

Letters to the Editor
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St.
Suite #650
Washington D.C. 20001

November 30, 1991

To the Editor:

As a Minnesotan I was infuriated at the testimony given by our state epidemiologist, Michael Osterholm, when he was invited to address the National Commission on AIDS. (I watched it on C-SPAN, November 29)

Dr. Osterholm admitted to having charged the Minnesota taxpayers a quarter of a million dollars for a "look-back" at the patient records of Dr. Philip Benson, ^{the} Golden Valley doctor who was finally obliged to confess that he had been practicing invasive medical procedures even though he knew that his oozing sores were caused by his being on the verge of dying with AIDS.

Mr. Osterholm could have performed his "look-back" duties at negligible cost simply by ^{calling} the newspapers and issuing a statement asking all former patients of Dr. Benson to get themselves tested. Even if Osterholm had offered free testing to those who couldn't afford it, this would have cost very little.

The tragedy is that Mr. Osterholm did not insist on early revelation by Dr. Benson and ^{did not} demand that he notify his patients and colleagues of his condition. Instead this public health officer permitted the doctor to keep the cause of his condition a mystery, keeping his AIDS secret even from his partners.

By ^{again} withholding complete information ^{when addressing the TV audience} Mr. Osterholm deceived C-SPAN listeners. He said there is no proof that any patient

of Dr. Benson's caught his HIV virus. Technically, Osterholm was telling the truth because there is a big difference between establishing probability and establishing proof.

Mr. Osterholm did not tell the whole truth. The truth is that ^{at least} one of Dr. Benson's patients died ^{recently} without getting tested for AIDS. ^{but refuse to be identified.} Ten others are HIV positive. ^{No} report has been made as to ^{about whether} what evidence we have the condition was acquired ^{before or} during treatment by Dr. Benson in the healthcare setting.

Your readers could not know the extent of Mr. Osterholm's bias in favor of bisexuality. I do because I have attended the lectures he gives in support of bisexual and homosexual lifestyles.

He believes that bisexuality is normal human behavior and that heterosexuality (i.e., exclusively opposite sex) and homosexuality (i.e. exclusively same sex) are merely extremes of the normal range. This absurd opinion is offered as science accompanied by charts that supposedly offer evidence.

Unfortunately his audiences are so well-trained in political correctness that they do not question a person with a degree in epidemiology and a government post. They do not see the unhealthy and doctrinaire nature of his proselytization for abnormal sex.

The Governor should fire him and let Michael Maen, Osterholm's assistant, report on these ten. Remember, the Florida case of Dr Acer was only seven at last count,
Sincerely yours,

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