

The Aids Project Newsletter

48 Deering Street
Portland, Maine 04101

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Editor - David Ketchum

The Aids Line: 1-800-851-AIDS
or
775-1267

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The following photograph and editorial are reprinted with permission from the PWA Coalition Newsline of New York City. To some of you the words may seem harsh or even bitter, but they certainly bear repeating --- over and over and over----



With one gesture, this PWA shows more creativity and courage in dealing with AIDS than the federal government has shown in seven years. This is self-empowerment at its most inspiring and heartbreaking.

Photo: copyright 1987 Kirk Condyles

SMELL THE COFFEE: AN EDITORIAL

by Max Navarre, Managing Editor

The heartbreaking and rage-stirring photograph above illustrates pointedly the plight of some people with AIDS. For the luckless, homelessness, joblessness and destitution are all piled onto the physical and emotional devastation of AIDS. That these problems are exacerbated by a cruel and nonsensical Social Security system, which strips one of every asset and offers a monthly pittance in return, is old, old news.

Where is the intervention of the federal government in this situation, or in the insurance crisis, or anywhere? Outrageous that, after years of silence about AIDS, the most imaginative suggestions our president can offer are sexual abstinence and mandatory testing. The phrase "lame duck" has never been more apt.

What I don't understand is, since he's not running again, why is Ronald Reagan pandering to a bunch of misinformed, undereducated, homophobic imbeciles who persist in trying to make AIDS a moral issue rather than a public health issue?

On second thought, I do understand it.

As we have all witnessed, not only is Ronald Reagan a very stupid and helpless person, but he has surrounded himself with the kind of devious manipulators who always find their way to those who are both STUPID and POWERFUL.

We're in big trouble, folks.

I'm not going to tell you to get off your asses, because I know that you, the readers of this magazine, are not sitting on them. You're out there doing all the best work you can do, but you're carrying the weight of a lot of deadheads.

There're a lot of people who aren't helping because they don't think it's their problem. They just don't understand yet that AIDS is a global crisis. They don't get that if they want to go on living on this planet in a fashion with which they are familiar, they'd better roll up their sleeves and get to work like the rest of us.

AIDS has already altered our lives, to such a degree that life on Earth will never be the same. But the deadheads are too unconcious or self-involved to notice.

Those of us who are awake have got to wake up everybody else.

If you've got a friend or a loved one who's been saying "I keep meaning to volunteer, but---", do the human race a favor and give that person some hell.

Write a few letters. Write to your congressperson, senator, governor, president and demand comprehensive, well-planned, sensible, sensitive and creative AIDS related programs. PRONTO.

Don't wait. Do these things and get the deadheads in your life to do them too. It's been seven years of crisis and we don't have time to play games anymore. Did we ever?

If you live in Maine, please write to the following people:

Joseph Brennan	Olympia Snowe	George Mitchell	William Cohen
U.S. Congress	U.S. Congress	U.S. Senate	U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.
20515	20515	20510	20510

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Journal Tribune of Biddeford.

Grandmother eases pain of AIDS

By KEN O'QUINN
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Sally Haines was crushed. Still reeling from the news that her son was homosexual, she learned he also was dying of AIDS.

When just one of those disclosures would be enough to drive many parents to counseling for years, nurses told Haines the one person she had to see was Francis Peabody.

An active member of an AIDS support group, Peabody helps families understand the disease and overcome their feelings of isolation, reassuring them in her comforting, 84-year-old voice.

"Let the person know there's no criticism, just love and affection," she tells families. They should learn all they can about the disease, but they "must not be so pessimistic that they convey the feeling to the person who has AIDS."

After the disease had killed her grandson in 1984 and an artist friend a year later, Peabody, whose 50-year-old son also is homosexual, felt compelled to share her experience with other families.

She has helped several AIDS patients and about a dozen of their relatives, including Haines.

"She's a very warm, supportive person with a great deal of knowledge," she said. "I found her particularly helpful as someone who had gone through this."

Dr. Michael Bach, an AIDS specialist, said, "The fact that an older person can handle this makes them say, 'Well, gee, if a lady like this can handle it, why can't I?'"

Dr. Owen Pickus said Peabody has visited victims and allayed family fears that AIDS is contagious.

"It's great to see a little grandmother come in (to the hospital), especially when your own grandmother won't show up," said Pickus.

Nattily dressed in a black and white dress and a green ascot, Peabody sat erect in a hand-carved, straight-backed French chair at her Victorian home and bristled when asked about the public response to AIDS victims.

"It makes me feel very sad because I think the human race hasn't come very far," she said.

For churches to preach "that anybody who gets AIDS because he is homosexual is paying for his sins is absolutely ridiculous and goes back to the middle ages."

Peabody told a minister at the AIDS support group in 1985 that while she did not feel trained enough to work the hotline, she had done extensive research on AIDS and could empathize with victims' families.

The minister was concerned that given the tenor of public reaction to AIDS, Peabody's friends might shun her when they learned she associated with AIDS patients and their families.

"At my age, those things don't make any difference," she said. "If people didn't want to be a friend, that was all right with me. I knew where I stood."

Doctors help put her in touch with families, and parents usually are appreciative because they have been rebuffed by friends who stopped associating with them after learning their child was an AIDS victim.

Homosexuality "is a condition that a person is probably born with," she tells parents who struggle to understand their son's or daughter's lifestyle.

Some parents feel guilty with that bit of news, thinking that perhaps the homosexuality came from them, but in most cases they have accepted the gay lifestyle "with great understanding, and loved their sons and brothers nonetheless, perhaps all the more."

It was that kind of support she and her family embraced grandson Peter with. Peabody flew from Portland to San Diego once a month for a year to visit Peter, and the family's struggle to cope with the disease became the subject of a poignant book, "The Screaming Room," written by Peter's mother (Peabody's daughter).

"We don't condemn a person for his ideas and thinking. We can argue about it, but we don't condemn it," said Peabody.

A son or daughter is a loving and often gifted individual, regardless of sexual preference, she stresses.

"What could we do without the Leonardo daVinci's, the great musical composers, conductors, and so forth, who were homosexual, the ones with beautiful voices. How poor this world would be without them."

Brought up in a family of what she called "broad-minded Republicans," Peabody learned the value of humanitarian work as a youth in New Mexico. Her mother did child welfare work and her father, a lawyer, volunteered his services to Indians.

"We just always thought of ourselves as part of the community, and if you were, you did community work," she said.

She moved to Maine in 1951 when she and her late husband bought a shoe company.

A founder of the Portland Landmarks historical society, Peabody also is active in the Sweetser Home for emotionally disturbed children, and she is a voracious reader of material on AIDS.

Piled on a coffee table is a mound of magazine articles and newspaper clippings about the disease.

Where AIDS has become a fixture in the news, "there's no excuse" for the public not to learn more about it; some people just don't want to, she said.

"It's when we don't understand and we close our minds that we become bigots and unsympathetic."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



"Can you suggest anything for a guy who has everything and gave it to me?"

INSIDE THE AIDS PROJECT

At the first annual meeting and picnic of The Aids Project in August, the following new board members were elected: Robert Mitchell - President, Kristen Kreamer - Vice President, Richard Steinberg - Treasurer, Stephanie Martyak - Secretary.

The following people were awarded certificates for their work with The Aids Project:

- Fred Berger - for his countless hours as past president and founding father of The Aids Project.
- Bob Cameron - for his work on the Aids Hotline and his continuing work as a "Buddy" to PWA's.
- Steve Gorman - for his energetic and endless fund raising efforts.
- Ye Ed (David Ketchum) - for his work in reviving The Aids Project Newsletter.

DIRECTLY SPEAKING by

Gary L. Anderson

I've been asked by the President of the Board to submit a column to the News each month. Finding things to say is the easy part. The hard task is coming up with a title for the column. For now I'm calling it the above. I'd appreciate any suggestions you might have.

Fall is upon us already. And it is going to be a premier autumn for AIDS education in the State of Maine. Just looking at this month's calendar will give you some clue to that. Major presentations/events are planned in Portland, Augusta, York County, Sugarloaf, and Ellsworth. Others will take place in Brunswick, Skowhegan, etc. November will see the Second Annual Living With AIDS in Maine conference (this time a two day event), a major Pastoral Care conference (in Portland), and other programs. If you ever wanted to get AIDS education, now is one of the best times ever.

It is encouraging to see the broad support and interest in AIDS education. Education is the key to prevention of the spread of the AIDS virus in Maine. Education is the key to amelioration of the effects of the disease on Maine people. Education will bring about the understanding and compassion that's needed to ensure that no family, no person in Maine is subject to discrimination, exclusion, stigma, or violence because their lives have been touched by AIDS.

The past has been different. Maine has not been unaffected by fear, hatred, prejudice, and ignorance. The examples are few, but one example is one too many.

So come join the battle this fall. Education is a powerful weapon. If we weld it together, we will conquer AIDS. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you probably already know, The AIDS Project's service programs are beginning to grow and expand; our AIDS Line, support services and community education activities are all busy and bustling. And, as our staff and volunteer numbers increase, so do our capabilities to respond effectively to the needs of our community.

The Board of Directors is also beginning to change and streamline our organizational structure. At a recent meeting, the Board approved several significant organizational changes including:

- Expansion of Board membership.
- Establishment of major working committees:
 - Executive Committee
 - Program Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Resource Development Committee
- Processes for the development of formal policies in the areas of administration, personnel, programs, finances and resource development.
- Approved the formalization of TAP's working relationships with key community organizations.

As I mentioned, we will be expanding the membership of the present Board. I would like to hear from any members of the community who may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors, and invite you to give me a call at 772-6222 or leave a message at the TAP office.

Best Regards, Robert Mitchell

MATERIAL

The following list of resource material is an updated version of the list that was in last months newsletter.

AIDS RESOURCE MATERIAL

WRITTEN MATERIAL sponsored by the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office on AIDS, Division of Disease Control.

AIDS: AM I AT RISK? A SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE, by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, STD Control Program, Office on AIDS (available in bulk).

AIDS AND CHILDREN: LATEST FACTS ABOUT AIDS - INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS, by the American Red Cross and the U.S. Public Health Service (single copies only).

AIDS AND THE SAFETY OF THE NATIONS BLOOD SUPPLY. LATEST FACTS ABOUT AIDS, by the American Red Cross and the U.S. Public Health Service (single copies only).

AIDS, SEX AND YOU. LATEST FACTS ABOUT AIDS, by the American Red Cross and the U.S. Public Health Service (single copies only).

AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1986. (up to 10 copies).

GUIDELINES FOR AIDS RISK REDUCTION, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Scientific Affairs Committee of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (up to 10 copies).

INFORMATION ABOUT HIV ANTIBODY TESTING, by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, STD Control Program, Office on AIDS (bulk).

MAKING SEX SAFER, by the American College Health Association, 1987. (up to 10 copies)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Disease Control, 1987 (bulk).

SAFE SEX, by the Charlottesville AIDS Resource Network (CARN) for the American College Health Association (ACHA), 1987 (single copies only).

SAFE SEX GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN AT RISK FOR AIDS TRANSMISSION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES, by the Women's AIDS Network, Coyote, Project Aware and the Lesbian Insemination Project (up to 10 copies).

SHOOTING UP AND YOUR HEALTH, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1986. (single copies only).

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT HIV INFECTION AND AIDS, by the American Social Health Association, 1987 (up to 10 copies).

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT SEX AND AIDS, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation 1986 (single copies only).

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1986. (up to 10 copies).

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND ALLIED PROFESSIONALS REGARDING AIDS, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (up to 10 copies).

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT AIDS, by the U.S. Public Health Service (single copies only).

WINTER 1987, FACTS ABOUT AIDS, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (single copies only).

WOMEN AND AIDS, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1986 (single copies only).

YOUR CHILD AND AIDS, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1986 (single copies only).

1/2" VHS VIDEO SELECTIONS

AIDS: An overview with Dr. Harold Jaffey, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, 11/85.

AIDS Workshop, with William Nersesian, M.D.; Kathleen Gensheimer, M.D.; Michael Bach, M.D., 12/30/85.

American Red Cross - Beyond Fear, a one hour film divided into the following three categories, 1) The Virus-22:04; 2) The Individual 17:28; 3) The Community-20:49. 7/86.

An Epidemic of Fear - AIDS in the Workplace, produced by Pacific Bell San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1986.

New York City AIDS Report, New York City Department of Health, 12/85.

Primer on AIDS, (General Presentation) Kathleen Gensheimer, M.D., 11/85

AUDIOCASSETTES

AIDS Education: Two Program Examples, from the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, 1985.

AIDS: Virology and Serology, from the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, 1985.

The Epidemic That Will Not Go Away: Public Health Policy Issues and AIDS, from the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, 1985.

Public Health Promotion Policy: Description and Issues, from the 114th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, 1986.

Women and AIDS, from the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, 1985.

Also available upon request is a list of the names and addresses of the Governor's Committee to Advise the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services on AIDS, and a statistical update of AIDS cases in Maine. For information on how to obtain the above materials please call the Office on AIDS at 289-3747 or write: Office on AIDS, State House, Station 11, Augusta, ME 04333.

STATISTICS

Thankfully the stats for Maine are the same as last months report. 57 diagnosed cases of Aids, of which 25 have died. However, the number of people who have tested positive with the Aids virus has gone from 160 in June to 200 in September. National statistics as of September 7, 1987: 41,735 diagnosed cases of Aids - 24,019 deaths.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As of this writing, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has some monies (\$\$\$\$) available for the March On Washington on October 9-12. If you cannot afford to go, or you need some assistance, please contact Diane Elze at 799-6905.

OUR GRATITUDE

We wish to thank radio station WWGT for the new office "Carrols" (work stations) now being used at The Aids Project office. A much needed addition.

We wish to thank all those people who responded to our request for ideas for a "logo" for The Aids Project. A final selection will be made shortly, and announced in this newsletter.

We wish to thank Thom's Twin City Florists - 232 Main St. - Saco - for the flowers at The Aids Project annual meeting and picnic held on Aug. 29th at the home of Kristen Kreamer. Thanks Thom!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



"Attention, everyone, we'll be experiencing a little turbulence for the next few minutes."



"Mildred, they didn't say you had to reach out and touch everyone!"

CONDOMS ARE EFFECTIVE!

CALENDAR

- SEPT. 30 - AIDS and ARC Therapy Group - Seacoast Resource Associates - Portsmouth, N.H. - group to be open ended - call 603-431-1900 for further information plus time and place.
- OCT. 1 - Couples Therapy Group - Seacoast Resource Associates - Portsmouth, N.H. - this will be a ten week group running through December 10th - call 603-431-1900 for further information plus time and place.
- OCT. 2 - Aids Workshop - York County Counseling Service - Saco, Me. - Gary Anderson speaker - 8:30 AM registration - call The Aids Project (774-6877) for further information.
- OCT. 3 - Aids-Line Staff and R & R Staff meeting - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Re-energizing & Re-educating - All must attend - this meeting will cancel out the regular first Tuesday of every month meeting.
- OCT. 6 - Help Maine Fight Aids - Learning To Teach About Aids - An Instructional Symposium at the Maine Medical Center - 8:15 AM registration - call 871-2131 for further information.
- OCT. 6 - Elizabeth Kubler Ross to speak on Aids - University of Southern Maine at Portland - 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM - \$10.00 fee - call 780-4045 for further information.
- OCT.9-11 - The 12th Conference of Mainely Men - Pilgrim Lodge - West Gardiner, Me. - call one of the following for further details - Craig Cooper 799-3051 - Dodd Roberts 866-2694 - Chris Chenard 761-2076 - Jim Mann 597-2336.
- OCT.9-12 - THE NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON to help passage of the national lesbian and gay civil rights bill - to end discrimination against people with Aids - to increase funding for Aids research, education, and patient care. Call The Aids Project (774-6877) for further details.
- OCT. 14 - Pastoral Care Training Session at The Aids Project - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM - call 774-6877 for further details.
- OCT.16-17- Aids Prevention Education Conference - Maine Medical Center - call 871-2131 for time, place, and registration information.
- OCT. 17 - The Emotions Of Aids - one day workshop - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM - for Aids patients and their families, to gather for a day of sharing the emotional impact of living with Aids. This is an experiential, not an informational workshop. Call Jacob Watson at 870-8656 or 761-2522 for location (which will be in Portland).
- OCT.23-24- Workshop ministering to adult children of alcoholics and dysfunctional families - First Parish Church - 9 Cleaveland St. - Brunswick, Me. - by Belleville Counseling Association - call 729-8727 for time and further information.
- OCT. 30 - Hancock County Aids Education Day - Downeast Health Services - 3 Oak St. - Ellsworth, Me. - 9:00 AM - Gary Anderson speaker - call The Aids Project for further information. (774-6877)
- NOV.1-7 - The Institute For Advanced Study Of Human Sexuality - San Francisco - Safe Sex Instructor Certification Program - Must apply by Oct. 1st - application information, prices, and further details available from The Aids Project (774-6877).
- NOV.5-6 - Fourth Annual Meeting of the Maine Public Health Association - Augusta Civic Center - Augusta, Me. - there will be several speakers on Aids on 11/5 - 8:15 AM registration - for further details contact Noel Genova at 773-7247.
- NOV. 7 - The Merrymeeting Aids Support Services group will be having a social get-together - First Parish Church - Brunswick, Me. - 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon - call Julie Zimmerman 833-5016
- NOV. 8 - Aids on the community level in Maine - an open meeting for all interested - Patrick Cote from the Bureau of Health speaker - call The Aids Project (774-6877) for time and place.
- NOV.20-21- Two Day Auction - in the backyard of The Aids Project - 48 Deering St. - Portland, Me. - sponsored by the Visual Aid group - auction of "services" on the 20th - auction of Art on the 21st - call The Aids Project for further details - 774-6877.

CALENDAR cont.

- DEC. 6 - The Mad Horse Theatre Company will present a special benefit performance for The Aids Project of "Brecht On Brecht" (A retrospective of the plays and poems of Bertolt Brecht with music by Kurt Weill and Hans Eisler) - at Theater of Fantasy - 50 Danforth St. - Portland, Me. - 8:00 PM - call the theater at 775-5657 for prices and more information.
- JAN. 23 - The Merrymeeting Aids Support Services group will be conducting a "Buddy" training session - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM - location to be announced - call 729-8727 for further information.
- SPRING-1988- Aids Prevention Education Conference Follow-Up - Maine Medical Center - call 871-2131 for further information.

ONGOING CALENDAR

Every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 12 noon at The Aids Project - 48 Deering Street - Portland - there is a group meeting for all PWA's, PWArc, caregivers, and family members, to share your thoughts and feelings relative to Aids. The meeting is conducted by Jacob Watson, M.A. Jacob is a spiritual teacher and psychotherapist. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Beacon College, and the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, he has trained with the Elizabeth Kubler-Ross Center.

COMMENTS

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions to help the Newsletter meet your needs. If you have an event in your area that you would like to have published in the Aids Project Newsletter, please contact us at the Aids Project - 774-6877 - or by mail to the attention of: David Ketchum.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP TAP. FOLLOWING ARE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS. CHECK THOSE YOU CAN DO:

- ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP TAP. I WOULD LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER. SEND ME AN APPLICATION.
- ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP TAP. I AM ENCLOSING A CONTRIBUTION.
- ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP TAP. I CAN DONATE NEEDED ITEMS OF FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ETC. CALL ME AT: _____
- ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP TAP. SEND ME INFORMATION ON WHO I SHOULD CONTACT IN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVT. TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR AIDS EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES.
- ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP TAP. I CAN'T DO SO RIGHT NOW, BUT ADD ME TO A MAILING LIST OF CONCERNED PEOPLE.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SEND THIS FORM TO:

48 DEERING ST.
PORTLAND, ME 04101
(207) 774-6877

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

THE AIDS PROJECT

SUBSCRIBE

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE AIDS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER RELIES TOTALLY ON SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EXIST. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUBSCRIBED, AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT, PLEASE DO SO NOW. \$10.00 COVERS ONE YEAR (12 ISSUES). PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO "THE AIDS PROJECT". THANK YOU.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SAFER SEX

CAN BE SENSUOUS!

WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE WITHOUT A SMILE,
GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS.....



TAP
48 DEERING STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

