



ISSUE # 23 AUGUST 1988

# Newsletter

## DR. CAIAZZA ..... AIDS & SYPHILIS

THE PWA COALITION IS HELPING TO SPONSOR A SEMINAR AND PUBLIC LECTURE BY DR. CAIAZZA OF NEW YORK. This event will take place at the Sheraton Landmark Hotel on SEPTEMBER 27, 1988. Dr. Caiazza and his treatment for AIDS has been the subject of numerous articles in the New York Native, The Atlantic, and his work is discussed in H. Coulter's book "AIDS and Syphilis, the Hidden Link. Dr. Caiazza has been successfully treating PWA's and PWARC's with a regimen of antibiotics, as he feels the primary cause of immune suppression in HIV+ persons is in fact undiagnosed Syphilis.

The lecture will cost \$5.00 for PWA/ARC's and the afternoon seminar is \$25.00. Interested PWA/ARC's can apply through their Health-Related Financial Assistance Fund for financial support to attend the seminar. Please see the accompanying brochure.

Additional copies of registration brochures are available at the Coalition office.

THIS EVENT SHOULD BE VERY INTERESTING AND WE URGE MEMBERS TO ATTEND.

Steve Scrbailo  
Advocacy Committee

INSIDE : REPORTS ON THE CONFERENCES IN SWEDEN, THE LATEST  
RETREAT, AND MORE UPCOMING EVENTS.

## DEXTRAN SULFATE NOW AVAILABLE FROM JAPAN

We have placed an initial order for Dextran Sulfate which is perhaps the most promising anti-viral AIDS treatment (other than AZT). Dextran Sulfate is relatively non-toxic and is synergistic with AZT. It is scheduled to be mailed to us from Japan the first week in August.

If you want to place an order for Dextran Sulfate on an individual basis, phone Jim Corti or Rick Shine in Los Angeles at (213) 748-1143 for details. The cost for this treatment is about \$100.00 (U.S.) per month. For information on customs regulations, medical research on Dextran Sulfate, etc. contact Chuck at the PWA office.

We have prepared a Dextran Sulfate information pack (with updates from the Stockholm conference) which can be picked up at the office (or call Jackie at 683-3381 to have one mailed). Be an informed patient!

Chuck P.

## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS - STOCKHOLM

July 12 - 16, 1988

The PWA Coalition sent two delegates to this conference. Warren and Fausto took with them the photo display, "The Living Faces of AIDS" which we set up in our exhibitors booth. We were located between AMFAR and Cure AIDS Now (of Miami). The three organizations, along with NAPWA (National Association of PWAs) were the only PWA groups visible at the conference.

The Retrovir (AZT) forum offered no news. Burroughs-Wellcome suggests that clinicians monitor their patients closely and individualize the dosages (which is what Vancouver physicians have done all along). The transfusion rate is much lower in Vancouver than reported elsewhere. It appears that our AIDS Care Team is on the leading edge of this fight to keep people alive and to minimize the adverse effects of treatment.

Roundtable discussions on clinical management noted that MAI (Avium) is the second most common opportunistic infection (after PCP). Salmonella is the cause of diarrhea for many. Dehydration can be the cause of disorientation and dementia in some individuals.

There were a number of posters reporting good results in the use of aerosol Pentamidine for treatment of PCP, and for preventative treatment.

Blood tests to measure viral activity are Beta 2 Microglobulin (available in

Canada) and the P24 Antigen test which is not yet in use in B. C. Our provincial lab is using its resources to conduct HIV antibody tests at present. An increase in funding from the province would permit the purchase of P24 test kits. This test is inexpensive and commonly used in the U. S. as a measure of viral activity. The P24 test can assist the physician in choosing the right dose of AZT or to note changes in viral activity from the use of the antivirals.

In one paper Dextran Sulfate was shown to inhibit binding of HIV. Many people are interested in this compound although one man told me he thought it was too crude to work against a complex invader like HIV.

The conference had more than seven thousand delegates, three thousand posters, plus workshops and round table discussions in the areas of virology, pathogenesis/immunology, antiviral therapy, epidemiology, problems in the developing world, prevention, clinical management, psychosocial aspects, and health care and society.

"The Face of AIDS" offered an exchange of experiences in the humanitarian, ethical, social, and economic side of AIDS. This was the most interesting and accessible part of the conference for many people. "The Face of AIDS" brought together AIDS care workers to share their experiences and allowed pure science types some exposure to the world of care and education. There was discussion of splitting future conferences between the technical/medical and the psychosocial aspects of AIDS. This notion was rejected. The agenda for the conference in Montreal next year promises a greater role for care givers with sessions entitled; AIDS and the Individual, AIDS, Society and Behavior, and Ethics and the Law.

While in Stockholm we toured the NOAH's ARC facility. This is Sweden's AIDS care organization offering hot line, counselling, education, temporary housing, support meetings, and support services. They are well organized with plenty of space, 500 volunteers, and a staff of thirty. Compared with North America where money and services lag behind the demand, the Swedes have prepared in advance.

Our photo display, THE LIVING FACES OF AIDS, attracted a lot of attention from delegates and from the media. We had many TV and print media interviews. Promoting life and living with AIDS was a bright spot in a conference dominated by numbers and bad news. Warren spoke at three sessions of The Face of AIDS to detail PWA programs and philosophy and to answer questions. The Canadian AIDS Society organized a meeting for community based AIDS organizations to enhance our input of the conference in Montreal. We'd like to see PWAs speak at the plenary sessions next year.

What did we achieve at this conference? What was our role there, as two among many? We tried to reach out to people to promote the idea of partnership between care giver and receiver. THE LIVING FACES OF AIDS emphasized the positive aspects of life and living. We attended the sessions we could and quizzed others for news on the technical side. We met some influential people at the reception at the Canadian Embassy. We looked for practical suggestions to improve the lives of PWAs back home. I think we gave more than we got back from the conference. PWA presence and participation is essential at a conference like this. We'll need to work closely with physicians and governments to loosen the log jam preventing clinical trials for promising new treatments. Science is marching forward while politicians dither over the dollars which could save lives. Access to promising drugs and treatments is our priority.

Warren Jensen

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STOCKHOLM INFORMATION EVENING

Two Coalition members, Fausto and Warren, attended the international Lesbian and Gay Conference and the Fourth International Conference on AIDS in June. They will host an information meeting to report their experiences at these conferences at the Coalition Lounge on Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00 PM.

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PRAYER VIGIL

The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) is planning an AIDS PRAYER VIGIL during the weekend of September 16, 17 and 18. More information will be provided in the September NEWSLETTER or you can contact the MCC office at 681-8525

RESOURCE: MOTHERS OF AIDS PERSONS Attn: Bl. Peabody  
PO Box 89049 or: M. Thompson  
San Diego, California 92138

WALKATHON PLEDGES STILL ROLLING IN

Pledges from the June 26th Walkathon are still rolling in. If you have not yet brought in your pledges, please do so as soon as possible. Walkathon pledges constitute a sizeable portion of the Coalition's budget. The sooner the money is in the bank, the sooner it can go to work for you.

**PEOPLE ARE HEALING THEMSELVES OF AIDS - Come hear the untold story from two men who are living it.**

Anyone who is convinced that AIDS is necessarily fatal is urged to come and hear two men who have healed themselves and will be sharing their hope and their heroism at Gordon House, 1019 Broughton St, on Sept. 6th at 7:00 PM.

Wil Garcia is a gay male whose low T-cell count, a bout of shingles, and the later appearance of KS lesions resulted in an AIDS diagnosis in 1985. At about the same time, his lover, George Melton, was diagnosed with ARC/ borderline AIDS. Rejecting the standard hopeless medical prognosis, the two started on a healing path which led them first to Mexico in search of the anti-viral drug, Ribavirin, and finally found themselves chomping traditional medicine in favour of less conventional approaches to healing.

Garcia drew upon a great deal of behavioral science data that demonstrated the mind/body connection. He studied actual cases of people who had healed themselves. Melton was drawn more to metaphysical information such as the Edgar Cayce writings and the channeled 'SETH' material. Both strongly emphasize individuality in the healing process which requires work on a spiritual, emotional, and physical level. Their healing relies as much on meditation as on medication. Garcia now exhibits completely normal bloodwork while Melton's bloodwork has improved dramatically. Both are in excellent health.

In their tour of the US and Canada, the two will spread their message of hope to the millions of people affected by AIDS. They will also be sharing their stories in a hope inspiring documentary called 'AIDS ALIVE' which features other AIDS patients in clinical remission and holistic healers and medical professionals relating countless stories of people who are coping with, surviving, and transcending the so called "AIDS EPIDEMIC".

You're not likely to hear this point of view from the mainstream medical profession or from the news media. Come be encouraged and inspired by the living proof that this major challenge of our time need not be hopeless.

**THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE VANCOUVER PWA COALITION**

GORDON HOUSE, 1019 Broughton St., Vancouver, BC

Tuesday, September 6th, 1988 at 7:00 PM

Admission by donation

For more information call the coalition office at 683-3381

**IMPORTANT DRUG INFORMATION : People taking the drug "SEPTRA"**

(a PCP prophylaxis) should not be taking large quantities of Vitamin C at the same time. Apparently this combination is hard on the kidneys. If you are taking or considering SEPTRA, consult your Doctor about this.

**THE LIBRARY NEEDS HELP !!!** The Program Committee is looking for a volunteer to run the library. This entails buying new books, looking after subscriptions, setting lending policy, and whatever else appears necessary. Anyone

interested in taking on this project please come to the program committee meeting on Wednesday, August 10th at 11:00.

**NEW TREATMENTS FOR AVIUM:** Mycobacterium avium complex is an opportunistic infection that strikes virtually all PWAs. It causes stomach pains, diarrhea, weight loss, and sore muscles and joints. Many doctors don't treat avium, but one local specialist has been allowed to order the experimental drugs Clofazimine (originally for Leprosy) and ethionamide (for TB). This doctor is also trying to get permission to import Ansamycin, possibly for a study. Ansamycin looks useful because it seems to be effective against HIV as well. If you have avium and are not currently being treated, speak to Marty for details.

### **INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE - STOCKHOLM**

**"Homosexual Identity Before, During, and After HIV"**

Edited for the Newsletter - copies of the entire text at the office

In my opinion, the International Gay and Lesbian Conference (June 9 - 11) responded more effectively to AIDS issues such as public education and the human response to those in need than did the Fourth International AIDS Conference in Stockholm.

It is apparent that there is a difference of opinion as to whether or not AIDS should be de-homosexualized. Perhaps different standards requiring different strategies work better in some communities. In Sweden, for example, there has been a definite change in the attitude of the gay community. A few years ago Stockholm's gay leaders tended to downplay the AIDS crisis by suggesting that AIDS was an American-gay problem. The fear then was that AIDS would cause bad publicity for gays. When AIDS reached the European community in significant numbers, many health professionals sounded the alarm. These warnings were met with confrontation and fear. Safe sex was not promoted by the gay community. Obviously the main priority is to develop the tools to properly educate all people whether or not they are gay.

The most stunning revelation to me was the South African situation. I assumed that white gays are supportive of black gays. I learned that white gays are just as racist as white heterosexuals. In South Africa, black gays suffer triple discrimination due to race, sexual orientation, and disease both from heterosexuals and their gay brothers and sisters. I plan to write to the white homosexual group in Capetown to condemn this unacceptable behaviour. I hope many of you will do the same. Please call for the address at the Coalition office.

In one session, "Media and Aids", the irresponsible reporting by some of the British and American media was discussed. The word 'victim' still seems to be the word used most often in America, while in Britain the word 'puff' is still accepted. In Holland, "the Mediawatch" is responsible for exposing media releases which portray homosexuality or AIDS in a negative fashion. "The Mediawatch" has been most effective in preventing negative publicity. I feel that we could also have this influence in B.C. by setting up a similar organization.

"Who Benefits from AIDS" was another session I attended. Financially, there are many, from doctors to pharmaceutical companies to publishers, who gain. Insofar as the gay communities are concerned, AIDS provides a unifying issue enabling us to look to each other for support and to begin healing our differences. Our next step is to reach out to the heterosexuals affected by AIDS who have nowhere to go for support. Because of the homosexual connotation of AIDS, most heterosexuals with the disease have not benefited from our experience. Just as we are learning to break down the barriers within the gay community, we must learn to extend a hand to our straight brothers and sisters who are struggling out of their own unique closets.

A day before the conference ended a meeting took place to agree on a demonstration or a candlelight vigil. A clear majority decided that a vigil would be the best option since delegates from over 17 countries having over 50 issues to protest made a demonstration unworkable.

The rose vigil took place one evening. I promised myself I would be strong and controlled but could not help but become emotional. It is such a warm feeling to be surrounded by those who care in such a strong and meaningful way. I thought not only of those who had passed away but also of those living who had put all the bullshit aside and responded in such a beautiful way.

I don't think I have ever had the opportunity to be with such a caring group of people. Our Swedish hosts were impeccable! There wasn't one moment when our comfort was compromised, thanks to them.

Fausto Loccheli

RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT

PWA MANNING PARK RETREAT A SUCCESS

Twenty PWAs enjoyed a three day Retreat at Manning Prk Lodge this July 18-21. The Retreat was booked into the chalet-like cabin known as 'The Last Resort'. The cabin had all the facilities needed for a successful Retreat. Everyone had a bed, and there were kitchen and bathroom facilities to meet all our needs. The food was brought in to us by the kitchen staff of the main Lodge, and

they did a great job in providing wholesome and delicious meals. A special treat was a barbeque held Tuesday night. We did the cooking, and then ate at a long banquet table under the pines, laid with the sheets from somebody's bed, and wildflowers from the meadows behind The Last Resort.

Lightening Lakes were a 4 Km. drive from our Lodge, so, we coordinated cars and people to take advantage of the canoeing, swimming, hiking and horse-back riding available. The weather was fabulous the whole time we were there, sunny and hot. Alex won the prize for being the first to find the orchids on the Orchid Rein Trail, and all of the cowboys who took out horses had sore thighs the next day! Everyone took full advantage of the lakes for canoeing, and at one point, a flotilla of three PWA canoes, using towels and shirts as sails, glided their merry way together over the lakes while tourists took photos!

The clean mountain air had some of us doing stretching exercises, while others dozed in the sun. One member nourished us with his Liquid-Gold Carrot Juice Cocktail Party, and his Fresh Orange Juice Soiree over the time of the Retreat, and peppered his delivery of vitamin therapy discussions with acid wit about all of us there. He even managed to write a term paper for a summer course!

Because everyone was having such a good time, we didn't quite stick to the scheduled sessions for meditation, nutrition, alternative therapies etc. However, the informal discussions about all these things took place among the members of the group anyway. And besides, it's hard to meditate on a horse, let me tell you! Luis won the prize of Ms. Congeniality. Congratulations, Luis! Although he refused to do his Eva Peron imitations! Maybe next time.

We did have a goo wrap up rap session on the last morning of the Retreat. Everyone attended, and everyone said something about how they felt about being up in Manning park together. We passed around a sacred wild tiger lily as a speaker's charm, and people commented as follows:

"The laughter was plentiful and very helpful."

"People could be who they are. This was my first Retreat, and I was afraid of the emotional committment that I had expected, but because it was so informal, it was great."

"There was a lot of love and compassion among us all. and my fears about drug therapies, especially AZT, lessened during the Retreat. When you feel good you free yourself."

"This was the first place where I felt like an equal. It was good to feel like a normal person for a change."

continued.....



A tired but happy bunch of guys returned to Vancouver on Thursday afternoon, July 21. It was a wonderful time, a good Retreat, and should be done again soon. Thanks to everyone who attended, who drove their cars, washed the dishes, and helped organize the affair.

See you at the next Retreat!

Space is limited for each Retreat, so get your name in early for our Fall Retreat! Details in an upcoming Newsletter.

Jay Herringer

### BENEFIT DANCE FOR PWA-AUGUST 13th

A Benefit Dance for the PWA Coalition sponsored by the Fraser Valley Gays and Lesbians, will take place August 13th at:

Harmsworth Hall  
#10 Highway and 232nd Street  
in Langley.

Take #1 East, take #232 Exit, it's across from Chevron.

Dance is from 9:00p.m. to 2:00a.m. \$5.00 for non-PWAs. Car pool may be planned. Contact the office. Let's give our support to this Fundraiser!

### HEALING CIRCLE UPDATE:

Exciting plans are underway to start a new Healing Circle in September with a new format. Several experienced Healers have offered their services. We are currently negotiating with St. Paul's to obtain use of the Lounge in the Comox Building for a weeknight.

For further information check the next Newsletter or contact the office, (683-3381) towards the end of August.

### PERSONAL NOTES:

**HAIRDRESSER:** Hairdresser with 18 years experience will cut your hair at home any evening for \$6.00. Coffee and visit included. Inquire about Perms etc. For more information, call Terry at 685-6551.

**A.A. AND HIV :** Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly in the Coalition Lounge, on Thursdays at 7:00p.m. These meetings are open to all ; PWA/ARC's, HIV positive, friends, lovers and supporters.

# Ongoing Events

: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

DROP IN CENTER / LIBRARY : The Coalition Library and Drop In Center is open weekdays from 1 pm to 5 pm, as well as Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm.

SUNDAY : HEALING CIRCLE :

New circle to start in Sept. See article in this Newsletter.

MONDAY : BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING :

Monday mornings at 11:30 am at the Coalition office, 1170 Bute Street.

Open to all interested members. This is your opportunity to stay abreast of Coalition activities, and have a voice in our future. The four standing Committees, ( Advocacy, Finance, Personal, and Programmes ) are always open to new volunteers, and welcome your participation.

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING :

Held the first Monday of each month, at 11:30 am, in the Drop In Center, at 1170 Bute St.

All members are invited to attend. Chairpersons from the four committees will give an update on activities and answer questions regarding various projects and programs. Members are encouraged to give their input on current issues being dealt with. We see the monthly Members Meetings as an occasion for members to get information and voice their ideas on Coalition projects, activities and services.

BODY POSITIVE SUPPORT GROUP : sponsored by AIDS VANCOUVER

( HIV testing Positive ) Confidential Discussion Group meets Monday evenings at 8 pm, at GORDON HOUSE , 1019 BROUGHTON. For more information contact Ken Mann at AIDS Vancouver, 687 - 2437

BUDDY SUPPORT GROUP : for Buddys ; sponsored by AIDS VANCOUVER

Meets every SECOND MONDAY at 7:30 pm, at GORDON HOUSE, at 1019 BROUGHTON.

TUESDAY : " LIVING IN THE MOMENT " MEDITATION CLASS :

Tuesday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm. This class is open to PWA's/PWARC's sero-positives, friends and supporters.

For more information and location, please contact Kristin at 872 - 0431

**ONGOING EVENTS : continued ;**

**TUESDAY : SUPPORT MEETINGS :**

Every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Coalition Drop In Center, at 1170 Bute Street.

These meetings are open to PWA/PV/ARC's only. Discussions surround concerns held by the group at the time of the meeting. There are no specific topics, just a chance to talk in a comfortable, supportive place.

**WEDNESDAY: DROP IN CENTER :**

The Drop In Center is open Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Coalition office, at 1170 Bute Street.

There is no meeting as such, just an opportunity to meet other PWA/PWARC's, have a cup of coffee, and check out our library. If you can't stop by during the day, make sure you come by Wednesday night.

**THURSDAY : TAI CHI CLASS :**

Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact the office ( 683-3381 ) for location. This class is open to all members and friends.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese technique of " Meditation in Motion ". It is a gentle exercise that helps balance the energy through the body.

**" GET OVER IT " : Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting**

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm, at the Coalition Drop In Center, 1170 Bute.

These meetings are open to all HIV positive, PWA/PWARC's, friends, lovers and supporters.

**" COPING WITH LOSS AND GRIEF " : sponsored by AIDS Vancouver**

Meets the FIRST and THIRD Thursdays of each month, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at ST. ANDREWS WESLEY CHURCH LIBRARY, at NELSON and BURRARD. For more information call 299 - 4828, or contact AIDS Vancouver at 687 - 2437.

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY :**

**REIKI** : A gentle yet powerful healing art, excellent in the management of fear, pain, and stress in general. This is FREE to Coalition members. Please leave a message with Jackie at 683 - 3381.

**HEALING** : Healing Sessions done privately, in a relaxing, peaceful environment. Just sit in a chair and be charged with relaxing, soothing energy. For more information, please contact Jackie at 683 - 3381.

**S . H . A . R . E .**

**SELF- HEALING Aids RELATED EXPERIMENT**

**AIDS**   
**ALIVE** 

**AN EVENING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE HEALED THEMSELVES FROM AIDS USING  
THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL ABILITIES.**

WHETHER YOU'RE GAY OR HETEROSEXUAL, IF... YOU'RE LIVING IN FEAR OF AIDS; YOU'RE  
CUTTING OFF YOUR ABILITY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE LOVE.

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1988

**WHERE:** GORDON HOUSE, 1019 BROUGHTON STREET

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**ADMISSION BY DONATION**

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HOW THE MAGIC OF SELF-HEALING IS APPLIED TO EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR  
LIFE, AS WELL AS RELEASE A LOT OF UNNECESSARY FEARS REGARDING AIDS—PLEASE JOIN US.

**S . H . A . R . E . / AIDS ALIVE**

4 West 104th St. Apt. LB (212) 663-5440  
Manhattan, NY 10025 

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THE VANCOUVER PERSONS WITH AIDS COALITION**