and rehashed the evening. I beg your forgiveness for passing out in **Denny's** on that poor straight fellow in the booth next to me? [I heard that you passed out face

down in the ketchup on the table.] I don't know why that happened, but I am sure he didn't mind getting the **Este Lauder** color I left behind off his white shirt.

For Sure, the "blonde hair," you know what I'm talking about that flat stuff, she fell apart in the evening but her hair remained stiff all night, even after every queen in town wore it once.

The night before (supposedly the fright night of the year) was a scream. Child, the streets were



"drag-lined" for days! I was around passing out **SAFE** party favors in case you wondered the next morning where you got that **PRIME**. Remember, **SAFESEX** is my forte, I have a reputation to keep, so if you ever need a tip...

LETTER TIME...

Dear PATTI,

My situation I think is common to most of us who don't know what to do when we are tired of coming up with new ideas of **SAFESEX**. Could you please give us a few ideas?

Sincerely,
LOST IN THE DARK

HONEY!!

THANK YOU! You've asked the right woman. I have to tell you there are so many ways to play I have fun just thinking about new ideas. **KILLER** and I tried **Phone Sex** the other night and let me tell you it was a winner!

This is what we did: **KILLER** went to the other room and unplugged our extra phone came back into *le boudoir* and seduced me while we talked to each other from opposite sides of the room, each on separate phones.

Let me tell you not only was there sound but a show, and a good one. Honey, **KILLER** was just a chanting dirty words to me like I've never heard before! Now how is that for a new **SAFESEX** idea.

Playing **SAFEly** for you,
Love,
PATTI

There is one thing I would like to mention on a serious note for a change. The holiday season is here and there are a few friends I don't want you to miss. On **Turkey Day** fix a little extra and take it to a **PWA**. I know he or she will certainly appreciate it, because it may be their last holiday. It's true we all get a little tear-eyed over the blue holiday season, but there is no reason a **PWA** should too.

I also want to let you know that what ever you do to support a **PWA** is one of the greatest things you can do for yourself. On the facing page is an alternative to seasonal gifts. I urge you to consider that alternative. Also on that page is a season's greeting idea from the editor that I like as another wonderful alternative.

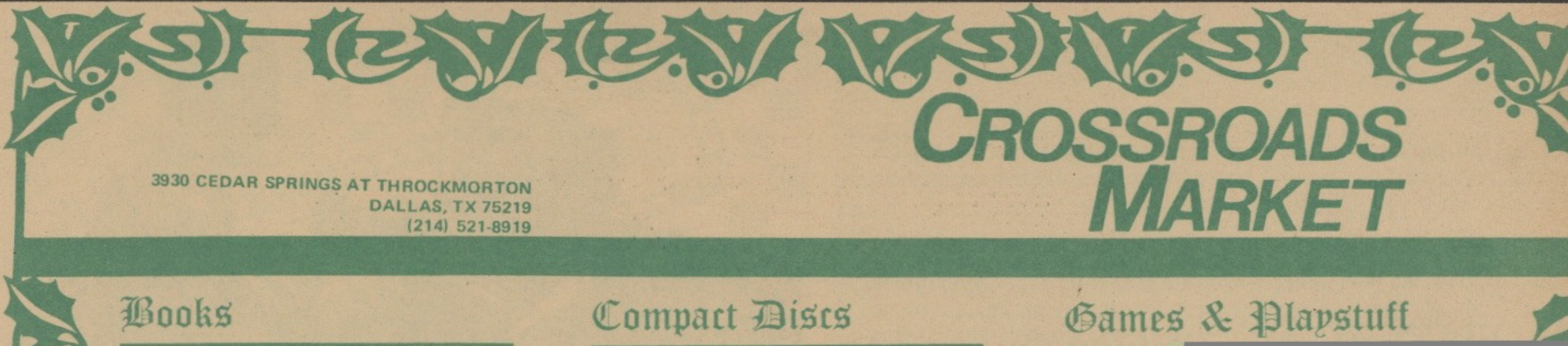
I know we wish this awful thing was over and that benefits could be done for something else, but only you and I can do the best we can till it is over. I plan to give "supporting gifts" this year myself and keep right on supporting. I hope to hear about your "gifts" from our friends who have AIDS.

May you and your friends have a wonderful holiday season. And what ever you do, play hardy all you want during the holidays, but **PLAY SAFELY!**

Love You Dearly!

Patti





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