



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

New Study Shows One in Three Have Changed Behaviors to Avoid AIDS

Atlanta, GA--Nearly one-third of Americans say they have changed their sex habits to avoid AIDS, including using condoms more and sleeping with fewer partners. Some, according to the survey, have given up sex entirely.

Even those at extremely low risk of getting the disease are being more careful, though the researchers found that people with the greatest chance of AIDS are doing the most to protect themselves.

"People respond to the idea that sex is potentially a life or death decision," said Joel A. Feinleib of the University of Chicago.

The findings on sex in the age of AIDS are based on newly analyzed data from the National Health and Social Life Survey, the largest random survey ever conducted of American sexuality.

The study, much of which was published in a book last year, was based on 90-minute interviews with 3,434 Americans about their most private acts and desires. The group surveyed ranged in age from 18 to 59.

The latest data were released on February 17 at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

One criticism of the study is the difficulty of knowing whether people are telling the truth. This may be especially important in judging their response to AIDS, since almost everyone knows what answers are considered socially acceptable.

In the survey, 30 percent of U.S. adults said they had changed their behavior in some way as a result of AIDS, and 3 percent of adults are avoiding sex completely because of AIDS.

John Gagnon of the State University of New York in Stony Brook said the 30 percent figure is probably the "upper bounds estimate" of what is really true.

Even if accurate, however, Gagnon said no one knows if this is enough to have a significant impact on the epidemic.

Of the 30 percent who say they have changed their sex practices, the survey found:

- 29 percent use condoms more often.
- 26 percent limit themselves to one sex partner.
- 25 percent choose their partners more carefully or get to know them better.
- 11 percent reduce their number of partners.
- 11 percent abstain from sex entirely.

Having many sex partners increases the risk of AIDS, and the statistics show just how seriously those people are taking AIDS.

For instance, the survey found that 78 percent of those who have slept with between 11 and 20 people in the last five years have changed their behavior.

By contrast, 12 percent of those with just one partner in five years are doing something different because of AIDS.

Feinleib noted that 75 percent of the population is at such low risk of AIDS that they probably do not need to alter their sex practices.

Greg Louganis, World's Greatest Olympic Diver, Is a Person Living With AIDS

New York, NY--Greg Louganis, 35, the only man to sweep diving gold medals at consecutive Olympics, said he has AIDS and was HIV-positive when he hit his head during the 1988 Summer Games and bled into the pool.

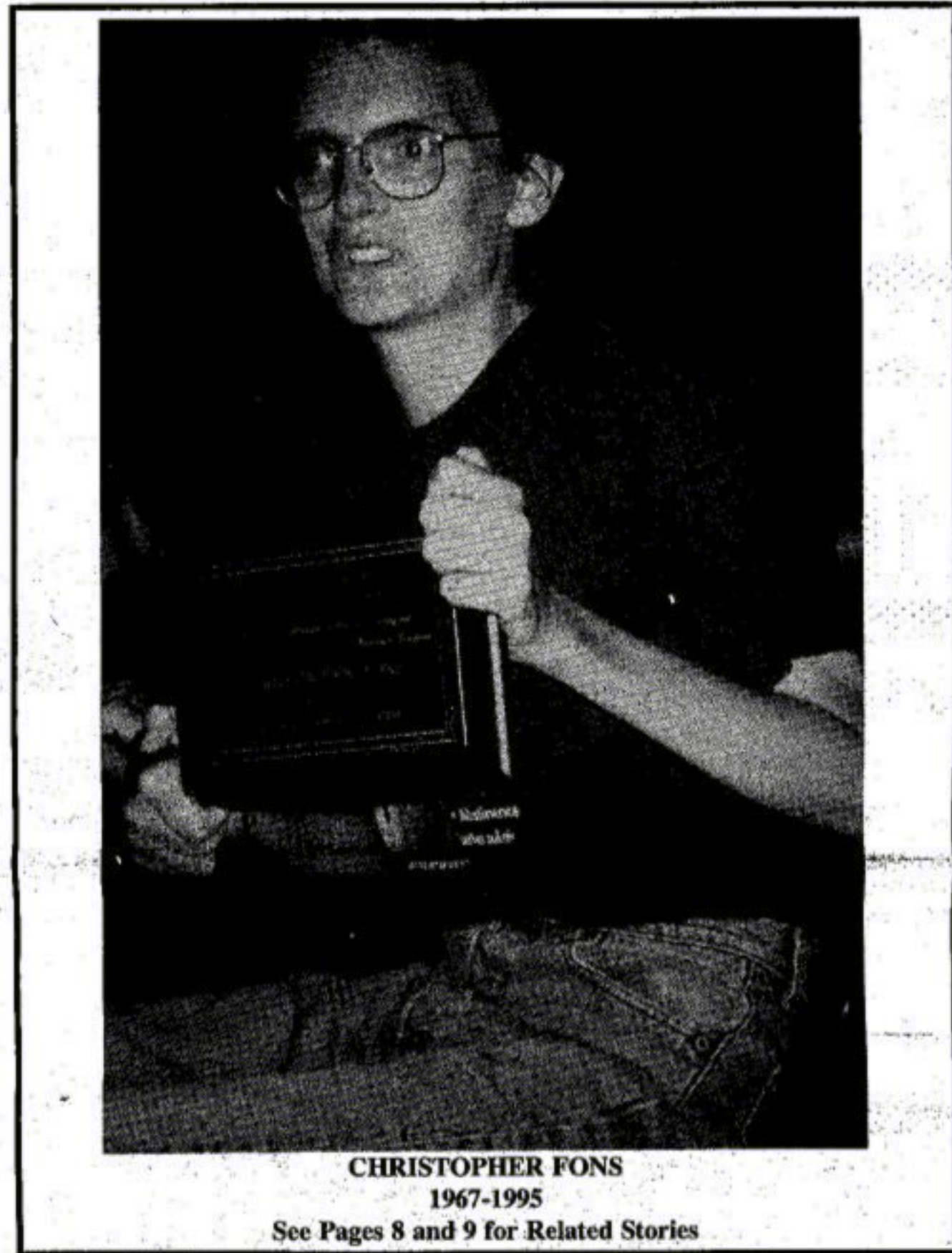
Louganis, in an interview with ABC News "20-20" televised Friday, February 24, said that he tested positive for the HIV virus just before the 1988 Games in Seoul and that it has developed into what the Centers for Disease Control defines as AIDS.

"It's just so sad," said Scott Donie, a silver medalist in the 10-meter platform at Barcelona. "He's such an incredible person and was such an incredible athlete. It's no different than when I heard about Arthur Ashe or Magic Johnson. When someone you hold in such high regard gets something like this, it reminds you of how human we all are. It's difficult to accept."

In the preliminaries of the 1988 springboard event, Louganis cracked his head on a reverse

Madison and Milwaukee AIDS Housing Projects Jeopardized by Federal Budget Cuts

HUD Grants for Rodney Scheel House and MAP Family Housing May be Reduced or Eliminated



CHRISTOPHER FONSS
1967-1995

See Pages 8 and 9 for Related Stories

Utah Rushes to Stop Gay Marriages, While South Dakota Hesitates--For Now

Salt Lake City, UT-- Legislation that would deny recognition to same-sex marriages won unanimous endorsement by a Utah House committee that was told the measure could face a legal challenge. At the same time, Hawaii forged ahead on the same-sex marriage issue.

Utah already bans same-sex marriages. House Bill 366 would deny recognition of such marriages performed in other states. Hawaii is

one state that could legalize such unions.

The House Energy, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee unanimously endorsed the measure on February 20 with no debate.

"(There are) possible due-process issues since marriage is a fundamental constitutional right," legislative attorney Janetha Hancock wrote in a legal assessment of the bill. "But

TURN TO MARRIAGE, PAGE 12

High Court's Decision to Review Colorado's Amendment 2 is the Most Crucial Civil Rights Case in Decades

Denver, CO-- For perhaps the first time ever and never again, the two sides agree. Both advocates for the civil rights of Lesbians and Gay men and the Far Religious Right say that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on February 21 to review Colorado's Amendment 2 is a watershed.

"This is our Brown Vs the Board of Education, said Richard Evans, whose name is listed first on the original filing of the Amendment 2 lawsuit. "Hopefully, it will go the same way."

By Brown Vs the Board of Education, the Supreme Court, in 1954, said racial segregation violated African Americans' right to equal protection under the law. The decision paved the way for the African American civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Amendment 2, approved by Colorado voters in 1992, would permit legal discrimination against Gay people. The Amendment has

Milwaukee-- As Wisconsin Light goes to press, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has issued an "urgent Action Alert" to AIDS activists throughout Wisconsin that all federal AIDS housing funds have been targeted for elimination by the leadership of the new Congressional majority, which could mean withdrawal of multi-million dollar grant awards to the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) and the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) for crucial AIDS housing projects.

The ARCW Alert urges the AIDS community to immediately call their respective Congressmen in the U.S. House of Representatives. The full House will soon be voting on these budget cuts

The ARCW Public Policy Office will provide you with the name and phone number of your Congressman and key staff. For this information, call: (414) 273-1991, ext. 247.

"The Contract For America has gone too far and is gutting this country's most humane response to the AIDS epidemic," said Doug Nelson, ARCW Executive Director, who had just returned from Washington, D.C. where he testified before the Senate Committee charged with re-authorizing the Ryan White CARE Act.

"More than half of the people living with AIDS in Wisconsin need housing assistance. Without these HUD funds the prospects for severe homelessness among people with AIDS are profoundly increased," Nelson said.

The ARCW Alert reported that the massive cuts to the HUD budget may result in elimination of funds carried over by HUD from prior fiscal years which have not yet been spent and therefore jeopardizes the Madison and Milwaukee AIDS housing projects.

"With all of the investment by the Madison community in the Rodney Scheel House, it is outrageous that this Congress is prepared to scuttle that vital program for the Madison AIDS community," said Nelson.

"In Milwaukee, we have invested more than a year's effort in planning for our housing project for families with HIV and we are prepared to break ground in the next few months to construct this critically needed housing project.

"Both of our communities have received million-dollar HUD grants to make safe and affordable housing for the AIDS community a reality," Nelson continued. "We can't let reckless budget-cutting kill these crucial housing programs," he asserted.

Nelson said that in addition to the Madison and Milwaukee HUD grants, Wisconsin stands to lose \$650,000 in housing assistance from HUD through the complete elimination of the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Program (HOPWA).

"We desperately need HOPWA funds for

TURN TO BUDGET CUTS, PAGE 5

TURN TO LOUGANIS, PAGE 16

TURN TO COLORADO, PAGE 15