

Racist AIDS pamphlets distributed

Hundreds of racist pamphlets of AIDS misinformation were recently distributed in Johannesburg, the capital of the neo-Nazi state of South Africa. *The Facts on AIDS*, a leaflet created by an organization called the AIDS Information Distributing Society, and distributed in the streets of Johannesburg, claims that whites face extinction if they do not take drastic action to protect themselves from Black people. The pamphlet is full of insidious lies, stating that AIDS is spread by casual contact, especially in locations such as multi-racial churches and multi-racial hotels. The South African police have refused to investigate the matter, claiming that there have been no complaints about the pamphlet. Regardless of the fact that AIDS is not a condition which can be "spread," but one which can be the result of a virus which in most circumstances is highly difficult to transmit, this pamphlet is only an extreme statement of the racist and homophobic dominant media ideologies regarding AIDS which are prevalent here in North America as well.

State attacks Scot

In England, officers of the governmental Customs and Excise Department has recently carried out a series of early morning raids on the homes of gay men across the country, looking for copies of a Dutch porn magazine called *The Scot Club Europe*. According to *Capital Gay*, a London gay newsweekly, three men have already been charged with varying offenses, including the possession of "obscene" materials, and the importing of "indecent" and "obscene" materials and photographs, following a national series of raids which took place the morning of January 15.

In London, Manchester, and parts of the west and northeast of the country, officers entered the homes of men looking for copies of the Dutch contact magazine. Although Customs and Excise officers have previously attacked the "Gay's the Word" bookshop in London, and the offices of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, seizing allegedly "indecent" materials imported for resale, this raid involved individuals with single copies of the magazine for their own use. One of the violated men told reporters that officers conducting the search of his home were wearing clear plastic surgical gloves. Another man reported being interrogated for hours, insulted and abused by the officers of the State. Although more arrests are expected, the coverage of the incident in the English gay press indicates that, in the age of Section 28 (see story in this issue) people in gay communities are outraged by this attack on the exploration of diverse consensual sexualities.

Lesbians fight for A.I.D.

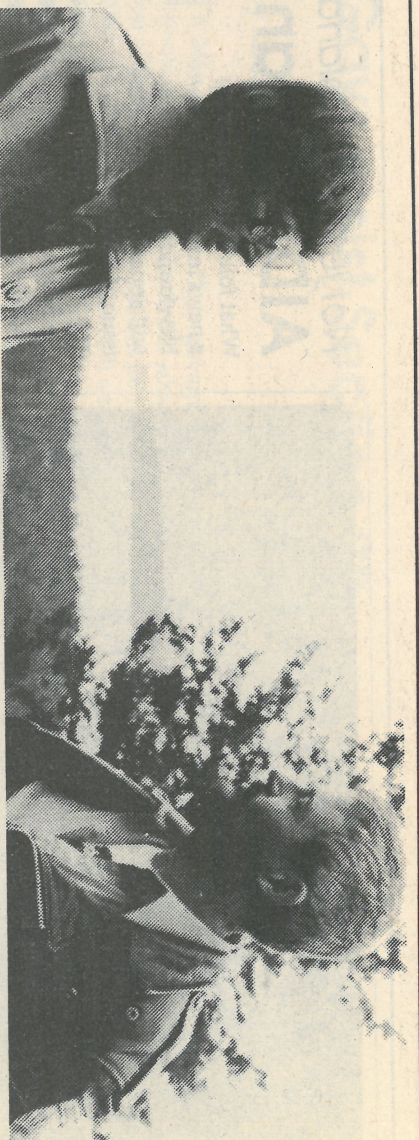
Lesbians in the U.K. are organizing to fight the right wing assault on their reproductive freedom. The Committee for Access to Donor Insemination has recently been formed to protest recent moves by Anne Winterton, a conservative Member of Parliament. Winterton has been a driving force in the anti-choice movement in England, through her position in the government and in writings in the tabloid press *Sunday Express*. She recently tabled an "early day motion" as an amendment to the forthcoming Parliamentary "Embryology Bill" which would deny lesbians access to A.I.D. (Artificial Insemination by Donor). CADI has begun having meetings to plan out a course of action against the bill.

Parliamentary support for transsexuals

The European Parliament, an increasingly powerful organization comprised of representatives of the twelve countries of the European Common Market, has called on its member nations to end discrimination against transsexuals. The parliament has called upon member governments to pay for the full costs of sex modification surgery, and any related health costs. The parliament has recognized the many problems faced by European transsexuals, particularly the discrimination against them in the area of employment, as 60-80% of transsexuals are out of work.

Chastity - the saga continues

For the past month, tabloid press has been ablaze with conflicting rumours about celebrity lesbian Chastity Bono. According to the *Star*, in an article entitled "Chastity Lesbian Movie Shocker," Cher's lesbian daughter uniformly nauseated her fellow students at the New York University Film School by making a so-called "raunchy lesbian movie" which featured two women kissing and fondling one another. According to one student, "After she showed the film, she began explaining it. She kept going on and on about it. Even the professor was freaked out about it." Apparently Cher is afraid that someone will get hold of the film, and "cause the family more heartache." Meanwhile, in an exclusive interview with the *National Enquirer*, Chastity has refuted reports about her lesbianism, stating "I date men." However, in the interview, she admitted to not having a steady boyfriend. Who do you believe?



Lesbian author Jane Rule's novel, *The Young in One Another's Arms*, was seized by Canada Customs during "Freedom to Read Week" (February 19-23) in Canada. She is pictured here with SM activist and author, the late Geoff Mains, whose last novel, *Gentle Warriors*, was also seized recently.

Mass. law supports lesbians and gays

A Massachusetts court last month gave opponents of the state's new lesbian/gay rights bill more time to collect signatures in their attempt to force a ballot referendum that could repeal the law.

The State Judicial Court, Massachusetts' highest legal authority, granted a temporary injunction against enforcement of a ruling by Attorney General James Shannon. The injunction was obtained by the anti-gay Citizens for Family First (CFF). Shannon's finding stated that the rights measure could not be the subject of a referendum because it included an exemption for religious institu-

tions, and the state constitution prohibits referenda on religious matters.

Homophobes had attached the exemption in order to weaken the bill. At the time of Shannon's ruling, Michael Barrett, chief sponsor of the bill in the state senate, had declared, "It appears that the opponents of gay rights have shot themselves in the foot. The exemption for churches is real... but the price of victory is that they are barred from the referendum process."

That may well still turn out to be the case, as the court will not rule on the validity of Shannon's

finding until this fall.

In any case, Massachusetts gay and lesbians are reported to feel that the homophobic opposition poorly organized and without strong public support. In poll about 70% of respondents say they support the bill.

Massachusetts is the second U.S. state to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay Wisconsin enacted a similar law in 1985. Massachusetts activists say they hope the bill's passage will encourage similar laws elsewhere.

John Wilco

No one group of PLWA's should get preferential treatment CAS demands equal treatment

OTTAWA—The Canadian AIDS Society has called on the federal government to treat all people with AIDS or HIV infection equally and not to favour one group of people living with AIDS while ignoring the needs of others.

The call came after the government promised financial help to haemophiliacs and others who contracted HIV from blood transfusions or supplies of blood products. The government announced a \$120,000 per person compensation package was made December 14.

The CAS was careful not to ap-

pear grudging of assistance to haemophiliacs.

"We're blasting the government for not doing enough to help others," explained CAS Executive Director Richard Burzynski.

In a statement to the press, CAS states: "The government appears to be admitting that it bears special responsibility for protecting the supply of blood and blood products... however, all governments also bear the responsibility for not undertaking adequate education and prevention initiatives and in not beginning these sooner."

"This form of extraordinary assistance earmarked for certain people with HIV/AIDS runs contrary to our philosophy that people with HIV/AIDS deserve similar assistance."

The CAS is pressing the government to adopt the principle of equal treatment in its obscenely over *National Strategy on HIV Infection*, be announced early this year.

The CAS informed the Canadian Haemophilia Society of its statement prior to making its statement a relations between the two organizations reportedly remain "amiably based on a report in *CO IN*

Chief Officer of Health recommends quarantine

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protesters, as she was travelling in India.

MINISTRY FABRICATES "DEATH THREATS" AGAINST SCHABAS

The following morning, the headlines of the Toronto *Sun* screamed "DEATH THREAT—Ontario's top doc in AIDS furor."

According to that publication, Schabas was under "police protection" after allegedly receiving "death threats." Schabas was accompanied by four police officers during an appearance for media interviews at Queen's Park earlier in the same day as the demonstration occurred. Health ministry spokesperson Craig Turner stated that it was his understanding that some threats had been made against Schabas, but said that he didn't know of any of the details. He also

admitted that Schabas had taken the occasion to take two weeks off work. Two days later, both the

Toronto *Sun* and the *Star* reported that, according to police officials, no threats whatsoever had been made against Schabas, and that these rumours, being spread by the Ministry of Health, had no basis in fact. This fabrication serves only to make more obvious the paranoia and lack of communication with affected communities demonstrated by Schabas and the Ministry.

The work of Doctor Richard Schabas has had an effect on all people directly affected by AIDS—People Living With AIDS and HIV-positive people, as well as people who are currently HIV-negative, or who are unaware of their HIV status due to the widespread unavailability of anonymous testing in Ontario, which Schabas has been leading the fight to keep illegal in this province (see related story in this issue). Schabas was a central focus of controversy late last year,

Shawn S.