

The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

of the

**National Coalition
of Gay STD Services**

September, 1979 #1

This Newsletter is published by The National Coalition of Gay STD Services. Suggestions for articles on sexually transmitted diseases in gay people, questions about VD, and inquiries about membership in the Coalition (\$10 for individuals (nonvoting), and \$20 for VD clinics, organizations, services, & programs may be addressed to: Mark Behar, Chairperson, ncgSTDs, 2161 N. Pierce #9, Arlington, VA 22209.

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COALITION'S SECOND MEETING TO PRECEED APHA'S ANNUAL MEETING

The National Coalition of Gay STD Services' second meeting will precede the American Public Health Association's 107th Annual Meeting in New York, Saturday, November 3, 1979 at the Gay Men's Health Project, 74 Grove St. Room 2RW, at 4 pm (Eastern Standard Time). A reminder will be sent in mid-October giving further details and requesting a postcard RSVP. Some of the agenda items for the meeting will be: 1) utilization of the Hospital Code for Diseases to aid in data collection for research (Robert Bolan, MD, San Francisco); 2) fundraising ideas for encouraging gay STD research, and ongoing support for gay STD services; 3) centralized data storage; 4) affiliations with drug companies; 5) political lobbying; 6) need for the standardization of procedures among STD services; 7) possible construction of a malpractice contingency fund; 8) associations with the STD Task Force of the APHA's Caucus of Gay Public Health Workers; 9) suggestions for developing a widely circulated statement supporting "responsible sexual behavior for gay people," especially for the purpose of promoting STD awareness & health care; and 10) discussions for developing a patient education packet on STDs for gay people. (This requires samples of all your Service's educational materials, so please bring or mail in!). Other agenda items must be brought to the attention of Mark Behar, Chairperson of the Coalition, address above, before October 10, 1979. Investigations into establishing a Conference Call Hookup between New York and our Midwestern and Pacific Coast members are continuing and will be reported in our next correspondence.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Stanley E. Read, MD, PhD, is interested in coordinating collaborative clinical studies & treatment protocols in STD research with gay people. Please send any ideas or suggestions directly to him, at 500 E. 63rd St. #25 B, New York, NY 10021, or c/o of the Coalition.

Milwaukee's Gay Peoples Union VD Clinic is seeking your experiences and impressions with your clinic's use of the RPR (rapid plasma reagin) test for the rapid screening of syphilis at bar or bath outreach programs. Please correspond with them, especially relating specificity and sensitivity data to Sue Dietz, RN, Co-Director, GPU VD Clinic, 1568 N. Farwell Av., Milwaukee, WI 53202. Incidentally, October marks the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the GPU's VD program, so congratulations people, on having one of the nation's finest gay (or nongay, for that matter!) public VD programs!

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Question: Why are pubic hairs curly?

Answer: Because if they were straight, they'd poke your eyes out!!

--Anonymous

INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO MMWR

Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) is a weekly, free publication about infectious disease, written by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). MMWR frequently describes new findings, treatment regimens, research reports, epidemiological & demographic data, and case studies in areas such as hepatitis B, gonorrhea, syphilis, enteric diseases, and other communicable infections (e.g., cholera, tuberculosis, etc.) of interest to gay STD medical personnel. Write, requesting a subscription, to: CDC, ATTN: Distribution Services, GSO, 1-SB-36, Atlanta, GA 30333.

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HEPATITIS SESSION AT APHA MEETING ANNOUNCED

The American Public Health Association, Gay Public Health Workers, the American Venereal Disease Association, and the Medical Care, Laboratory and Epidemiology sections of the APHA are cosponsoring a scientific session on hepatitis in gay men at the APHA's 107th Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1979, 8:30-10 am, in New York. The Gay Public Health Workers are seeking knowledgeable participants for a panel of respondents to address the issues raised in the session. Two papers will precede the discussion, one on endemic hepatitis in gay men, and the second on the much anticipated hepatitis vaccine. If interested, please contact Ron Vachon, PA, as soon as possible, c/o Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, MA 02115.

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NAME FOR NEWSLETTER STILL SAUGHT

Several suggestions for a name for this newsletter have been made. "The Clap!" is already being used by Milwaukee's GPU VD Clinic newsletter. "VD Victory," in partial honor of the Queen who had the disease (Victoria) was also suggested. Others include "The Dose," and "Buboes." Please send other suggestions to the Coalition, address on page 1.

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CORRECTIONS TO "ROSTER OF GAY STD SERVICES, BY STATE, JULY 1979"

Please add the American Social Health Association, 260 Sheridan Av., Palo Alto, CA 94306, to your roster mailed early in August. Please delete Phil Carney's name and insert Bill Carroll's name as representative from the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC. Also delete in total the Gay Community Services Center VD Clinic, Gainesville, FL, and the Metropolitan Community Church's VD Clinic, New Orleans, LA. Send additional additions, corrections, or deletions to the Coalition.

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TWO METHODS FOR TREATING PHTHIRUS PUBIS (PUBIC LICE/CRABS)
(Not yet approved by the CDC)

Two methods for eradicating crab lice may soon replace the traditional pediculocides such as Kwell, Rid, A-200, etc. Method 1 requires the following household supplies: ice pick, matches, razer, shaving cream, and lighter fluid. The patient must shave off $\frac{1}{2}$ of all pubic hair, sprinkle lighter fluid on the other half and light with matches. When the creatures jump to the hairless side, patient must jab them with the ice pick! Method 2 involves something a little less irritating to the skin: Find someone who likes seafood!