

## Gay National News

speech, association, equal protection and due process. He requests his diploma and his commission in the United States Navy.

### AIDS Groups Formally Respond to FDA's Drug Regulations

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) and other national groups formally responded to recently published FDA regulations for drug development and licensing, saying they are encouraged by the FDA's "commitment to exploring alternative approaches" to experimental drugs, but adding the real test would be in commitment of resources. The groups also expressed concern about access to experimental drugs.

The new FDA regulations are designed to shorten the time it takes for a new drug to pass current requirements for FDA licensing, principally through greater FDA involvement in the design of clinical trials.

HRCF submitted the comments jointly with the AIDS Action Council, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Information Institute, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. All four organizations participate in National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), a coalition that coordinates policy responses and statements by national groups on AIDS issues.

### Ellen Ratner Appointed Trustee of Samaritan Board

Samaritan College and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) announced the appointment of Ellen Ratner to the Board of Trustees of Samaritan College. Ms. Ratner is the President of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation - the oldest lesbian and gay health organization in the country - and is a nationally recognized leader of the lesbian and gay community. The UFMCC - a 20 year old international network of congregations that provide lesbians and gays with the opportunity for religious worship - established Samaritan College as a training seminary for clergy representing the Metropolitan Community Churches.

Ms. Ratner is the first person of the

Jewish faith to be appointed to the Board of Samaritan College, a substantially Christian organization. Ms. Ratner's appointment reflects a decisive step toward establishing the College as the first accredited university with a predominantly gay and lesbian student body - Samaritan's long-term objective.

### Lambda Wins Preliminary Victory in Insurance Discrimination Case

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced an important preliminary victory in a discrimination lawsuit against an insurance company that treated an applicant differently because it perceived him to be gay.

Federal Judge Robert W. Sweet of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled yesterday that the applicant may pursue his claims against the company under the pseudonym "John Doe" because of privacy concerns arising from the nature of the lawsuit.

With Lambda's help, the applicant sued United Services Life Insurance Company last July because it had required that he submit to special tests and pay higher premiums for life insurance. An agent of the company had told his father that Doe was viewed with special caution because he was unmarried and lived with another male in New York City.

In his complaint against the company, the applicant charged that the company's treatment of him amounted to marital status and sexual orientation discrimination, and also constituted unfair and deceptive business practices.

Ironically, although apparently perceived by United Services to be gay, the applicant is heterosexual. At the time of his application, he was a law student simply sharing an apartment with another male student.

In finding in favor of the applicant, Judge Sweet determined the United Services would not be prejudiced by allowing Doe to proceed under an assumed name, and ordered the suit to go forward.

### Partners in Recovery and Growth, Therapist Erica Marks, B.A.S.A.C.

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Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups*

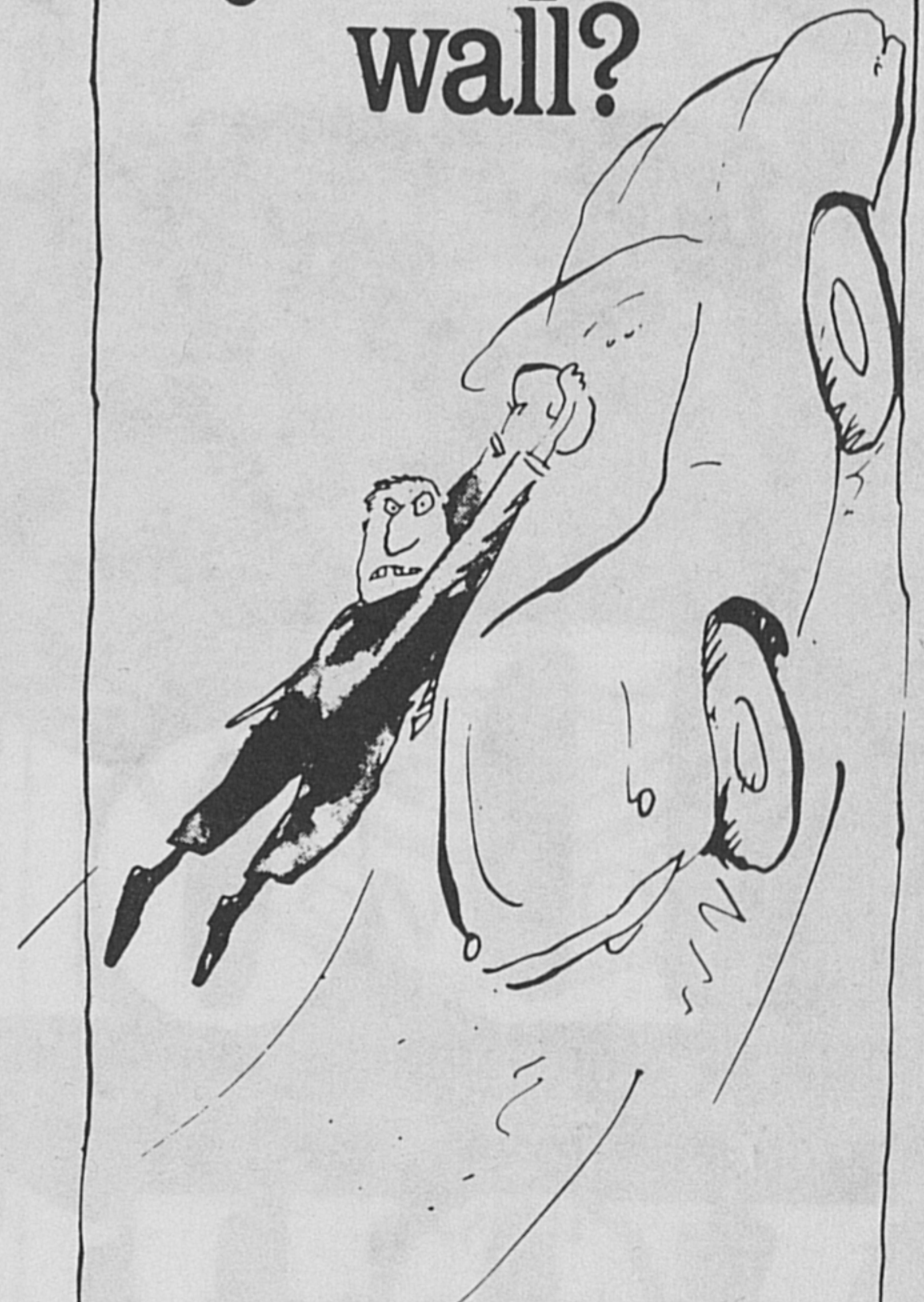
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