

# National News

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## D.C. 'suddenly' faces AIDS emergency

"To operate as if AIDS is a gay white disease is to risk suicide," said Washington, D.C. health commissioner Dr. Reed Tuckson at the Aug. 6-7 AIDS conference held in Atlanta by the Centers for Disease Control and the Health and Human Services Department.

Tuckson said Washington was a good case study of a city suddenly confronted with a costly and deadly AIDS epidemic it cannot afford. "We have 100,000 people without medical insurance," Tuckson said Aug. 6.

"Last year, our hospitals had to absorb over \$100 million in bad debt. We have more black males in jail than in college. We have a large IV drug community, and many sexually active adolescents. . . .

"There is simply not enough money in D.C. to take care of this disease—not next year, not five years from now. The federal government has got to enlarge its concept of responsibility. It's not just research dollars we need—although we need research money."

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## Tower calls Congress probe 'political theater'

Tower Commission chairman John Tower, speaking at a breakfast meeting with reporters, commented on the Iran-Contra congressional investigation: "I would classify the whole thing as political theater. Nothing really new came out."

Tower, the former senator from Texas and chief arms negotiator in Geneva, headed the commission initially appointed by President Reagan to look into the Iran-Contra funds diversion last January. It produced its report in April, revealing some details of Oliver North's shenanigans while covering up what Sen. David Boren would later refer to as a "secret government," of which North et al.'s operations were only a small part.

Tower also said the public would have been better served had the congressional

hearings been held in private.

He added, "I don't think the Congress came out looking as good as they thought they might." The hearings backfired because "Ollie North became a hero, public support for the Contras was enhanced, and no smoking gun was found."

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## ABA: Make permanent independent counsel law

A recommendation that the U.S. law be made permanent authorizing appointment of independent counsels to investigate high-ranking government officials was made by the criminal justice section of the American Bar Association Aug. 11.

The recommendation was announced at the ABA's annual convention in San Francisco Aug. 11.

Currently, the independent counsel is appointed under an authorization expiring every five years. Supporters of the recommendation said the importance of the statute to perceptions of fairness has been proved and should "not have to be revisited every five years."

The proposal also endorses the constitutionality of the law, saying: "Our studies convince us that, despite the recent highly publicized attacks on the constitutionality of this law, the independent counsel provisions . . . are fully consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Constitution."

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## AIDS 'science city' becomes campaign issue

A congressional candidate in Connecticut has proposed the building of a "science city" to be inhabited by AIDS-infected persons and researchers as a way of conducting a "War Against AIDS."

Nicholas Tarzia is a "LaRouche Democrat," running on the independent "War Against AIDS" ticket, for the seat vacated by Stewart McKinney, who died of AIDS. He has proposed that the \$350 million state budget surplus be used to construct a "sci-

ence city" to treat AIDS patients with the most advanced technologies while researching a cure.

On Aug. 11, Tarzia held press conferences in Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford, Connecticut to reiterate his call for Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill to declare a state of emergency on AIDS. Tarzia also made public his proposal for the governor to spend the \$350 million state surplus on building an AIDS research city called "Constitution City."

Said Tarzia, "This science city could be centrally located in the state and should offer state medical and technological industries contracts to establish research centers there. Connecticut has many high-technology and medical firms which can fulfill these contracts and do groundbreaking research into optical biophysics"—the field of science which studies the electromagnetic properties of living tissue. He counterposed this approach to the "cost-cutting euthanasia approach" now prevalent.

Tarzia was quoted in many Connecticut papers, as well as WNBC radio in nearby New York City, saying: "Many in government are saying we cannot afford to spend such enormous amounts of money, and some in the medical and insurance fields are promoting hospices, living wills, and legalizing suicide. We must not become a nation of murderers."

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## Navy Seal Team under investigation

Seal Team Six, the Navy's secret hostage rescue team, is under investigation for financial misconduct, reported the *Washington Post* Aug. 11. So far, one former member of the team has been indicted, and two others have pleaded guilty to a court-martial on theft charges.

Investigators are examining "a roomful" of records dealing with expenditures in the millions of dollars since the classified counterterrorism team was formed in 1980.

Seal Team Six is said to have been sent to Grenada during the 1983 U.S. invasion, and also to have been dispatched to the Middle East during the *Achille Lauro* hijacking