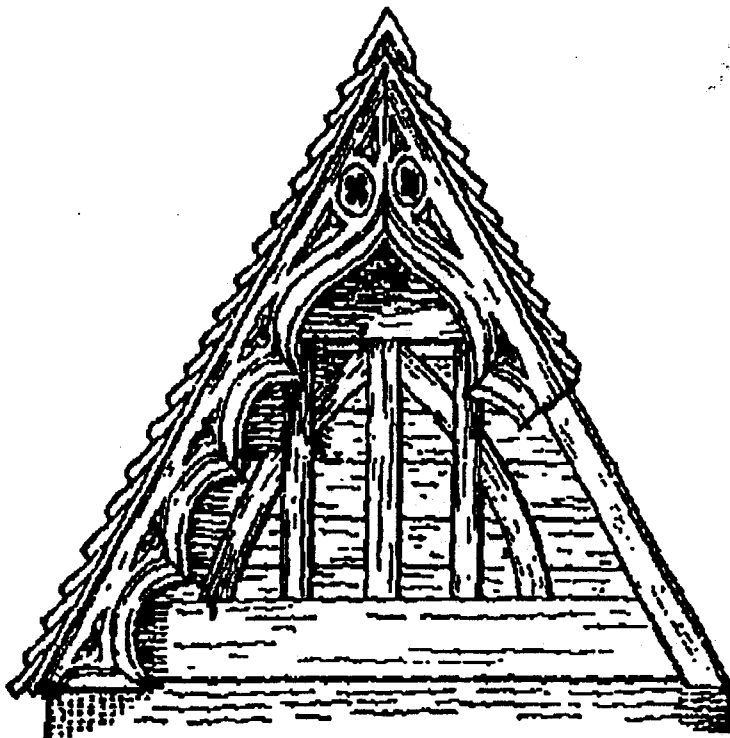


Vancouver PWA Newsletter Issue 47 May 1991

1447 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1W8 Tel. (604) 683-3381 Fax (604) 683-3367



OUR HOUSING SUBSIDY IS INCREASED!

The British Columbia Housing Management Commission, at the request of the Ministry of Health, has awarded the Vancouver PWA Society an additional 19 units to be subsidized for persons with HIV/AIDS. In accordance with Ministry of Health requirements, five of these units are to be allocated to women.

Under this program the Vancouver Persons with AIDS Society will be able to subsidize the rent of qualifying members so that their net rent will be no more than 30% of their income. The subsidy will enable a single person to live alone in a one bedroom apartment at a cost of no more than 30% of his or her income or in the case of GAIN recipients, no more than the shelter portion of the GAIN cheque.

Our Housing Subsidy Increased Cont...

If your current rental housing is costing you more than 30% of your income or if you are currently housed in inadequate housing you may qualify for a subsidy. Our criteria require that applicants:

1. be eligible for Complementary Health Fund benefits, i.e. be members who are HIV+, as established by a doctor and earn less than \$1,200 per month after deduction of uninsured medical expenses,
2. be willing to sign an agreement with the PWA Society to abide by the policies and rules of the subsidy program,
3. be capable of independent living either on their own or with appropriate support,
4. not be in receipt of any other housing subsidy.

The Vancouver PWA Housing Subsidy Committee have created a criteria and point system, in accordance with our Mission Statement, to determine allotment of the units being offered. The criteria and point system has been approved by the Board. The subsidies will be allocated according to the point system, with a lottery held in the event all points are equal.

To apply, complete the updated application form which you should have already received and return it to the PWA office within 10 days of receiving the newsletter. Your prompt action and full attention to details will best ensure an opportunity to participate in this limited program. We will continue to pursue more rental subsidies for members.

Housing Committee

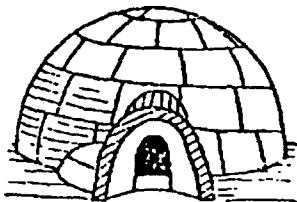


PHOTO CREDIT

The photo of Douglas Webb that appeared in his obituary in issue #46 should have been credited to the photographer John Kozachenko.

AIDS VANCOUVER AGM

The next Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver AIDS Society will be held on Tuesday, May 28th, 1991 at 7:00 pm at Gordon Neighbourhood House, 1019 Broughton Street, Vancouver, BC.

Pursuant to Bylaw 3.7 of the Society's by-laws, all individuals who have been members of the Society for 90 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, may vote at the meeting

HELMCKEN HOUSE

If you are HIV+ or have AIDS and are in need of housing because of a limited income, the McLaren Housing Society will be opening its new residence this summer. This will be a non-care facility designed for independent living. Interested parties in financial need should write to the McLaren Housing Society giving the following information: HIV diagnosis and current health, family size (single or couple), total income, and description and cost of current housing. Write immediately to:

Michael Danyluk, Admissions
McLaren Housing Society
PO Box 260 - 1027 Davie Street
Vancouver BC V6E 4L2

PENTOSAN POLYSULPHATE THROUGH EDRP

For Kaposi Sarcoma, pentosan polysulphate is a promising treatment. It is thought that it may interfere with the formation of new blood vessels that feed KS lesions. We expect to have detailed scientific reports available soon.

This promising treatment is available through the EDRP. Have your physician contact:

Marlene Cullen or Dr Sharron
Emergency Drug Release Program
Bureau of Human Prescription Drugs
Health and Welfare Canada
Place Vanier, Vanier ontario K1A 1B8

ACTING UP AT CONFERENCE

The 2nd Canadian AIDS Conference, "Enchanting Partners in the '90's" was held at the Hotel Vancouver from April 14th through the 17th.

The more than 600 delegates in attendance witnessed members of ACT UP Vancouver disrupt the opening address by the then federal Minister of Health, Perrin Beatty.

Beatty announced a change in immigration policy that would allow HIV infected person to come into Canada as tourists or visit family members for a short stay and a new joint project with the B.C. government to test 9,000 specimens of blood. Chanting "Peanuts from Perrin" members of Act Up dumped several sacks of peanuts onto the podium and questioned him on the relevance of yet another study and on the lack of death of his policies. The plenary session on the following day saw the then Provincial Health Minister John Jansen make his long awaited announcement, "that AZT would be fully funded by the province" and "that the province would be opening a 'centre of excellence' for HIV and other viral infections"

Apart from it being in the election grab bag, it's too little too late and the provincial government should take full responsibility for the untold suffering its past policies created. What is needed is a full PWA participation in formulating policy. However this is not likely especially in light of the recent cabinet shuffles and appointments of new health ministers on both levels of government.

Congratulations to Benoit Bouchard on his recent appointment as the new Federal Minister of Health and Welfare and to Bruce Strachan the new Sacred Health Minister. I can only hope that you will allow your ministries to be enlivened by the insights and motivations of people living with AIDS.

Overall the conference could be summed not by what we received, but rather by the demands we made.

These were voiced by Ms Joan Anderson, chair of the Canadian AIDS Society. Referring to the immigration policy, she stated "We need to stand firm so that people are not denied entrance or

force tested". As to the situation in prisons, "that we don't need a seropositive study to tell us that people are at risk, we know they are". "And we call on the Solicitor General to make condoms and bleach accessible in the prisons." In closing she said "We have to be accountable to the communities affected and to those lives affected by HIV. We must listen to those communities. In the face of extraordinary circumstances we believe that our demands are rational. We want our lives changed and that means that systems must be changed and we cannot change them alone."

John Kozachenko

DAPSONE/DDI ALERT

Are you taking DDI and Dapsone? If so, they must be taken at least 2 hours apart. The antacid in the DDI interferes with the absorption of the Dapsone resulting in some people getting PCP. If you have any questions, please check with your GP or with the Treatment Information Project (TIP) at 683 3381.

1991 AIDS CANDLE-LIGHT VIGIL

The 8th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be observed in May in major cities all over the world.

Vancouver's ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 26th, at 8:00 pm. The place is Alexandra Park, near the corner of Burnaby & Bidwell in the West End.

Candles, flowers, Kleenex, and the support, warmth and energy of 1000 loving hearts will be provided.

James Johnston,
Candlelight Vigil Committee

TDD READY

Deaf or hard of hearing? We now have a TDD machine which enables us to transmit and receive messages through our switchboard. Be sure to tell your deaf or hard of hearing friends that we now have a TDD machine.

Robert

AIDS TREATMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HIV INFECTION IN WOMEN

This article describes possible symptoms women may experience if they have HIV infection. Please be aware that these symptoms are also associated with many other less serious disorders. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please consult your doctor.

The World Health Organization estimates that worldwide more than one-third of persons infected with HIV are women. In merely a decade from now, the annual number of AIDS cases in women will probably equal that in men, making women, both nationally and internationally, the population currently being infected with HIV at the fastest rate.

Due to insufficient funding and lack of focus, information about HIV infection in women is sparse, but some generalizations can be made. For instance, Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), which is common in gay and bisexual men who contract HIV infection sexually, rarely occurs in women. Also, two-thirds of women who progress to clinical AIDS are found to have pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) by the time they are first diagnosed with AIDS, which usually occurs late in the course of their illness.

The classical early manifestations of AIDS in women are usually gynaecological complications, such as chronic vaginal yeast infections, anal or genital warts and ulcers, herpes simplex virus, and pelvic inflammatory disease. Notably, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) definition of AIDS does not include any of these gynaecological symptoms, which are known to occur with frequency and severity in women with AIDS. In July 1990 the CDC published a study stating that 65% of HIV-infected women died without fitting the CDC definition for AIDS. The ramifications of such underrepresentation are enormous: women are denied disability benefits; their illness goes misdiagnosed and untreated; and research efforts are skewed, distorting general knowledge of the scope of the AIDS epidemic.

Currently women are twice as likely as men to have opportunistic infections which are missed or misdiagnosed because HIV infection is not

suspected. When detection does occur a woman may progress from an AIDS diagnosis to death twice as fast as a man. In fact, according to CDC reports, trends from 1984-1990 show that women are more likely to die than men in the same month as they are diagnosed with AIDS.

Clearly, early detection and management of HIV infection in women is critical to improve survival. It is important to note that the following clinical manifestations of HIV infection can and should be considered and appropriately addressed, when treating all female patients. Any woman, regardless of her class, colour, ethnic origin, pregnancy status, sexual or drug-using history, and sexual identity, deserves proper medical attention and consideration in this matter.

Vulvovaginal Candidiasis or chronic genital yeast infection is thought to develop in more than one-third of women with HIV infection. Symptoms include severe itching and burning, odour from the vagina, and a "cheesy" discharge. This may be the first symptom of HIV infection in women. As T4 cell counts drop, serious yeast infections may occur in the mouth and throat, and later in the esophagus. Swollen lymph nodes, herpes simplex lesions, and a general lack of energy may also accompany this condition.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with the development of anogenital warts which may cause blockage, abnormal PAP smears, cervical warts, and possible cancer-causing tissue growth. Frequent recurrences of warts, especially after rigorous treatment, are common and may indicate HIV infection.

Some warts may be easily diagnosed. Inverted warts or dysplasia (abnormal tissue-growths) may present more serious problems. Detection by frequent PAP smears (although this may not adequately detect abnormal or cancerous cell growth in HIV infected women), as well as colposcopy and anoscopy are recommended. Asymptomatic women without dysplasia who have HIV disease should receive follow-up examinations every six months.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is a painful inflammation of the upper genital tract, possibly caused by sexually transmitted organisms and thought to be associated with chlamydia (a

sexually transmitted bacterial infection). Possible symptoms include collections of pus in the fallopian tube or ovary, difficult menstruation, infertility, and ectopic pregnancy. PID may be more common, more severe and more difficult to diagnose in women with HIV infection. Since there is no suitable diagnostic test and no single established treatment for PID, immediate hospitalization and specialized medical attention is strongly recommended when severe PID is suspected.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) such as chancroid, warts and syphilis, which cause genital ulcers, may increase the risk of HIV transmission for women. Other co-factors possibly associated in the severity and prevalence of STDs include: age at first sexual intercourse, prostitution, number of partners, cigarette smoking and diet.

Women often have insufficient medical care due to many psychosocial obstacles. Therefore, any contact between a woman and a health care professional is an invaluable opportunity for culturally-sensitive risk assessment of HIV and other STDs; education about transmission of HIV; information about drug and alcohol treatment; and ongoing counselling, support and medical evaluation.

Adapted from an article by Mary Beth Caschetta in Treatment Issues, Vol. 5, No. 1, pg. 3, Jan. 10/91. Published by Gay Men's Health Crisis, 129 West 20th Street, N.Y., N.Y., U.S.A. 10011

SKIN CELLS MAY BE HIV RESERVOIR

A fresh view of how the human immunodeficiency virus stages its invasion of the body may explain some of the more puzzling symptoms of AIDS and also suggests a need to modify treatment approaches.

Certain skin cells are key players in the infection scenario described by a British team at the Clinical Research Centre in Harrow, England. Long before any AIDS symptoms appear, HIV infects Langerhans' dendritic cells in the epidermis, Dr S. E. Macatonia and his coworkers wrote in the September 1990 issue of *Immunology*. The fact that the cells' depletion, infection, and dysfunction "precede any detectable T cell abnormali-

ties" suggests that they are "instrumental in the development of the immunosuppression seen in AIDS", the team said.

Study findings have shown that zidovudine (Retrovir, Burroughs Wellcome; AZT), the only approved treatment for AIDS, is useless against HIV-infected Langerhans' dendritic cells.

According to Dr Raphael Stricker, associate director of immunotherapy at Children's Hospital of San Francisco, dendritic cell infection may play a key role in the "astonishing array" of dermatologic disorders seen in AIDS pathogenesis. Such disorders, as well as the anergy to mitogen challenges, indicates defects in the antigen-presenting function of Langerhans' dendritic cells, Dr Stricker said.

Infection of these cells may account for reports of enhanced viral replication in the presence of ultraviolet B radiation and herpes simplex virus.

Solves riddle. Although the CD4 cell has been the centre of attention since it was described as the "conductor of the immune system orchestra" in early 1984, the small number of infected CD4 cells in HIV-infected people has baffled scientists. And the many symptoms not attributed to gradual T4 cell depletion and dysregulation—thrombocytopenic purpura, weight loss, and lethargy among others—have gone largely unexplained. But according to Suzanne Gartner, principal scientist at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation Research Laboratory in Rockville, Md., Langerhans' dendritic cells express surface-bound CD molecules. Thus, their early infection may help solve the CD4 riddle.

In a spectrum of HIV-infected patients studied by the British team, 3% to 21% of dendritic cells, but only 0.12% of lymphocytes and monocytes, were infected with the virus. When dendritic cells are infected, their capacity to stimulate T cell responses to antigens appears to be lost, the researchers said. Functional impairment of the cells when infected with HIV could thus block T cell recruitment into the immune response and in part explain the T cell dysregulation.

Ann Giudici Fettner, Medical World News, March 1991



MYCOPLASMA IN "AIDS"

A paper published in *Science* magazine adds support to the argument that a mycoplasma plays a major role in the pathology of "AIDS".

The paper is entitled "Enhancement of HIV-1 Cytocidal Effects in CD4+ Lymphocytes by the AIDS-associated Mycoplasma". The lead author on the paper, Dr Shyh-Ching Lo of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, has been the subject of numerous stories in the *Native* since 1987.

The paper is an attempt to show that a mycoplasma which Lo discovered may be the elusive—and treatable—co-factor in "AIDS". The paper may also be an attempt by Lo to be treated respectfully by the HIV establishment, because the paper still doesn't directly raise questions about whether HIV is even necessary to cause "AIDS". The paper also does not deal with the other contender for the cause—or chief co-factor—in "AIDS", the large DNA virus now called HHV-6, a virus capable of doing even greater damage to the immune system.

Although Lo's research, which has been supported by researchers at the Pasteur Institute, has pointed to the need for clinical trials to determine whether antibiotics are an effective treatment for "AIDS", some AZT activists have thrown roadblocks in the way. In New York, one researcher, who tried to get such trials underway, lost his job and was vilified for taking Lo's research seriously—by New York's AZT activist establishment.

If Lo had shown that his mycoplasma by itself could cause the death of human T-lymphocytes, he would have suggested that HIV is not necessary for the development of "AIDS".

Because we were curious about the tentative way Lo's paper stated that "In this study, incognitus strain infection did not produce detectable cytotoxicity," we asked a scientist who has worked with Lo whether there are other studies that show mycoplasma can kill human lymphocytes, and the scientist said that there are. If that is true, Lo will have to struggle harder to keep HIV inside the "AIDS" equation. Lo has presented such strong evidence that his mycoplasma can be a lone killer, he may have problems arguing that it has to be part of a biological team to do its dirty work.

Charles L. Ortleb, *New York Native*, March 11, 1991

ANTIBIOTICS USED IN CLINICAL TRIAL AGAINST MYCOPLASMA

Originally assumed to be a novel virus by American scientist Shyh-Ching Lo 4 years ago, when noted in some patients with AIDS, mycoplasma incognitus (MI) has been found in larger numbers of PLWA's. The role that MI plays in the context of HIV infections is unclear from Dr Lo's work, although in experiments with monkeys, it has been shown to cause fatal infections. Recent work at l'Institut Pasteur, Paris, suggests that mycoplasma might be a co-factor for HIV-induced cell death in laboratory experiments and Dr Luc Montagnier, discoverer of HIV, thinks that mycoplasma might be a possible co-factor in HIV-disease. Recently, the ability of mycoplasma to increase the destructive potential of HIV has also been demonstrated by scientists in Japan. *Lancet* 1990;1:247-248. Previous work by Drs Lo and Montagnier are discussed in *Treatment Update* 14. It appears that antibiotics which can affect mycoplasma are capable of reducing the destructive effects of HIV infection (in laboratory experiments) without direct anti-HIV effects. These antibiotics include tetracycline and its analogues (similar related drugs such as doxycycline).

Researchers at l'Institut Pasteur, have found that mycoplasma in HIV-infected people behave differently from previously observed mycoplasma, in that they appear to be more aggressive in their invasion of human cells. These researchers also found mycoplasma in 37 out of 97 subjects with AIDS. Mycoplasma may also play a role in the destruction of red blood cells. Recently, a clinical trial of antibiotics involves a group of 21 subjects with AIDS at l'Hopital de l'Institut Pasteur. The subjects were given tetracycline for three months. Improvements such as weight gain, reduction in fevers and night sweats were reported. However, by the third month, most subjects had relapsed. No improvement in the immune deficiency characteristic of AIDS was seen.

Subsequent laboratory analysis revealed that the mycoplasma rapidly developed resistance to the tetracycline. According to Dr Lo, the class of antibiotics called quinolones have potential for

anti-mycoplasma activity. Relatively new, quinolones are synthetic antibiotics, some of which are FDA-approved - norfloxacin (Noroxin) and ciprofloxacin (Cipro) - for clinical use. Other quinolones, including enoxacin, ofloxacin, perfloxacin, and amifloxacin, are currently under investigation. Even though the two currently approved quinolones are indicated in use for a small number of infections, quinolones have a broad spectrum of activity against many bacteria, including those which cause TB and MAC/MAI. Quinolones appear to be of no value against fungal infections. Side effects caused by quinolones have usually been mild and not dependent on the dosage used. In patients with kidney dysfunction the dosage of quinolones may have to be adjusted. **Drug Therapy** April 1989, pages 131-138 and **VI International Conference AIDS, San Francisco, 1990** poster THB 536. Dr Montagnier has said that the next experimental trial against mycoplasma will use antibiotics other than tetracycline in combination with anti-HIV agents. **II American Medical Association Annual HIV Conference, San Francisco, 1990** oral presentation. The Community Research Initiative (CRI) in New York plans to conduct trials of various doses of doxycycline (up to 200 mg twice per day) in subjects with ARC to see if there are any beneficial effects.

Meanwhile, work on the mycoplasma discovered by Dr Lo continues. An international research on MI has discovered that this particular species of mycoplasma is closely related to a normally harmless mycoplasma found in the human urogenital tract. This is causing a reassessment of the present knowledge about mycoplasma and now other strains living in humans will be examined for their potential effects on HIV infection. **Research in Virology** 1990;141:385-395.

Research by Dr Lo suggests that MI may play a role in kidney disease seen in HIV infection. Examination of the kidneys of patients who had AIDS as well as severe kidney dysfunction revealed that MI had infected their kidneys. In contrast, patients with AIDS but without kidney disease did not appear to have MI in their kidneys. **VI International Conference AIDS, San Francisco, 1990** abstract 535.

TIPS TO HELP MAINTAIN YOUR WEIGHT

The guidelines listed here will help you to eat as much as possible while your appetite is low.

1. Eat Often. If your appetite will not permit you to take large portions at meals, you must eat often to make up for this. Eat at least a few mouthfuls even if you do not feel hungry. Set meal and snack times (approximately every 2 hours) and try not to skip them. Eat your biggest meal when your appetite is at its best.

2. Always choose high calorie, high protein foods. If you can eat only a limited amount of food through the day, make every bite count. Low calorie foods such as tea, coffee, salads, clear soups, and most fruits and vegetables should be limited, because they make you feel full but do not help to maintain your weight. (To replace some of these foods take a multivitamin/multimineral supplement.)

3. Choose foods that are soft and moist. Because soft, moist foods are easier to eat, you are likely to eat more of them. Avoid foods that are dry or require a great deal of chewing. Some foods you may find difficult are raw vegetables, raw fruit, meat and sandwiches.

4. Be creative when you choose meals and snacks. You don't need to eat "breakfast foods" only at breakfast, or "supper foods" only at supper. For example, if meat and potatoes do not appeal to you at supper, have a milkshake, some cereal with milk, or any other high calorie food instead.

5. Make food preparation easy on yourself. You will probably eat better if you can avoid cooking. Conserve your energy by enlisting the help of friends and family members in food preparation. If you do your own food preparation, use as many convenience foods as you can. Keep your fridge and cupboards stocked with foods that are ready-to-eat (purchased foods such as canned puddings, or dishes prepared by friends).

6. Make a list of foods you enjoy and tolerate. Keep this list available so that you do not have to come up with new meal and snack ideas every day. It is perfectly acceptable to eat the same foods often if only a few foods appeal to you.

CCABC Nutrition Department, Courtesy St. Paul's Hospital

WE'RE OPEN

**Mondays to Fridays 10 am-5 pm,
Saturdays 11 am-3 pm**

PWA office (except Saturdays), drop-in living lounge, peer counselling and resource library. Juices, freshly-brewed coffee and other goodies when available at PWA Living Room Lounge. Information and resources available, library open, books, periodicals, audio and video cassettes, reference material, treatment/drug info., etc. Peer counselling available. Call PWA office 683-3381 for info.

Requisitions for Complementary Health Fund (CHF) refunds, if in by 11 a.m., cheques will be out by 3 p.m. (not available on Saturdays).

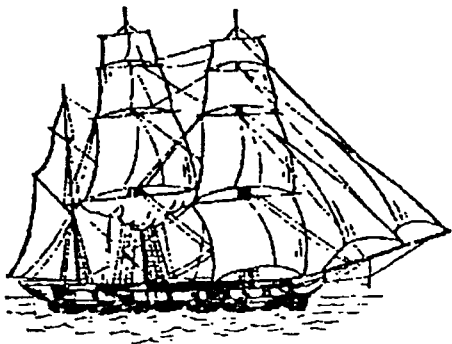
Other Services/Programs Offered by PWA:
Clothing/furniture exchange. Call Jackie at PWA 683-3381 for info.

Complimentary performance tickets: call Jackie at PWA 683-3381 for availability.

Blood testing: Call PWA office 683-3381 for info and pre-testing counselling. Applications at PWA reception desk.

Loan Cupboard: Ambulatory aids available. Manual Wheelchairs, walkers, canes etc. Available at AIDS Vancouver. Sponsored jointly by AIDS Vancouver and PWA. Call PWA office 683-3381, or AIDS Vancouver's Client Services at 687-5220 for info.
Housing subsidy: Receiving applications. Forms at PWA reception desk. Call Jackie at PWA 683-3381 for info.

Massage therapy: Free for full members. Call Bart Malone for info at 872-4323.



M O N D A Y S

Hairstyling: Free for all members. PWA offices. Mondays, 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Sign-up sheet on PWA lounge's bulliten board. Facilitated by an experienced hairdresser, Finn Mollerup. Please come with freshly washed hair.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: All Society members welcome. PWA boardroom, Mondays, 2 P.M. sharp. Meeting on May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24. For information, call Rick at 683-3381. Deals with access to treatments, human rights, political and legal issues within other matters. Services include external relations, media relations, speakers' bureau, drug treatment/trial info, monthly medical forum, etc.

Finance Committee meeting: All Society members welcome. PWA boardroom, Mondays, 2 P.M. sharp. Meetings on June 3 and 17. For information call Harry or managing director at 683-3381. Ensures proper financial procedures, recommends funding proposals, etc. Services include business management, office administration, fundraising, walkathon sub-committee, etc.

Art Therapy Group: Free for full members. No experience necessary - this is not an ordinary "art class". Facilitated by an experienced art therapist, Noel Silver. Leave message for Noel at 685-5240.

Therapeutic Touch: Free for full members. PWA boardroom, 6-8 P.M. Available May 27, June 3, 10, 17 and 24. By appointment only. Call PWA for information at 683-3381. Sign-up sheet at PWA reception desk.

Buddy Support Group: For buddies of PWAs. Sponsored and held at AIDS Vancouver, 1272 Richards Street every second Monday 7-9 P.M. Meeting on June 3 and 17. Call A/V at 687-5220 for information.

T U E S D A Y S

Executive Committee Meeting: All Society members welcome. PWA boardroom. Tuesdays on same day as Board of Directors meetings, at 2 P.M. sharp. Meeting on May 21 and June 4 and 18. For information call John or managing director at 683-3381. Co-ordinates the business of the Society, prepares agenda for Society's Borad of Directors meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting: All Society members welcome. PWA boardroom, Tuesdays, 7 P.M. sharp Meeting June 4 and 18. For information call Rick, John, or Managing director at 683-3381. Receives reports and advice from managing director and committee chairs on current Society activities, and passes required resolutions.

"Living with AIDS" Therapy Support Group: Open to persons with AIDS. Sponsored by PWA. At GLC, 1170 Bute Street, 1-3 P.M. Duration: 8 weeks, next group starting soon. Due to the intense nature of this group, a commitment for the full 8 weeks is requested. Led by experienced therapy facilitator. Limited to 10 participants. Call Jackie at PWA, 683-3381 to register and for information.

Woman and AIDS Drop-in Support Group: For women seeking info and support concerning HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Vancouver Women's Health Collective, held at #302-1720 Grant Street, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Call Jackie at PWA, 683-3381, or the Collective at 255-9848 (during drop-ins) for info. Children welcome! Se habla espanol.

W E D N E S D A Y S
Programs Committee Meeting: All Society members welcome and encouraged to participate. PWA boardroom, Wednesdays, 11 a.m. sharp. Meeting on May 29, June 12 and 16. For info call Bryan or program's manager at 683-3381. Develops and facilitates individual services and programs. Services include retreats, support groups, blood testing, living lounge drop-in, library, switchboard, peer counselling, help-line, reception, etc.

Healing Circle: For Society members. Sponsored by PWA, meets evenings. Call Lela at 689-8476 or Don at 682-2989 for registration, location and info. Not a drop-in group.

Chinese Medicine: For Society members. Consultations at PWA offices. 2-7 p.m. "Wait listed" sign-up register at PWA reception desk. Call PWA at 683-3381 for info. Facilitated by a professional. By appointment only.

Partners of Persons with HIV/AIDS and Family; Friends of Persons with HIV/AIDS Support Groups: All welcome. Sponsored by AIDS Vancouver. Meet separately 7:30-9:30 p.m. at St. Andrew-Wesley Church - rooms to be posted. Call Bridget at AIDS Vancouver, 687-5220, or Joy Moon at 299-4828 for info.

T H U R S D A Y S
Therapeutic Touch Sessions: Free for full members. At PWA boardroom, 1-2 p.m. Available May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20 and 27. By appointment only, Call PWA for info at 683-3381. Sign-up sheet at PWA reception desk.

"Get Over It": Drop-in AA meeting: all welcome, 12 step program, at PWA living lounge, 7-8 p.m. Call PWA 683-3381 for info. Of special interest to HIV/AIDS concerned persons.

"Body Positive" drop-in support group: all welcome. Sponsored by AIDS Vancouver, at PWA boardroom, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call Ken Mann at PWA 683-3381 for info. For those testing HIV positive, a confidential discussion group.

"New Hope" drop-in meeting: all welcome, 12-step program. At PWA Living Lounge 8:30-10 p.m. Call PWA 683-3381 for info. Of special interest to HIV/AIDS concerned persons. NA 24-hour helpline 873-1018.

"Coping with Loss and Grief" support group: a; welcome. Sponsored by AIDS Vancouver. Alternate Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Wesley Education Centre. Call Joy Moon at 299-4828 for info.

F R I D A Y S
Movie Night: Cancelled until further notice due to lack of attendance. If you want it resumed, please call PWA office at 683-3381.

S A T U R D A Y S
Drop-in: open to all HIV infected members. Ideal for out-of-towners or those working weekdays. Library open, information and resources available. Peer counselling available. Held at PWA living room lounge, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call PWA office 683-3381 for info. Juice, fresh-brewed coffee and other goodies when available.



THIS IS NOT A ONE NIGHT STAND: ARTISTS TO STOP AIDS

This show opened at the Pitt Gallery on May 1st as a fundraiser to benefit the AIDS Vancouver emergency fund, the Vancouver PWA Society, and ACT UP Vancouver (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power).

The hundreds of people who attended were entertained by live music and performances amidst the more than one hundred donated works of art.

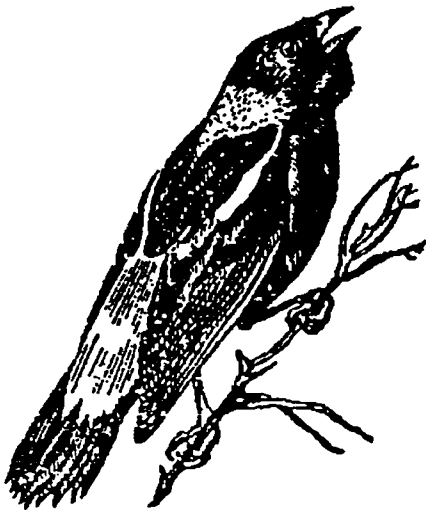
Donations at the door raised more than 1,600 dollars and to date over 8,000 dollars in art has been sold.

This event was the first of its kind since it was an opportunity for AIDS Vancouver, the PWA Society and ACT UP Vancouver to work together.

Many thanks got to these organizations, to Julie O'Rourke (the curator and coordinator of this event), to the staff of the Pitt Gallery, to the many performers and artists and to those who attended and made this a great success.

The show remains open and can be viewed through May 24th at the Pitt International Gallery, 36 Powell Street, Vancouver.

John Kozachenko

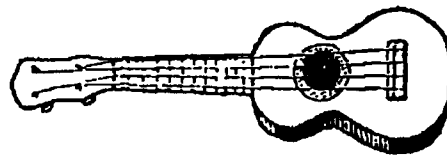


BENEFIT AT D&P'S

"A Tribute to those who've gone. A Benefit for those who remain", is an AIDS fundraiser being hosted by Doll & Penny's Restaurant from May 8th, through until June 2nd. Performances by top-notch entertainers and auctions of gift certificates are scheduled through the duration. Proceeds will be distributed to the McLaten Housing Society, Vancouver Meals, AIDS Vancouver and The Vancouver P.W.A. Society.

Additional information on entertainers and showtimes can be obtained by checking the listings in the Westender newspaper or by calling D&P's at 685-5080. The opening show on May 8th was a blockbuster with music provided by that wonderfully raspy voiced singer, Long John Baldry and drag and comedy by the evening's M.C., Rusty Ryan. The designated PWA Society benefit nights are May 17th, May 22nd, May 26th, and June 1st. It all ends on June 2nd with a show entitled The Doll and Penny's Follies. Many thanks to the sponsors, Doll & Penny's Restaurant and The WestEnder Newspaper, and to the performers and the staff of D&P's.

John Kozachenko



LESBIAN AND GAY CHOIR DEBUT

Vancouver Lesbian and Gay Choir in Concert: Start your summer on a high note! The choir's debut concert promises to be an evening of good music and community spirit. Sunday June 9, 8 p.m. at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Sign language interpretation provided. Tickets: \$12 at the VECC ticket office, at Little Sister's and from choir members. A limited number of \$5 tickets are available to people on social assistance. For information call David at 662-7496 or Harry at 689-0921.

VOLUNTEERS THANK YVONNE!

What a party! Yvonne organized a great party for all of us. Of course she was given support by Jackie, Judy and Chris, but it was her personal effort which made it happen.

I felt personally that my work was appreciated by our Society. And that that feeling was officially being recognized. Thank you on behalf of all of us, Volunteers. Thank you for appreciating our work.

She contacted numerous businesses in the community assisted by Edwin (now also staff). They responded with donations of services and food which were drawn by the angelic hands of Easter. Cineplex Odeon, Famous Players, Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium, Doll & Penny's Cafe, Pastamelli of New York at Denman Street, Bodhi Tree Floatation Tank Centre, Ten-Sixty-Six Restaurant, Art Knapp's Plantland, Raymond Hair Design, Seasons In The Park Restaurant and Landmark Limousines donated services. Burrard Street Deli donated food. Our Member David prepared an incredible punch to our delight. Brian decorated our boardroom for the occasion. Barry and Harry picked-up the donations and party favours. Steven also contributed.

Doreen, Brent, Brian, Bryan, Maurice, Michael, Michel, Mike, Kay, Barry, George, Graeme, Steve, Steven, Stephen, Russell, Kevin, Ron, Rick, Maurice, Ted, James, Jim, Philip, Tim, Stryker, Tom, Thom, Joe, Jamie, John, Mitch, Tracy, Richard, David, Mabel, Easter, Erwin, Edwin, Donald, Lim, Mary, Sharon, Gary, Brent, Arn, Paul, Chris, Steve, Dan, Gordon, Mark, Joanne, Gilles, Robert, Xavier, Helen, Daniel, Regan, Linda, Dean, Wally, Al and so many others attended. It was a great success. Even that we missed many of our volunteers who, for one reason or another were unable to join us in this celebration of appreciation.

Jackie was greatly inspired and thanked all forty or so volunteers who showed up that sunny Friday afternoon of April 26th. We all enjoyed the affair. Congratulations to the winners of the draws and our deepest gratitude to all who made it possible to be a success.

Harry

KUDOS OF THE MONTH

To Michael, Reggie, Carl, April and all other staff of the Esso Station Burrard and Davie for having our famous "Polka-Dot" decorated (originally by Bill, Nighsift) donation box be there permanently. This is co-operation.

Big Ones also to U-Frame-It Robson & Seymour, Scribe & Scholar Stationery, Metropolitan Home, Video Inn, Avenue Lounge of the Dufferin Hotel, Maritime Labour Centre and Simon Patrick Gallery for having our donation boxes be there permanently.

To Starbucks Coffee at 700 West Pender and ... For the Gourmet for their recurring donation of coffee and bread, respectively, for our lounge and members.

To the Vancouver Opera, Vancouver Men's Chorus, Arts Club Theatre, Vancouver Symphony for supplying complementary tickets to their events for our members.

To Lady Misty Dawn and Lord Samuel of the Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society for their Certificate of Appreciation awarded to our Society in recognition of our work for the PWA Community, during their "Thank-you for being a Friend" night of awards and entertainment held at T's Country Cabaret Friday May 10th. Thank-you for your acknowledgement.

To G.A.L.A. North for donating their March dance proceeds to our Society.

To the Dogwood Monarchist Society, Sounds & Furies Productions for the Doll & Penny's Cafe concert with Vicki Randle & Maureen Field, the Shaggy Horse Cabaret, Paris Place Investments Inc. and all others for their collection and fundraising efforts on our behalf.

To the Mennonite Central Committee of British Columbia (Clearbrook) for their provision of afghans for our independent and hospitalized members.

To the numerous members of the community at large for their donations and ongoing support.
Harry-Finance Committee

BOOK REVIEWS

SURVIVING AIDS

by Michael Callen

is a book filled with hope, in depth interviews with thirteen survivors, and a strong argument against AZT. Michael Callen's style is direct and to the point. His interviews are warm and compassionate, and his fierce discussion about AZT is a must read for all. I highly recommend it.

LOSING UNCLE TOM

by Jordan/Freidman PWA Library Access #

21

This well illustrated book is excellent for both parents and children in the way in which it deals with a young child's fears and feelings when their favourite uncle dies from AIDS. The illustrations are very well done and contribute a great deal to the excellence of this book. A definite book to read if you have children.

AIDS

by Niki de Sainte Phalle PWA Library Access # 1129

For a serious subject, this offers a novel and fun approach to teaching people about AIDS and how it can be spread. The illustrations are bright and vibrant and whimsical. The text is kept fairly simple though some terms may need explaining to younger children. It is definitely a good first book to get basic information.

Dancing Against the Darkness

by Steven Petrow, Lexington Books, PWA Library Access #1005

These are poignant testimonies of approximately 48 people whose lives have been directly or indirectly touched by AIDS. It is a moving account of men, women, children and the community at large. The reader will certainly identify with the profile of someone in this book. There are times when you want to scream "Stop! No more!" and put the book down, as this is not a "one-sitting" read. What can be learned by this? There are instances of undreamed-of hope and cases of crass misunderstanding on the part of whole communities. The reader is left knowing that AIDS is everyone's concern.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS CALENDAR

HOW ABOUT A TAX DEDUCTIBLE RESTAURANT DINNER??

Monday, June 10th, 7:00 P.M., LOOPS RESTAURANT proudly presents a Vancouver Persons With AIDS Society FUNDRAISER, featuring 4 course dinner, entertainment, dancing, no-host bar service, etc. Two PWA's of our Speakers' Bureau, will be on hand with information. *Contribution \$50.00 per person (individual tax receipts issued \$40.00 per person). LOOPS is located on the 3rd floor of LONSDALE QUAY MARKET at 123 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 986-8439. Support this fundraising event benefiting YOUR SOCIETY. Spread the word. Attend it yourself. Attend it with your fiends. Take the Sea-Bus. See you there.

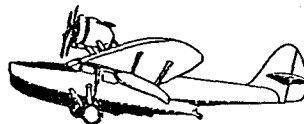
"ELEEMOSYNARY" BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

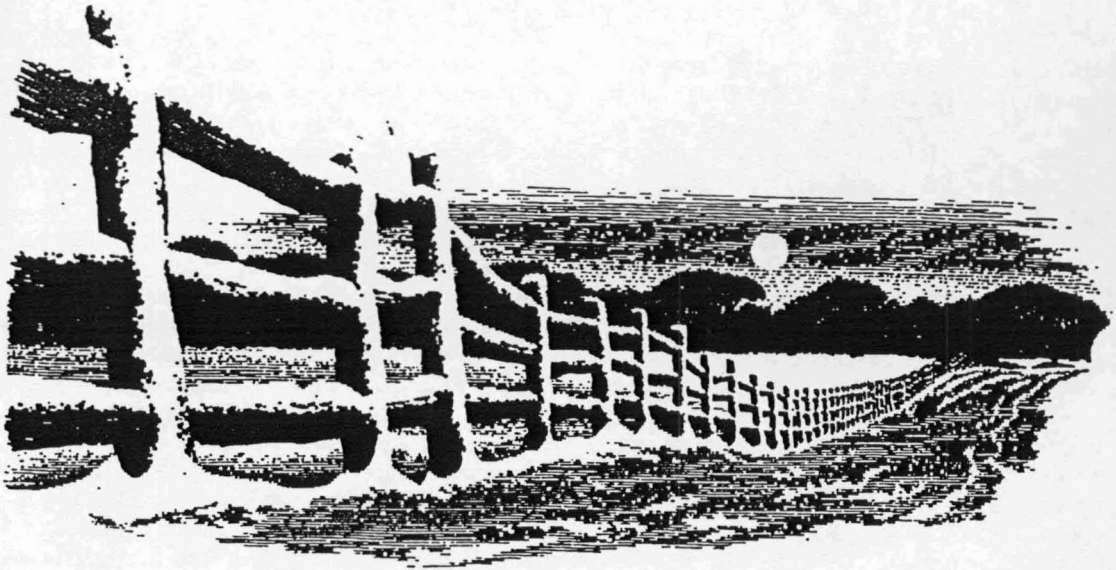
Sunday, June 9th, 8:00 P. M., at FIREHALL ARTS CENTRE, the EIGHT AVENUE THEATRE GROUP presents a benefit performance of their hugely successful HIT of the 1990 Vancouver Fringe Festival, "ELEEMOSYNARY" by Lee Blessing. Featuring an information table with 2 volunteers. *Tickets \$10.00. Net Proceeds to the Vancouver Persons With Aids Society. FIREHALL THEATRE is located at 280 East Cordova, Vancouver. Reservations at 689-0926.

"A PSYCHADELIC HOLLYWOOD TRIP" PARTY/DANCE

Sunday, June 9th, 7:00 P.M., at SPATS, FIRST CHOICE presents a party/dance hosted by the infamously spicy MISS MYRIA LE NOIR. *Tickets \$10.00 on sale at Little Sisters'. 10% of proceeds to Easter's Sundays.

Harry-Finance Committee





KYBOR DANCER

On February 23, 1991, my brother, Kybor, surrendered to his next great adventure. As he lived, so he died - peacefully, with dignity, trust, acceptance, faith, and without struggle. He is now spirit - free of all limits - safe, healed, whole.

This wonderful man was truly a teacher in the full sense of the word, and remains a powerful source of inspiration, courage and joy to the many lives he touched.

He strove always to discover who he was, and then to live his truth, and in so doing, reminded people of the truth of who they were. I have not known another human being whose life demonstrated so fully his integrity. The power he radiated drew people to him, and they were energized because he recognized and honoured the power in them.

He lives on, within me, and all around me, and I celebrate his life. Thank you, Kybor, for having so enriched my life by having the courage, strength, grace, and dignity to live your truth.

In love, light & joy,

Jana

DON COCKS

-April 1991

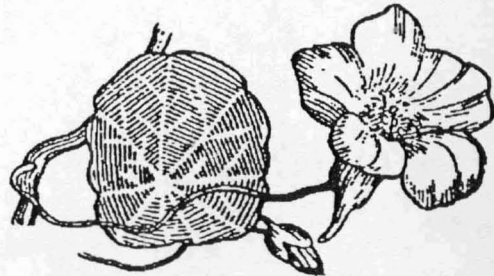
Another Beautiful flower from the Human Garden was picked to enter the next stage of life.

On April 15, 1991 Don Cocks passed away. In just the short time that I knew Don, he showed much courage, strength and love to all friends.

Don's wonderful humour and laughter will always bring peace to all who knew him.

Thanks, Don.

Paul Filip



PLANNING A FUNDRAISER?

We can help you, we have certain resources into which you can tap if you can tell us well in advance. Please call Harry at 683-3381 with all details. If possible, follow up with a letter with your proposal. After the event is approved by the Fundraising Committee, you will receive confirmation of our support of the event, detailing our mutual commitments.

We can be of assistance by helping you plan the event, authorizing the use of our Logo, publicizing the event in our newsletter and other standing advertisements, mailing invitations, reproducing and distributing fliers and posters, supplying volunteers to help throughout the event, etc. Unfortunately, we can not be responsible for selling tickets.

Fundraisers, please let Harry know your plans as soon as possible.

Harry-Finance/Fundraising

LANGLEY NON DENOMINATIONAL PWA SUPPORT GROUP

New non-demoninational PWA support group for Surrey and Langley area meets Monday nights, 7:30 pm, at Langley Vineyard (Glover & Logan).

Call 275-1415 and ask for John for further information.

SURREY HIV+ SUPPORT MEETING

A meeting for anyone HIV+ is held at Surrey Memorial Hospital, 13750 - 96th Avenue, on Sundays, at 7:30 pm in Room 2 in the cafeteria area. Call James L. at the PWA Society for more information.

LIVING WITH AIDS GROUP

Many times I have heard PWA's say that although their loved ones and friends try hard to understand what they are going through, they just don't. To be generally fatigued or tired all the time, to feel angry and hurt, to feel nauseous and short of breath on a regular basis, to feel as though we don't have any control over our lives any more, to be confused about whether we want to live or to die, to feel isolated from our families and communities... these are typical issues which PWA's face.

"Living with AIDS" is a therapy group for PWA's who are symptomatic, who are dealing with one or more of the many manifestations of HIV. The group is offered in a supportive and caring environment and is designed to help PWA's in facing the issues mentioned above. Due to the intense nature of the group, a commitment to attend all sessions is suggested. Each session is two hours in length and there will be 8 sessions. The living with AIDS group will be held during the day from 11 am to 1 pm. Juice will be served.

Previous participants have found the group to be very helpful, a place where they knew they would be understood and cared for, a place where they could build friendship, a place where they could explore and ease their pain.

To register for the next group, call Jackie Hegadorn at the PWA office. Limited to 10 participants.

Gail Farmer

HIV RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Lezlie Wagman, Community Health Educator, Vancouver Health Department speaks on Vancouver Women and AIDS Awareness Campaign: A Consideration of Knowledge, Acceptance and Attitudes, at Centre for Human Settlements Seminar Room, UBC. Wednesday, June 12th, 1991 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Tea, coffee and brownies will be served. Contact Alison Millward at 228-6081 for more information.

HEALING OUR SPIRIT

Healing Our Spirit is a newly-organized AIDS prevention society for aboriginal people, concerned with HIV/AIDS; to raise awareness within both rural and urban aboriginal communities; and to assist communities in preventative measures of the spread of the virus.

Presently, **Healing Our Spirit's** approach is unique because we are focussed on traditional healing practices and encourage the practice of traditional medicine in AIDS related cases. We are also concerned with assisting families and friends that are affected by the virus.

We are temporarily under the umbrella of the Indian Homemakers Association of BC and are in need of community support. If anyone is interested, please feel free to contact Tom, Leonard or Fred at 876-0944, or c/o Indian Homemakers Association, #201-640 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC.

THE NORTH SHORE SUPPORT GROUP

The North Shore Support is a group open to those who are HIV positive or Persons with AIDS, their families, friends and care givers who are looking for an informal atmosphere to discuss related topics, find mutual support and exchange ideas.

Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday in a North Shore home and attendance is voluntary. No dues are required or expected and participation is as you wish. You may join in the discussions or just observe.

The group is not exclusive to North Shore residents and invites all to attend.

Transportation can be arranged.

For information in confidence contact Merv at 986-2127, Quita at 926-6751 or fax 24 hours to 926-6751.

North Shore Support Group

HELPLINE BE A PEER COUNSELLOR

Have you ever been told that you are a good listener? Is this a skill you would be interested in developing? Have you considered becoming a PWA peer counsellor?

If this sounds like you, we would like to inform you of a workshop scheduled for June 7-8-9.

This workshop will provide participants with:

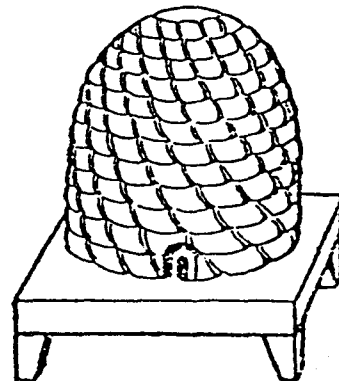
- an overview of peer counselling at PWA,
- practical skill development exercises,
- the opportunity to highlight important/central themes addressed by peer counsellors,
- a forum to discuss "where do we go from here?"

For more information or to register, please leave a message for Michael Doyle at 683-3381 prior to May 31, 1991. As space is limited to 10-15 participants, applicants will be contacted to arrange a pre-interview June 3-5.

Michael Doyle, coordinator, Peer Counselling Program.

INTERPRETER NEEDED

The PWA Chinese Medicine Project needs a volunteer who is fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese to assist Dr. J. Z. Shen. The commitment will be each Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please leave a message at the switchboard (683-3381) for Stephen McManus.



Staff Credits

Editor:

Douglas Starratt

Associate Editor:

John Liesch

Art and Layout:

Douglas Starratt

John Liesch

Typesetting:

John Liesch

Copy Typists:

Nelson L.

John Liesch

Production Manager:

John Mackay

Many thanks to our production and assembly team for recent issues: Yvonne, Floyd, Hans, Erwin, Lloyd, Michael, Brian, Wally, James Norman, Ken and John. If you want a volunteer assignment that's fun and rewarding, come join us on the lively Newsletter team!



NOTICEBOARD

Rainbow Garden Club: If you are interested in starting up a garden and could use some advice or if you are needing to have your garden, balcony plants or house plants maintained because you're not feeling quite up to the work right now, call Murray at 469-2531. This social club also enjoys monthly outings to gardens and places of botanical interest. Perhaps you'd like to join in?

Volunteers requesting lunches: Please phone in by 10:30 a.m. on the day that you are coming in and let switchboard know that you would like a lunch. We need to know how many lunches to order by that time of day. Thanks.

Repairs and art work: Car repairs and electrical - stereo equipment, VCR's, etc. Call Robert at 253-4323. Silkscreening - T-shirts, posters, banners. Call Phillip at 253-4323. Reduced rate for PWA members.

Haircuts: PWA member willing to go to members' homes or hospital bed and cut hair. Any questions please contact Rejean at 683-8142.

Vacuum cleaners in good condition needed for PWA's with dust allergies and other related health challenges. See Jackie or Harry.

Volunteers: We are presently updating our volunteer files. If you have filled out a volunteer registration form in the past and have not heard from us, it doesn't mean we don't need you! Anyone interested in volunteering, please leave your name and telephone number with the switchboard - 683-3381.

Broad leaf plantain: Have you used this plant for treatment of KS lesions? If so, please contact Stryker at 683-3381.

Bridge: Day, evening bridge on the go. Lessons for new players. Contact Stryker at 683-3381.

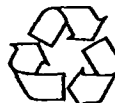
Tax returns: Tax returns still sitting there? Perplexed about the 5007 slip? Returns done free for members. Contact Stryker at 683-3381.

Member seeks assistance with repairs to 10-speed bike. Will pay for costs. Contact Jon at 689-0733.

A member of




United Way
Affiliate Agency.



This issue printed on 100% recycled paper stock.

THE VANCOUVER PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE VANCOUVER PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY. OUR OFFICE IS AT 1447 HORNBY STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 1W8 PHONE (604) 683-3381 FAX 683-3367. THE VANCOUVER PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION (REVENUE CANADA REG. #0760124-11-27)

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES BUT THE COALITION/SOCIETY DOES NOT RECOMMEND PARTICULAR THERAPY. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN BEFORE TRYING ANY NEW TREATMENT.

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