

condi



Can we talk?



VANCOUVER ISLAND 384-4554

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NEW DIRECTOR

Judith English, AIDS Vancouver Island's new Executive Director as of July 27 of this year, comes to us from Kingston, Ontario. She began the Kingston AIDS Project there in August of 1986, and is presently the Vice-chairman of the Canadian AIDS Society. Judith also brings with her four years of experience in palliative care, where she trained volunteers to become effective and supportive visitors to the dying and the bereaved.

Judith is one of only two women in Canada heading up an AIDS organization and, since her arrival three months ago, has worked hard to improve and expand the range of services A.V.I. offers. Her new programs include regular orientation sessions for all prospective volunteers, as well as specialized training for those who wish to become Speakers throughout Vancouver Island, "buddies" to a person with AIDS or ARC, and Helpline volunteers answering the phones.

Beginning January 7, A.V.I. is also offering a 12-week training program for people who want to be volunteer Emotional Support Workers. They will act as volunteer counsellors, on an appointment basis, for people who have AIDS-associated problems.

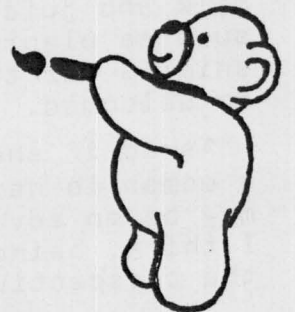
Besides offering personal counselling, A.V.I. has a "buddy" system where people who have AIDS or ARC (AIDS-related symptoms) are matched one-on-one with a trained volunteer for emotional support. In addition, there is Living Well, an ongoing support group for people who are diagnosed antibody-positive. There they can learn what it means to be infected, what they can do for themselves, and how to cope with it and go on with their lives.

People can also call the Helpline, make an appointment to talk with a trained volunteer, or just drop in to the office, Judith says. There are books, tapes and videos people can come in and look at or borrow to take home with them. A.V.I. also does a lot of public speaking to schools, churches, professional groups, street people, and the general public.

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Reference Material
NOT FOR LOAN
AVI Resource Centre

Judith says she's heartened by the calibre and diversity of the volunteers who are coming forward to help: men and women, young and old, gay and heterosexual people from a wide variety of professional backgrounds. "It's their enthusiasm and dedication," she says, "that make all our programs possible."

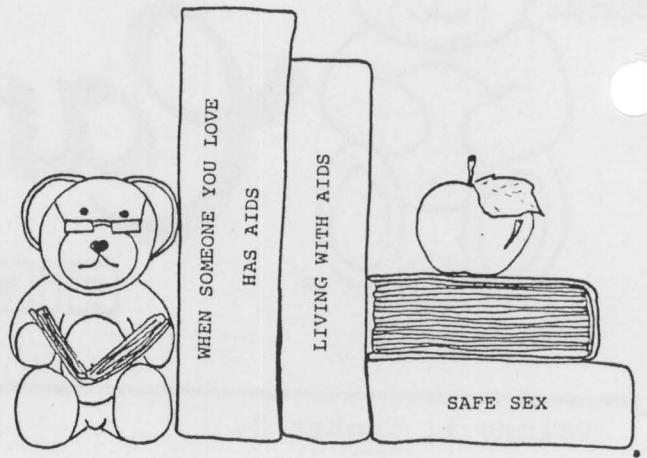
Judith is the first to admit that, even with all programs being staffed by volunteers, it still takes considerable money to finance the organization. AIDS Vancouver Island is presently funded by a federal grant from the Health Promotional Directorate -- a grant which is due to run out in October, 1988. However, A.V.I., like all British Columbia community-based AIDS groups, receives no provincial funding.

"This is quite different from some of the other provinces," Judith says, "and it's quite discouraging." Ontario, for example, has just given its community-based groups 1.6 million dollars. Community-based groups provide services the government doesn't offer -- personal counselling, support groups, practical help in day-to-day coping with the disease, and prevention education using street language when necessary in order to be understood.

"B.C. has the highest rate per capita of AIDS in Canada," Judith says, and the provincial government is missing the fact that community-based groups offer effective, inexpensive, and essential services in the AIDS struggle."

Donations and memberships also help with A.V.I.'s operating expenses, and Judith says that gifts of various items are very welcome too. The office needs a TV, for instance, for showing educational videos; they have a VCR but no TV. They also need a fridge where support groups and training groups can keep milk and juices cold. Even small items such as plants, pillows, and stuffed animals for the counselling room would be welcomed.

Asked if she finds it difficult being a woman in her position, Judith says it may be an advantage. "I'm a mother, and I think, being a mother, I can talk from the perspective of a parent who worries



about her children. This is one way I can connect very effectively with audiences. Also, I've worked for several years in the gay community, so I feel knowledgeable and comfortable with gay issues as well, which is important, since most people who have the disease so far are gay or bisexual men."

"There's a lot of reward in this kind of work," Judith says. "You meet wonderful people and you're present in their lives at a significant turning point, at a time when they're thinking through what's really important in life. To have the privilege of being there at that time is both moving and very enriching."

by Jack Hagenars,
Broadcaster.

Can we talk?

108-1175 Cook Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4A1
Business Line: 384-2366

EDITOR: Lorna Ryan
GRAPHIC ART: Les Chan
CARTOON: Diane Whalen

Curious? Worried?

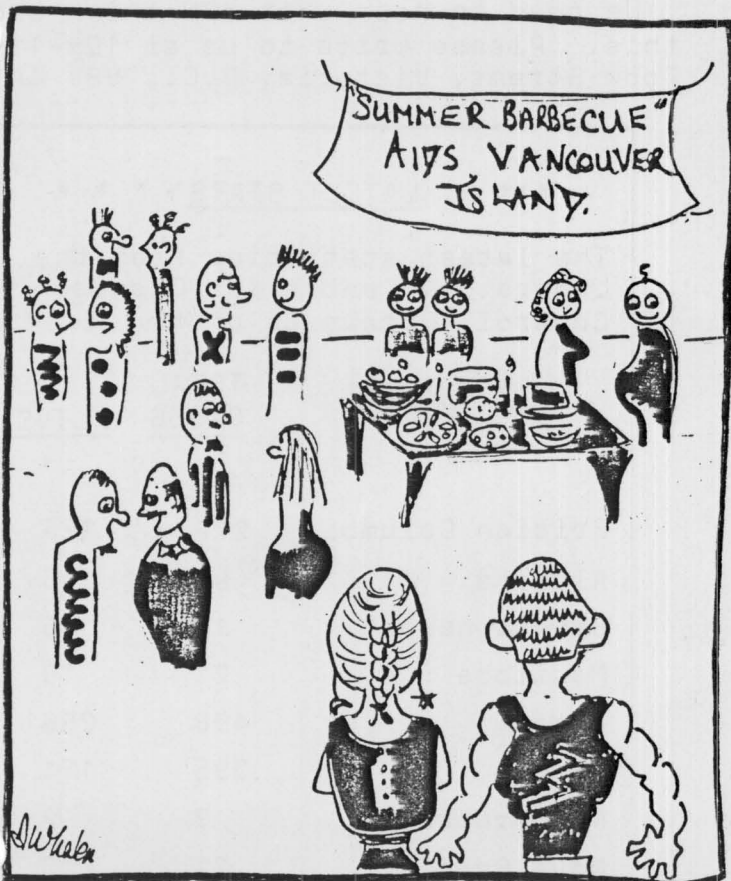
Want to find out about: AIDS?
"THE TEST?"
SAFE SEX PRACTICES?

For answers to these and other questions, we invite you to drop by our office at 108 - 1175 Cook Street and pick up one or more of the following free pamphlets:

- * AIDS and pregnancy
- * AIDS and The Workplace
- * AIDS Antibody Testing: What it's all about
- * AIDS: Get the facts
- * AIDS Important information for health-care providers
- * AIDS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS
- * AIDS in CANADA: What You Should Know
- * AIDS The New Facts of Life
- * I Can't Cope With My Fear of AIDS
- * If you use Needles, Don't Share
- * Sex and AIDS
- * Wellness and AIDS
- * When a friend has AIDS...
- * Women Need to Know About AIDS



If you are unable to stop by and would like a package of all 14 brochures, please mail the coupon with \$2.00 to cover postage and materials to:
AIDS Vancouver Island, 108 - 1175 Cook Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4A1.



"A great party, Harry, homosexuals, heterosexuals, bisexuals and asexuals. And the best part is, they're all safe sexuals."

AIDS BROCHURES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code _____

Also please include extra pamphlets of interest to: (check one)

___ gay males ___ lesbians

books

We are currently compiling a lending library of books on AIDS and related subjects. If you or anyone you know would care to contribute any books on AIDS, Stress, Nutrition, Healthy Living, etc., you are finished reading, we would be pleased to receive them and make them available to those in need.

Thanks..



We are pleased to announce the AIDS Benefit at Rumors Cabaret on October 8 raised \$1,020.00 for AIDS Vancouver Island.

Many thanks to all those who made the evening possible: Rumors staff and management for their continued support; Jack Horne for dancing; and John Willms and Steven Glover for flower selling, which added a warm touch.

We especially wish to thank those who contributed to the evening through their financial and emotional support.

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» NAME CHANGE? «

The AIDS Vancouver Island board is considering changing our name to AIDS Victoria, to end confusion with AIDS Vancouver. We would like to create a new logo and put "Serving Victoria and the Island" under the new name.

We need to hear what YOU think about this. Please write to us at 108-11 Cook Street, Victoria, B.C., V8V 4A1.

Dear Condi,

My partner refuses to wear a condom when we have sex; he says it's like taking a bath with your socks on. I love him and don't want to lose him, but I don't want to get AIDS either. What can I do?

Unhappy.

Dear Unhappy,

First, you can ask yourself if you're sure you want to be intimate with a man who's so willing to risk your health and perhaps your life.

But before you give up on him, why not try changing his mind about condoms? Buy a box of the new multi-coloured ones and spend an evening with your partner just "playing." Blow them up into balloons, twist them into balloon animals, try them on as stockings and gloves -- whatever you can think of to make them fun. ~~Then, try putting a condom on your partner as sensuously as you can.~~

Familiarity leads to acceptance, and once your partner feels relaxed and comfortable handling condoms, he'll likely be more willing to listen to your concerns about safety.

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Got a question for CONDI? Write me at Box 845, Station E, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2R9. For a personal reply, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

* * * LATEST STATS * * *		
The latest statistics from the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Ottawa as of Nov. 2/87		
	TOTAL CASES	ALIVE
British Columbia	279	126
Alberta	81	43
Saskatchewan	17	5
Manitoba	21	10
Ontario	498	253
Quebec	395	171
New Brunswick	7	2
Nova Scotia	21	13
P.E.I.	1	0
Newfoundland	5	3
Yukon and N.W.T.	1	1

AIDS Vancouver
Island is a Member
of the CANADIAN AIDS
SOCIETY/LA SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE DU SIDA



SUPPORT GROUP

LIVING WELL, the support group for those who have tested antibody-positive, meets every Thursday night. If you are antibody-positive, whether you have symptoms or not, consider joining this group. We can help you learn about AIDS, give you information on alternative treatments, advise you on who and how much to tell, help you maintain hope, and introduce you to others who are coping with these and other issues. For info, please call us at 384-4554.

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Write!

If you are unable to become a member of AIDS Vancouver Island, please ask to be put on our mailing list.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

CAN YOU HELP?

Our A.V.I. office is in urgent need of several items. Since our budget is limited, we hope you or someone you know will be able to donate one or more of the following:

- * a portable TV, on which to show our educational videos.
- * a small fridge
- * shelving units for books and pamphlets
- * a coat rack
- * stacking trays
- * a typewriter
- * typewriter table
- * desks
- * a couch and armchairs
- * stuffed animals for our counselling room
- * pillows and plants

Of course, a financial donation toward the purchase of any of the above would also be much appreciated. Charitable donation tax receipts will be provided for donations of money or goods.

Join us! Your input and financial support will aid in maintaining and expanding our educational and counselling programs.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Please address your \$10.00 cheque to:

AIDS Vancouver Island
P.O. Box 845, Station E
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2R9

Memberships will be valid for one year and members will receive regular newsletter mailings, a complimentary copy of the book, "AIDS What Every Responsible Canadian Should Know," and are entitled to vote at AVI annual general meetings.

