

Government launches ads in anti-AIDS campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government on Thursday kicked off a new AIDS education campaign with a collection of ads warning that the disease can strike anyone but saying nothing about safe sex, condoms or drug needles.

The campaign was criticized by groups representing AIDS victims and trying to help intravenous drug users. They said the ads should give information on how to prevent AIDS, not just say it is spreading.

Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, denied that the government was steering clear of controversial subjects, such as homosexuality.

He said the ads concentrate on the basic message that anyone can contract AIDS, and there isn't room for much else.

"That's a lot of information to try to get into a 30-second spot," Sullivan said at a news conference where his department opened its newest phase in the "America Responds to AIDS" campaign.

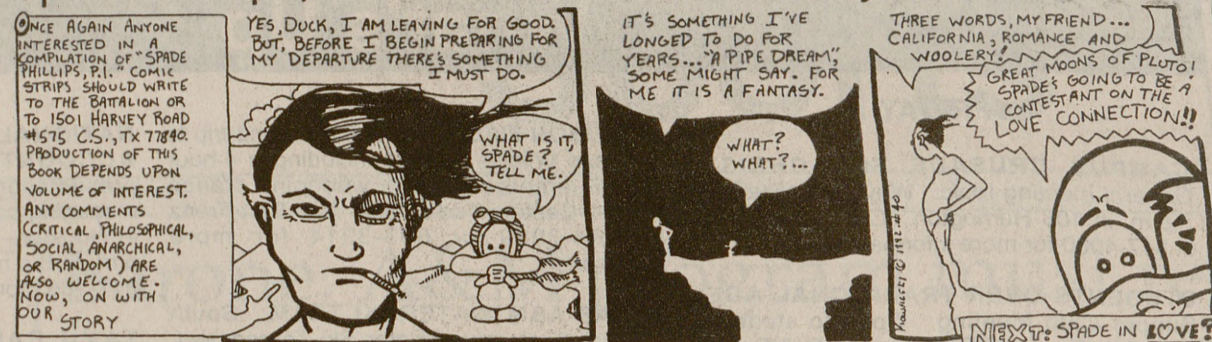
One million Americans are infected with the AIDS-causing virus, he said. "Every 13 minutes another person is infected. If we are to control this epidemic, every person must know he or she can be at risk."

The campaign's message is that AIDS is not limited to inner-city drug addicts and homosexuals.

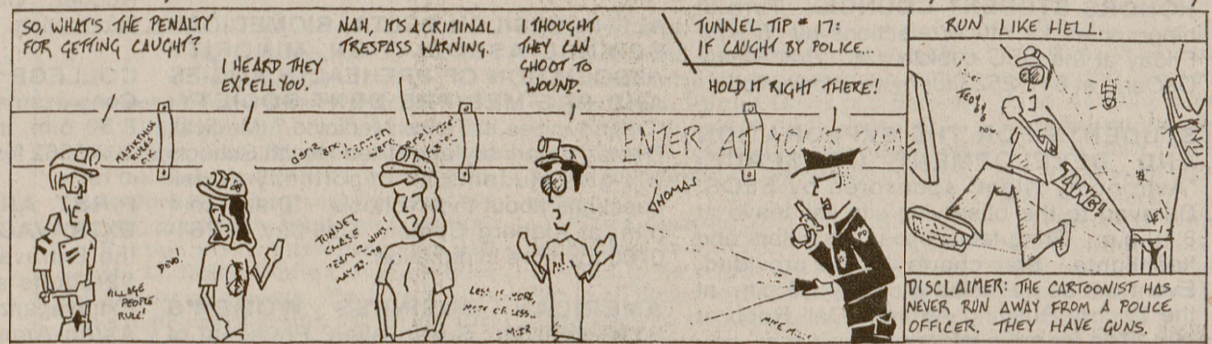
Ernesto Hinojos, director of education for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, said the ads, which give a phone number to call for more information, are inadequate, and besides, his organization tried to call the number on Wednesday and couldn't get through.

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Spade Phillips, P.I.



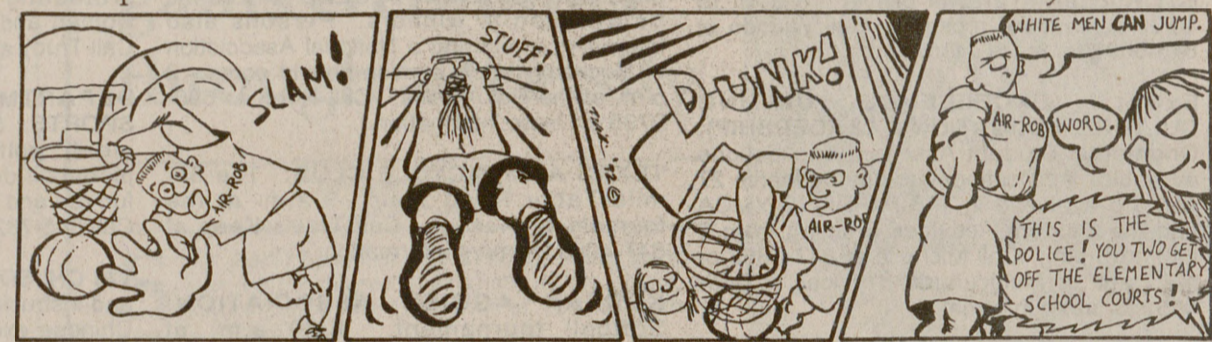
(the story so far...)



FISH OUT OF WATER



whoop



Vandals spray acid into 4 women's clinics

DALLAS (AP) — A noxious acid sprayed into four women's clinics that perform abortions temporarily closed the facilities and sent three people to hospitals with complaints of nausea, authorities said.

Vandals were suspected in the incidents Wednesday at Abortion Advisory Clinic, the Routh Street Women's Clinic, A to Z Women's Health Services and A Choice for Women clinic.

The Dallas Fire Department used soda ash to neutralize the butyric acid, which officials said had been sprayed under clinic doors, and

in at least two cases, applied through holes drilled in the doors.

Butyric acid is a colorless, strong-smelling fatty acid found in rancid butter and perspiration, and often is used to produce fragrances and flavors.

The incidents were reported between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Wednesday. No serious injuries were reported, but three clinic workers who complained of nausea were treated at two hospitals and later released.

At three of the clinics, surgeries were canceled for the day and employees sent home.

Only A Choice for Women managed to reopen later Wednesday. All facilities were operating Thursday.

"It was childish," said Edi M. Peterson, A Choice for Women manager, as she and other employees cleaned up Wednesday afternoon. "They (vandals) didn't accomplish anything. It did not affect patient care."

"When it's reported, the general public is really turned off by these kinds of anti-abortion activities," said Barbara Radford, executive director of the National Abortion Federation in Washington.

Congressmen kited checks overseas, inspector reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — House members wrote bad checks for cash at U.S. embassies overseas, and State Department employees had to go after them to recover the money, the department's inspector general said Thursday.

"It's been known to happen. ... I only know the few that came to my attention," Inspector General Sherman Funk said in a telephone interview. "There were a few congressmen who caused a problem. We went back to the congressmen and they paid."

He said there had been no such problems for "a couple of years," but declined to say when the bad checks had been written. He would not name the lawmakers involved.

The lawmakers wrote the checks on their private bank accounts while they were traveling overseas on fact-finding mis-

sions and other official trips.

There was no connection with the much-publicized House bank, where members wrote thousands of overdrafts that didn't bounce because they were covered by money from other lawmakers' accounts.

Funk said the problem had affected embassies in Europe, Africa and other areas.

At least one of the bad checks was cashed at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, and it took State Department employees around six months to collect from the lawmaker involved, a government source said Thursday. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the House bank investigation, the ethics committee is hearing appeals from lawmakers whose names are on a preliminary list of the 24 most flagrant abusers of the system.

Senate adds \$25 billion to total cost of savings and loan cleanup project

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted 52-42 late Thursday to add \$25 billion to the taxpayer cost of cleaning up the savings and loan industry.

The bill would provide enough money to operate the Resolution Trust Corp. for another year.

It would bring the total taxpayer cost to \$130 billion, still short of the \$160 billion the Bush administration says is needed to finish the

job.

In addition to providing \$25 billion in fresh financing, the bill would lift a deadline for spending a previous \$25 billion allocation approved last November. Only about \$8 billion of that has been used and authority to spend the rest expires Wednesday.

Without more money, the RTC would be unable to clean up the current 70 failed thrifts.

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Ages 18 and older

Individuals with spring allergy symptoms to screen for upcoming research studies.

IMPETIGO STUDY

Individuals of any age with symptoms of impetigo (bacterial infection of the skin) to participate in an investigational drug research study using a cream with drug in it. \$150 for those chosen and completing the study.

TENSION HEADACHE?

Individuals with moderate to severe Tension Headaches wanted to participate in a 4-hour headache relief research study with an investigational medication in tablet form. Flexible hours. \$75 incentive for individuals who are chosen and complete the study. Daily, till 6:30 776-0400.

ASTHMA STUDY

WANTED: Individuals, age 12-65, with mild to moderate asthma to participate in a clinical research study for 6 weeks with an investigational medication in inhaler form. Individuals must be using inhaled steroids and bronchodilators daily to qualify. \$400 incentive paid to those completing the study.

SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: infected wounds, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, infected ingrown toenails and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

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