



THE SCOOP

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PROS AND CONS

Spring is here and things are growing everywhere. Mother Nature is taking care of her end of the deal, while PWAs are poking up in classrooms, churches, family nights in businesses, panel discussions and training sessions across the state. Unfortunately, along with these PROS have come a few CONS.

PWAs have been on campus at the University of Maine-Farmington to share their stories with the faculty and student body. Visiting classrooms and dormitories as well as spending time at a general meeting, men and women have been working hard to educate the college population on transmission, as well as physical and emotional aspects of HIV disease. Speakers have spent time at Boise-Cascade in Rumford, Maine, Mount Desert Island High School in Bar Harbor, and the Sanford school system sharing accurate, first hand information on their experiences with AIDS, and the response from the audience has been one of support and compassion. The time, cost and effort involved on the part of these volunteers has been considerable, but the importance of their work can not be praised highly enough. It takes courage and commitment for a mother who has buried her hemophiliac son, for an IV drug user who has kicked the habit, for a well-known businessman and the parents of a small child to travel miles and miles across Maine to speak night after night with people who have heard about AIDS and wondered how and why this epidemic could reach into their lives.

Unfortunately, Maine has also been visited by a CON as well. On Monday evening, April 23, a group of AIDS educators, health professionals and concerned volunteers traveled to Farmington, to listen to a talk, sponsored by the UMaine-Farmington Student Senate, by T.C. Fry, author of The Great AIDS Hoax, and founder of the Life Science Institute of Texas. After prefacing his remarks with the premise that the American media, banking industry, government and pharmaceutical industry were controlled by an international cartel that operated through the direction of the Rockefellers and their associates the Rothschilds, he went on to share his view that there is, indeed, no AIDS virus. Rather, this 'disease' was created to satiate the implacable appetite of the drug industry for new customers and ever greater bottom line profits. AIDS was described as noncommunicable and easily reversible, but conceived and introduced by conspirators to crush the Gay Rights movement. Mr. Fry quoted from the Merc Manual of Medicine, the New England Journal of Medicine and Science magazine, but refused to discuss his own medical credentials for making such sweeping claims. Other statements included that: AIDS has "simmered down now and is an accepted fact of life, only about 1% of all persons with AIDS had ever died from the disease, and that there is no proof that anyone has ever died of AIDS in Africa. (con. inside)



Those in attendance questioned Mr. Fry on specific medical treatments for AIDS, which were presented as prolonged fasting monitored by medical personnel.

As the evening wore on, I was struck with the horror that this person was speaking to groups across the country, and people would actually believe him. When asked if he felt any obligation to those who might hear him and be misinformed about the method of transmission of the virus(which he repeatedly stated was a non-transmissible illness), he replied that we have been brainwashed to believe this, and people bring AIDS upon themselves by their behavior...and that certain groups deserve AIDS ! I left feeling that it was of UTMOST importance for us who deal on the front lines of this epidemic to work even harder to counteract and debunk presentations of this type. We MUST be aware of the printed materials distributed to those who are unaware of the scope of this epidemic, unaware of the methods of transmission, and unaware that people continue to spread false hope, false statistics and most important... persons who attempt to divide our society into 'good guys' and 'bad guys' as we lay in hospital beds, hospices and clinics fighting for our lives. DO NOT let this evening go unchallenged ! The PROS need you !!

June Seamans, PWAC Board

PROVINCETOWN CONFERENCE - May 4-6

The NAPWA Region 8 conference is being hosted by the Provincetown Positive PWA Coalition and will include a series of workshops including access to protocols, alternative treatments, advocacy and other issues of concern to all PWAs. ALL EXPENSES will be paid by the PWA Coalition of Maine for PWAs wishing to attend but space is limited! Call 773 - 8500 ASAP to reserve a space.

A NOTE OF THANKS ...

Jerri Libby
Enid Dahlgren-Gaddis
CCYM, Winthrop, Maine
XPRESS Copy, Portland

NAPWA

National Association
of People with AIDS

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and The National Minority AIDS Council are pleased to announce that PWA Coalition of Maine has been chosen to receive a full Macintosh System through the NMAC/NAPWA Partnership Program. A total of 46 systems were awarded to NMAC and NAPWA affiliates. NAPWA received a total of 25 final applications for this project and your organization has met the criteria for inclusion in this project.

The PWA Coalition newsletter may report on events that are going on within the state of Maine (and elsewhere), but that does not mean that we agree or participate in all of these events.

The PWA Coalition space -
Living Room North - is open
Monday through Friday
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Wednesday evening dinner

6:00 P.M.

Thursday evening movies

7:00 P.M.

Special events as noted....

377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, Maine 04101

(207) 773 - 8500

I have invented a new word "heartist." Definition:

Someone who creates out of an emotional need.

Every month the NAMES Project will have a "heartist" of the month. This month it is Ryan Campbell of Westbrook. His poem For Ryan is enclosed.

Our quilting workshops are the 6th + 20th of May, from 2-5 at the sewing shop, 461 Stevens Ave, Portland. If there are a group of you getting together to make a panel + would like some assistance, give me a call.

We have a need for panels. Please do not assume a panel is being made by another for someone you care about. TAKE ACTION. Our number is 774-2198.

Warmly,

DEBB FREEDMAN
NAMES Project

MORE KOOL-AIDS (WITH ICE)

I'm calling this Kool-AIDS with Ice because it sounds good. Also, when my daughter was young, she called me "Ice." She couldn't say "Iris." And she never heard anyone call me "Mommy," (except maybe the degenerates playing dominoes on Ave. C.). I don't know if she ever heard her daddy call me "Mommy," since the only time he did that was in the throes of passion. Maybe twice in our relationship. Then he started calling me "bitch." So now you know why the title is what it is.

The response to the last Kool-AIDS piece has been overwhelming. Most people are real happy to laugh at themselves, while a few will always be content to go through life like human hemorrhoids, with puckered up, scowling faces. There are some that wanted to tie me up and force feed me condoms to shut me up. But fuck'em. I had a good time getting this disease and I'm going to have a good time dealing with it. Although maybe not in the same way.

So here goes, more sick AIDS humor. I run a couple of support groups for the Coalition. Since T-4 counts seem to be a real hot topic of conversation, I thought maybe people could get the number printed on football jerseys. Just come in with these numbers on your shirt and start up a conversation. And all the "wanna-have-HIVs" can fake it. Oh yes, darling, HIV is a very chic disease. There are a lot of sero-negatives hanging out, trying to pass.

By Iris De La Cruz

You can recognize them by their lack of beepers going off every four hours. Poor Carl at the Living Room lunches is inundated by pretenders wanting a free lunch. How far we've come! Why, wasn't it only yesterday people were afraid to even breathe the same air as us, much less eat with us?!

The Spring holidays are upon us. My mother is having her annual Passover Seder for PWAs. We're going to serve chicken with an egg lipid sauce, wheat grass juice, and vegetable sprayed with pentamidine. There will be candy bowls filled with AZT and we'll sip on ddi cocktails. For Easter we're going to make brightly colored Easter eggs filled with condoms. And all the good bunnies will parade down Christopher Street, shaking their cute little bunny tails!

I tried getting a support group together for people suffering from Aids-dementia, but it fell through. Nobody could remember what day it was or when the group met. So now I use the disease as an excuse to be totally unreliable and obnoxious. "You can't expect me to remember appointments or be civil. I have AIDS." I love it! Keep smiling.

Heartist of the Month

FOR RYAN by: Andy Campbell

The whole world came to know you
Thru pain and ridicule.

We made you feel like a stranger
Treated you mean and cruel.

People lashed out in hatred
But you made them understand
What you had is a disease
And you needed a helping hand.

Then a planet gathered around you
And followed you through your days.
We watched your courageous battle
Against the monster known as AIDS.

The weeks grew into months
Months grew into years
We thought you were invincible.
You faced a killer without fear

But in April 1990

The war began to end
The world again came to you,
This time we were friends.

You were the bravest little soldier
You gave AIDS the biggest fight
The world is going to miss you

We love you, Ryan White.

May 1990

PWA COALITION CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 ART FROM THE HEART 2:00-4:00 P.M.	2 6:00 PM DINNER * <u>Speaker</u> Craig Schuler, Office on AIDS	3 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT	4	5	6 QUILT WORKSHOP PORTLAND NAMES PROJECT
				REGION 8 CONFERENCE PROVINCETOWN, MASS		
7	8 ART FROM THE HEART 2:00-4:00 P.M.	9 6:00 PM DINNER POT LUCK * Cook-Out Eat-In *	10 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT	11	12	13 5:00 PM PORTLAND GAY PRIDE POTLUCK SUPPER MEETING
				LESBIAN / GAY FILM FESTIVAL PORTLAND, ME		
14	15 ART FROM THE HEART 2:00-4:00 P.M.	16 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	17 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT	18	19	20 6:00 PM AIDS MEMORIAL MARCH, CANDLELIGHT SERVICE QUILT WORKSHOP PORTLAND NAMES PROJECT
21	22 ART FROM THE HEART 2:00-4:00 P.M.	23 6:00 PM DINNER	24 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT	25	26	27
					LESBIAN / GAY SYMPOSIUM UNITY COLLEGE, UNITY MAINE	
28 LESBIAN / GAY SYMPOSIUM UNITY COLLEGE, UNITY MAINE	29 ART FROM THE HEART 2:00-4:00 P.M.	30 6:00 PM DINNER	31 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT			

377 CUMBERLAND AVENUE
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