

The Update

VANCOUVER ISLAND AIDS SOCIETY

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Welcome! Welcome!

The volunteer ranks at A.V.I. are expanding. I would like to welcome the new volunteers joining the programme this fall: Mary Ellen, Frances, Debbie, Donna, Gladys, Chris, Mary, Shelly, Joe, Pat, Joanna, James, Nancy and Mrs. Norman...and I'm sure there will be more. We look forward to working with all of you and the skills and experience that you bring.

Li Decosas
Coordinator of Volunteer Services

World AIDS Day Proclaimed by Esquimalt Municipality

WHEREAS 1st December, 1989 has been designated "World AIDS Day" by the World Health Organization;
and WHEREAS all citizens share a commitment to AIDS education and prevention;
and WHEREAS the focus of this day will be AIDS and youth;
and NOW THEREFORE, I, Ron Warder, Mayor of the Municipality of Esquimalt, do hereby proclaim the day of 1st December, 1989 as "WORLD AIDS DAY", in the Municipality of Esquimalt.

W.R. WARDER
MAYOR

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READ THE FINE PRINT

The Update is published monthly by the Vancouver Island AIDS Society.
K.G. (Kat) Cruickshank, Editor; D. Jensen, Assistant

or word-
nesday of each

Reference Material
NOT FOR LOAN
AVI Resource Centre

Hey!!

EDITORIAL

Just a few things I'd like to bring to your attention...

We're still looking for a **Medical Columnist**. This is a really serious request. If you yourself are not qualified to write a medical column for the Update, perhaps you know someone who is. Get the word out, we really need somebody!

This leads quite naturally into the next topic...I feel, as editor, that the opportunities the Update presents as a forum for discussion, opinion, news, and just plain old self expression are being under-utilized. I'm still doing most of the writing for this newsletter, and that's not really right. I'm not personally connected with any of the volunteer programmes at A.V.I., nor am I expected to know what everyone is doing every month...I have to stress that the Update is provided for your use. It was never intended to be the work of one person.

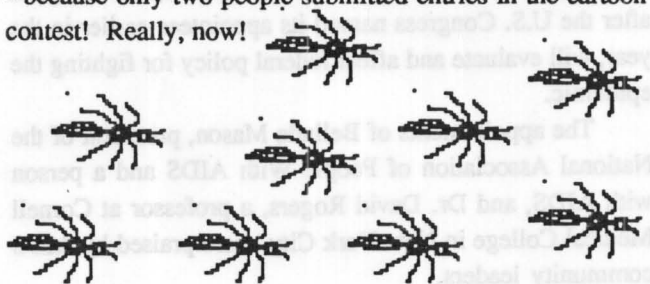
I would just like to suggest that perhaps, for starters, programme coordinators could write a short piece each month on their programme's activities, new developments, concerns, etc. Helen has submitted some new book titles and some very exciting Library news this month, if you require an example of what I'm looking for.

Regular input of some kind from either the Executive Director, or the Board, or both, would be more than welcome.

And as for the "rank and file" of A.V.I. - the uses of the Update are limited only by your imagination! Take out free ads (as in last month's issue)! Write book reviews! Write opinion pieces! Just write...something, anything. I'm supposed to be the editor. I'd much rather edit than write. Well, let's put it another way - I'd rather use my writing skills to actually write real editorials - not stuff like this. Come on, you owe it to yourselves.

- K.G. (Kat) Cruickshank

P.S. Nobody won a bag of ants from two month's ago - because only two people submitted entries in the cartoon contest! Really, now!



AIDS Counselling Conference in Vancouver

On October 2, 3, and 4, Ken Libbey and I attended a conference in Vancouver on HIV/AIDS counselling. This conference was sponsored by the Federal Centre for AIDS. Many of the people present were social workers, counsellors and private therapists with representation from A.V.I., VIPLWAC, AIDS Vancouver, Vancouver PWAS, and the Hemophiliac Support Group. Guest speakers included Dr. Alistair Clayton, Director General of the Federal Centre for AIDS; Claire Duchesneau of the Social Services Department of Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital; Les Gallo-Silver, Clinical Supervisor at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital; Dr. Jeffrey Kelly, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Mississippi, and others.

As you can see - this was a pretty heavy ensemble. Looking at the list of speakers overwhelmed me and I was sure I wouldn't understand a thing. But as the conference got underway and we talked about homophobia, fear of infection, issues of death and dying, personal issues of involvement in AIDS - I began to realize that when you stripped the titles away here were people dealing with the same problems we all do.

One of my favourite speakers was Kathryn Templeton, a private therapist with a gay and lesbian clientele. She spoke very personally in a calm yet passionate voice about coming to terms with AIDS for herself and working with clients who are HIV+ or who have AIDS. She spoke of our "fear of being moved": that we have to work at not being afraid to feel. To cry, to laugh, to be angry is to be human. "Fear is the killer," she said. "Don't be afraid to be open. Don't be afraid to be inappropriate...Never assume that you know how someone is going to move into healing and where that will be. And remember that we are [all] going through that process."

- David Swan

Bush Appoints PWA to AIDS Commission

Washington, D.C., July 20, 1989...President Bush today named two individuals to the National AIDS Commission, including a person with AIDS. The commission, now complete after the U.S. Congress named its appointees earlier in the year, will evaluate and affect federal policy for fighting the epidemic.

The appointments of Belinda Mason, president of the National Association of People With AIDS and a person with AIDS, and Dr. David Rogers, a professor at Cornell Medical College in New York City, were praised by AIDS community leaders.

News from the Library New Acquisitions...

We have catalogued some more new books which may be of interest.

- *Living with AIDS: Reaching Out* by Tom O'Connor
A "How to survive" book written by a PWA. If you read it, please let me know what you think of it - thanks!
- *AIDS Issues: Confronting the Challenge* by David Hallman
This is a theological perspective and is an overview of complex ethical and theological issues.
- *AIDS: A Self Care Manual*
from the AIDS Project of L.A., Editor: Betty Clare Moffatt
A comprehensive guidebook.

PBS Series on Video

"The AIDS Quarterly", shown on PBS on September 27, was the third in a series of news and documentary magazine programmes about AIDS. It is now available on video from the library. This installment of the programme has segments on:

- A Place like Chicago - AIDS and race
- AIDS and the Second Sex - AIDS and women

If you are familiar with this series, the third installment is a continuation of the high standard already set. If you don't know it, you might want to look at "The AIDS Quarterly" Numbers One and Two first.

Now for the really good news!

We have had a very generous donation of funds from the Eagle Lodge in Nanaimo and the E.D. and Board of A.V.I. have allocated \$500 for us to purchase some updated material for the library. Don't all rush at once - we do have a list of "needs" - but if you have a particular item that you would like to see in our collection - be it a book, video, or audiotape - please give me a call or leave a note in the office for me, and we'll see what we can do.

- Helen Ayers

Quilt Volunteers Needed!

For those of you who have not yet signed up to work on the Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt) while the Quilt is on display at the North Park Gallery November 30 through December 3, 1989, please complete a volunteer form at the A.V.I. reception desk, or contact Grant Sullivan, the volunteer coordinator for the display at 595-0528. Volunteers are needed as quilt monitors, emotional support, hospitality. When completing the form, please indicate the times you are available. First orientation for volunteers will be held in mid-November, with a viewing of the Quilt and final orientation November 29.

You are Cordially Invited
to Attend the Opening Ceremonies
of
The AIDS Memorial Quilt

Fran Willis North Park Gallery
1619 Store Street, Upstairs
Thursday, November 30, 1989, 7:00 pm

Reception to follow
Swan's Banquet Room, next door, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

The Quilt Exhibit will continue through
the weekend until 4:30 pm, Sunday, December 3, 1989.

The Exhibit will be formally closed
with a candlelight vigil and march that evening.

A Benefit Concert entitled "Pride & Spirit"
will be held on Saturday, November 25 at 7:30 pm
at the Victoria Conference Centre
to raise funds for the Vancouver Island AIDS Society
and the Vancouver Island Persons Living With AIDS Society.

These events are being held in support and recognition of
World AIDS Day, December 1, 1989
declared by the World Health Organization.

In keeping with the principles of the Names Project Foundation
no religious or political speeches will be entertained
at the ceremony.

RSVP or for more information:
384-2366

Local Gay Support Services

For your information...

- Metropolitan Community Church
Phone 386-5078
Rev. Laurence Blakie
- Gay and Bi Men's Discussion Group
Phone 598-0528
G. Sullivan
Phone ahead - meets on Monday Evenings.
- Gay Coffeehouse
James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego St.
Thursday Evenings 7:30 - 10 pm
Small fee levied.
- Island Gay Society Monthly Socials
Nanaimo Harewood Fire Hall
Last Saturday of each month.
- and Rumors, of course.

and now, it's time for...

Technical Difficulties

Well, this is it! What can I say? It's been a slice. Yes, the Technical Support Programme as we know it is coming to a close, more or less, on November 17. Valerie is very pleased to announce that the project has accomplished all its objectives. We're all pretty satisfied with it, up here.

We won't be disbanding all at once, however. Todd and Peter will be leaving the nest in November, but the Technical Support Programme has obtained a limited extension which will enable Valerie, Claudine and myself to stay on until December 15 in order to tie up loose ends and finish some projects.

I don't have enough space to personally thank everyone by name. You should know who you are. However, I think that I will, on behalf of Todd, Claudine, Peter and myself, give Valerie Thompson Williams a big round of applause for managing what has at times been a pretty heavy and troublesome project. If your patience came in bottles, Valerie, I think red wine would have a run for its money...

But hey, it's been fun too.

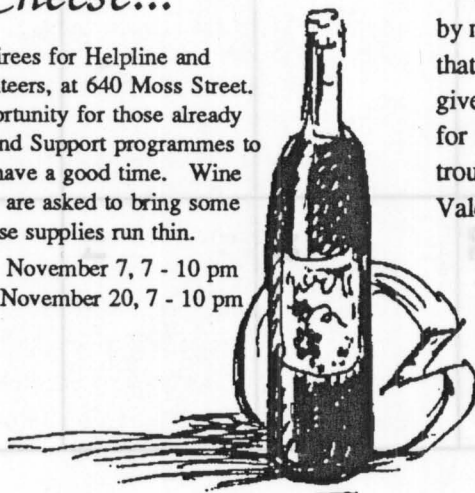
And to all the folks "downstairs" at A.V.I. I can only say, Stick it out. Sooner or later things will run smoothly around here, right? Enjoy your new office space. I'm going to enjoy being "just" a volunteer.

- Kat

Wine & Cheese...

LI is hosting two soirees for Helpline and Support Programme volunteers, at 640 Moss Street. Both evenings are an opportunity for those already involved in the Helpline and Support programmes to meet new volunteers and have a good time. Wine will be available but you are asked to bring some of your own as well, in case supplies run thin.

Helpline Wine & Cheese: November 7, 7 - 10 pm
Support Wine & Cheese: November 20, 7 - 10 pm
See LI for more details.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 Business meeting 12:30 pm Women's support group 7:30	3	4
5	6	7 Helpline Wine & Cheese Li's place 7:00 pm	8	9 Women's support group 7:30	10	11
12	13 Holiday Office closed	14 Board meeting 7:30 pm Begbie Hall, Royal Jubilee Hospital	15	16 Business meeting 12:30 pm Women's support group 7:30	17	18
19	20 Support meeting 6:45 pm	21	22	23 Office move! Women's support group 7:30	24 Office move! New phone system installed!	25 Pride & Spirit Benefit Victoria Conference Ctr. 7:30 pm
26	27	28	29	30 Quilt Opens 7:00 pm North Park Gallery (to Dec. 3) Women's support group 7:30		

Yes!!! We're moving to bigger, better office space on the 23rd and 24th. The new space? Right upstairs in Room 222, former home of the Technical Support Program...(does anyone remember the theme music?) I am assuming volunteers will be needed to help with the move. A new phone system will be installed on the 24th as well.

Sex is no substitute for peace of mind.

— Christopher Butterfield