

THANKS: A.N., J.E. & R.E. (ACT-UP)

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

FACT SHEET:

EDWARD KOCH: Every day, New Yorkers who are AIDS workers see the human toll that their mayor's refusal to deal with a health crisis e torts from the sick. So they have no reason to believe the mayor has any sympathy for people with AIDS. Koch has stalled, ranted and raved, and in general done everything he could to avoid dealing with the AIDS crisis.

- He has spent woefully little and at this point in time has left 8,000 - 10,000 P.W.A.'s (People With AIDS) homeless in the streets. Letting landlords warehouse apartments and letting city-owned buildings remain bricked up while he spends tax-payer's money for rat infested welfare hotelrooms to the tune of \$1500. a month per room for those homeless that manage to get help through city agencies.
- He has done nothing to foster care or treatment; only grandstand announcements of programs that never get done. (Housing, etc.)
- He has come out against legislation acknowledging domestic partners.
- Even AIDS workers familiar with all of the above were aghast when the mayor earlier this year revealed the depth of his fear and loathing. In the latest installment of his autobiography (this one a co-production with the cardinal) the mayor relates a visit he made to a local ward for children with AIDS. Handing out cookies to the kids, he was so overcome with revulsion that he rushed to the nearest sink and tried to wash the experience away, in effect literalizing what he has been doing since this crisis began: distributing sweets and washing his hands.

JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR: The world's most active liar about condoms and safer-sex. No set of AIDS statistics alarms demographers more than the apparent spread of HIV infection among New York City's adolescents, many of them latino, many of them in neighborhoods dominated by the church.

- PREFERS COFFINS TO CONDOMS: At Covenant House, a supposed safe-haven for teenage run-away's who frequently have to resort to hustling and prostitution for survival while on the streets; NO condoms or safer-sex information although there is a high rate of recidivism. The archdiocese, which runs Covenant House, as well as keeping these children ignorant and putting them at great risk in order to maintain their 'moral' code, will simply tell them it is their fault as they lay dying. NO safer-sex info. or condoms talked about in parochial schools and Catholic - run youth agencies.
- Archdiocese serves on the Board of Ed.'s AIDS Advisory Comm. and lobbies heavily & incessantly against teaching about safer-sex and/or condoms.
- VATICAN'S POSITION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIANS AND GAYS:
October 31, 1986 (after Gay Rights Bill passed) VATICAN LETTER:
"Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons." (issued by Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Section 12 (violence)
"...when homosexual activity is consequently condoned, or when civil legislation is introduced to protect behavior to which no one has any conceivable right, neither the church nor society at large should be surprised when other disturbed notions and practices gain ground, and irrational and violent reactions increase."

O'CONNOR (cont.) Cannibal? - The hierarchy of the American Church appears to have dug in for the long last supper.

Rep. WILLIAM DANNEMEYER (R-CA.) Recently asked President Bush to denounce a federal study of suicide containing research by a San Francisco social worker that links young gays' and lesbians' suicidal tendencies with alienation from a society largely unaware of their existence. The Congressman's latest homophobic volley charged that the inquiry " adds legitimacy to the heretofore crime of child molestation."

Lesbian and Gay young people who take their own lives account for 30% or more of all U.S. suicides; according to San Francisco psychotherapist Paul Gibson. Dannemeyer called on Bush to "affirm traditional family values by denouncing the portion of the report that deals with homosexuality."

In the report, Gibson said:the root problem of Gay youth suicide is a society that discriminates against and stigmatizes homosexuals while failing to recognize that a substantial number of its youth has a Gay or Lesbian orientation. (Contact Gregory King of the Human Rights Campaign Fund regarding a news release dated Nov. 5, 1989)
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- Dannemeyer is a long-time homophobic crazy regarded as a nut-case by his Congressional colleagues. Also author of a book that declares homosexuality to be a curable illness; something that contributes to violence against Lesbians and Gays.

STEPHEN JOSEPH: Shut down bathhouses in N.Y.C. rather than treat them as possible places where education about AIDS and safer-sex possibilities could take place. Not long ago, in epidemiology so shoddy it shocked even the establishment, his Health Department had revised its estimate of HIV-infected gay and bisexual men in N.Y.C. - from 250,000 to 50,000! Why? The city's evolving Party Line now said the epidemic was one of drug users and their families. The city could not afford to recognize that, measured in the mounting body count, the epidemic among Gays was far from over. This new ideology (and the attendant specter of funding cuts) had required a new epidemiology. In his performance on the witness stand Joseph had given the department's de facto homophobia his inimitable chilly imprint.

- He uses irrelevant analogies from San Francisco figures thereby refusing to accurately count HIV+ Gay men. Refused as does the Center for Disease Control to acknowledge that Lesbians are at risk and have contracted AIDS.
- He hasn't pressured Bd. of Ed. to do a real AIDS education program in the schools.
- Hasn't insisted on declaring a state of emergency.
- Has pushed testing and contact tracing as opposed to prevention and treatment; especially treatment.
- Wanted to outlaw anonymous testing and institute mandatory contact tracing. Has been nothing but a stooge for Koch. Luckily for N.Y. he resigned recently.

JESSE HELMS: One of the more dangerous homophobes in the continental United States. Finds the human body, itself, obscene. Was responsible for the original N.E.A. flap and has made thinly disguised racist statements detailing his reactions to certain Mapplethorpe photographs; statements concerning inter-racial couples. Sends out photographs of himself to citizens and newspapers in a tireless self-promoting

campaign inciting murder and violence of Lesbians and Gay men. Has introduced legislation that denies Federal funding for any program that mentions homosexuality. Has succeeded in getting such legislation passed by using a campaign of intimidation that most politicians bow to. Cut out any and all AIDS education funding that relates to Gays and Lesbians. Designed the New Chill that has swept through the arts community causing institutions, artists, and curators to censor themselves rather than contest him. Fascists wearing Conservative drag have mounted Helms and ridden him through the foundations of the Constitution. Even a true conservative would recognize the recent Frohnmayer attack as a trampling of the First Amendment - Helms just about had a media-induced orgasm.

"What do the anti-arts forces want? What they have always wanted in this century: political control over our culture; using moral outrage as the excuse." - Douglas Davis, Artist, critic and teacher. (NEWSDAY)

Under Helms, words and pictures have gained a power they haven't had in decades compared to television.

ALFONSE D'AMATO: More interested in lining his rich real estate friends pockets than saving people's lives. With his eyes peeled for the camera's he made an asshole of himself ripping the Mapplethorpe catalogue into tiny pieces; clear echo's of the Nazi era. Has been so busy voting for the Helms amendments concerning AIDS education that he has never had a personal meeting with a Gay or Lesbian organization. It seems that you must be a big contributor to his campaign funds before you can get a foot in the door. Despite never meeting with a representative of the Lesbian and Gay community, he has voted consistently against us. Dismissive of Gay issues. In the 1980 election while running against Holtzman/Javitts he was quoted as saying, "Elizabeth Holtzman is part of the Ultra-Left Gay Rights Conspiracy that is out to destroy the middle class." D'Amato clearly missed his calling; he could have increased his millions writing trash novels like Dannemeyer. If the Feds ignore his wealth and move against him in the HUD scandals, seats in the courtroom will be filled to the max.

FRANK YOUNG: Has operated as a know-nothing bureaucrat who saw his job as obstruction. Young has headed a Food & Drug Administration totally unequipped to deal with the magnitude of a crisis like AIDS.

- Has refused to work actively to get treatments to people with the disease who might live and thrive.
- To him, red tape and procedure is more important than people.
- Doesn't understand issues of access for the poor, or uneducated, or communities of color.
- In classic bureaucratese, people who were dying from AIDS were told until recently that they couldn't try manageably safe, potentially effective drugs: Big Brother was protecting them from themselves. When the Commissioner finally woke up and smelled the bodies, the orders he issued might have inched the agency in the right direction. Trouble was, the bureaucracy never followed. Now that he's been dumped upstairs, will the next FDA chief in fact effect the changes that AIDS demands, or simply let the bureaucracy go back to bed?