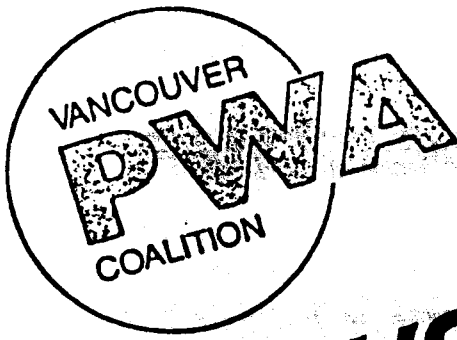


ISSUE # 24 SEPTEMBER 1988



Newsletter

Tips From Long Term Survivors

FROM NEW YORK TO VANCOUVER....

WILL GARCIA AND GEORGE MELTON LEFT THEIR JOBS IN NEW YORK CITY and bought a 27 ft. Winnebago to take them around the continent to tell their story of hope and triumph over AIDS. Using a variety of different disciplines; spiritual, nutritional, and conventional, these PWAs have stabilized their conditions and turned the prognosis from DEATH TO HEALTH.

CAN THE MIND INFLUENCE THE IMMUNE SYSTEM? IN THEIR PRESENTATION Will & George will tell their own stories. Will was diagnosed with Kaposi Sarcoma in 1985 and his lover George was diagnosed with ARC at the same time. Now after studying data that demonstrates the mind - body connection and creating their own model for healing; Will's bloodwork is now completely normal and George's has improved dramatically. They strongly emphasize the individuality of the HEALING PROCESS, and will talk about working on spiritual, emotional, as well as the physical level.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING EVENING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th AT 7:00 PM
AT GORDON HOUSE 1019 BROUGHTON ST.**

ADMISSION BY DONATION

INSIDE : NICHOLAS & BRIAN ARE BACK FROM BOSTON! : NEW MEETING

TIMES : DRUG UPDATES & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

boston perspective

The Second International Lesbian and Gay Conference on Health Issues was a phenomenal event. Almost 2000 gay men and women gathered at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, for a week of networking, exchanging ideas and information, and strengthening ties to continue the good fight that the community has waged since the beginning of this crisis.

Though AIDS was a major focus, it was not the only health issue confronted. Hard to believe, but other things are out there besides HIV, and it was not the only concern. For Brian and I, however, AIDS was the focus, and we had much to choose from - with Plenary sessions daily, and up to 29 concurrent sessions each hour, there was oftentimes just too much going on. Though we split up for the most part, and purchased tapes of important sessions we could not attend, it was impossible to cover everything. More representatives from the various health organizations should have been with us. Someone from the IDC, more from AIDS Vancouver, and perhaps a few doctors, would have brought back a more rounded version of the information shared.

Participants took an active role in presenting and attending lectures on the various gay and lesbian health issues - with a stress on the urgency to come forward together - for ALL of us to work together and be supportive of what each of us are doing. Doctors, nurses, PWA's, volunteers and care givers must be heard and understood. Networking of our knowledge and our resources only makes us all stronger. We must take control of our lives. We must develop and maintain a powerful front, and to reach out, identify, and educate ourselves. If the community needs to "take care of it's own", we will, and already are.

For PWA's, the key word at this conference was EMPOWERMENT. Using the growing power of the "BEING ALIVE" group in West Hollywood as a model, it was stressed why taking back power as an individual, and as a group is so crucial to maintaining a physical and mental state of well being. Staying active, being involved - to talk about our experience; to talk about LIFE are keys to long term survival. To not cut yourself off from "regular" society, but to also create and participate in a support system within the community. Issues and abilities change as we live longer, and continued support is necessary. Banding together as PWA's gives us power. We must get on with our lives and to live as we never have before.

Alot was said about creating support groups and other services that we already have in place. However, these discussions did show us that we must tighten the focus of our programs. As a Coalition, we must be proud of our selves and the services we offer. We work effectively, yet still have room to grow. However, as PWA numbers grow, we must be able to choose when to say NO. We cannot be all things to all people. We cannot be expected to be the source of basic social services that should be accessible from other agencies.

NEXT MONTH : SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONFERENCE!

INFORMATION EVENING

**THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN & GAY CONFERENCE
ON HEALTH ISSUES
IN BOSTON**

This conference held in Boston, July 20-26 was attended by two Coalition members; Brian and Nicholas. They will share their experiences and information with us at an information evening to be held:

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th AT 7:00 PM
in the Coalition Drop In Center**

ALL WELCOME

"NAMES PROJECT " COMES TO VANCOUVER: The Quilt (or part of it) is coming to Vancouver in July 1989. It is being organized from the Maritimes. We need volunteers to help organize the showing here and to possibly sew as well. A Committee will be formed with one person from AIDS VANCOUVER and one person from the COALITION to supervise the showing. Interested parties can contact STEVE S. at the office, 683-3381 (after Sept. 6th).

DR. CAIAZZA - THE AIDS/SYPHILIS CONNECTION

A reminder of the upcoming seminar and public lecture by Dr. Caiazza on September 24th. We have allotted \$300 for the first 10/12 Coalition members who apply to attend the lecture and/or seminar. Once the \$300 is used up PWAs can use their Holistic Health Funds. See Jackie at the office for details.

A PRAYER VIGIL FOR AIDS: The Metropolitan Community Church of Vancouver will be holding a prayer vigil on September 16, 17, and 18th at 1130 Jervis Street (at Pendrell) For schedule see Septembers ANGLES or call the MCC OFFICE 681-852

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

GREETINGS ONE AND ALL. As of the week of August 10 I have volunteered to take over as librarian of our fine little collection. One of my first priorities will be to nummber all the items in the collection for purposes of indentification. This process will be ongoing and its results will not be readily apparent until it is completed, but I thought you should know that this will be one of the projects undertaken. This job, once it gets going, will be something ANYONE WHO HAS THE INCLINATION WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OUT WITH.

The other main concern is to get material that you want onto the shelves and into circulation as soon as possible. All members can help with this by providing suggestions, and you, the members, can take some responsibility for this by making your suggestions in the following form:

- 1. PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR/S, THE TITLE, publisher, information on where the item is avilable, and its price.**
- 2. IN ADDITION, A SMALL DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE item is and its relevance to our library. This will help me to weigh the relative merits of this or that particular item in terms of which ones get first priority.**

Unfortunately due to budget restrictions and other factors, not everyone's suggestions will be able to be acted upon. One of my jobs as librarian is to try and insure that we have a balanced collection of all the aspects of AIDS care and all its related categories. As librarian, I am responsible to the program committee and will include purchasing suggestions.

So far I believe our library has run very well on the present system of luck, honour, and the organization provided by the hard-working library volunteers over the past year. **WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE PRESENT STANDARD AND MAKE OUR LIBRARY AN EVEN MORE USEFUL TOOL FOR OUR SURVIVAL AND WELL BEING.**

Bill Ives

SPREAD THE WORD

THE PWA COALITION IS A RECIPIENT OF UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN FUNDS. The United Way campaign starts shortly. Keep in mind, and let your friends know that donors can specify the charitable organization of their choice....

HOW ABOUT SPECIFYING THE PWA COALITION!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Ever since the Vancouver Persons with Aids Society began, the majority of the work-load necessary to carry out the tasks and goals of the society has and is being done by volunteers, members of our society. We have managed to create, organize, plan and control our objectives. All this was done by the volunteers. I know I can speak for all members in thanking these individuals for their obvious dedication and skill in participating in our goals.

I would like to thank the following persons for all their hard work, whether they have spared a few days, or a few hundred days, they have all contributed to the success of our society.

AL	DOUG V	RAYMOND
ALEX	ERICK	RICK
ANDREW	EVERETTE	RICHARD H
BARRIE GI	FAUSTO	RICHARD W
BARRY G	GEORGE S	ROBERT K
BEN	GEORGE R	ROBERT L
BENOIT	GREIG	ROBERT M
B.B.	HENRY G	ROBIN
BILL I.	JAY	RON
BOB I.	JOHN	RORY
BRIAN	JUSTIS	SEAN
CHRIS	KEVIN	STEVEN D
CHUCK	LORNE	STEVEN S
DANIEL B	LUIS	TERRY B
DANIEL J	M.P.	TERRY L
DAVE	MARTY	WARREN
DENNIS G	MICHAEL	
DOUG J	NICHOLAS	
DOUG M	PIERRE	

I have tried to make this list as accurate as possible, but if I may have missed your name, I apologize and extend my thanks to you as well.

THANK YOU, YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB

FAUSTO PERSONNEL CHAIRPERSON

Ongoing Events:

PLEASE NOTE
NEW MEETING TIMES

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.

MONDAY : MEMBERS MEETING - EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
September's is on Monday the 12th.

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. 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
(testing HIV Positive) Confidential Discussion Group meets Monday evenings at 8 pm, at Gordon House, 1019 Broughton street. for more information contact Ken Mann at AIDS Vancouver, 687-2437

BUDDY SUPPORT GROUP: for Buddys; sponsored by AIDS VAN.

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

TUESDAY : PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING 11 am - 12:30 pm, Members welcome and encouraged to participate.

:ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING 2 pm - 3:30 pm, deals with political and legal issues. Members encouraged to attend and get involved.

"LIVING IN THE MOMENT" MEDITATION CLASS: From 2 pm - 4 pm.

This class is open to PWAs/PWARCs, sero-positives, freinds and supporters. For more information and location, please contact Kristin at 872-0431

SUPPORT MEETINGS: Every Tuesday evening from 7:30 - 8:30 pm,
at the Coalition Drop In Center, at 1170 Bute Street. These meetings are open to PWA/PWARCs only. Discussions about concerns held by the group at the time of the meeting. A good place to talk about your fears, conerns, and triumphs.

WEDNESDAY

:FINANCE COMMITTEE, 11 am - 12:30 pm

Come and lend a hand, help is always needed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING, 2 pm - 3:30 pm

You may have a talent that would help.

DROP IN CENTER, The Drop In Center/Library is open

Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Coalition office, 1170 Bute Street. There is no meeting as such, Just an opportunity to meet other PWA/PWARCs, 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.

HEALING CIRCLE: 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the first floor

lounge of the Comox Building of St. Paul's Hospital. Facilitated by various volunteers, the Healing Circle is open to all members, their friends, supporters, etc. Please support this worthwhile event.

THURSDAY

:BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 2:30 pm at the Coalition

office. 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, Personnel, and Program) are always open to new volunteers, and welcome your participation.

TAI CHI CLASS: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Contact the office at 683-3381 for the location. This class is open to all members and friends. TAI CHI is an ancient Chinese technique of "Meditation in Motion". It's a gentle exercise that helps balance the energy through the body.

GET OVER IT: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, 7:00 pm at the Coalition Drop In Center; open to HIV positive, PWA/PWARCs. friends, lovers, and supporters.

"COPING WITH LOSS AND GRIEF" Sponsored by AIDS VAN.

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.

(continued on next page)

THURSDAY(cont.) LOVERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, Support group sponsored by AIDS VANCOUVER. Meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in the LIBRARY at ST. ANDREWS WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, NELSON AND BURRARD.

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 contact 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.

INCREASE YOUR INCOME AND REDUCE YOUR LIVING

EXPENSES : TIPS ON :

**GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS
FINANCIAL SERVICES
DAY-TO -DAY EXPENSES.**

Contact Bob Salkeld at 684-2083

HAIRCUTS: 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 687-6551.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM: MCC Support Services for those who are sick, and counselling for those looking for spiritual comfort. Services include: Home and Hospital visits for the sick, spiritual and/or Christian counselling, relationship counselling, and grief counselling. For more information call the office of Metropolitan Community Church of Vancouver, at 681-8525.

PERSONAL:

PWA's BICYCLE STOLEN!-on welfare- no money to replace it. If you have a bike to donate or sell cheap, contact Chuck, through Jackie at 683-3381.

AEROSOL PENTAMADINE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON OR ELSE!!!

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT
NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE COALITION...

Some great news from the Stockholm AIDS Conference: nine (9) separate abstracts were presented from human studies of aerosol pentamidine, and every one was favorable! There is no longer any doubt that aerosol pentamidine is highly effective in the treatment and prophylaxis of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) in AIDS patients. Aerosol pentamidine is site-specific and far less toxic than other PCP treatments.

Now that the evidence is in, what does the Canadian medical establishment do? Make aerosol pentamidine available as a treatment for PCP? Good luck! Make aerosol pentamidine prophylaxis available to those HIV sufferers at highest risk for PCP? NO WAY!

Our Doctors, in their infinite compassion and wisdom; our Doctors set up another restrictive trial, whereby aerosol pentamidine will be made available to a small fraction of those who could most benefit from this therapy. They are trying to play the AZT game all over again, except this time the treatment is far less toxic than PCP treatments presently being used. Aerosol pentamidine is already being used from coast to coast in the USA; as well as in Toronto. In Toronto the doctors themselves encouraged and helped initiate the Pentamidine Project, whereby the Canadian doctors write a prescription for pentamidine for his patient, who fills it at an American drug store that accepts Canadian prescriptions. Our Vancouver doctors either don't think their patients at high risk for PCP need this therapy, or they are so busy they don't have the time to get involved,

The Vancouver PWA Coalition is absolutely and irrevocably committed to getting aerosol pentamidine available for each and ever one of our members at high risk for PCP.

Members of the advocacy committee have given all the latest medical research, information on the Toronto Pentamidine Project, etc., to several of our own doctors. In addition we have obtained a DeVilbiss Ultrasonic Nebulizer and ten new mouthpieces. We have also made an arrangement with Blain Pharmacy in Blain, Washington, whereby they will fill Canadian prescriptions for pentamidine.

WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.....CHUCK P. advocacy committee

ENCOURAGING RESEARCH ON AZT

An excess of 100 studies involving AZT were presented in Stockholm; with the overwhelming majority of reports being favourable. Unfortunately there still is not enough evidence available to answer the question of prolonged efficiency of AZT after 12 - 18 months of use. Time will tell.

CHUCK P.

NEW INFORMATION PACKS AVAILABLE

"STOCKHOLM RESEARCH PACK" : an update on the most promising AIDS treatments from the abstracts of the Stockholm Conference.

CONCISE MINI-PACKS ON THE FOLLOWING TREATMENTS OBTAINABLE BY CANADIANS, WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE :

1. ACYCLOVIR
2. AEROSOL PENTAMIDINE
3. ANTABUSE/IMUTHOL/DTC
4. AL721 (EGG LECITHIN LIPIDS)
5. AZT
6. DEXTRAN SULFATE
7. ISOPRINOSENE
8. RIBAVIRIN

ALSO AVAILABLE: CONCISE INFORMATION PACK FOR HIV POSITIVE ASYMPTOMATIC (HEALTHY) PERSONS ON TREATMENT OPTIONS & MONITORING OF THE PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE

For more information, or a copy of the above information, contact CHUCK at the office 683-3381. Be an informed patient . . . **INFORMED PATIENTS DO GET BETTER MEDICAL CARE!!!**

WALKATHON: Pledges keep on rolling in, and tax receipts will be sent out shortly. Don't forget to bring in your pledges, if you have all ready; THANK YOU!

POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK POTLUCK

OUR LAST POTLUCK (at McLaren House) WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. THE DINNER FOR THIS MONTH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17th. FOR THE LOCATION PLEASE CALL JACKIE AT THE OFFICE 683-3381 AND SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT EXTRAVAGANZA!

PENNY J. BALLEM, M. D., F.R.C.P.(C)
Clinical Hematology

St. Paul's Hospital
1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1Y6

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

If you are HIV+ and feeling well, or on AZT and feeling well and your platelet count is normal, we would like to study your platelet production levels.

This involves taking a sample of your blood (30z.) and labelling your platelets with a radio-isotope and give you back your tagged platelets; take 2 samples on the first day and one daily for 7 days (1/2 hr.). On the 2nd day we would scan your liver and spleen (1/2 hr.) (x-ray)

YOU WILL RECEIVE \$150. as a volunteer. However, the real benefit will be to you and others infected with HIV now and in the future, through the study of the mechanisms of this illness.

If you are interested talk to your doctor or call Penny to discuss this study.

PHONE - 879-7551 loc. 218 or 682-5060 Tues. pm (IDC CLINIC)

FEDERAL FUNDS EXTENDED

THE HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA has granted PWA a funding extension and increase to cover the period July 1st, 1988 to December 31st, 1988. Health Promotions Directorate first provided funds to PWA in 1987 and CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT TODAY. This \$25,000 extension will fund the salary for Jackie, our Secretary/Receptionist, plus equipment & furniture rental, office supplies, postage, library materials, printing & program costs.

OUR THANKS TO MR. DARRYL STURTEVANT, Project Officer, and to MS. RITA STERN, Regional Director, of Health & Welfare Canada's Health Promotion Directorate.

Funding Denied

AT CITY COUNCIL'S MEETING OF AUGUST 23rd, PWAS'S REQUEST FOR infrastructure funding was defeated. The NO votes were cast by aldermen BAKER, BELLAMY, CARAVETTA, and PUIL. The original request was prepared in early June of this year, asking for \$23,500 for salary, rent and telephone. This request followed the published report of the 'MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON AIDS' which recommended that council PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE TO AIDS VANCOUVER & TO PWA!

The request for funds came before the Standing Committee of Council on Finance and Priorities on July 28th, where the CITY MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER, DR. JOHN BLATHERWICK, SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING BOTH AIDS VANCOUVER AND PWA. The Director of Finance, Don Forss, recommended that PWA receive HALF OF ITS \$23,500 REQUEST, due to the fact that PWA has a bank surplus at the end of fiscal 1987. The vote by the members of this Standing Committee (which is made up of the elected council members acting in their role as committee members) was to recommend the full request for AV and half the request for PWA, with alderman PUIL & BAKER OPPOSED and CARAVETTA ABSENT.

Passing this hurdle and reconciled to receiving half of our request, we looked forward to hiring a General Manager and improving our telephone system. All that remained was the City Council vote.

**AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 23rd, ALDERPERSON LIBBY DAVIES MADE A MOTION THAT PWA RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT (as she had in the Standing Committee). This was defeated. The council voted a second time for the reduced amount and the request WENT DOWN TO DEFEAT, WITH ALDERMAN BELLAMY CHANGING HIS VOTE TO NO, BETWEEN COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL. We are welcome to return to Council in January to again request City support. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND WISH TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION, WRITE TO THE MAYOR, GORDON CAMPBELL AND/OR THE ALDERPERSONS c/o CITY OF VANCOUVER
453 W. 12th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 1V4**