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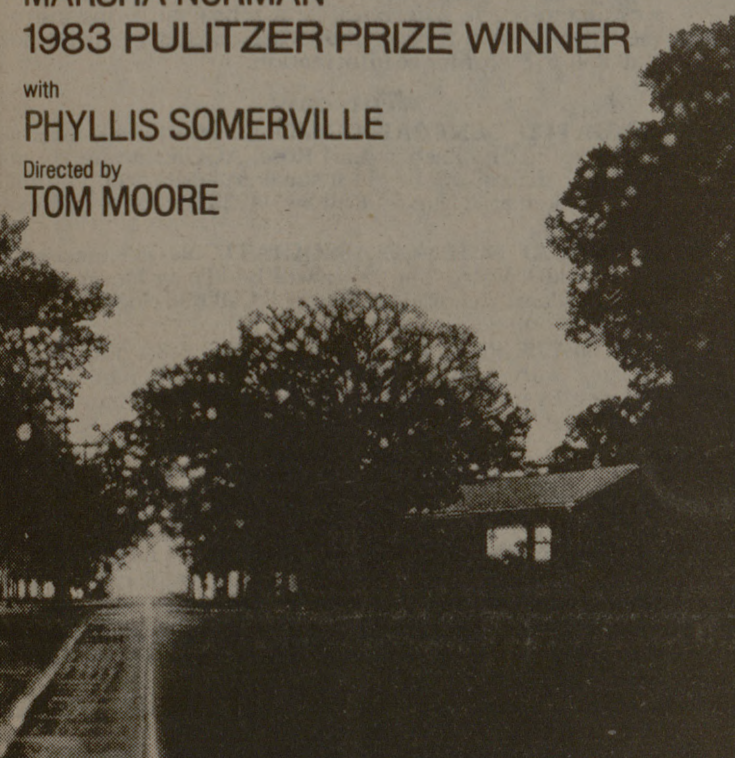
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**STATE AND LOCAL**

**Texas ranks fifth in AIDS victims**

**Associated Press**

DALLAS — Less than four years ago, the first cases of AIDS were diagnosed in the United States — mostly in New York and San Francisco. But in the past year, AIDS — known medically as "acquired immune deficiency syndrome" because it destroys the body's ability to fight disease — has spread to Texas and elsewhere across the nation.

Texas now ranks fifth in overall AIDS incidence.

Cities with large homosexual populations were where most of the cases were occurring, with many of the victims reporting that they frequented homosexual "health clubs."

With at least 7,788 cases now reported in the United States and 357 in Texas, the federal government will pump almost \$97.5 million this fiscal year into research and public education on the disease, the Dallas Times Herald reported Sunday.

"It is the highest priority research item in the public health services at the moment," said Wilmon Rushing, AIDS program management officer at the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Last week, two scientific groups independently reported completing analyses of the genetic material of the virus that is believed to cause the deadly disease.

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration said it expects soon to approve a commercial blood test that can determine whether a person has been exposed to AIDS and may be a carrier of it.

In Dallas and other major cities, gay leaders and health officials are urging gay men to use prophylactics and to abstain from promiscuous sexual activity.

Across the country, an average of 168 people die every month, officials add. In Dallas County, epidemiologists say, AIDS deaths now are occurring at the rate of one every 10 days.

"A year and a half ago, it was somebody else getting AIDS," said Bill Appleman, executive director of a counseling center in Dallas' gay community. Now it is people we know — friends or lovers.

"Virtually every city where we've looked at this, the same phenomenon has occurred," said Dr. Peter Drotman, a CDC epidemiologist. "You see an exponential increase, doubling every six or 10 months." almost 40 percent of all reported AIDS cases, New York has been hit hardest by the disease, followed by California, Florida and New Jersey, according to CDC officials.

In Dallas County, where gay activists estimate the homosexual population at more than 75,000, a total of 95 adults have been stricken, says Dr. Charles Haley, the chief epidemiologist at the Dallas County Health Department.

So far, the virus has shown a fatality rate of about 80 percent, killing some victims quickly and causing others to suffer for two or more years.

Victims often suffer from fever, night sweats, swollen glands, weight loss, diarrhea, fevers, fatigue and loss of appetite as germs normally repelled by the immune system attack the body.

**San Antonio fights dump expansion**

**Associated Press**

SAN ANTONIO — Mayor Henry Cisneros says he will go to Gov. Mark White if necessary to halt the expansion of a landfill a half mile from a proposed site for a Sea World aquatic park.

Browning-Ferris Industries is seeking state approval to expand a southeast Bexar County landfill by 100 acres.

The dump is just east of a 500-acre tract of land the city purchased last week for \$8.2 million for the Sea World park.

County Judge Tom Vickers has written to the state health commissioner asking for new hearings on the proposed expansion.

Thursday, the city council voted unanimously to recommend the state deny permission for the expansion.

"It has become a very clear case of either stop the expansion or risk damaging Sea World," Cisneros said.

The mayor said the proposed expansion "might well result in a reassessment of the site by Sea World."

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., the parent company of Sea World, has not voiced concern about the expansion, Cisneros said.

But he said he would be a "mighty poor mayor indeed" if he waited for Sea World to complain before the city took action.

The mayor also said he owes it to the residents of southeast Bexar County to fight the expansion, even if Sea World does not object.

"This could have a detrimental effect on the development of that area that Sea World's going to bring," he said.

He also promised to take the matter to White, "if that's what it takes."

BFI is seeking to nearly double the size of its 125-acre landfill.

John Richards, a hearing examiner for the Texas Department of Health, has given preliminary approval for the expansion.

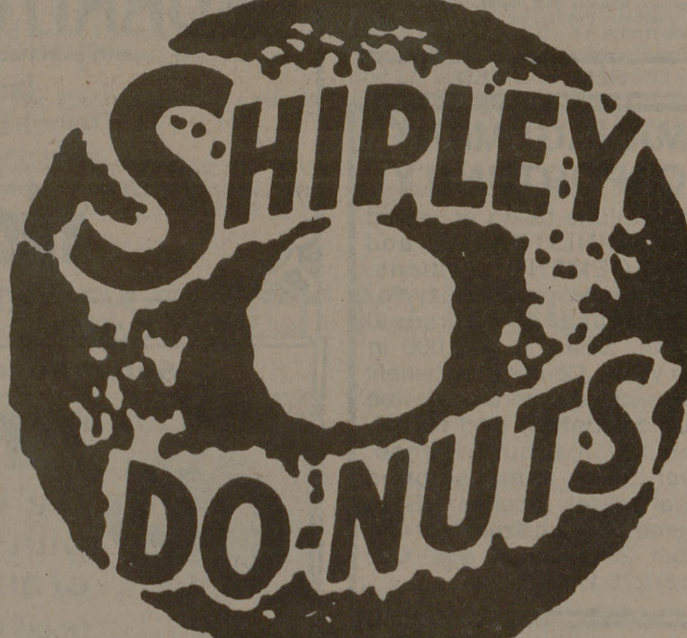
Richards said it is possible the case will be reopened and more testimony taken.

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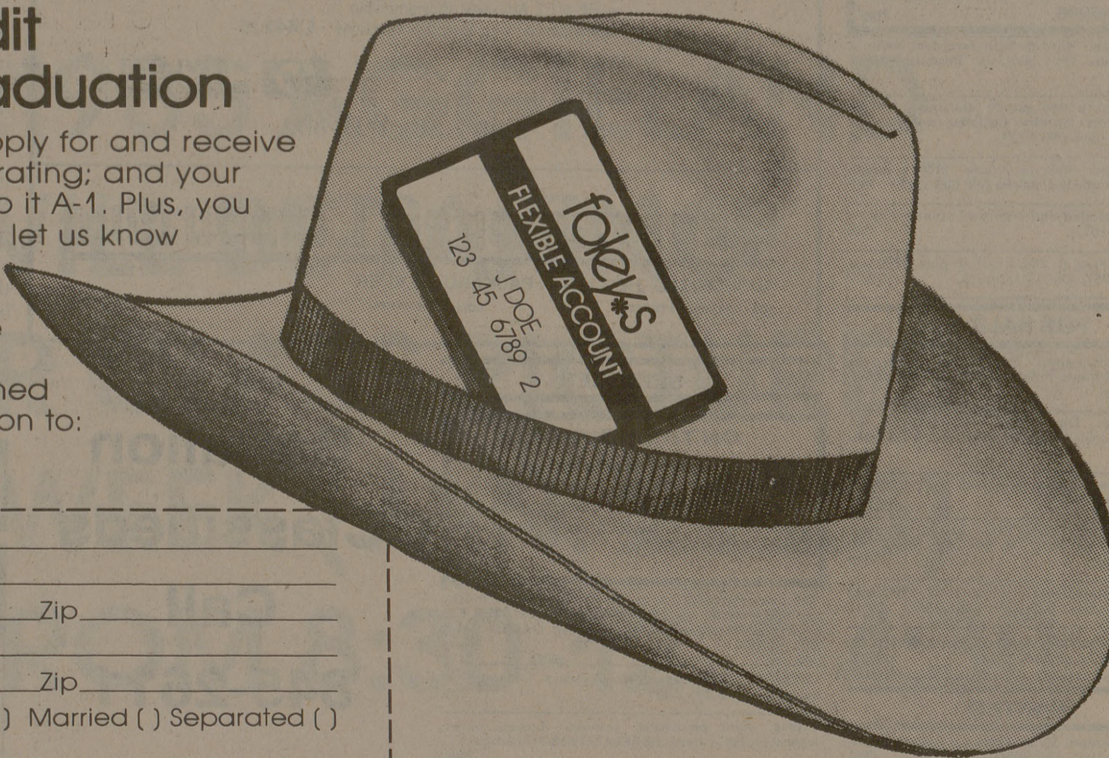
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