

NEWS ON TAP

Autumn – 1995 Issue

A Publication of The AIDS Project, 615 Congress St, P.O. Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101

THE CORPSE AT CARROT COVE

8:00 P.M. October 20 and 21

An audience participation murder
mystery to benefit **The AIDS Project**
and **Portland Players**

**SEE THE PLAY; Mingle with
Suspects; DO THE
PUZZLES; Eat the refreshments;
SOLVE THE CRIME; WIN
THE PRIZES!**

Here's your chance to have a delightful and intriguing evening of entertainment and refreshments -- and support The AIDS Project at the same time. For just \$10 per ticket, you can attend a premiere performance of **THE CORPSE AT CARROT COVE**, an audience-participation murder mystery, written by TAP's own Director of Administration, Eve Cimmet and starring TAP staff members Susan Tremblay and Terry Dubois, along with other other notables of the greater Portland theater community. The play is being presented at 8:00 p.m. on both Friday October 20 and Saturday October 21 at Portland Players, 420 Cottage Road, South Portland. All proceeds will be shared equally by TAP and Portland Players. Tickets are available from members of the TAP staff, the Portland Players Board, and at the door. ☞

OPEN HOUSE PARTY COME AND VISIT TAP'S NEW HOME

Friday, December 13 – 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

In the blistering heat of mid-July, The AIDS Project packed up all its furniture and belongings and moved to new office space in the State Theater building. The Staff has now settled in, our new routines are being established, and we are eager to welcome all our friends to the new location. Please join us for a casual open house reception, with light refreshments, on Friday, December 13, anytime between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. This is an occasion to honor our clients, thank our volunteers and donors, and celebrate all our friends. Everyone is welcome! ☞



SAVE THE DATE

November 28, 1995

The AIDS Project

TENTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION DINNER

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. M. Jocelyn Elders

former United States Surgeon General

TAP AND THE INTERNET

-by Doreen F. Merrill

In a previous issue of our newsletter, we introduced you to the new computer research service at The AIDS Project. Now, we are pleased to provide more details on the grant that gave The AIDS Project and the Portland Public Library access to the Internet. Debra Holloway of the Portland Public Library's Development Department and Paul Draper our own Directory of Development, collaborated on this successful project which established the Southern Maine AIDS Information Network.

The National Library of Medicine \$25,000.00 grant allows The AIDS Project to access the Internet through the Portland Public Library. The grant funded a new terminal at The AIDS Project to use the library's connection to the Internet to hop on a world-wide information highway. The library downloaded software to The AIDS Project's terminal to make riding the Internet as user friendly as possible.

The Internet is not the only new service offered by the Portland Public Library that can help in the search for HIV/AIDS information.

The library is changing its electronic technology to improve their services to the Portland community as a whole. One example is the introduction of a computerized card catalog. Each branch of the library will have personal computer for patrons to look up books or journals by title, author or subject matter. Also, the main library will be electronically connected to each of its five branches, to 100 terminals within the library itself, and can be accessed from home computers. From the main library, patrons will be able to connect to libraries that are on-line in Maine and across the nation.

This improvement in automation at the library means good news for those searching for HIV/AIDS information. There will be greater access to databases and libraries and research time will be shortened. Of particular importance, the trained, friendly staff will be available to help with any searches. Overall, this betterment of library information systems is a terrific investment in the HIV/AIDS community and the Portland community in general. Many thanks to the Portland Public Library for its leadership and collegiality. ☺

News On TAP — A PUBLICATION OF THE AIDS PROJECT

615 CONGRESS ST, 6TH FLOOR, P.O. BOX 5305, PORTLAND ME 04101 207-774-6877

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The AIDS Project provides support services to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS and prevention education in Cumberland, York, Oxford and Androscoggin Counties. We actively work to promote diversity and nondiscrimination in particular to women, minorities, people with disabilities, people with HIV, and various sexual orientations. Finally we embrace the diversity of community.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

— by *Sasha Kantro*

On October 12th the First Annual Women's Leadership Luncheon will be held. This event is just one of the many taking place during The AIDS Project's Tenth Anniversary Year. The Luncheon is being put on not only to raise funds for The AIDS Project but also in an effort to raise awareness about the threat of both HIV and AIDS among Maine women. Maine's most influential female community and business leaders have been called upon to attend this Luncheon, to learn more of the importance of education, and to honor the women who make this effort a reality, nationwide. During the Luncheon an award will be posthumously given to Kerry Carson, a young Maine woman who before her death from AIDS earlier this year, was active both locally and nationally in educational efforts concerning HIV and AIDS. Also during the Luncheon there will be a showing of the documentary "In Our Words: Teens and AIDS," which was hosted by the late Kerry Carson. The keynote speaker will be Jeanne Blake, producer of the film and former health reporter for WBZ TV in Boston. Major sponsors of this event include: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which not only sponsored this single event, but has been an underwriter for The AIDS Project's Tenth Anniversary Year. Guy Gannett Communications and UNUM. The proceeds of this event go to support Womens' and Family Services at The AIDS Project. Mary J. Herman, wife of Governor Angus King, is Honorary Chair of this special event. ☪

THURSDAY LUNCH

— by *Barbara Adlard*

Every Thursday at noon, clients, volunteers, staff and friends of TAP gather for lunch for a weekly tradition that began about five years ago when clients used to meet informally to share brown bag lunches and talk about the common threads of their lives. A typical deluxe meal could include Amanda Coffin's soup extraordinaire (like Black Bean Gazpacho), pasta salad, Neal Brown's chocolate zucchini bread, Michael Caron's Rice Krispie squares and more.

Behind every good meal are outstanding and talented cooks. Sylvia Morton, a native of New York City pulls these wonderful weekly events together, but not without the aid of 6-8 cooks some of whom have been with her through the years. The meals are usually light on meat and tend more toward the vegetarian. Favorites include chicken/broccoli casserole, onion/mushroom quiche and gourmet ziti. Leftovers are sent home to clients who are not well enough to attend the lunch.

Sylvia Morton comes with a wealth of experience behind her. When she lived in Greenwich Village, she cooked for the Bailey House in New York in conjunction with her church, and when she relocated to Portland to pursue her love of art, she was drawn to the Project because of the many friends she had lost. She said she moved not knowing anyone and now feels very connected to those involved with The AIDS Project. She feels it is such a wonderful way to share the gifts she had and it's fun.

She pays special tribute to the cooks. "Hats off to them. If it weren't for them, there would be no luncheon. They are marvelously dedicated — nothing keeps them away."

Neal Brown frequently joins the lunch crowd -- and just as frequently contributes to the menu. A native of Bethel, now residing in Portland, he enjoys his garden and has always loved to cook. He explained that he enjoys getting together with TAP staff and other friends at the weekly lunches. That thought was echoed by other clients, who commented on the double benefits of the event -- good food and a delightful social occasion. So, if you're free some Thursday at noon, please join us for a very special get-together. ☪

NEW EMPLOYEES AT TAP

—by Bethany Roma

Amidst the chaos of the move to 615 Congress Street, TAP welcomed two new part-time employees: **Doug Eaton**, Coordinator of the AIDS Line and Counseling & Testing and **Randy May**, Mental Health Case Manager.

Doug has a strong history of volunteerism and work with the HIV+ community. He was involved with the Boulder County AIDS Project in Colorado from the programs inception and served as President of the Board. Upon returning to Maine, he was delighted to find that TAP had an opening that could use his qualities and skills.

Doug has a bachelor's degree in Education and a master's in Music. He plans to use his teaching skills for volunteer recruitment and to develop a training curriculum more specific to the Hotline. One of Doug's plans is to have small groups of prospective volunteer do intensive training within the Hotline room, taking staged calls that would require them to find specific references on the spot. This will help Doug to determine what reference material should be reorganized for easier access. Doug dreams of eventually developing a computerized database of referral information and a comprehensive Hotline Training Manual for volunteers.

Randy May joined TAP on June 15 in the new position of Mental Health Case Manager, made possible by a grant from the Maine Community AIDS Partnership. Randy has a masters in social work, and has been involved with Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services in Brunswick as a facilitator for a support group for family and friends of HIV positive people. With his previous professional experiences with Blanchard and Associates (a mental health/substance abuse agency) and Hurricane Island Outward Bound, Randy has a strong background to meet the goals of the new position.

As the needs of HIV positive people have become more complex, Randy plans to develop an extended provider network. The mental health and substance abuse issues prevalent in our society are present in the HIV community. Randy is locating additional referrals to extend the resources to which TAP frequently refers clients. Several new support groups have been (or are being) started to meet needs which were identified by a Community Needs Assessment. They include mixed status gay couples, HIV positive women, HIV and substance abuse recovery and movement therapy.

Randy and Doug are outstanding additions to the TAP staff. Please come to our November 3rd Open House Party and introduce yourselves to them. ☺

DONATED TICKETS PROGRAM UPDATE

- by John Bean

The AIDS Project would like to thank the following arts organizations and individuals for recent contributions of free tickets to persons living with AIDS:

Jennifer Elowich and the Portland Chamber Music Festival; Charles Wynott and Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS); Dance Portland; Maine Arts, Inc. / The 1995 Maine Festival; Gail Chase and The Railroad Square Cinema; Laura Faure and The Bates Dance Festival; Pat Pinto and Della Parker; David Garrity and The Walt Whitman Dining Society;

Thanks also to Neighborhood Arts Access at Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council and their continuing coordination of donated tickets in Greater Portland. If you have tickets to donate, or if you are a client of TAP and want me to solicit donated tickets to an event, call John Bean at: (207) 774-6877 ☺.

New Volunteers Needed

The AIDS Project has an **immediate** need for front desk and hotline volunteers who are available during regular working hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Please call Eve Cimmet or Doug Eaton if you are interested. We will arrange a special training session once we have a group of people lined up. Call 774-6877. ☞

Brainstorming Brunch

On Saturday, December 2, 1995, at 11:00 a.m. we would like all interested experienced TAP volunteers to come to a pot-luck brunch. The idea is to share both good food and good ideas about volunteering. Whether you have done front desk, transportation, hotline, special events or something else, we want your input. ☞

CURRENT SUPPORT GROUPS

People living with HIV, and friends, families, partners and caregivers. Mondays 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. / The AIDS Project - Portland

People living with HIV, and friends, families, partners and caregivers. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. / The AIDS Project - Portland

People living with AIDS (*Contact Dianna Carrigan at TAP-Auburn at 783-4301.*) Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. / The AIDS Project - Auburn Family Planning

Living Well, focusing on quality of life and empowerment. (*Contact Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care.*) Tuesday (2nd and 4th) / Stratogen Health Care - Portland.

People living with HIV (*Contact Merry Meeting AIDS Support Services at 725-4955.*) Wednesdays (1st and 3rd) / Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex - Gardiner

People Living with HIV. Thursdays 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. / The AIDS Project - Portland ☞

NEW SUPPORT GROUPS

The following four new groups will be offered this fall at The AIDS Project / Portland. Time and days will be announced.

HIV AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY: a support group to create a safe space for people with HIV in the process of recovery around drug and alcohol abuse.

EXPRESS YOUR SELF: a time limited support group that will incorporate movement, art, music, and other creative and alternative forms of expression towards wellness.

WOMEN AND HIV: a support group to break the isolation, and provide a safe and caring environment to get to know yourself and others.

MIXED HIV STATUS GAY MALE COUPLES: a time limited support group that will provide a space for both positive and negative partners to explore issues specific to their relationships. This will not be a drop-in group, so please contact Randy May at TAP/Portland by October 2, 1995, if you are interested.

For more information regarding any of the support groups, contact The AIDS Project at (207) 774-6877. ☞

Vote No on 1

This November, Mainers will vote on a referendum question which, if passed, will legalize discrimination against gay men, lesbians, and other groups of people. The referendum would prohibit the state or local municipalities from extending protection to the civil liberties of gay men and lesbians in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations. Gay men and lesbians currently have no federal or state legal protection from being fired, evicted or otherwise discriminated against merely for being gay or lesbian. The referendum would also repeal Portland's Equal Protection Ordinance, the only law in Maine which does protect the basic civil rights of people of any sexual orientation.

An unfortunate fact of the AIDS epidemic is that gay men make up the majority of the people living with AIDS in Maine. The perception that AIDS is a "gay disease" is still widespread in Maine. This referendum can only diminish the quality of life of the very people to whom The AIDS Project is dedicated to serve. The nation's response to AIDS has been crippled by fear and hatred of gay people. The referendum seeks to further institutionalize that fear and hatred. The AIDS Project's mission and policy is to support and maintain the highest quality of life for people in Maine living with HIV and AIDS, and to that end The AIDS Project supports the provision of legal protection of the civil rights of gay and bisexual people.

The AIDS Project believes no one should be denied basic human rights. The Board of Directors, the Executive Director and the staff urge you to **VOTE NO** on Proposition 1 on November 7.

The AIDS Project
615 Congress Street
P.O. Box 5305
Portland, ME 04101

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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*Correction -
Open House
is Fri 12/15*