

# AIDS victims susceptible to rare form of cancer

United Press International

BOSTON — Homosexuals with AIDS are also susceptible to a rare form of fast-growing cancer that attacks the bone marrow, brain and abdomen, doctors from four U.S. cities reported Wednesday.

Researchers in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Houston said they have found 90 homosexual men with acquired immune deficiency syndrome who also have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"The non-Hodgkin's lymphomas are following AIDS like a shadow," said Dr. John L. Ziegler, a University of California-San Francisco cancer specialist and primary author of the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The number of homosexual men with this type of cancer has been increasing since AIDS was first discovered in 1980. Data from the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas have found a three-fold increase in the rate of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas among homosexual men since 1980.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a cancer of the lymph nodes that may be caused by viruses. When the cancer is confined to the lymph nodes there is a 40 to 50 percent chance of survival rate by five years depending on the type. When the disease has gone beyond the lymph nodes, the survival rate drops to a zero to 20 percent chance at five years.

Two other types of cancer — Kaposi's sarcoma and primary lymphoma of the brain — are already recognized as indications of AIDS. The authors of this study urged that non-Hodgkin's lymphomas be included in the list of indications of AIDS.

AIDS is believed to be caused by a virus that attacks the body's immune system, making it unable to fight other diseases — including cancer and pneumonia — that spread throughout the body and eventually kill the victim.

The victims are usually either homosexual men or intravenous drug abusers. Other groups at high risk are hemophiliacs and some Haitians.

In Zaire, many victims are heterosexual women. A small number of infants have also been diagnosed as AIDS victims.

AIDS has struck more than 5,400 people in the United States, nearly 2,500 of whom have died.

It is believed to be spread through sexual contact, contact with the blood of infected patients, between mother and child during birth and through the sharing of infected needles between intravenous drug abusers.

When AIDS victims get non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the doctors say the disease is particularly difficult to treat.

"The response to treatment and survival in our series has been disappointingly poor in the light of current treatment results in other patients ... Only 53 percent of our patients have had complete responses and thus far over half have had relapses," the report said.

# Nader urges voters to look closely at campaign issues

United Press International

TRENTON, N.J. — Consumer advocate Ralph Nader said Wednesday voters should carefully examine how President Reagan's policies have affected the state and not be misled by slick media ads when they vote this fall.

Nader made his remarks after announcing he was launching a voter education program to inform people of national issues in six states which are regarded as key to the outcome of the presidential election.

The information program will focus on voters in New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Southern California, Nader said, adding he hoped to raise \$1 million in private donations to fund the effort.

"There seems to be a separation between the record of the Reagan government and the president himself," Nader said. "We want to di-

minish that lack of information and the lack of participation."

Although he spent most of a 30-minute news conference in Trenton criticizing the Reagan administration for the effect its environmental and social policies have had on New Jersey, he said the voter education program was nonpartisan.

"I do not endorse presidential candidates," Nader said during the Statehouse news conference. "We're not asking people to vote one way or another."

Nader said he had emphasized Reagan's record because he was the incumbent and would focus on Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale's proposals on issues such as cutting the growing federal deficit once Mondale released them.

Community meetings and pamphlets will be used to better inform voters of the issues in the presi-

dential campaign so they do not vote based on a "gut reaction to how a candidate appears on television," Nader said.

Under the Reagan administration, "corporations refusing to toilet train themselves have turned the Garden State into the toxic state," Nader charged.

He said at the rate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been cleaning up toxic waste sites nationwide, New Jersey's hundreds of hazardous waste dumps would not be completely taken care of for thousands of years.

"While corporate polluters go unregulated, life is not so easy for New Jersey's elderly and disabled," Nader said, noting there have been cutbacks in the food stamp program, Medicare, and Social Security disability benefits.

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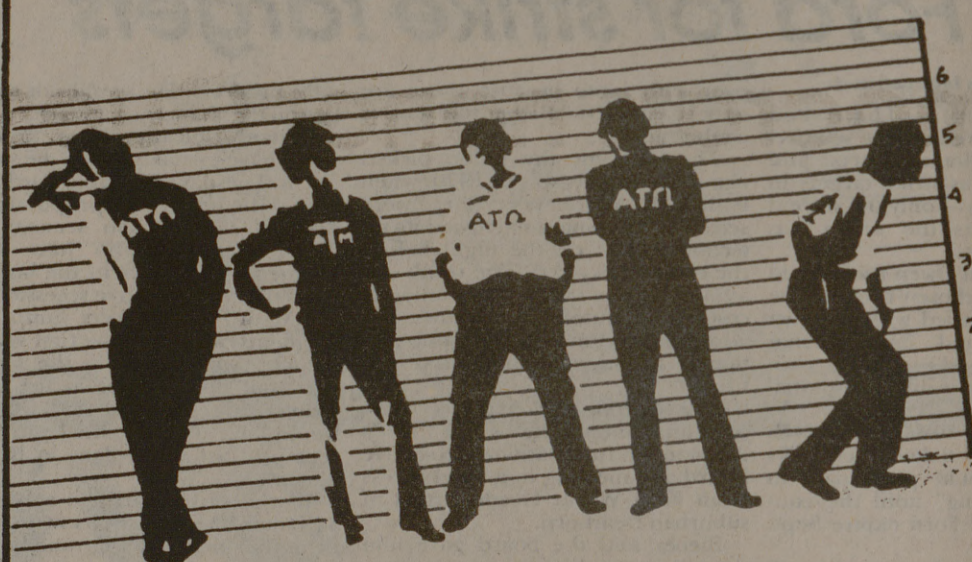
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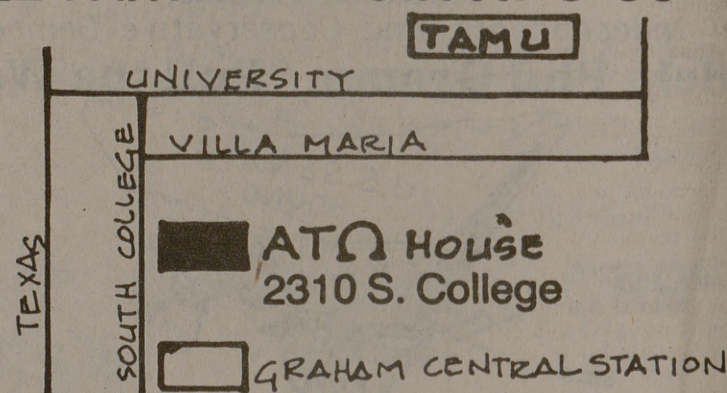
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