

'FEARITH'

GLOBAL

Article abstracts are identified by date.
Secondary text is color coded as follows:

GLOBAL HEADLINES ■

People are really scared of AIDS. Much more in 1988 than they are today. Straight people were pretty convinced that gay people were solely responsible for the epidemic, and the gay community suffered a lot because of it.

The following are abstracts of newspaper articles outlining the discrimination faced by gays in 1988. The U.S. government didn't start making note of whether or not hate crimes were motivated by sexual or racial prejudice until the early nineties, but headlines will show that 1988 saw a significant increase in straight-on-gay violence. Still, the entire planet was in love with George Michael. Joke's on them.

03-20-1988

GAY RIGHTS BILL CHEERED IN VT.

Lonely and afraid, Mr. Russell was 23 years old before he could admit his homosexuality to anyone. That was 11 years ago. Since then, he has been harassed on the streets of Burlington, Vermont's largest city, where he sometimes socializes in gay bars, and he suspects he has been the victim of discrimination in hiring.

To help people like Mr. Russell, the Vermont Senate has passed a gay rights bill that would outlaw the most obvious forms of discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and credit.

However, it is just that prospect that seems to frighten opponents of the legislation to ban discrimination. They contend that state-mandated tolerance would persuade homosexuals to move to Vermont. "I don't think we should be encouraging people like that to come to the state of Vermont," State Senator Gilbert Godnick, a Democrat, argued in the debate before the 17-to-12 vote in favor of the bill.

— Source: The New York Times

Howard Russell, homosexual who lives in Middlebury, Vermont, says he hopes gay rights bill that has been passed by Vermont Senate will help stop discrimination he feels he has suffered; bill, which faces strong opposition in House, has received backing of Development Secretary Eldert Moulton.

04-24-1988

Federally financed manual outing curriculum of sex education for teenagers has touched off political firestorm in New Hampshire because it describes homosexuality as normal; since January more than 200 copies of manual have been distributed to medical, family planning and government agencies around state; Federal Government has begun action to try to block its distribution.

04-26-1988

United Methodist Church's General Conference, highest policymaking body of church, will discuss issue of homosexuality, and whether homosexual behavior is incompatible with Christian teaching and thus bar to church leadership; United Methodist Church's General Conference votes to maintain position that homosexual behavior is incompatible with Christian teaching and bar to ordained ministry.

06-12-1988

Study by Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force has reported that nearly half of city's homosexual men and one fifth of city's lesbians suffer violent crimes in year because of their sexual orientation; says figures are almost 12 times national annual criminal violence rate for all men and 10 times rate for all women.

06-17-1988

Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio condemn homosexuality as 'a manifestation of a depraved nature' and 'perversion of divine standards.'

— Source: The New York Times

07-03-1988

Flurry of recent studies have confirmed that harassment and crimes against homosexuals are increasing; gay-rights activists say incidents are becoming more violent; problem seems to stem from complex mix of circumstances, including anxieties and resentment about AIDS epidemic

08-08-1988

Dozen gay protesters, at montly protest mass across street from St Patrick's Cathedral, place wreath bearing words 'Free Sharon Kowalski' at altar inside cathedral; Kowalski is disabled woman whose parents are fighting her gay lover over her care and visitors.

08-23-1988

Six men attack two others with knives and baseball bat on Manhattan's Upper West Side after harassing men with anti-homosexual comments.

08-24-1988

Two men are attacked on Upper West Side of Manhattan by group of knife and bat-wielding teenagers shouting anti-homosexual epithets; David Wertheier, head of New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, says number of assaults against people who are homosexual or are perceived by others to be homosexual has risen dramatically this year; victims, Barry Finnegan and David Frank, were attacked by six youths; both are injured.

08-31-1988

Thousands stage protest on Upper West Side of Manhattan to protest recent violence against homosexuals and police arrest at least 100 for blocking traffic.

12-29-1988

Op-Ed article by Robert A Bernstein on comment by Judge Jack Hampton of Dallas, that he imposed 30-year prison sentence on convicted murderer, rather than life term, because victims were homosexual; says frightening implication of his remark is that gay persons are like fair game, that violence against them is at least partially excusable; says contrary to what some people think and fear, homosexuals do not have power to alter anybody else's sexual orientation.

FIGHTING AIDS AND ADDICTION

After two years of foot-dragging, Governor Cuomo has taken a small step toward exploring whether sterile needles and syringes might slow the wildfire spread of AIDS among drug addicts.

The action, little and late, is nevertheless welcome. Other countries are well ahead on this road; they wish to save both addicts and the innocents whom they infect. In America, lamentably, politics has turned the issue into a choice between combating AIDS or addiction. Adamant opposition of law enforcement officers has frightened politicians from even testing a clean-for-used needle exchange, as public health officials urge.

— Source: The New York Times

SURVEY FINDS WIDESPREAD AIDS MISINFORMATION

A new survey has found widespread misinformation about AIDS, with 26 percent of the respondents thinking they would probably get the disease from giving blood and 36 percent believing they could get AIDS by eating at a restaurant where the cook has it.

"There continues to be a great deal of uncertainty about the causes of AIDS," the National Center for Health Statistics said in a report distributed this week by its parent agency, the Centers for Disease Control here. Some of the misinformation may be because the public has not been given enough detailed information to be convincing. If we want people to believe they can't be infected by casual contact "we have to start giving them some technical information about why it can't happen," said Dr. Deborah Dawson, a researcher who worked on the survey report.

— Source: The New York Times

AIDS PEAK FROM NEW TESTS TO NEW VIRUSES

The latest catchphrase in the war against AIDS is something called prevalence testing. Policymakers, researchers and health officials all want to know just how far the AIDS virus, called HIV-1, has spread in the U.S., but they disagree vehemently on how to go about it. After months of resisting President Reagan's calls for mandatory testing, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop last week told reporters at an AIDS conference in London that he hopes this spring to screen every student at a still-unchosen urban U.S. university with a population of 25,000. Said Koop: "That would give you a pretty good idea of the prevalence in that age group in an urban setting."

The modest proposal has been cautiously embraced by some university officials, though others question its usefulness. "I don't think a testing program at a university will yield objective data on the distribution of the disease," says Boston University President John Silber. "People who don't think they have AIDS are not going to be very interested in getting their arm punched just for the hell of it." Notes Dr. James Brown, director of student health services at the University of California, Berkeley: "I don't think doing it on one campus is going to tell you anything." The President reportedly introduced the idea of testing college students last summer at a Cabinet meeting, where it was strongly opposed.

— Source: Time Magazine

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