

# The AIDS PROJECT News

P.O. Box 10723

September, 1986

Portland, ME 04104

(Note: This issue was to list the names of the members of the Advisory Committee on AIDS to the Dept. of Human Services; however, as the first meeting of this committee is Sept. 2, it was decided to present that information, along with a report on the first meeting, in the October issue of The APNews.)

## AIDS PROJECT RECEIVES GRANT

The AIDS Project has been awarded \$14,000 by the Maine Department of Human Services. The grant comes from money made available by the Centers for Disease Control for HTLV-III testing and AIDS education programs. The grant is to fund the Counseling and Health Education/Risk Reduction Project (CHE/RRP) recently undertaken by The AIDS Project. CHE/RRP involves providing trained personnel to do pre and post HTLV-III antibody screening test counseling and to prepare and purchase educational materials to be distributed to the at risk communities and the public at large. Counseling is done at the recently opened Community Resource Center (142 High St., Room 209, Portland). The session is voluntary, the identity of the person is never known, all information divulged is kept confidential, risk reduction and safe sex practices are discussed, and educational materials are presented to the person being counseled. This service is provided at no charge, and sessions can be scheduled days and evenings. To request a counseling session, or for more information, call 774-6877.

## WALSH LEAVING POSITION, 'BUDDIES' PROGRAM GOES ON HOLD

Citing the demands of a new job with the City of Portland, her children returning to school, and the intense nature of the work involved in being Coordinator of the Support Services Network, Debbie Walsh is resigning that position. "It's not a job one can do in just ten hours a week," she said. "It needs to be a forty hour a week position." Debbie was responsible for supervising and assigning 'buddies' to people with AIDS or ARC who were in need of such a service. Too, she made home visits, arranged for services (e.g. transportation to Boston for treatments, meals to be brought into the home, etc.), and sought items (e.g. a washer and dryer, movie passes, etc.) to make the lives of PWAs and PWARCs better.

Currently, the position is a paid, part-time job. Plans are to find the resources to make such a position a full-time job (to keep pace with the demands). However, until that time, The AIDS Project will attempt to fill the vacated position and is asking qualified applicants to send in a cover letter and a resume by Sept. 15th. Interviewing and a final selection needs to be completed by mid month if possible.

Although leaving this position, Debbie intends to keep involved in AIDS related activities. She will still attend AIDS Project meetings, and is the delegate from the City of Portland Social Services Dept. on the Advisory Committee to DHS.

Until a replacement is found, the 'buddies' program will temporarily go on hold. Already assigned buddies will continue, but anyone requiring new services may have to be placed on a waiting list. However, we will try to meet as many needs as possible.

## AIDS PROJECT HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 23rd, was the date of the annual meeting of The AIDS Project. Elected as officers of the Board of Directors were:

Fred Berger, President

Susan Cummings-Lawrence, Secretary

Steve McLellan, Treasurer.

## AUCTION NETS \$8100

An AIDS Benefit Auction held at The Club in Ogunquit July 30th brought in over \$8000. The event was a repeat of a similarly successful fundraising event held last year at the same bar. Owner Hal Feldberg sees the auction as his way of making a contribution to a worthy cause. Proceeds from the auction are divided between the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston (for AIDS research), the AIDS Action Committee of Boston, and the Maine Health Foundation (a principal sponsor of many of The AIDS Project's activities).



Always in need of more financial resources, The AIDS Project has embarked on two fundraising activities. On Friday night, Sept. 12, at 9 p.m., there will be a benefit showing of the film "Desert Hearts" at The Movies on Exchange St. in Portland. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance and are available at the following locations in Portland: Entre Nous and the Woodford's Cafe (both on Spring St.); Our Books at 4 Pine St. (773-5540); Cycles on Center St.; and at the Community Resource Center of The AIDS Project at 142 High St. (774-6877). A mounted "Desert Hearts" poster will be raffled off prior to showing the film. (If you can't go, consider making a contribution on behalf of the event. Send such donations to P.O. Box 10723, Portland, ME 04104).

The second event is a table set up during the Flea Market and Street Fair on the Sunday (Sept. 28) of Autumnfest weekend. The location is the parking lot by the Campus Center at USM, Bedford St., Portland (if it rains the event will be held inside). If you have items you would like to donate, or would like to volunteer to pick up items or staff the table, call 773-5540, 774-6877, 775-1267, or 1-800-851-AIDS as soon as possible. Proceeds go to the Support Group for people with AIDS virus infections for an activity fund.

#### COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Community Resource Center of The AIDS Project (Rm. 209, 142 High St.) will be holding an open house on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1-6 p.m. Drop by for light refreshments, to collect party favours (i.e. pamphlets and condoms), to meet AIDS Project staff, and to find out where we are and what we do. (This would be a good chance for you to bring by anything you want to donate to the flea market.) Come say hello.

## MATERIALS

#### MATERIALS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

(Note: The following pamphlets are available for FREE. However, a price figure--either actual or estimated--is included in case you would like to help defray the costs involved. Please, send a SASE with your request.)

- ====="AIDS and Your Legal Rights", National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), 540 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Enclose \$1.00.
- ====="AIDS: A Challenge to the Church", The American Lutheran Church Division for Service and Mission in America, 422 South Fifth St., Minneapolis, MN 55415. Cost is \$0.15 each. It's an 8 page piece.
- ====="AIDS and Civil Liberties", ACLU-NC AIDS Policy, 1663 Mission St., #460, San Francisco, CA 94103. Enclose \$1.00.
- ====="The AIDS Pamphlet Sampler For Gay & Bisexual Men", includes information on Safe Sex, AIDS, resources, HTLV-III antibody testing, etc. Send a \$4.00 donation to: The AIDS Project, P.O. Box 10723, Portland, ME 04104.
- ====="The AIDS Pamphlet Sampler For Heterosexuals", includes much of the same information as the one for Gay and Bisexual Men, however, with additional information on Women and AIDS, and Children and AIDS. Send donation as above.

OTHER: "SAFE SEX IN THE AGE OF AIDS" is a new booklet "promoting personal responsibility and a safe sex lifestyle" for both men and women. It includes AIDS facts, risk reduction techniques (in graphic language), has a section for Teens, and discusses ways to negotiate safer sex. The booklet is effective, to a degree. The section for Teens has information that should have been presented for all sexually active people. Price \$3.95. Available from Citadel Press, 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, NJ 07094.

## ARTICLES

#### RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

- ....."Psychiatric and Ethical Issues in the Care of Patients with AIDS", James W. Dilley, et. al., PSYCHOSOMATICS, Vol 27, No 8, August '86.
- ....."The AIDS Doctor", NEWSWEEK, July 21, 1986. Article looking at the work of Dr. Gerald Friedland of New York City (See Calendar for his visit to Maine on Sept. 13).
- ....."A Reporter At Large: The Castro, part II", by Frances FitzGerald, THE NEW YORKER, July 28, 1986 (looking at the response of the gay community to AIDS in San Francisco from 1981 to the present, including the controversy on closing the bath houses).



REMEMBER: AT THE AIDS-Line (775-1267 or 1-800-851-AIDS)

# Assistance - Information - Direction - Support

IS BUT A PHONE CALL AWAY.

The following information comes from the Official Newsletter of the National Coalition of Gay STD Services Vol 7:5, June/July 1986:

\*\*\* HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DON'T KNOW FACTS: A Yale University study shows that most high school students are misinformed and have "scientifically unfounded" worries about AIDS (e.g. the study shows that 55% think people with AIDS shouldn't teach, and 45% say students with AIDS should be kept out of school). 80% of the 349 Connecticut students surveyed say they don't know much about AIDS and would like more information.

\*\*\* 3 REPORTS ON BLACKS AND AIDS:

#1. July statistics show that blacks comprise 25% of America's AIDS cases (but only 12% of the overall U.S. population). Part of the reason for this, according to Dr. Benny Primm, president of the Urban Resource Institute in New York City, is the lack of AIDS programs directed specifically at blacks. According to Primm, AIDS is the second leading cause of death in Harlem.

#2. From Washington, D.C. comes a report that while the rates of rectal gonorrhea is down overall (from an average of 312 cases per six month period in 1981, 1982, & 1983 to 110 cases per six month period in 1986), the greatest number of cases is now occurring in blacks (accounting for 68% to 28% for whites). In years past, the proportion of blacks and whites with rectal gonorrhea was about even.

#3. Mandatory blood tests for military recruits show that blacks test positive for exposure to the AIDS virus at a rate four times as high as whites. Among the 237,586 whites tested, the rate of exposure to the virus was 0.9 per 1000 recruits; among the 55,185 blacks, the rate was 3.9 per 1000. The rate of positive tests for the 15,305 recruits of other racial groups was 2.6 per 1000. Among the reasons cited for the higher rates of positivity is that there may be a greater incidence of bisexual activity and IV drug use among black recruits. (EDITOR'S NOTE: According to World Health Organization reports on this same military testing program, the overall rate of being positive for exposure to the AIDS virus was 1.6 per 1000 recruits; the highest seroprevalence was 1.9 per 1000 in the middle Atlantic states, the lowest seroprevalence was 0.6 per 1000 in New England.)

\*\*\* ALTERNATE TEST SITES REPORT OVERALL POSITIVITY RATE: CDC figures show that of the 79,083 people who took the HTLV-III antibody test at alternate test sites across the United States in 1985, 17.3% repeatedly tested positive.

\*\*\* RATE OF AIDS TRANSMISSION DROPS IN SAN FRANCISCO: Epidemiologist Warren Winkelstein (UC at Berkeley School of Public Health) has found that the drop in the rate of AIDS transmission is "directly linked to changes in sexual behavior", in particular a decline in the number of men having anal sex without a condom. In 1985 the rate of gay men testing positive for exposure to the HTLV-III virus for the first time was 3-5%. In 1984 the new infection rate was 18%. According to this study, done on 800 gay men and 200 heterosexual men, the overall rate of exposure to HTLV-III among gay men in S.F. is 51%. (EDITOR'S NOTE: According to another World Health Organization report, a study of 6700 gay men in San Francisco, followed since 1978, reveals that 69% are now infected with the AIDS virus, with 10% of the cohort having frank AIDS. The average latency period between seroconversion and development of AIDS was 44 months.)

An  
**AIDS**  
Project  
BENEFIT

**DESERT  
HEARTS**

Friday, Sept. 12  
9 P.M.

The MOVIES  
Exchange St.  
Portland

You could win a  
DESERT HEARTS  
poster, too.  
One will be given away  
before the movie.

TICKET information:  
Call 773-5540  
or 774-6877



# STATISTICS

4.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
JULY 28, 1986

## UNITED STATES CASES REPORTED TO CDC

### 1. TRANSMISSION CATEGORIES<sup>2</sup>

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	Since Jan 1 Number (%)	Cumulative Number (%)	Since Jan 1 Number (%)	Cumulative Number (%)	Since Jan 1 Number (%)	Cumulative Number (%)
<b>ADULTS/ADOLESCENTS</b>						
Homosexual/Bisexual Male	4627 (71)	14939 (70)			4627 (66)	14939 (66)
Intravenous (IV) Drug Abuser	939 (14)	3096 (15)	243 (49)	793 (53)	1182 (17)	3889 (17)
Homosexual Male and IV Drug Abuser	525 (8)	1823 (9)			525 (7)	1823 (8)
Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	56 (1)	177 (1)	2 (0)	5 (0)	58 (1)	182 (1)
Heterosexual Cases <sup>3</sup>	97 (1)	460 (2)	151 (31)	402 (27)	248 (4)	862 (4)
Transfusion, Blood/Components	106 (2)	253 (1)	45 (9)	137 (9)	151 (2)	390 (2)
None of the Above	204 (3)	534 (3)	51 (10)	173 (11)	255 (4)	707 (3)
Subtotal: Adults/Adolescents	6554 (100)	21282 (100)	492 (100)	1510 (100)	7046 (100)	22792 (100)

### 4 CHILDREN

Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	2 (4)	13 (7)			2 (2)	13 (4)
Parent with/at risk of AIDS <sup>5</sup>	34 (74)	126 (72)	42 (84)	128 (86)	76 (79)	254 (79)
Transfusion, Blood/Components	8 (17)	29 (17)	7 (14)	18 (12)	15 (16)	47 (15)
None of the Above	2 (4)	6 (3)	1 (2)	3 (2)	3 (3)	9 (3)
Subtotal: Children	46 (100)	174 (100)	50 (100)	149 (100)	96 (100)	323 (100)

TOTAL 6600 21456 542 1659 7142 23115

### AIDS UPDATE FOR MAINE

Month Aug 8, 1986

Number of diagnoses cases 24

Southern Maine 16 Central Maine 5 Northern Maine 3

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
13	1	—
13-19	—	—
20-29	7	—
30-39	10	—
40-49	5	—
50	1	—

RISK GROUPS	TOTAL	% TOTAL
Gay/bisexual	21	88%
IV substance abuse	1	4%
Hemophilic	1	4%
Heterosexual contact	—	—
Transfusion related	1	4%
Female prostitute	—	—

PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	TOTAL	% TOTAL	% DECEASED
Pneumocystis carinii Pneumonia (PCP)	12	50%	8 - 72%
Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS)	6	25%	2 - 33%
PCP +	1	4%	0 - 00%
Toxo <sup>+</sup> osis	2	9%	1 - 50%
Her <sup>+</sup>	—	—	—
Cv	1	4%	0 - 00%
L <sup>+</sup> am	1	4%	0 - 00%
Cryptosporidiosis	1	4%	0 - 00%

# CALENDAR

## On-going Meetings:

- Support Group for People with AIDS Virus Infections: Every Wednesday night. For referrals to this group, call the AIDS-Line or 774-6877.
- The AIDS Project, Board Meeting, Sept. 8th & (tentatively) 22nd.
- AIDS-Line Staff Meeting (Volunteers only), 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the usual place.

## Other Meetings and Events:

- Sept. 2: 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee on AIDS to the Department of Human Services. 10:30--2:30, State Office Building, Augusta.
- Sept. 12: "Desert Hearts" Fundraiser for The AIDS Project. At The Movies, Exchange St., 9 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance.
- Sept. 13: Dr. Gerald Friedland, M.D., Div. of Infectious Diseases, Montefiore Medical Center, New York, will address "AIDS in New York City". Time: 9 a.m. Place: Dana Hall at MMC. NOTE: Dr. Friedland is speaking as part of a day-long conference on infectious diseases. Attendees must be pre-registered. Call Libby Lemieux at MMC for further details.
- Sept. 13: Open House at the Community Resource Center of The AIDS Project, Rm. 209, 142 High St., Portland, 1-6 p.m.
- Sept. 20: AIDS-Line training. You must register in advance. Call 774-6877 or write The AIDS Project. This is a day-long training session.
- Sept. 23: "Chance of a Lifetime"; film and discussion on Safe Sex. Community Resource Center, Rm. 209, 142 High St., Portland, at 7 p.m. Gay and Bisexual men only.
- Sept. 26-27: Boston conference on "AIDS: Where we've been, What we're doing, Where we're going". Sponsored by Mass. General Hosp. and the MGH Institute of Health Professions. Registration is \$40.00 (deadline: Sept. 19). Send fee to: Nancy Bridgeman, MGH Institute of Health Professions, 15 River St., Boston, MA 02108-3402, or call (617) 726-8010. Presenters include: James Curran of the CDC, Martin Hirsch, David Ho and Marshall Forstein from Harvard, and others. Topics include: "The Psychosocial Issues of HTLV-III Testing", "The Public Policy Challenge", "Living and Working with AIDS: A Multidisciplinary Perspective", and "Quality of Life: Dilemmas for the Patient and the Provider", among others.
- Sept. 28: AIDS Project table at Autumnfest Street Fair and Flea Market. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds go to the Support Group for people with AIDS virus infections.