



The Update

VANCOUVER ISLAND AIDS SOCIETY

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New Year Visitors

David Garmaise, Canadian A.I.D.S. Society (CAS)

The Board, Staff and Coordinators of AIDS Vancouver Island had the opportunity of visiting with David Garmaise from CAS on January 12, 1990. David had three major objectives in visiting A.V.I. His first aim was to try to answer questions about National issues and hear our concerns on them. Secondly, to meet volunteers, board and staff and develop a sense of some of the critical issues we are facing. And finally to get some feedback from us on initiatives that CAS are planning or considering.

Many thanks to the coordinators, board, volunteers and staff for making David's visit so productive.

The Honorable Perrin Beatty

AIDS Vancouver Island had the unique pleasure of a brief though informative meeting with The Hon. Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Health and Welfare Canada on January 31, 1990. This visit came about as a result of a meeting with Larry Frost (AVI Board Vice-President at the time) at the International Conference on AIDS (June 1989) in Montreal.

National issues about AIDS were discussed, and of those the Times-Colonist covered the event well. Excerpts from the article are as follows:

Mr. Beatty has red-circled AIDS as an area where there can be no funding cuts but AIDS Vancouver Island isn't sure we'll get increased funding.

AIDS Vancouver Island currently receives \$82,000 in federal funding annually and has put in an application for \$130,000. A decision will be made in March from the office of Mr. Beatty.

The AIDS Vancouver Island budget next year is \$250,000, with the balance coming from the United Way and community funding.

Increased federal funding is particularly needed to pay an

education co-ordinator and a support co-ordinator. Education is a major weapon in a war against AIDS, Beatty said. What we are dealing with is a sense among young Canadians that this is something that happens to someone else. We have to find a way to promote educational programs and make sure they are effective and actually change behaviour. Needle exchange programs are vital, Beatty said.

Victoria's needle-exchange program is paid for by the Capital Regional District. The province has so far refused to participate.

"We have a disease which has already taken too many lives in Canada. We have 50,000 Canadians probably infected by the virus at the present time," he said.

Mr. Beatty added, "There have been some recent signs of response from the B.C. government. The main object for all governments and organizations must be to save lives. Municipal governments should also be considering helping AIDS Vancouver Island."

None of them in this region have helped in funding. They say it's regional but I would like to see them helping with services to their citizens, Beatty said.

TIMES-COLONIST/February 1, 1990.

"By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be a boss and work twelve hours a day."

-Robert Frost

CONTENTS

NEW YEAR VISITORS.....	1
MY LIFE STALKING AIDS.....	2
WHAT'S SAFE?.....	2
A MAGAZINES' STAND.....	2,3
VOLUNTEER AND WORKSHOP NEWS.....	3
POETRY CORNER.....	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	4

READ THE FINE PRINT

Reference Material
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AVI Resource Centre

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My Life Stalking AIDS

The following is the first part of a two part feature that will rap up next month in the Update. Both parts are excerpts from Discover magazine - October 1989 and written by the man who discovered the cause of AIDS (Robert C. Gallo) as he reflects on what we know about this insidious disease.

What we thought ten years ago

We've learned in the past ten years that some of our most strongly held beliefs of just a decade ago were dead wrong. If you turn the clock back exactly ten years, to 1979, there was a widespread notion that epidemic diseases were things of the past, at least in the so called developed nations. Vaccines and antibiotics had apparently tamed the microbial world; indeed, molecular biologists were domesticating viruses and bacteria in the laboratory, using them as tools to study human genes. Medical microbiology was already somewhat passe', so much so that some major medical schools had dropped the subject.

Another view held was that a worldwide outbreak of infectious disease was impossible unless the microbe was casually transmitted. A virus that needed the intimate contact of sexual intercourse or the exchange of blood, it was thought, or a virus that was transmitted congenitally from mother to child, would simply travel too slowly to become a widespread threat.

A third notion was that a type of virus called a retrovirus didn't exist in man. These viruses had been known since the turn of the century to cause diseases -- including cancers -- in animals. If they also existed in man, the argument went, they would have been detected a long time ago. And finally, the prevailing opinion, even during the 1970s, was that no virus that infected humans caused cancer.

What we know today

With an estimated 500,000 AIDS cases in the world - more than 90,000 in the U.S. alone -- it's obvious that infectious diseases have not gone away. That's lesson number one. Before AIDS we hadn't had a worldwide epidemic since the end of World War I, when influenza killed more than 20 million people. But the lull didn't mean that we were so clever, that we'd vanquished infectious disease. Throughout history epidemic diseases have appeared and disappeared, and there have been many periods, some lasting hundreds of years, when no major outbreaks were known to have occurred.

We've learned that viruses spread by close contact certainly can become global, if you allow for two conditions that people didn't allow for earlier. The first is that the virus remains infectious not for days but for years; obviously a

virus that is passed on only by acts of intimacy and exchanges of blood can't travel far if people are infectious for just a short time. The second condition is that the virus is capable of lying low for long periods without producing obvious symptoms; if people can unsuspectingly carry and transmit a virus for ten years, the infection can spread far and wide.

If you take a virus like that and introduce it to an increasingly mobile society, then the possibilities of global spread are greatly increased. I suspect that until the 1950s the AIDS virus was probably isolated in small pockets in Central Africa. But when people started moving from rural communities to large cities, they brought the virus with them. And by the 1960s, technological advances like the passenger jet began to bring people around the world into closer contact. By then, also, the medical use of blood had become global. Blood products for hemophiliacs, for example, were being sent from the United States to Japan. As a result, a virus that might once have remained relatively rare and isolated became common and global.

Next Month: Retroviruses & HIV and The Viruses' Origins.

What's Safe?



A Magazines' Stand

A monthly publication called **Men's Fitness** magazine has a commitment. Each month it offers a feature called **AIDS Watch** which gives the latest research known to the magazine and to its reader. Here is their stand:

Because we at Men's Fitness consider AIDS to be the greatest menace to public health in our lifetime, we offer this column to let you know the status of current research on AIDS. Anyone with press releases or scientific papers relating to the cure or prevention of AIDS is invited to submit this material to AIDS Watch, Mens Fitness, 21100 Erwin St., Woodland Hills, Ca 91367.

Volunteer News

Training

AIDS Vancouver Island commences February 19 it's ongoing training seminars for its existing and especially new volunteers. The seminars run for four consecutive Monday nights from 6:15 - 9:30. There is also scheduled an all day workshop on Saturday March 17, 1990 from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Locations for the seminars will be announced.

February 19 - Introduction to AVI - AIDS 101(1)

February 26 - Sex and Sexuality - AIDS 101(2)

March 5 - Street Issues/Testing/Film: "A Death in the Family"

March 12 - Psychosocial Issues/PWA Panel

March 17 - Communication Skills

Support Volunteers

As a reminder to all AVI support volunteers, the mandatory support meeting will be held on February 12, 1990 at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to attend please call David at 384-2366.

Training Extra

Careertrack has announced a one-day seminar on **The Working Woman's STRESS Management, Tuesday, March 13, 1990**. The cost of the workshop is \$95.00. If you would like further information or would like to register, please contact David Swan.

Workshop News!

The **Volunteer Leadership Development Program** has the following scheduled workshops:

Essentials of Successful Boards / Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00pm.

Marketing / Thursday, February 22 at 7:00pm.

For further information and registration please contact the United Way of Greater Victoria or Margot Moore at 388-6376.

The happiest miser on earth is the man who saves up every friend he can make.

Robert E. Sherwood

Poetry Corner

Poem for every Man

*I will present you
parts
of
my
self
slowly
if you are patient and tender.
I will open drawers
that mostly stay closed
and bring out places and people and things
sounds and smells, loves and frustrations, hopes and sadnesses,
bits and pieces of decades of life
that have been grabbed off
in chunks
and found lying in my hands.
They have eaten
their way into my memory,
carved their way into my heart.
Altogether --you or I will never see them --
they are me.
If you regard them lightly,
deny that they are important
or worse, judge them
I will quietly, slowly,
begin to wrap them up
in small pieces of velvet,
like worn silver and gold jewelry,
tuck them away
in a small wooden chest of drawers
and close.*

AVI Library

AIDS Vancouver Island has an ever growing library to those readers that would like a little more information. It contains printed, audio and video material available to the public over a reasonable period of time. Material may be examined during office hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.



February 1990

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Helpline meeting 6:30 pm	7 Family, Friends & Lovers Support Group 7:30 pm 923 Burdett	8 Business meeting 12:30 pm Women's support group 7:30 pm	9	10
11 HIV Support Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Mandatory Support meeting 6:30 pm	13 United Way Boards Workshop 7:00 pm Board meeting 7:30 pm Begbie Hall, Royal Jubilee Hospital	14 Family, Friends & Lovers Support Group 7:30 pm 923 Burdett	15 Co-ordinators Meeting 3:30 pm Women's support group 7:30 pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 Family, Friends & Lovers Support Group 7:30 pm 923 Burdett	22 United Way Marketing Sem. 7:00 pm Business meeting 12:30 pm Women's support group 7:30 pm	23	24
25 HIV Support Meeting 7:30 pm	26	27	28			