

VANCOUVER  
PERSONS WITH AIDS  
SOCIETY



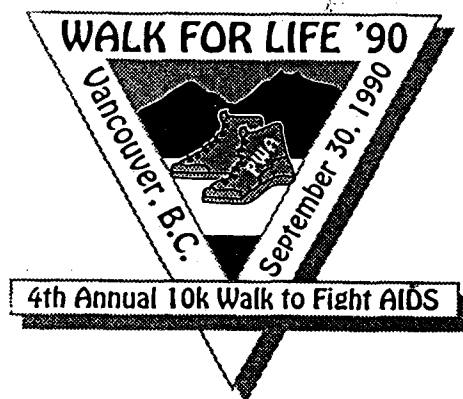
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# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #40 SEPTEMBER, 1990

## WESTERN CANADA'S BIGGEST

AIDS  
FUNDRAISER



The PWA Society's fourth annual walkathon for AIDS awareness and services will be Western Canada's biggest AIDS fund-raiser in 1990, says Joe Ford, organizer of last year's walk.

"We're hoping to make this an international event," he says, noting similar events in Seattle, Portland and San Mateo, California—which all take place in September. Ford, now acting as Special Programmes Coordinator for "Walk for Life '90," is confident the Walk will be a success, due in part to safe sex education campaigns and a better informed general community.

"I think most of us realize that the real war is against AIDS, not the people affected by it," says Ford, who was diagnosed with HIV six years ago. "There's more understanding of the disease and more compassion for the people that have it, as well as for their families and loved ones."

"Walk for Life '90", to be held on Sunday, September 30 on the Stanley Park seawall, will be a much larger scale event than last year. The project team expects major media coverage for an event that will attract more than 1,000 walkers and raise \$100,000 in pledges.

This year's Walk is sure to be an upbeat event for all. After a light breakfast and opening ceremonies in Ceperley Playground, across the seawall from 2nd beach, in Stanley Park, at 9 am., local celebrities will join PWA's and their families and friends for the trek around the seawall at 11. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and team walkers which raise the highest amount of pledges. Like last year, restaurants, bars and other businesses will compete for the most pledge money turned in. Plus, every registered walker will be eligible for the various raffle prizes. Finally, the project team has planned a special surprise party for walkers and PWAs after the Walk.

British Columbia has the highest per capita number of persons with AIDS in the country. With more than 330 new cases reported in the first half of 1990, membership in the PWA Society has swelled by 30 per cent.

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All proceeds from "Walk for Life '90" will go toward PWA support programs such as complementary health care, counselling, a crisis line, treatment information packages, library and keeping the drop-in centre open.

Pledge forms are available at both the main office of PWA (1447 Hornby) from Yvonne, and the project office (1170 Bute). The project team still requires volunteers for event day activities.

Dan Gawthrop,  
"Walk For Life '90"

## JOIN "WALK FOR LIFE '90"

You can contribute to the success of this event, work on your tan, meet men and women in shorts! Right now we need volunteers for the volunteer centre, telephone people, receptionists, and on the day we'll need setup crews, registrars, bookkeepers, first aid, foot masseurs, people to staff merchandise booths, hand out pledge form, etc. Call 688 9255 now to offer your help, and come to the Volunteer Orientation meeting at 1170 Bute on Sunday, September 23rd, from 5pm to 7pm. See you there!

## KAPOSI'S SARCOMA TOPIC OF MONTHLY MEDICAL FORUM

On Wednesday September 19th, at 7pm at Gordon Neighbourhood House 1019 Broughton. Doctor Karen Gelman, Medical Oncologist, will speak on various aspects of treatment, including the role of  $\alpha$ -interferon.



# A FRONT RUNNER

Simon Nkoli is a frontrunner in the race to beat AIDS in South Africa. He has been arrested and imprisoned for his role in the fight to end apartheid, and still struggles in anti-apartheid groups. He also works actively against homophobia, so destructive as it corrodes the effort to build better lives for all, gay and straight.

Simon gave a poignant address at the opening ceremonies of Gay Games III explaining that though he is a seasoned, conditioned athlete competing with the Transvaal Organization for Gay Sports, he could not participate because of a ban on South African participation in international sports.

He dropped into our offices and offered some perspectives on what life is like for South African PWAs. He characterizes the South African response to AIDS as "mass denial." As many people have little hope of access to treatments, they have no reason to get tested so their numbers go unreported. Racial discrimination also plays a part as the government tries to downplay the threat of AIDS to black communities, providing neither adequate education nor condoms so people can protect themselves. The perception is encouraged that AIDS is a gay white male disease that has not made many inroads into the black community. A government pamphlet "AIDS in Soweto" was circulated among white gay males before the black people of Soweto were told what a threat AIDS was or how they could protect themselves.

A black PWA in South Africa finds racism a daunting obstacle, and is isolated by his society's denial. Access to AZT is extremely difficult and many must do without. A white AIDS patient in

hospital has the utmost difficulty getting his black friends in to visit. Health care professionals are not as well-informed as they should be. Patients are treated as infectious and kept in isolation and are not informed about their condition or prospects, so they fall into despair and quickly decline.

Simon is active in a gay group called GLOW or Gay and Lesbian Organization of the

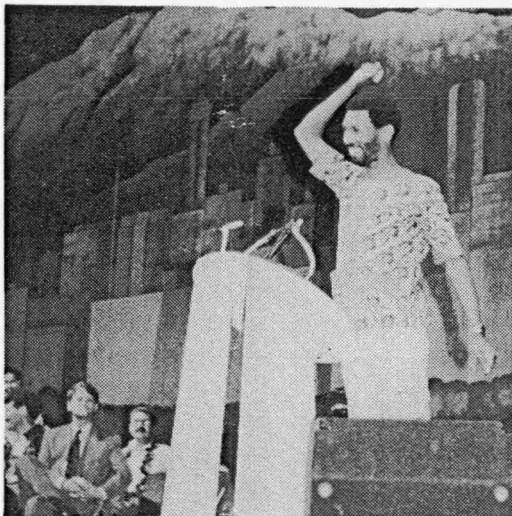
Witwatersrand, which has spun off a new organization called TAP or Townships AIDS Project, which is funded by the community and the government of Norway to undertake education and support for HIV infected persons whose numbers are large and largely unknown because of widespread under reporting. They have much work to do with resources that are stretched thin and all too desperately short. Counsellors and educators and

caregivers are needed, so is basic information, confidential testing, access to the press and printing capabilities, and translators.

However, despite these difficulties, a community based response to AIDS has been established and is at work in South Africa. Safe Sex workshops, using condoms and dildoes sent from the USA, have been well attended. Speakers are sent out to educate people living in the townships and educational materials are being prepared.

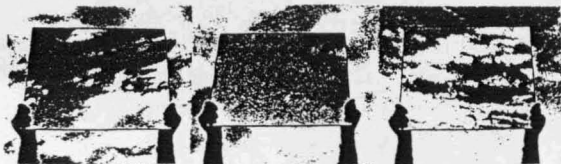
Asked what he would say to Vancouver PWA Society Members, Simon replied: "Congratulations on where you are, from the strong foundation provided by Kevin Brown and his co-founders to the volunteers who make it strong now. Let's work together, share information and support one another."

Douglas Starratt



*Simon Nkoli at Gay Games III*

## BOARD ACTIVE



The board has been rather short handed in recent weeks. We accepted the resignations of David Lewis (effective August 31, 1990) and Stephen McManus at our meeting on August 3, 1990. We also regretfully accepted the resignation of Pei Lim and Brian Page from a June meeting. One new appointment to the board, Dean Davis, was made on July 20, 1990.

The board is currently seeking candidates for the remaining five vacancies. We would prefer that candidates have experience on committees within the Society and/or some experience to contribute in areas such as fundraising/financial, program development, personnel management, organizational/systems development and treatment knowledge.

The PWA board also has been receiving reports from the Society evaluation currently in progress and we are preparing to act on the upcoming recommendations.

The Gay Games were an exciting and busy time for the Society. Our offices were visited by many people from out of town, including Joan Anderson, Chair of the Canadian AIDS Society, Simon Nkoli of South Africa, and PWAs from as far away as Houston, Texas and as close as Seattle. A number of fundraisers for the Society were held during Celebration '90 both by ourselves and by many generous volunteers, groups and businesses in the community. We gratefully thank all for their initiative.

Recent issues we have been involved in include discussion about a hospital liaison committee comprised of representatives from the community and St. Paul's hospital, and the creation of a Housing Sub-Committee of the B.C. AIDS Network to gather input for a new B.C. Government Committee on HIV housing and care issues. We

expect that the Provincial AIDS Strategy will be released soon and that it will contain much needed initiatives and funding for the community.

Since the Games have finished, things have calmed down around the office - in fact, they are too calm. We need you. Please drop by and see us and get involved.

Alex Kowalski

## OPENINGS FOR VANCOUVER PWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Do you want to be a member of the Vancouver Persons With AIDS Society Board of Directors? Several openings exist for full members who wish to participate in this crucial decision-making capacity.

Board members are required to attend Board meetings every other Friday morning, from 10:30 am till completion. Additionally, Board members are requested to get involved in leadership roles on the standing committees: Finance, Advocacy, Programs, Personnel and Executive.

If you have time and energy and want to get involved, send your written Letter of Intent to be on the Board to the Executive Committee of Vancouver PWA Society, 1447 Hornby Street, Vancouver BC V6Z 1W8.

People expressing interest will be personally contacted to address specifics of the Board positions.

The existing Board will vote for members to fill the vacancies that exist. Voting will be by privately marked, publicly counted ballots of existing Board members.

For further information, contact Alex Kowalski at 683-3381.



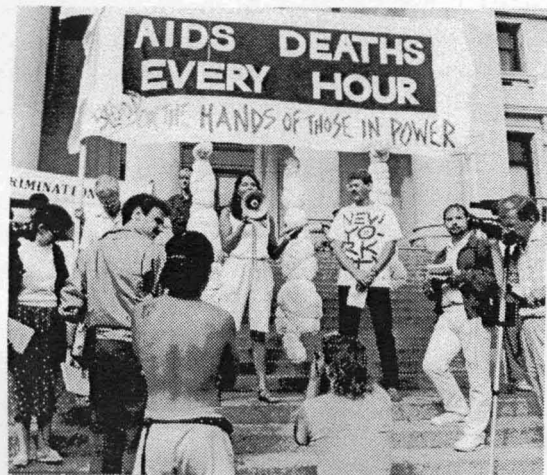
# ACT UP DEMO



*Act Up! Fight Back! Fight AIDS!*

On Wednesday, August 1st, the Vancouver chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) held its first public demonstration attracting more than 100 activists who rallied at Robson Square.

Chanting "Blood on the hands of those in power/One AIDS death every hour", the group targeted the Federal government for not having committed sufficient resources for an effective national strategy on AIDS.



*Organizers address crowd at Demonstration*

ACT UP was formed less than two weeks earlier and is independent of either AIDS Vancouver or the Vancouver Persons With AIDS Society.

The ACT UP mission statement is as follows:

*ACT UP is a group of angry activists working to end the HIV crisis through planned and focused non-violent action.*

*We demonstrate and protest; we challenge and threaten government and health institutions; we research and distribute the latest medical information.*

*We are not silent.*

ACT UP can be reached at 669 0121, meetings are held weekly and are open to everyone regardless of health status.

**John Kozachenko**

**ACT UP**

## CHALLENGES

The PWA Society - your Society - needs you now. Our membership is growing and the demands on our coalition are way beyond anything we expected this year. We have the programs. We know what we need to do to keep up with our members' needs.

You will make a difference. If you or your friends have been thinking about sending a donation, please do. To support direct service programs such as vitamins and blood testing requires a great part of our budget each month. And demands on the budget grow even more for each member who joins. Yet these count for only a part of all the programs we provide.

We need your body, your brains, your time and your energy. We need everyone to help in whatever way you can. The Walkathon in September needs volunteers. The office needs people. All of our projects need support. We have projects that we cannot go ahead with right now for lack of resources.

The Society is all of us and needs all of us. Together, we can be strong and we can care for, support and empower ourselves.

Finance Committee



# AIDS TREATMENT HIGHLIGHTS RESEARCH NEWS

*The following articles were selected and condensed by Chuck P., who assumes sole responsibility for their accuracy.*

## ISOPRINOSINE SLOWS DISEASE PROGRESSION

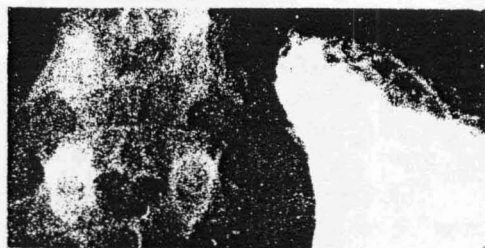
"Long term follow-up of a clinical trial conducted in Scandinavia appears to confirm the efficacy and safety of the immunomodulating drug Isoprinosine in delaying the progression of AIDS in HIV-infected individuals. The results of the initial, double-blind study of the clinical trial were published in the "New England Journal of Medicine". Court Pedersen, MD, was the principal investigator in the multicentre trials. During 1987 and 1988, 866 patients who had been exposed to the AIDS virus but for the most part did not exhibit any symptoms of AIDS, were given either placebo or one gram of Isoprinosine three times daily for six months. Of the 19 patients who progressed to AIDS, 89 percent (17 patients) were receiving placebo while only 11 percent (2 patients) were receiving Isoprinosine. At the end of the double-blind phase, all persons who had not developed AIDS were given the opportunity to enrol in the open label study period and take three grams of Isoprinosine daily for another six months. By the end of 12 months, 37 patients had progressed to AIDS; of these, 73 percent (27 patients) were in the original placebo group and 27 percent (10 patients) were on the drug. This follow-up reaffirms the efficacy of Isoprinosine as reported in the initial study period and appears to support the drug's continued effectiveness in delaying the progression to AIDS for up to a year. Isoprinosine was notably safe in both study periods, showing few or no side effects."

Bay Area Reporter  
August, 1990

*Comments from Chuck: Human research has demonstrated Isoprinosine to be an effective T-cell modulator or "booster". This drug is available by prescription in Canada. I have been taking it for more than 3 years now, and can attest to its helpfulness at increasing my T-cell counts and delaying disease progression (when used with AZT).*

*We have an Isoprinosine Information Pack available in our Library. I also have a great deal of research information on isoprinosine. Your doctor can prescribe Isoprinosine for you.*

## FLU SHOTS A MUST FOR PWA/HIVS



"Each year some people die from flu complications, especially pneumonia, so it is important for people at high risk of complications to prevent this infection.

"This includes the elderly, those with chronic respiratory and heart conditions like asthma or heart failure, those with severe chronic illnesses like AIDS or severe diabetes, and those on drugs that suppress immunity.

"Flu shots, which are also recommended for people who care for or work with high-risk persons like health-care workers, are given as injections and protect about 75 per cent of those who get them.

"Because the flu virus mutates every year, a new-vintage flu vaccine has to be re-administered annually, preferably early in October, to give you a few weeks to develop adequate immunity before flu season strikes.

"Everyone who gets a flu shot tells you that they developed some symptoms from the shot, but

flu shots are side-effect free, except for mild muscle aching at the injection site, and mild flu-like symptoms for some.

"The same groups that suffer more from flu complications are also at higher risk of getting a type of bacterial pneumonia called pneumococcal pneumonia. These people should be immunized with a one-time injection of Pneumovax vaccine"

**Dr. Art Hister**

**July, 1990**

Comments from Chuck:

If you haven't had your Pneumovax vaccination yet, you would be wise to discuss it with your doctor. Flu shot time is almost here too. The best time to get your flu shot is **early**—October or November. Anyone suffering from HIV immune system impairment should get his flu shots every year. Long-term survivors don't procrastinate!

## **FOSCARNET PROMISING AGAINST CMV, HIV**

Scientists at NIAID, the Clinical Centre of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Eye Institute have reported preliminary results of the first controlled, randomized clinical trial of a drug to treat CMV retinitis, a serious, sight-threatening eye infection that occurs in many persons with AIDS. CMV retinitis is caused by cytomegalovirus. CMV Infection has been diagnosed in nearly all patients who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, the cause of AIDS. The scientists found that the experimental drug, foscarnet, was an effective in delaying progression of disease to sight-threatening retinitis. Clinically significant anti-CMV activity was also demonstrated by a decreased ability to culture CMV from the blood and urine of the study participants. The scientists also reported that foscarnet was found to have activity against HIV, as demonstrated by consistent decreases in p24, a core antigen of HIV that indicates viral activity, in those patients who had detectable p24 in their blood when they entered the study.

**Bay Area Reporter**

**August, 1990**

## **PATH PASSIVE IMMUNOTHERAPY AVAILABLE IN VANCOUVER IN 1991?**

Passive Immunotherapy or PATH is an AIDS treatment developed by Dr. Abraham Karpas of Cambridge University, U.K. This procedure involves taking plasma (the liquid portion of the blood, which contains antibodies) from healthy asymptomatic HIV+ donors who have high levels of antibodies to HIV and transfusing it into symptomatic HIV+ recipients (who have low levels of antibodies to HIV).

PATH is based on the theory that transfusing the plasma of a person who has high levels of neutralizing antibodies into a recipient who does not have such high levels would pass along to the recipient the protective effect of the donor's antibodies.

The good news is that PATH seems to work at least as well as AZT, with virtually zero risk of side effects. For more information and research on PATH, pick up an information pack at our Library or phone us at 683 3381 and we'll mail it to you.

Your advocacy committee has been working for about two years trying to see that this treatment becomes available in Vancouver. Today, August 3rd, I phoned Dr. Elliott Block, the president of Medicorp, the Montreal company that holds the patent rights to this blood treatment procedure. Dr. Block informs me that steps are being taken towards initiating a multi-centre (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver) PATH study in 1991. He says the main reason for the interminable delay in starting a Canadian PATH study was that sufficient research data has not yet been released from PATH studies elsewhere—most notable the Bronx Veterans Hospital (NY, NY) PATH Trial, that commenced in mid-1989 with 60 participants.

A preliminary report, based on a review of the interim data (at 6 months) from the Bronx Veterans study was scheduled for release early in

1990. But, after reviewing their interim data, the researchers decided to continue the study for an additional 6 months, and also decided it would be inappropriate to unblind the study by releasing the data now. Consequently, the earliest we can hope to see any results from the Bronx study is early in 1991.

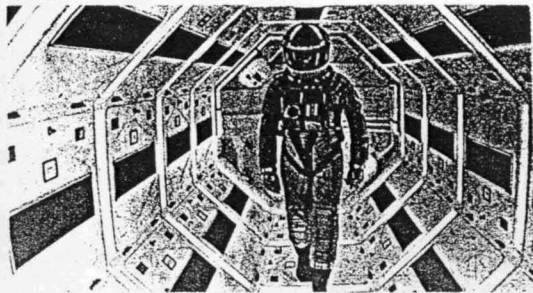
Dr. Block informed me that a group of Canadian physicians were taking steps to start a Canadian PATH Trial, and he suggested I contact Dr. Andrea Descal, who I phoned in Montreal. Dr. Descal informed me that a group of physicians have submitted a letter of intent to commence a Canadian PATH Trial to the department of Health and Welfare. These doctors are presently drawing up a protocol to be submitted September 15, 1990, for a PATH Trial (placebo) involving 300 participants. The response time for a newly submitted protocol is generally 6 months, so Dr. Descal expects a federal decision by March, 1991, as to whether a Canadian PATH study is approved. If all goes well, this study could be operational before the end of 1991.

Dr. Descal expects that finding funding for Canadian PATH Trials may become a major problem. He estimates the cost of keeping 50 patients on PATH at about \$250,000 annually.

I should mention that important first steps have recently been taken towards getting PATH available in California. In June, 1990, the California Food and Drug Branch of the Department of Health Services approved a 225 person double-blind dosing study of PATH. If efficacy of the hyperimmune plasma is demonstrated after 6 months, a much larger study will likely be approved.

We will keep you updated on future developments in the ongoing PATH saga.

Chuck P.



## HOUSING THE CHALLENGE OF GETTING WHAT WE NEED

Since 1988, The PWA Society and the Vancouver Housing Registry have been the catalyst for: identifying and speaking out about the lack of affordable, accessible housing for PWAs; creating housing initiatives and/or stimulating housing proposals; initiating, in conjunction with AIDS Vancouver and McLaren Housing Society, discussions with the Ministries of Health and Social Services and Housing to fund a Housing Needs Assessment as part of their commitment to the Provincial AIDS Strategy.

In May of 1989 the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work produced their paper in "AIDS-Related Social Research and Development Issues."

"There was one organizational aspect of community change that generated an extensive and empathic response: appropriate accommodation. Because its provision in suitable forms depends upon social attitudes, neighbourhood behaviour and local government licensing, among other things, it has to be seen as essentially a community matter."

Social attitudes toward the HIV community because of their perceived sexual orientation, are questionable at best. In "The Canadian Housing Magazine" in an article entitled "AIDS and Housing Rights in Canada", Scott Leckie says:

"Governments have the resources and power to guarantee that persons with AIDS have adequate and appropriate housing at an affordable cost. The political will for doing so is insufficient. The state is bound legally to respect the right of housing. This can take several forms. Social housing units for use by persons with AIDS could be provided. Rent supplements could be extended and increased to meet actual costs and needs. Legislation on housing rights, which would protect the rights of individuals, could be adopted."



The Centre for Human Settlements at UBC submitted a research proposal for a Provincial Housing Needs Assessment for Persons with HIV/AIDS to the Ministries of Health and Social Services and Housing. The proposal was turned down.

Again we are turned down! How can we value the Provincial AIDS Strategy without financial commitments? Again we are put off. Again we are told that "a working group will be initiated to review the housing and care resources needed." We have been that working group for two years! We have worked closely with numerous HIV/AIDS affected agencies and institutions. What we have found out is that we need to learn from an objective, scholarly, and credible source what we need now and for future planning.

How can we build a cohesive housing plan without an assessment of needs? Where do people go to live when rents take 40 to 70 per cent of their income and they must also pay for medicine often not fully covered by insurance? Where do people with HIV/AIDS go when the vacancy rates are well under one per cent? What happens when the wait for public housing may be years rather than days or months?

Lower Mainland Housing Co-operatives are part of our solution. There are nine co-ops that have put PWAs at the top of their waiting list. Four of those co-ops have housed or are currently housing PWAs. We applaud their support and openness.



McLaren Housing Society has submitted a proposal to the City for Family Care Homes which a similar concept to Foster Care Homes. They are also the initiators of the subsidized independent living units that will be built in the old hotel on Granville Street.

St. Paul's Hospital has submitted a proposal for a Daycare Centre for people with HIV dementia.

Baby step by baby step we are moving forward. When our solutions are bigger than our problems we be able to breathe easier. We know that's not coming soon enough.

Loree Rose,  
Vancouver Housing Registry, YMCA

## KUDOS OF THE MONTH

Due to the kindness and sensitivity of the following groups and organizations, many of our members have been able to attend fabulous events during the Gay Games III, Celebration '90. Tickets were available to our members, many of whom could not afford to attend otherwise. We want to acknowledge their thoughtfulness and generosity by saying THANK YOU!

**"Common Threads"**—a fund-raiser for PWA. Thanks to the producers and Directors, 'Out on Screen' Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, AIDS Vancouver for hanging the quilt at the screening and the Costume People for costume rental.

**Lesbian and Gay Bands of America**—Dress circle patrons who purchased \$100 seats contributed to the distribution of one complimentary ticket for a PWA for each ticket purchased.

**Vancouver Men's Chorus**—who again and again supply our members with complimentary tickets to their grandiose concerts.

**Vancouver Lesbian Connection**—complimentary tickets to their dance at the Commodore featuring Lovie Sizzle, Bolero Lava, Rumours of the Big Wave and DJ extraordinaire Holly.

Continued on page 12

# CLNAr

**Sept 7 Deadline for Submissions** for the October Issue of the PWA Newsletter.

**Sept 19 Monthly Medical Forum.** Topic Kaposi's Sarcoma with Dr. Karen Gelman. Gordon Neighbourhood House, 1019 Broughton, 7pm.

**Sept 21 and 22.** Volunteer for the Casino Nights at the Mandarin. Training available, call Alex or Yvonne at 683 3381.

**AIDS Mastery** coming to Vancouver in November 16 to 18. A 3 day workshop about living powerfully in the face of AIDS. For all those whose lives are affected by HIV. For further information call Bill at 926 7529 or Joan at 736 8601. Applications available at the PWA Society's Offices.

**Oct 5 Deadline for Submissions** for the November Issue of the PWA Newsletter

o n g o i n g  
e v e n t s

M O N D A Y S

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:** Meets at 10:30 am in our offices to deal with access to treatments, human rights, political and legal issues. Members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

**Art Therapy Group** Use the visual arts to explore personal issues and concerns. No experience necessary -this is not an ordinary 'Art Class'. Facilitated by an experienced Art Therapist, Noel Silver. Call the PWA 683 3381 for more information.

**Buddy Support Group:** For buddies, sponsored by AIDS Vancouver. Meets every second Monday at 7:00 pm at AIDS Vancouver, 1272 Richards Street. Call 687 5220 for information.

T U E S D A Y S

**Adult Children of Alcoholics:** Special Interest to Gays and Lesbians, HIV+/- . Adult Children of Alcoholics is a 12 step support group for adults recovering from specific behaviour pattern established while living in alcoholic, addictive or other-

wise compulsive family environments. Meets Tuesdays, from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm in the PWA offices at 1447 Hornby Street.

**Meditation Class** "Living in Each Moment" From 2 pm - 4 pm This class is open to people living with HIV, friends and supporters. For more information and location, please contact Kristin at 872 0431

**Personnel Committee Meeting:** Meets at 10:30 am at the Society's Offices - works to provide policy and assistance in organizing human resources (volunteers and paid staff). You may have a talent or experience that would help. Contact Michel A. at 683 3381.

**PWA Support Meetings:** 7:30 - 8:30 pm, at the PWA Society Living Room Lounge. 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, concerns, and triumphs.

**Women and AIDS Drop-in** 7:00 to 8:30 pm For women to seek out information and support concerning AIDS/HIV First and third Tuesdays of each month at Vancouver Women's Health Collective, No. 302, 1720 Grant Street. Call Jackie at 683-3381 for details or call us at 255 9848 during drop-in hours.

W E D N E S D A Y S

**Program Committee Meeting:** Meets at 10:30am at the Society's Offices to develop and facilitate individual programs such as RISE, Support Groups etc. Members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact Jackie.

**Partners of Persons with HIV/AIDS and Family and Friends** of persons with HIV/AIDS. Both groups will meet every Wednesday 7:30-9:30 pm at St. Andrews-Wesley Church. Rooms to be posted. Call Bridget MacKenzie at 687 5220 or Joy Moon at 299 4828 for more information.

**Finance Committee:** Meets at 2:30pm. Works to ensure proper financial procedures and puts forward funding proposals. Anyone interested is requested to contact the General Manager, Chris Sabean or the chair, Alex Kowalski.

**Healing Circle:** 7:30 sharp - 9:00 pm on the first floor lounge, room 113, of the Comox Building of St. Paul's Hospital. Come and experience some loving time, deep relaxation, meditation, bodywork & the joy of sharing. Co-ordinated by 3 professional facilitators: Lela, Donald and Maria. Starting again this fall on September 12, this weekly event is open to all members, their friends, supporters, etc. For further information contact Donald at 682 2989

## T H U R S D A Y S

**Executive Committee:** Meets 10:30 am alternately Thursdays (before Board Meetings) and Fridays at the Society's Offices to coordinate the business of the Society and to prepare for Board Meetings.

**Get Over It:** AA Meeting of special interest to HIV concerned persons. 7 pm in PWA Coalition's Living Room Lounge.

**Narcotics Anonymous: New Hope.** Open to HIV positive or negative. Meets every Thursday, 8:30 to 10 pm, in the PWA Coalition's Living Room Lounge. Narcotics Anonymous 24 hour Helpline 873 1018.

**Body Positive Support Group:** For those testing HIV positive. Confidential Discussion Group meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in PWA offices. For more information contact Kenn Mann at 683-3381

**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 info call Joy Moon 299 4828.

## F R I D A Y S

**Board of Directors Meeting:** The Board of the Vancouver Persons with AIDS Society meets every second Friday at 10:30 am at the Society Offices. Meetings will be August 31, September 14, and 28th and October 12. Open to all interested members. This 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.

**Movie Night:** get together at 7:30 pm in the Living Room Lounge video screening at 8 pm. See poster in the lounge for this week's attraction. Munchies provided.

## S A T U R D A Y S

**Drop-in:** Open to all HIV infected persons. An ideal time for people living in outlying areas or working during the week to meet others for support and to seek out information and resources. The Library is open and peer counselling and vitamin consultants are available. Held in the PWA Society's Living Room Lounge Saturdays from 11 am until 3 pm. For information call the VancouverPWA Society at 683-3381.

## LET'S GO!

Miss those retreats we used to have to the countryside? Would you like to be with other members to meditate, go for walks, play boardgames or just be by yourself in a meadow by a stream? We need help to locate a retreat space which is affordable, or better yet, is donated so we can plan a fall getaway. Contact Jackie, Programs Co-ordinator, and join a team of members like yourself who are hunting down just the right place for retreats. It can happen! We just need person power and some creative ideas. If you are unable to join the team but know someone who owns property that might be suitable, let us know. See you in the woods!



## E V E R Y D A Y

**Living Room Lounge** our relaxed drop-in centre is open weekdays 10 until 5 and Saturdays 11 to 3. Juice and fresh-brewed coffee.

**Referral Information** available in our Library weekdays 10 to 5 and Saturdays 11 to 3. For people looking for medical information, alternative therapy, and other services

Kudos: Continued from page 9.

**AIDS Vancouver**—for complimentary tickets to their Tea Dance at the Commodore...elegant late afternoon fare.

**Graceland**—especially to Tom and Dave for 'Dick Madonna', a fund-raiser of amazing proportions and scandalous creativity.

**"Drag Queens on Trial"**—thanks to Kenny Hooker, superb actor and supporter and the producers and directors of the play who donated some the proceeds to us.

**Squares Across the Border**, that high spirited group of dedicated friends of PWA and to their Board and president Christine Tutte, for the complimentary tickets to their hoedown, "Gay Silverheels". Thanks also for scholarships for PWAs to learn square dancing this fall. Yee Haw!

**Celebration '90 Gay Games III and Cultural Festival**—for the donation of tips received by staff during closing night from the Beverage Garden at the Plaza of Nations. Our brothers and sisters who worked so hard over the last four years, thanks for their generosity in thinking of PWA many times, with complimentary tickets and other amenities during the Games... We won't easily forget you and your work.

Special thanks to the producers and director of "**Les Miserables**" for the complimentary tickets to their production.

A hearty full-bodied thank you to **Starbucks** on Denman for keeping our lounge supplied with their fabulous coffee.

A special thank-you to **Celebrities** for collecting a door charge for PWA during the Games. Salut!

Hats off to the management and staff of the **Denman Station** for providing space at the West End Community Centre for our August 9th fund-raiser '**Bringing It All Together**'. The Denman Station did all the organizing of logistics, created terrific posters and demonstrated lots of love, spunk and commitment to HIV/PWAs. Thanks Gary Penny and crew!



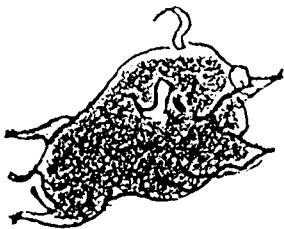
## Madrid RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE IV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

1. The delegates to the IV International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS, hereby reaffirm the international boycott of the VI International Conference at San Francisco. Whereas we recognize the efforts of the organizers of the San Francisco conference to have U.S. Border restrictions against people with HIV lifted; And Whereas the restriction of access to the U.S. by people with HIV/AIDS seriously diminishes the value of the San Francisco conference; And Whereas we are disappointed by the lack of solidarity shown by some of our health care workers participating in the conference:

Be It Resolved that we call on all Member States of the World Health Organization to respect Resolution WHA 41.24 passed by the 41st World Assembly which urged all Member State "to protect the human rights and dignity of HIV-infected people and people with AIDS and of members of population groups, and to avoid discriminatory action against and stigmatization of them in the provision of services, employment and travel".

2. Resolved that the delegates to the IV International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS will boycott any future conferences held in countries with travel restrictions for people with HIV.





3. Whereas people with HIV have been in the forefront of education, prevention and support world wide, Be it resolved that we call on governments to include people with HIV as equal partners in the fight against the pandemic.

4. Be it resolved that governments and international bodies must promote the creation of an environment to foster the development of self-help and community-based support networks for people affected by HIV.

5. Be it resolved that the IV International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS has the status of an international body and must be included in any future discussions and decisions concerning the lives of people with HIV.

6. Whereas people with HIV in developing countries suffer inadequacies and inequalities with respect to human rights, access to basic services and treatments and financial support; and whereas the IV International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS will diligently and proactively address the problems existing in these areas; Be it resolved that international bodies and governments must act now in support of groups of people with HIV in developing countries where those groups are beginning to emerge.

7. Be it resolved that governments and international bodies must provide access to humane and dignified treatment options for all former and current intravenous drug users affected by HIV.

8. Be it resolved that all governments must guarantee equal access to drugs and treatments by people affected by HIV. Governments must ensure that people with HIV can make informed choices. Governments must recognize that informed choice requires taking into account the whole person, and not only medical concerns, and that people with

HIV must have access to all available information and education on medical and scientific issues.

9. Be it resolved that blood and body fluid precautions must be designed for the protection of people with HIV as well as the protection of health care workers.

10. Be it resolved that health and social care workers, including doctors, must include people with HIV in all policy-making and education, and must recognize the value of that participation.

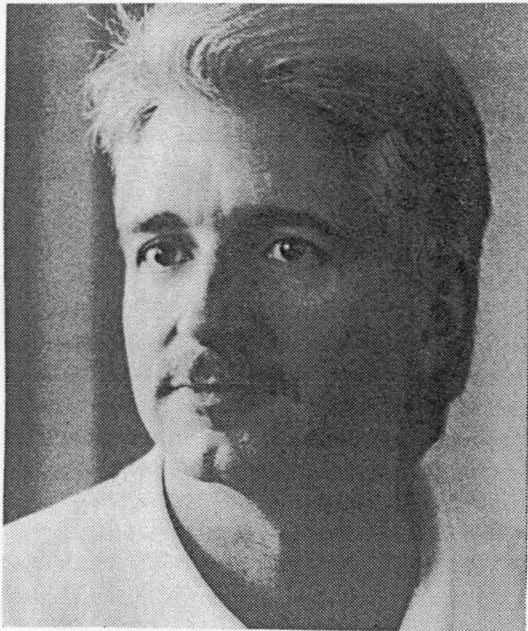
11. Be it resolved that the human rights and education of children is a high priority, and must be addressed by international family service and educational institutions.

12. Be it resolved that universal precautions must be taken to ensure and protect the rights of children with HIV.

13. We demand an end to the isolation, myths and misconceptions that surround women with HIV. We call for open access to drug trials and effective treatments, and accessible information to enable women to retain control of their right to choose to found a family.

14. We call on international bodies and government to instigate health education campaigns based on love and respect and not just sexual behaviour, as a recognition of the changing nature of the pandemic.

15. Delegates to the conference, over the coming year, will develop statements of human rights for people with HIV in their own countries and detail the specific rights to be respected. Delegates will document abuses of human rights of people with HIV and deliver reports to the V International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS in Strasbourg in 1991.



## RICHARD WRIGHT

MAY 24, 1945 - AUGUST 3, 1990

We are saddened to learn of the loss Richard Wright. Perhaps his own words, taken from an article in "Karuna", the Buddhist meditation journal, best express the character of the man.

"I always thought that I wanted to leave the world a better place than I found it, but I thought that meant building something or doing a work of art. But I realize now that if you can introduce some love into the world, what better thing can there be to leave? I may never get to build a bridge or create a work of art, but I can spread some love."



## FINALLY THE DANCE BEGINS

*This poem is dedicated to Richard Wright.*

*It has been days  
noting rising and falling  
sensations of  
my breath*

*It has been weeks  
noting lifting/moving/placing  
intentions of  
my feet*

*My mind thinks  
I am going  
out of  
my mind*

*Hello whatever  
let's have tea  
face to face  
heart to heart*

*A white butterfly  
did I see it  
on rising  
or falling breath*

*The neighbour flushed the toilet  
did I hear it  
on lifting  
or placing feet*



*So long and so hard  
searching and missing  
my perfect teacher  
this very moment*

*So much  
suffering  
so little  
lived*

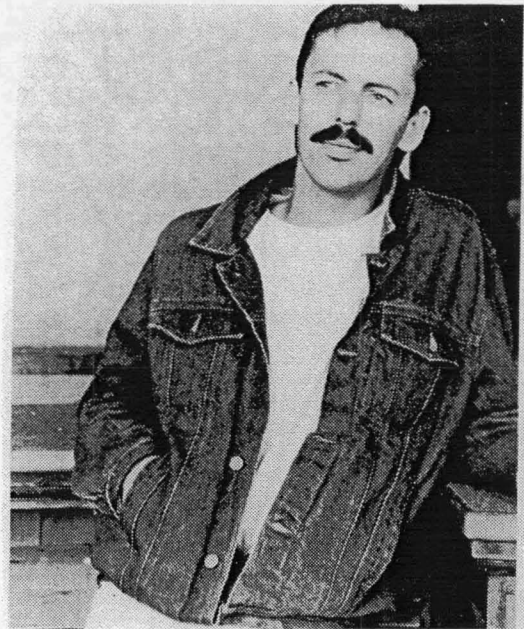
*My life  
my curriculum  
going to school  
for the first time*

*Mind without turbulence  
a laser beam  
eyes free of longing  
I see*

*behind and beyond  
above and below  
into and through  
the illusion*

*Finally the dance begins  
within the illusion  
with my broken heart  
and all my passion*

*I am everything  
and nothing  
this world is perfect  
and ca-ca*



## JEROME NAGEL

1958 - 1990

Our sweet friend died at St. Paul's Hospital August 6th. Held in the arms of love and tenderness, his final struggle with AIDS was met with awesome strength.

Jerome was a founder member of AIDS Regina, and an active member of the PWA Coalition. He is survived by a large loving biological family in Regina, and an even bigger family of friends on the West Coast, whose hearts continue to feel his touch.



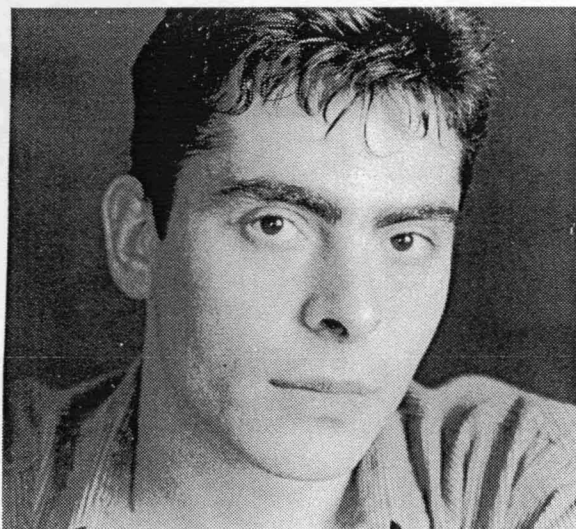


Photo by Nicholas Gray

## FAUSTO IOCHELLI

1963 - 1990

Fausto Iocchelli faced courageously his battle in the uncharted territory of surviving and thriving with AIDS. However his condition deteriorated and he was forced to reduce his volunteer time to minimize fatigue and stress.

Fausto was a real fighter and one of our earliest members. Many of us at the Coalition had watched him battle illness over the years since he joined us in December 1987. As Fausto was only in his 20s, I often felt his anger and dismay at being so young with such a tough disease. We never dream that people with Fausto's diligence will pass away. However, when they do, and especially so young, it is heart breaking and hurts a lot.

Fausto's contribution was manifold. He represented us at the Fourth International Conference on AIDS in June 1988 as well as serving as chairperson for the Personnel Committee. He also was a member of the Board of Directors. Fausto in his time gave 'all' that he had.

M. A. P.

## AT THE END

*At the end  
what's at the end?  
Not too sure -  
Should we  
want the end?  
We live  
for the end.  
No one knows  
about the end.  
No one knows  
how to prepare  
No one knows  
what they can do,  
before  
the end.  
As for us  
we keep on,  
keeping on.  
We don't know  
about tomorrow  
and it surprises us  
I don't even know  
if I'll see you tomorrow.  
How can I know?  
We do know,  
though  
that I will never see you,  
like I want to,  
see you,  
I will see you  
tomorrow.*

Fausto







## RAINBOW RUNNER

We were honoured during Celebration '90 to have a visit from Brent Richardson Earle, whose runs for the lives of PWAs have inspired thousands. He has run around the White House to protest the glacial pace in AIDS research, and around the perimeter of the United States to raise money for community-based AIDS groups.

During the opening ceremonies for Gay Games III, Brent completed the "Rainbow Run for the End of AIDS," a 1000 mile run from San Francisco to Vancouver, and entered BC Place Stadium holding aloft the rainbow banner to 20,000 cheering spectators.

Asked for his thoughts, Brent said, "My run is completed, but the suffering continues. We still have a long way to go in terms of education, compassion and health care for all. We must not abandon those now fighting for their lives. The people of this world need to work together to ease the misery and to end the AIDS crisis."

Brent can be reached at 300 Mercer Street Suite 26L, New York, NY 10003, (212) 533 4913  
Douglas Starratt

## SURREY ART SHOW BENEFITS PWAS

Last year a successful art show and sale was held in Surrey, co-ordinated by Julie Mahler with a share of the proceeds from sales going to AIDS Vancouver.

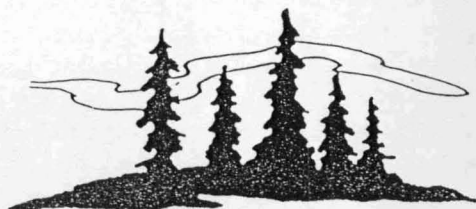
The event is to be repeated this year running from September 28, 1990 to October 8, 1990. 20% of proceeds of sales will be shared this year by AIDS Vancouver and PWA Society.

This year, recognizing that many persons with HIV disease turn to art to deal with the impact of the disease, Julie would like to dedicate some space to art, sculpture, pottery and poetry by those who are HIV positive.

If you would like to be involved—have your art displayed or perhaps even co-ordinate this part of the exhibition—contact Julie Mahler at 594 1546 or Terry Waines at 594 4686. Perhaps you know an artist who would like to exhibit. Participation is open to everyone.

The Exhibit aims to involve a broad base of artists and develop community caring. The exhibit will remain in Surrey because of the support of local artists last year. Part of the concept is "doing something" to raise awareness and Julie and I would encourage other parents of those impacted by HIV to become involved in this project. Give us a call if you would like to help.

Terry Waines



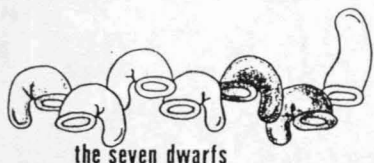


Photo by John Kozachenko

Entertainment sizzles in the August Heat

## SWALLOW A PILL - EASILY

Do you have trouble swallowing pills?

Try placing the pill on your tongue and holding it against the roof of your mouth. Take two gulps of water in quick succession, swallowing some of the water on the first gulp, and the pill on the second.

This technique forces the epiglottis—a fleshy shelf above the vocal cords—to fold down, making pill swallowing much easier, doctors say.

## FREE CONDOMS? ONE BARRIER WE REALLY DO NEED

*Ed Note: It may be that the policies described in the following article have not reached MSSH front-line workers. If you are prepared to make a request and, if necessary, go through the appeal process to set a precedent, you will be making a useful contribution to the well-being of all persons struggling to live on welfare.*

Condoms are important as contraceptive devices and they also allow persons to engage safely in sex. For many people on fixed income, access to condoms has been limited by the cost.

In a recent letter to the Coalition of the Disabled, former Minister of Social Services and Housing, Peter Dueck, stated that MSSH can provide contraceptive devices to individuals in receipt of Handicapped benefits. I understand this to mean that persons on income assistance may request additional money from their workers so that they may purchase contraceptive devices, or condoms. If this request is denied, then I would urge you to ask for an appeal kit and to file for an appeal.

Safe sex is a health issue. Welfare cheques very rarely stretch far enough to cover anything beyond the basics—food and shelter. AIDS information projects tell us we cannot afford to take risks, yet if condoms are not readily available from community outlets, and cost makes availability a problem, then MSSH should provide “health” funding to cover this need.

Such a policy should not be intrusive, and it is unfortunate that persons should have to make special requests. Nevertheless, a precedent must be set and acknowledgement of basic human needs should not have to be a big deal. We encourage people to request money for condoms from their workers. For more information contact Advocacy Access at the BC Coalition for the Disabled at 872 1278.

Robin Loxton

‘Transitions’, Newsletter of the BCCD

## HelpLine

### LIBRARIANS NEEDED

Member with computer and library skills needed to help out in the Society's Library on a regular basis. "But I can only work Saturdays." That's O.K. too. Sense of humour helpful, sensible shoes and glasses not absolutely necessary. Contact Jackie or Vick.

## THE FIRST VOICE A PWA HEARS COULD BE YOURS...

The Switchboard Committee needs help staffing our phone lines. Can you spare a 3 1/2 hour shift once a week? Training provided. Get to know your organization better and be a voice that represents us to the public and members alike. Call Bryan Wade or Jackie at 683 3381.

## NoticeBoard

**Lati Rinpoche: Death, Intermediate State and Rebirth Seminar** for terminally ill and those who work with them in which Lama Lati Rinpoche will explain in meticulous detail the stages of death and rebirth according to the Tibetan tradition. \$75 fee. September 8th and 9th at the Vancouver School of Theology UBC 6000 Iona Drive. For information call 255 1699, 876 7529, or 430 6864.

**AIDS Mastery** "What we always have choice about is the quality of our life." There are 19 spaces left for the Vancouver AIDS Mastery, November 16 to 18, 1990. Early registration requested and advised. No PWA will be turned away for lack of funds. Also professionals and caregivers have much to contribute and receive. We invite your participation. For information and registration, call Bill at 926 7529 or Joan at 736 8601.

**Roommate Wanted.** PWA member in good health would like to get together with same to look for suitable shared accommodation. Contact Gary at 251 3611.



Photo by John Kozachenko

### Parade Day Frolics

**Saturday Drop-In** Saturday social/info sharing drop-in held in the PWA Lounge from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm every Saturday. Meet other people with HIV, many who come in from the suburbs for this program. The library is open, peer counsellors are available, snacks and refreshments are provided. The roof deck is open for socializing if the weather co-operates. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday!



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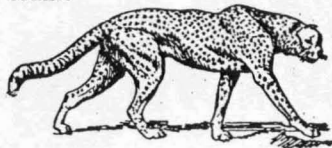
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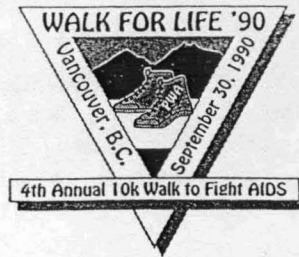
Many thanks to our production and assembly crew for recent issues: Grant Ito, Joanne Power, John Merritt, Robbie, Hans. If you want a volunteer assignment that's fun and rewarding, come join us on the lively Newsletter team!



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OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR THE VANCOUVER PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY.



## "WALK FOR LIFE '90"

**THE 4TH ANNUAL 10 K WALK TO  
SUPPORT PERSONS LIVING WITH AIDS/HIV  
WILL BE HELD ON**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1990  
CEPERLEY PLAYGROUND BY SECOND  
BEACH ON THE STANLEY PARK SEAWALL**

9:00am Opening Ceremonies, Registration and  
Light Breakfast for walkers and pledgers

11:00am "Walk for Life '90" sendoff

**"WALK FOR LIFE '90" PROJECT OFFICE  
1170 BUTE STREET, VANCOUVER, BC 688-9255**



A member of

