

AIDS-free club owners: Dating service clients typically in 30s, male

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Owners of dating services that offer AIDS screening say their typical client is a single, professional man in his 30s who is fearful that the deadly virus could reach epidemic proportions among heterosexuals.

Jack and Beverly Wagner, who started an AIDS-screening dating service out of their home in the Tulsa suburb of Glenpool, said doctors, lawyers and secretaries have shown an interest in the club.

"Men are more concerned with meeting people," Mrs. Wagner said. "Women are interested in being tested."

P.A.L.S., Prevent AIDS Love Society, offers anonymous testing through a local laboratory for \$50. If the results turn out negative, the club offers a \$25-a-month six-month membership with access to other members tested for the virus, Wagner said. Members agree not to have sexual contact with non-members, he said.

About 300 people, 60 percent men, have shown an interest in the club, which is expected to be in full operation next month, Wagner said. Club fliers and leaflets were distributed in adult

apartment complexes and an advertisement was placed in local newspapers to promote P.A.L.S., he said.

Critics of such clubs say the dating services offering AIDS testing miss the point that no one can guarantee that someone who tested negative for AIDS today won't test positive tomorrow.

The Wagners said they got their idea for the club after reading about others across the country, including a Barrington, Ill., club that offers members ID cards that state the carrier has tested negative for AIDS, or ac-

quired immune deficiency syndrome.

Jim Raim, organizer of Barrington club called American AIDS-Free Association, said "The only way to stop this disease is to have people tested. It's like a new lease on life."

The requirements to join a \$195-a-year club in suburban Chicago are a negative AIDS test every four months and agreement not to use intravenous drugs or have sex with non-members, Raim said.

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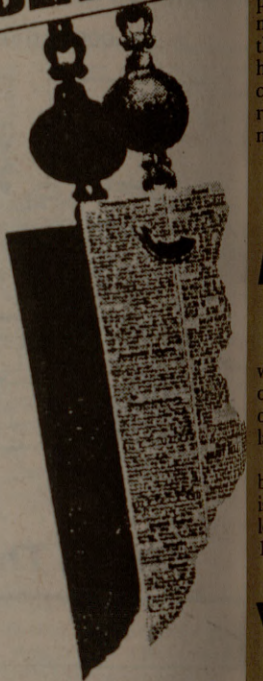


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