

The Aids Project Newsletter

48 Deering Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Subscription - \$10.00 per year
Editor - David Ketchum

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

NOVEMBER 1987

EDITORIAL

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives passed Amendment #963 to HHS Appropriations Bill prohibiting the use of federal funds to provide AIDS educational materials and activities that promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities. This restriction could have devastating effect by prohibiting any educational materials or programs targeted to the gay community, hampering Public Health measures to control AIDS. It is essential that you act immediately. The Amendment will be acted upon during the week of November 1st. Please contact Senators Mitchell and Cohen, and Representatives Brennan and Snowe by calling area 202-224-3121. Ask for all of the above, and state your objection to the Amendment. You can also telegram the above at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

I beg you all, please don't read this editorial and say "Oh, that's too bad!" and then do nothing about it. We need your help, and we need it NOW.... This is going to affect the entire community, not just the gay community.

STATISTICS

As of October 27, 1987, there have been 61 diagnosed cases of AIDS in Maine. Of the total 61 cases, 29 have died. People who have tested positive with the AIDS virus is now at 213. National Data as of October 12, 1987: diagnosed cases of AIDS 42,965. Deaths 24,698.

WANTED

The Aids Project needs a housekeeper. Could you volunteer once or twice a month to clean the office? The office requires light cleaning each week. We need to keep the office especially clean for the well-being of PWAs who use the office, and for the antibody testing program. The preferable cleaning time would be Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. but other times could be arranged. The office has four rooms and would take one person about two hours to clean. Sign up with a friend or by yourself by calling volunteer co-ordinator, Eunice Cox at 774-6877.

THE BASIC ESSENTIALS OF LIFE:

1. AIR 2. FOOD 3. WATER 4. HUGGING 5. CLOTHING 6. SHELTER

1



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the Gay Mens Health Crisis of
New York (GMHC).

A SISTER REMEMBERS

- Claudia Doherty

AIDS is the number one topic these days. Newspapers are filled with important and crucial articles. Television has kept its viewing audiences aware of the disease's statics: how many are alive, how many are dying, their prognosis now and their prognosis six months from now.

AIDS stirs me up and throws me onto an emotional roller coaster. My brother, Norman I. DiPace died from AIDS on March 13, 1986. His memory haunts me. His agonizing death plagues me.

His qualities as a teenager were not macho enough for his Italian father and community. Unfortunately, kindness, sensitivity to other people's shortcomings, humor and moralistic behavior were just not manly enough for him to be accepted and respected. Teenage years filled him with confusion, turbulence and "Why can't you be like the other boys."

Begging to be free, he left for New York City at 19 years old. He was at home in New York. He loved the theater, concerts and most of all the people. Norman lived at 324 E. 48th Street and knew everyone there. He was godfather to the baby upstairs, he took care of the old lady downstairs and he loved the people on 2nd Avenue. We learned to love New York City as much as he did.

There was always time for "Sis". Sunday was our day. My children and husband were intrigued with his friends and stories. Stories concerning work at Bergdorf Goodman and all the celebrities he liked and disliked.

His early forties found him a prisoner again, questioning his youth and trying to fill a void of rejection and love. He seemed to have found love living in the fast lane with new buddies, embracing a lifestyle he was unaccustomed to; but he acclimated himself quite quickly. Coke filled his void of love and he began slipping away from me.

He was diagnosed in March of 1985 with AIDS and died exactly one year later. AIDS took part of me when it killed my brother. My son, Raymond, wrote this poem in his memory:

LINES

Shuffle in your cave of
darkness

There's a light!
quickly block it out
Warmth is not allowed.

Travel deeper down
into a long canal
Get a white crystal axe
And chip away your soul.

Somebody calling but pay
no heed
The echoes will stop, they
always do
Paint your face white,
now all is bright.

And laugh loud to
wake the dead

Which is you.

Romp in your play-
ground of loneliness

There's a hand
reaching out!
But it's only push-
ing a swing

And the voice is
calling for somebody
Who went down the
slide long ago.

MATERIALS

Living with AIDS

Produced by Tina DiFelicianantonio

This compelling new documentary by a talented young San Francisco producer chronicles the last six weeks in the life of 22-year-old Todd Coleman. Interviews with Todd, his lover, his nurse, his social worker, and his hospice volunteers dramatically illustrate the agony of those afflicted with AIDS and those who must watch them die. As nurse Heddy Strauss says in the film, "People are dying so fast that it's what I imagine being in a war would be like - you can't process it fast enough."

Living with AIDS is intended to help demystify AIDS by personalizing the disease and its human impact in an honest, nonthreatening manner. The film follows Todd to an appointment with Dr. Constance Wofsy at San Francisco General Hospital, through a ride in the Gay Freedom Day Parade, and around his apartment as he orders his life to prepare for inevitable death.

A central focus of the film is the community support and the unconditional love that Todd received as he grew weaker and less able to care for himself. The people involved in Todd's struggle with AIDS provide the viewer with a model for compassionate care of terminal patients. Todd's urgent appeal in the final minutes of the film should be heard and heeded by health professionals and the public at large:

"Just don't turn away from us all. Because a lot of kids, a lot of men need help. And that help is appreciated and we need as much of it as we can get. Because it's killing too many of us ... It's killing too many of us off."

The insight the film provides will permanently change the way you think about people with AIDS. The film should be required viewing for anyone who may come in contact with an AIDS patient, whether in a hospital, hospice, long-term care, home care, or family setting. It is also appropriate for junior high, high school, and college classes in which the issue of psychosocial care of AIDS patients is being addressed.

Color, 24 minutes

Rental \$65/16mm. 3/4" VHS

Purchase \$385. 16mm. 3/4" VHS, Beta

Mail to:

Carle Medical Communications

510 West Main Street • Urbana IL 61801

CONDOMS ARE EFFECTIVE!

MAP
3043 E Street
San Diego, CA 92102

Dear Mother of an AIDS Patient:

We continue to receive letters and calls from people everywhere looking for support in their community: from mothers; from social workers, nurses, and others involved in AIDS counseling; and from patients themselves, who are worried about their families. Though family support groups have sprung up here and there, there are still many isolated mothers with no one to talk to. We need to know who is willing to let us use her name for reference to another mother. (For example, if we have Mrs. Smith in Lima, Ohio, on our list, and Mrs. Jones in a town near Lima calls us for help, we have to call or write to Mrs. Smith for permission to use her name, then call Mrs. Jones back and give it to her.) Everybody's valuable time and money could be saved if we could immediately give Mrs. Jones Mrs. Smith's name and number. We need this permission because our list is confidential. Please tell us on the enclosed form if you would permit us to use your name in this way.

We also need to know where there are functioning support groups of mothers/families to refer others to, what name they give their group, and if they want to be considered part of the MAP network (no fees!). Several groups are listed on our last brochure but undoubtedly there are more now; this list can also include individuals living where there is no group but who would like to start one. We families of AIDS patients are finally being recognized as a valuable resource on AIDS and as a group that both needs more help and can give help, such as testifying about the basic needs of patients. It is important that we be able to contact each other easily and present a solid front in the public eye. With almost 40,000 patients diagnosed, there are that many families affected, and we are too large a group to be ignored. We can contribute a lot, but we must be able to communicate easily and efficiently. So, please let us know the name of your group (can be "Families," "Parents," "Mothers" of AIDS Patients, People with AIDS--whatever), whom to contact and his/her name, phone, and address.

We also need to know who is willing to speak at meetings or on the media about AIDS and the family. We have had many invitations to speak or be interviewed outside of San Diego that we were unable to accept. It is important that the public realize that AIDS can affect any family anywhere. This is very difficult and painful to do, but it is also important, and we need to know who would be willing to do this in other parts of the country.

Please return the enclosed form quickly so that we can provide better support to all our mothers and families. Thank you!

With love to all,

Barbara Peabody (619-234-3432)
Miriam Thompson (619-426-1317)

MAP Questionnaire

Please return to: MAP, 3043 E St., San Diego, California 92102

1. I want to be considered a member of MAP (no dues). Yes.... No....
2. I don't want to be an active member but want to receive the newsletter. Yes.... No....
3. I want no connection with MAP, including the newsletter. Please remove my name from the list. Yes....
4. You have my permission to give my name and number to other mothers without asking my permission to use my name. Yes.... No....
5. Our local support group for mothers and/or families is:
The Aids Project
48 Deering Street
Portland, Maine 04101
6. I am willing to speak to civic groups, etc. or the media on issues related to AIDS in my area. Yes.... No....
7. I would like to participate in future efforts to influence legislation aimed at AIDS research, education, support of patients and families. Yes.... No....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

"Stop worrying, Casanova - who'd believe it anyway?"



Cartoon by Michael Willhoite
from his book of cartoons
"Now For My Next Trick" -
Available from Alyson Publications,
Inc. - 40 Plympton Street - Boston,
Mass. 02118



"The President stands behind you all the way. Do you wish to resign or be fired?"

A MOTHER'S THOUGHTS

- Arlene

Hi! My name is Arlene...the mother of Michael Calvert, who is a contributor to the PWA Coalition Newsline and who is a PWA. Boy, that was a mouthful, was it not?

In July 1985, Michael was diagnosed with KS and AIDS. A few days later, when Michael telephoned me to tell me (though he did tell me as gently and as humanely as possible), my world fell apart. No need to go into the grim horror of the days which followed. All of you who love a person with AIDS already replayed that scene in your own head before you finished reading this sentence. Though I was subsequently diagnosed by friends and loved ones as having a terminal case of negativity, those who knew me, and especially those who know Michael, had hope; more than hope...they KNEW that both Michael and I would--will survive. There is no real magic to our medicine, though he and I often refer to this bond as such. It is really a medicine we all can take and it is available without a prescription. The medicine: communication.

Too simplistic, you say? No, it is not simple, for really talking, really communicating is a tedious time-consuming, fear-fraught endeavor. But it is not too late to start. Do it now. If your own mother is not around, or your father, or a sister or a brother with whom you have already established a long, warm and loving bond...for your own sake, talk to somebody. That somebody you pick to talk to may not have the foggiest idea of what to say to you, but he or she will keep listening and holding you (even over the long distance wires) because they care. Fortunately, for Michael and me, we have always been close and have always communicated. Also, fortunately for both of us, we are surrounded by family and friends who love us, let us know it, and share with us their time, shoulders, cash, and a kick in the pants when we screw up. Somebody who really loves you will not hesitate to tell you that you are being a jerk, even if you are sick, or even if the one you love is sick. But I digress...The point I am attempting to make here is that we, Michael and I, do know how very damned difficult it is to be open and honest and to reach out for a friend when your belly is rumbling, or because your horse's ass of a landlord is threatening to prove himself to be in the world class category.

But reach out to somebody, anyhow, now. Please. True mutual caring can be the most marvelous tonic, not a cure-all, understand, but a wonderful tonic that will bring some reason, some lovely, gentle, peaceful meaning to you both. Loving communication is truth, and truth doesn't die.

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the Gay Mens Health Crisis of
New York (GMHC).

DIRECTLY SPEAKING

by

Gary L. Anderson

This is the month when Thanksgiving comes. A time for family and friends to gather again, a time to reflect on the past year and all that has come and gone with it, a time to take stock in what we have, and what we lack, as winter comes upon us again. But above all, Thanksgiving is a time for communities, be they big or small, to get together. And no matter the size of your community, be it as large as Portland or as small as you and one other person, don't forget the people living with AIDS this holiday season. Make them part of your celebrations, your communities, your families, and your lives.

This year there is truly much for which we may be thankful. AZT has continued to be effective in treating people with HIV infections and is now more readily available. Many Maine people are on this wonder(ful) drug. The Department of Human Services and the State Legislature have become partners in funding valuable activities which are needed to address the multi-faceted tasks at hand by the people of Maine. Day in and day out, people from all walks of life are working together to combat AIDS and to provide amelioration to those living with AIDS. Education and support groups have sprung up in the Bath/Brunswick/Freeport area, in Waldo County, in Hancock County, and more are planning to get started. This year we've seen the churches take courageous steps forward to address the spiritual, social, emotional, and financial obstacles which AIDS has erected. We've seen representatives from over two dozen agencies, organizations, businesses, churches, and groups get together to address the problem of accessible, affordable, and quality housing for people with AIDS and ARC; and this group stands on the threshold to make such housing in Portland a reality. We've seen volunteers come forward again and again to work on project after project that in some way will help prevent AIDS or care for and support those who may have AIDS. We can be thankful for men like Cameron Duncan and Vincent Boulanger who go on giving and giving and giving of themselves that all of us may better understand the reality of AIDS; and the universality we all share.

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New York (GMHC).

OPEN LETTER TO THE NLGHF CONFERENCE
- Paul Popham, Founding President
and an Honorary Director of GMHC

To my brothers and sisters--proud and beseiged gay men and lesbians fighting for AIDS: I am sorry not to be with you this year. I am not very well now. I know you will understand.

All of us have fought very hard. As one of its founders, I am particularly proud of GMHC. I believe there is not another gay organization in the country that has become so strong and lasting in such a short time. Many people have made this possible; just as many people have worked hard in other cities and towns to create their own AIDS organizations.

My wish is that GMHC and all the other AIDS organizations in all of the states band together to strengthen the AIDS Action Council and help it move from strength to strength. We have learned that we will get further faster with a strong lobbying presence in Washington. Politicians--to whom we are beholden--understand only one thing: pressure. Gay and lesbian organizations do not pressure nearly enough. I am sorry to say that many of you do not fully appreciate the vital importance of the AIDS Action Council and have been remiss in contributing even your agreed-upon share of the costs of the Council, let alone more. It is hard for many of us to understand why cities and communities--most as rich as the New York Gay Community--are unwilling or unable to raise their share of AAC costs in their communities. Each community benefits from AAC lobbying and each community must contribute. This is not the case at present, but I hope this changes at these meetings. I am sorry to have to talk about this negligence and inconsideration so publicly; but, I am trying to get all of you to shoulder your share of the burden of running our lobbying group.

If I can leave you with any message, it is this: it is more imperative than ever that all of us learn to cooperate--to network and band together in our fighting, and not to succumb, as we often do, to fighting among ourselves. Our leaders must see a larger picture, a picture of national unity and strength among gay and lesbian organizations. Such unity will make GMHC, APLA, and all the AIDS organizations throughout the nation stronger both locally and nationally. We will have the visibility and strength we need to influence politicians and bureaucrats to provide us with the help we need and demand.

It has been a long journey and a hard fight for me personally. I am proud of our accomplishments, but I know I am leaving you with enormous tasks unfinished. I plead with you: please fight harder than ever; we must make the world healthy for ourselves and especially for the next generation.

Paul Popham died earlier this year. May his dream become our reality.

"Life cannot wait until the sciences have explained the universe. We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its coerciveness; it is always urgent, 'here and now' without any possible postponement. Life is fired at us point blank."

Jose Ortega y Gasset

Berkeley takes lead in AIDS education

By J. Marquardt
San Francisco

Berkeley, Calif., became the first city in the U.S. to mail AIDS education material to every household, this month. The brochures, based on the one produced by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and a local TV station, featured a statement meant to gain the attention of every resident: "The information in this brochure can save lives. Please share it with everyone you know."

There is a crying need for every city and township across the country to have such information distributed. However, the Reagan administration, which is in the best position to do this, has refused to distribute some 45 million AIDS information pamphlets as directed and funded by Congress.

Berkeley Councilwoman Maudelle Shirek said that the country is lagging behind European nations that have already sent AIDS information to all their citizens. Shirek said, "Nationally, we need a comprehensive, compassionate AIDS policy which, like Berkeley's, is concerned with both health and civil rights."

CALENDAR

- * NOV. 1 - University Student Theatre Ensemble production of "As Is" by William Hoffman. A young writer, about to launch a career, is stricken with Aids. A nonmoralistic tale, not of Aids, but of reaction to it. At the Luther Bonney Auditorium - USM Portland Campus. 8:00 p.m. - Admission \$6.00 - USM Students \$3.00 - \$1.00 from every ticket purchased at the box office goes to benefit Aids research and support programs.

- NOV. 3 - Discussion on Gay Civil Rights - sponsored by Maine Civil Liberties - Lincoln School - Bangor - call 774-5444 for time and further information.

- NOV. 4 - Aids Update 1987 - A Challenge To The Maine Medical Community - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Augusta Civic Center - Fort Western/Arnold Howard Room - Registration 8:30 a.m. - Oriented toward all health-care workers, including students and trainees.

- NOV. 5-6- Fourth Annual Meeting of the Maine Public Health Association - Augusta Civic Center - there will be several speakers on Aids on 11/5 - registration 8:15 a.m. - for further details contact Noel Genova at 773-7247.

- * NOV. 6 - University Student Theatre Ensemble production of "As Is" by William Hoffman as described above. 8:00 p.m.

- * NOV. 7 - University Student Theatre Ensemble production of "As Is" by William Hoffman as described above. 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

- NOV. 7 - The Merrymeeting Aids Support Services group will be having a social get-together - First Parish Church - Brunswick - 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon - call Julie Zimmerman 833-5016.

- NOV. 7 - Youth And AIDS - A Conference For Professionals - Harvard University Science Center and Harvard Law School - Registration 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. - Science Center Hall B - 1 Oxford St. - Cambridge, Mass. - call Kevin Cranston at 617-542-5188 for further information.

- NOV. 10 - Foster Parenting Discussion - Bangor Public Library - 7:00 p.m. - call Maine Civil Liberties Union 774-1267.

- NOV. 14 - Portland Pride Men's Group first pot-luck video supper and get-together for the fall and winter. Further info call Michael Rossetti at 883-6934.

- NOV. 17 - Chiltern Mtn. Club annual meeting and extravaganza in Boston - further info call Michael Rossetti 883-6934.

- NOV 19-20-Living With AIDS In Maine - Second Annual Conference - Augusta Civic Center - Registration (both days) 7:45 - 8:15 a.m. - This conference will provide a forum for health professionals, public health experts, educators, politicians, and others to discuss how AIDS is influencing life in the state of Maine.

- NOV 20-21-Two Day Auction sponsored by the Visual Aid group to benefit The Aids Project. Being held at One City Center from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. both days. It will be an auction of "services" on the 20th, and an auction of "art" on the 21st. If you have an auctionable service (housekeeping for a day - cooking - yard work - babysitting - whatever), or auctionable art work, please contact Kim Birch at Graffitti at 774-7599.

CALENDAR cont.

- NOV. 24 - National Organization of Women (NOW) - Portland chapter - at the YWCA - 87 Spring St. - Portland - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. - AIDS: The Moral Dilemma Surrounding HIV Testing and Counseling - members of the Governor's AIDS committee to speak.
- 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.
- JULY 20-26 - The Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference (1988) and AIDS Forum - Call For Participation - Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers - To submit a proposal and for registration information contact NLGHF/AAPHR Programming Committee - P.O. Box 65472 - Washington, D.C. 20035 or contact Michael Weeks at 202-797-3708 or Greg Thomas at 202-994-4285.
-

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.

On the first Tuesday of every month at The Aids Project - 48 Deering Street - Portland:

6:00 p.m. - A-Line Staff Meeting.

7:00 p.m. - HIV Counselor Staff Meeting.

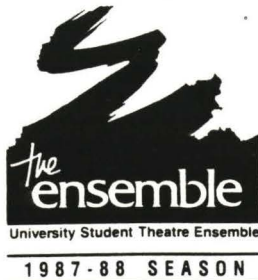
There is now an AIDS support group in the Bangor area meeting on a weekly basis. Anybody interested in the group should call 469-7343.

Every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Aids Project office - 48 Deering St. - Portland - there is a support group meeting for PWA's and PWArc ONLY.

Support Group for Parents of Adult Gay Children will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Please call 774-HELP for time and place.

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.



as is

by William Hoffman

Drama Desk
Award-winning
play about love
and catastrophe



"Powerful! Deeply affecting
and very funny!" —Time Magazine

"If you see no other play this year,
this is the one to see." —Rex Reed

Friday, October 30 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 31 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 1 8:00 p.m.
Friday, November 6 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 7 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 7 8:00 p.m.

Luther Bonney Auditorium
USM Portland campus

Admission: \$6; USM students: \$3

Box Office:
(207) 780-4089

\$1 from every ticket purchased at the box office for *As is*
goes to benefit AIDS research and support programs

University
of Southern
Maine 

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 CONTRI-
BUTION.
- 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

SAFER SEX

CAN BE SENSUOUS!

SUBSCRIBE

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE AIDS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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



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 _____

TAP
48 DEERING STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

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