

Arafat

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Arafat was last in the West Bank after the 1967 Middle East war, when he organized a campaign of bomb attacks against Israel's occupation before fleeing into exile.

Arafat wore a military uniform Tuesday, and walked on a red carpet as a bagpipe band played the Palestinian anthem. He then chaired the first meeting of his Cabinet with only 14 of the 19 ministers present.

One hand on a Bible and the other on a Koran, Arafat took the oath of office as the head of the civilian self-rule government, swearing to "do my duty faithfully and honestly, so help me God."

The Cabinet is made up of businessmen and politicians. It included one Christian, Tourism Minister Elias Freij of Bethlehem, and one woman, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Intissar al-Wazir. A rabbi, Moshe Hirsch

of the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect, also took an advisory post on Jewish affairs.

It was a day of symbolism. Arafat flew from Gaza, over Tel Aviv and then to the West Bank after passing along the northern edge of Jerusalem — the city both Palestinians and Israelis claim as their capital.

Shaath said Arafat was in a "mood of nostalgia, a pensive mood" on the helicopter trip.

Jericho is also a symbol of the territory Arafat seeks to add to his autonomy enclave. Jericho and Gaza together constitute only 150 square miles, an area about the size of Manhattan. The West Bank is eight times as big.

Shaath said Arafat was delighted with his return visit. "He's been in one of the most positive moods I've ever seen him in," he said.

Even so, many Palestinians were waiting to see what Arafat would do about jobs and housing.

Others complained the self-rule was too limited because Israel still controls borders, water and electricity.

Needles

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proper management, needle exchange programs can work in Texas.

"Most of the studies we have on these programs tell us that they are very, very effective in reducing the spread of HIV," he said. "I don't think it will be that long before we see one here in Texas. There is just too much information coming out now that says these are good programs and that they do a lot."

George Accapidi, a researcher

"We're not saying 'use drugs,' we're just saying 'use clean needles.'"

— George Accapidi, U.T.

at the University of Texas Addictive Behavior Services in Houston, said people are going to use drugs regardless of what anyone tells them. And if they're going to use drugs, Accapidi said he would like them to be safe and not spread HIV.

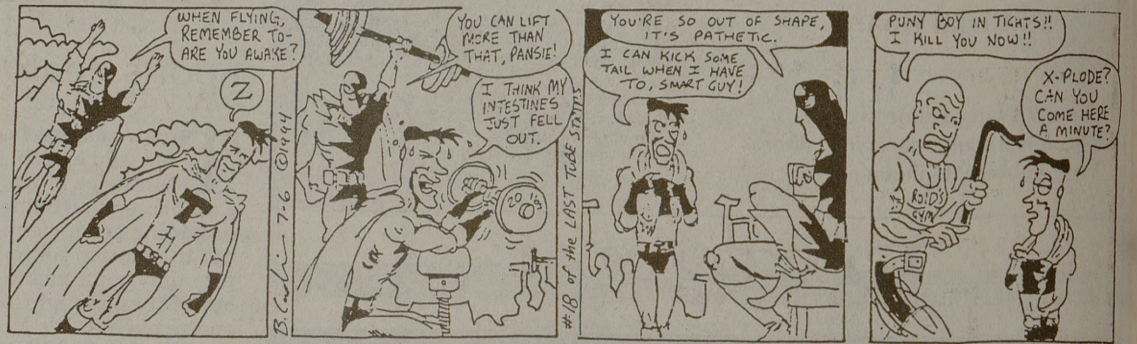
"If they're not going to get needles from me, then they're going to get them from somewhere else, and they may not be clean," he said. "If we provide them with needles, we're not saying 'use drugs,' we're just saying 'use clean needles.'"

If cities and states want to stop the spread of HIV, he said, health officials must turn to new methods, such as syringe exchange programs. As it is, he said, the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Houston is rising.

"AIDS is a big issue. Drugs is another one," he said. "If they want to stop both of them, cities are going to have to implement new procedures."

Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



OUT THERE

By JD



Funds

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Dr. J. Southerland, vice president for student affairs and one of the employees charged with record tampering, said he was pleased with Brown's actions.

"It is an expression of support from the University and the community at large that there is a problem," he said.

Dr. John Hoyle, a professor of educational administration, said he thinks the fund is a good idea.

"Anytime you have people for whom you have great respect, I think it is a good idea to step in and help them out," he said.

Hoyle said he has not decided whether or not he will contribute to the fund.

The Houston Post reported last week that members of the Board of Regents were also organizing a fund to help pay for the legal fees of two Board secretaries indicted on felony charges of record tampering.

Bill Clayton, a member of the Board of Regents, said the group cannot legally pool money for the two secretaries.

Clayton said he expects a fund to be started locally on behalf of the women. He also said he would be willing to contribute to such a fund.



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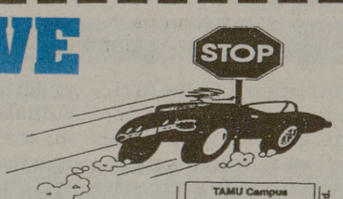
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