

## And the band plays on



**Randy Shilts**

Randy Shilts, author of the AIDS history "And the Band Played On," has AIDS.

Shilts, 41, learned in 1985 that he was infected with the AIDS virus, "the day that I pulled the last sheet from the typewriter of 'And the Band Played On.'" But he feared announcing it would jeopardize his effectiveness as a reporter.

"Every gay writer who tests positive ends up being an AIDS activist, and I didn't want to end up being an activist. I wanted to keep on being a reporter."

Shilts said he decided to disclose his condition after a deluge of calls from gays and the media. He just completed work on "Conduct Unbecoming," a book about homosexuals in the military.