

continued from page 5

again the bonding and community strength that has sprung from tragedy. In this sense, the one virtue of the virus is its non-discriminatory nature, the fact that it has affected gays from all walks of life, all races and all creeds.

#### *sex and love*

The one effect of the AIDS virus that has perhaps been overcommented upon is its effect on gay relationships. All signs indicate that AIDS has caused many gay men to form longer-lasting relationships and renounce promiscuity. Yet most comments in this subject are based on the assumption that this is a desirable change. The important questions are whether we are affirming the value of relationships and monogamy strictly out of necessity or whether this change is not merely necessary but also desirable.

Personally, I believe that it is. However, the only true test of this will come after we have conquered AIDS. If in a post-AIDS world men continue in the new pattern, perhaps AIDS will someday be seen as a catalyst that caused gays to re-evaluate their lives and re-assign priorities. Today the "jury remains hung" as to whether this change in the way gay men view sex and love will be lasting.

#### *the "political awakening" of our community*

In 1988, one of the largest and best organized lobbying groups on Capitol Hill is the Human Rights Campaign Fund. The HRCF is fighting for the rights of all gay men and lesbians, but the fact remains that it would not be the organization that it is today without AIDS as a rallying cry.

In a post-AIDS world, organizations such as the HRCF will have made considerable progress in changing old legislation and in passing new legislation to provide lesbian and gay rights on topics ranging from adoption and parenting to anti-gay discrimination and violence. Hopefully, in the process, many formerly apolitical gays and lesbians will come to the realization that institutional change will come about only through our combined efforts to affect political change.

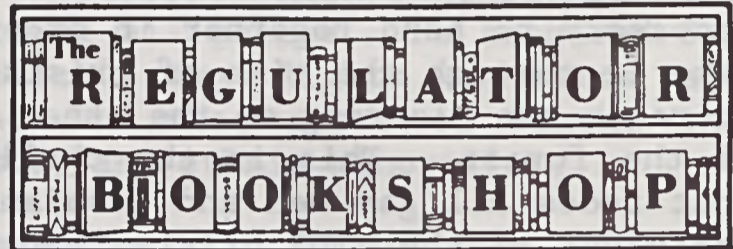
#### *too early to say...*

Unfortunately, it is too early to say whether or not the "positive" side effects I enumerate will actually

continue into the post-AIDS world. If, however, we can focus on what some of the positive consequences may be, then making it through the present crisis may be more bearable. We must remain "positive" in this time of crisis and maintain our conviction that AIDS will not get the better of us.

--D.B.

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#### WORLD AIDS DAY

UNC-CH sponsored a fair on Thursday, December 1, in observance of World AIDS day, an international program of the World Health Organization to disseminate information about the disease. The program took place from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM in the Great Hall of the Student Union.

More than 50 researchers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, pharmacists, public health specialists and others from throughout the Triangle gathered to discuss their work. CGLA staffed a booth at the fair, and also marked World AIDS Day by decorating a tree in the Pit with 358 ribbons, one for every North Carolinian who has died of AIDS.

According to Patrick Lamerson, CGLA co-chair, there have been 655 reported cases of AIDS in the state. A statistical breakdown shows that 578 of the cases are male and 69 female, 342 are white and 298 black, 118 were IV drug users, and 14 were children under the age of 13.

Dr. Inge Corless, a member of the University's AIDS Task Force and chairperson of the Secondary Care Department at UNC's School of Nursing, explained that the fair in the Great Hall considered all aspects of the illness. In particular, the fair hoped to convince people that responsible behavior can protect them against the disease. It also encouraged compassion and understanding towards those who have AIDS or are infected with the HIV virus.