



Riley Temple '71: Education is 'silver bullet' in AIDS fight

By Peter Hardin

With his pin-striped suits, Republican views and comfortable, Washington, D.C., law office a block from the high-priced K Street corridor, Riley K. Temple '71 isn't the first person you'd expect to be a commanding general in the battle against AIDS.

But the soft-spoken, Richmond-born lobbyist and lawyer wasn't satisfied with succeeding at his daytime trade alone. He got involved in his spare time with Whitman-Walker Clinic, the primary organization offering medical and social services to AIDS patients in the nation's capital.

As a board member, Temple has brought to the clinic a bridge to Washington's government and business worlds along with his polite persuasiveness and lawyerly skills.

In November, 1989, Temple was elevated to Whitman-Walker board president for a year.

In that position he's a visible spokesman dispensing comfort and hope.

Temple also is the clinic's first black president, an important development in a city where blacks are in the majority.

A former U.S. Senate aide who works in the telecommunications field, he has been mentioned as a possible Bush administration appointee to the Commerce Department or Federal Communications Commission. But he says he enjoys his current job and is concerned that a government job might interfere with the time he now can put into service.

In addition to the clinic, Temple is on the boards of the Friends of Kennedy Center and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a political action committee dealing with rights of gay and lesbian people.



Riley Temple '71

Whitman-Walker was founded as the Gay Men's Venereal Disease Clinic in a Georgetown church 15 years ago. It has grown to a \$4.3 million budget with 63 paid full-time staff and 1,500 volunteers. The clinic began providing AIDS-related services in 1983.

A government expert on AIDS-related programs has called Whitman-Walker "one of the most respected in the country."

Temple grew up in Richmond's Church Hill neighborhood. After graduating from Lafayette with an AB in American Civilization, he earned a JD degree from Georgetown University Law Center. At Georgetown he met Jim Graham, now clinic administrator, who urged Temple to become involved with Whitman-Walker.

The clinic has changed dramatically to meet community needs, especially as the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome has surfaced and spread.

"Someone once described this institution as the construction of a ship

under sail in the middle of a storm," Temple said. "That is quite accurate." He wants to see the clinic develop a broader fund-raising base and make its first significant effort to tap corporate givers.

He believes education is society's chief weapon against AIDS.

"Our silver bullet today is education," he said. "It is the only sure way to prevent more sickness.

As for moral debates tied to a sexually-transmitted disease, Temple said, "I don't argue the moral question, I don't debate the moral issue. I take the issue, and the people, as we find them, and take the crisis as it is, and ask how we stop it."

Associates find him a gifted spokesman.

His eloquence was evident when Temple talked recently about the personal rewards of dealing with the AIDS crisis.

"You look around at this tragic spectacle of people dying young. I have lost count of the number of people I knew well who are now dead.

"And you look around, and wonder, what are the lessons we're learning from all of this?"

"I think about it as I sit at one more memorial service, surrounded by young, intelligent, vibrant people in the prime of their lives, mourning the loss of one like themselves. What kinds of lessons are we learning?"

"I see that this tragic specter has given people an opportunity to care for others in a way they have not been able to do before."

In trying to help those in need, he and others have touched on a "feeling of joy."

"I've seen people who never would have dreamed of holding a dying person so that on a daily basis."

A mother of one of his close friends maintained a hospital vigil as her son

died from AIDS. Temple drew strength from watching the mother, and he saw the son "figuratively crawl into his mother's lap for solace."

"Those images—that are seared into my memory—have changed me." ■

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About the Whitman-Walker Clinic

The 1988 Annual Report of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc., details the strategies of an all-out war against acquired immune deficiency syndrome in Washington, D.C. Teaching patrons of bars and bathhouses, as well as church congregations and civic groups, the clinic seeks to educate at-risk individuals and the larger community about the realities of AIDS while providing emotional, legal, and financial support for those already affected by the disease. Volunteers contributed over 125,000 hours of service in 1988. Some of what they accomplished, in cooperation with Whitman-Walker staff, includes

- providing support services for 833 individuals with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex
- distributing \$150,992 to people with AIDS through the AIDS Foundation
- answering 6,336 calls to the D.C. AIDS Information Line
- making 25,982 contacts through the Street Outreach Project
- presenting 1,057 talks through the Speakers' Bureau
- testing 4,263 individuals for HIV antibodies
- providing dental care for 329 individuals with AIDS
- housing 44 people with AIDS in group homes and other residential facilities

graduation, George earned an MBA from Penn State. Married to the former Lynn McCarty, he and his wife have two children, Christopher and Darin.

More news from Bill Thygeson: He has been active in his community's youth organizations, including Upper Moreland Little League Baseball, and has served on the 8th Congressional Dist. Advisory Council on Education. Bill also received a degree from Lehigh and is now pursuing a PhD at the Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Stuart Robinson was promoted to vice president of Turner Construction Co. in January 1989.

On this happy note of corporate successes for '68ers, we'll end the column!

'69

Michael L. Moubert



years and serving as president for two years. He is also a graduate of Leadership Wilkes-Barre and serves on the board of United Cerebral Palsy of Lucerne County. Most recently Litz ran for the school board of Dallas, PA.

Robert Pastor has returned to Atlanta, GA, where he is teaching at Emory Univ. after one year as a Fulbright Professor in Mexico. He is the author of a new book, *Limits to Friendship: The United States and Mexico* (Alfred A. Knopf). The reviews have been enthusiastic and the *New York Times* has called it "valuable, timely and fascinating."

Robert and Judy Pettit recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They have three children, Nicholas, 11, Danielle, 9, and Robby, 6. Bob works for Garban Ltd., as a U.S. government securities broker in NYC. He sends his regards to all.

Jeffrey Queen is president of Vantage Supply Companies and was named to the board of the New England Wholesalers

partner with Cole, Scholtz, et al., in Hackensack, was installed as president-elect of the Passaic County Bar Assoc. at a dinner held in May. Editor of the Rutgers Law Review, he received his JD, with honors, from the University. He has been active in various professional organizations in New Jersey.

Harold M. Lubin has been elected as a incorporator of the Dime Savings Bank, based in Norwich, CT. A graduate of the Univ. of Connecticut School of Law, Lubin practices law and lives in Ledyard, CT.

Stuart McFarland was named to a two-year term on the advisory council of Fannie Mae, a group of mortgage bankers, builders, realtors, and thrift industry and investment executives. McFarland is chairman, president, and CEO of SKL Holdings Corp., Falls Church, VA.

Mark your calendars: JUNE 8, 9 and 10 will be our 20th Reunion and a lot will be happening . . . and a lot that's new. Friday night