

Dolloff – English 102

Inquiry into AIDS: Narratives of Loss and Hope

It seems hard to believe that this November, the twentieth anniversary edition of Randy Shilts's epic *And the Band Played On* will be released, when the AIDS epidemic will have claimed over 500,000 American lives, with about 1,100,000 currently living with HIV and another 40,000 new diagnoses each year, according to the CDC. An extensive inquiry into our modern plague locally, globally, and historically, this class will take a multi-disciplinary approach. Although many resources will by necessity be gay-related, this is not strictly a class in gender studies or theory; women, political science and economics students, potential activists or future caregivers, for example, are all welcome. Narratives both real and fictional will humanize our discourse as we ultimately aim for civic engagement with Knoxville's own AIDS community.