

[Sep, 1993?]

**THERESA (TERRY) WADE DANNEMILLER
SEPTEMBER 4, 1964 - AUGUST 1, 1993**

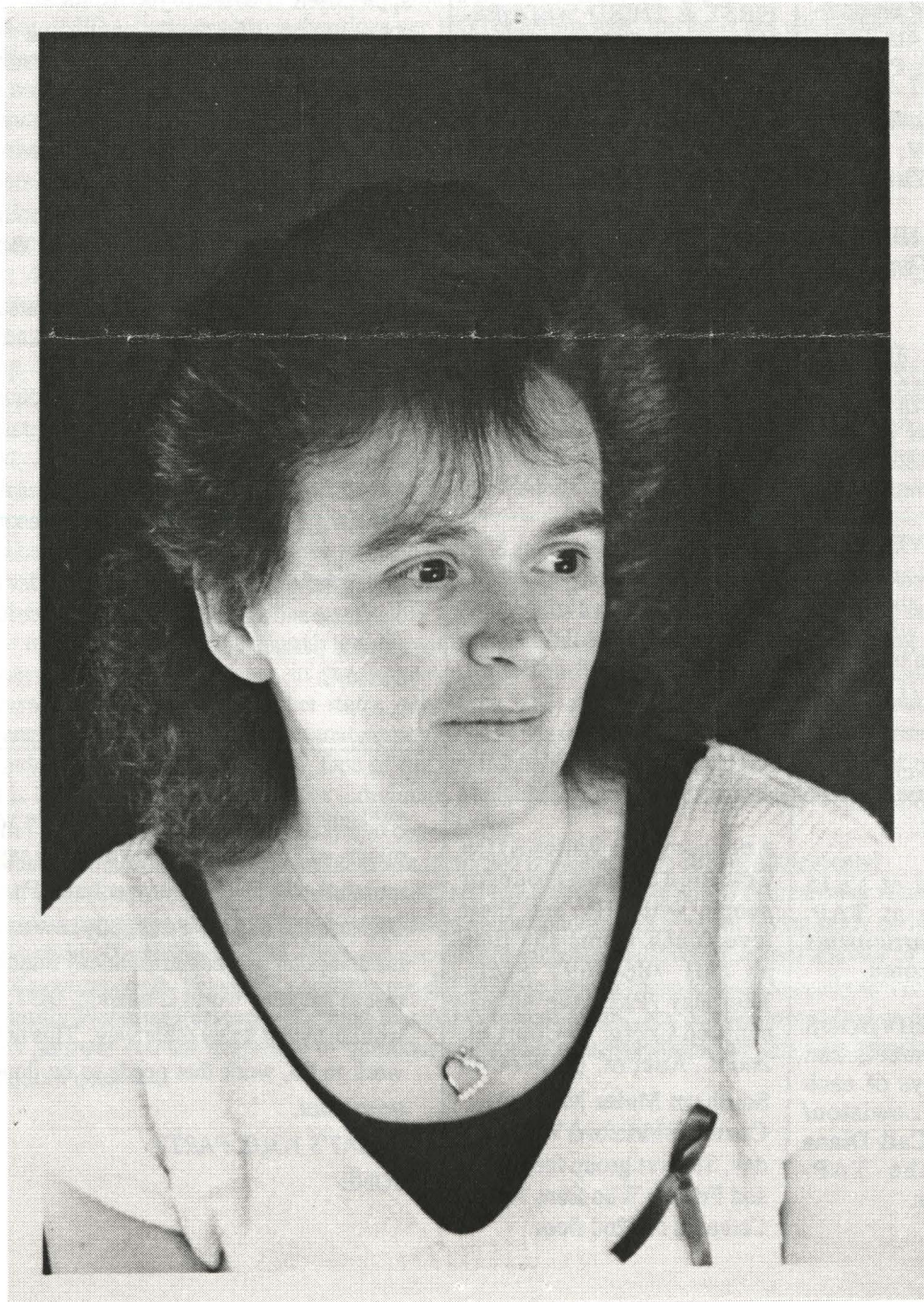
A woman of vision who could see things others never dreamed of

A woman of courage who stood for what she believed in regardless of the cost

A caring woman who touched hearts, changed minds and saved lives

A tiny woman in high heels with a Pepsi in one hand, a big grin and the determination of a bulldog

A mother, laughing with her children and her family, who spent her time and energy teaching us to be strong in spirit, to speak boldly against injustice, to teach one another and to work together to make the world a safer, more accepting place for persons living with AIDS



UP TO DATE HIV/AIDS NEWS

Questions and Answers on the Effectiveness of Condoms taken from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 6, 1993.

Q. What about studies that suggest condoms have as high as a 15.7% contraceptive failure rate?

A. These studies do not distinguish between inconsistent and consistent condom use. Recent studies show that pregnancy rates are estimated to be as low as 2% for couples who use condoms consistently and correctly. (Trussell). Similarly, in two studies involving extremely high-risk couples in which one partner was HIV-infected and the other was not, condoms were found to be highly effective when used consistently and correctly.

Q. Isn't it naive to think that people can use condoms consistently and correctly?

A. No, people can use condoms correctly by following a few simple steps. Discordant couple studies clearly demonstrate that consistent and correct condom use is possible if the couple is highly motivated.

Q. How are condoms regulated and tested?

A. Condoms are classified as medical devices, regulated by the FDA and manufactured according to national standards. Every condom sold in the U.S. is tested by the manufacturer electronically for defects, including holes or areas of thinning, before it is packaged. During the manufacturing process, condoms undergo stringent quality testing. In addition, the FDA randomly tests condoms using the water-leak test, in which a condom is filled with 300 ml of water. If FDA finds that more than four per 1000 condoms leak, the lot is not allowed to be sold.

Q. Don't condoms have microscopic holes that allow HIV to pass through?

A. Condoms are required to undergo demanding tests, including tests for holes before they are sold. If any holes are found, the condoms are discarded. Laboratory studies show that intact latex condoms provide a continuous barrier to microorganisms as well as sperm.

Q. Researchers studying surgical gloves made out of latex found "channels of 5 microns that penetrated the entire thickness of the glove."

A. The quality of latex condoms is higher than that of latex gloves. Condoms are made differently than gloves. Condoms are double-dipped in latex while gloves are only single dipped. Condoms also undergo much more stringent quality control procedures than gloves.

Q. Isn't abstinence the only foolproof way to prevent HIV infection?

A. Refraining from intercourse with infected partners is the most effective HIV prevention strategy. This is an especially important message for young people. There is little disagreement that premature initiation of sexual activity carries health risks. We need to strive for a climate supportive of young people who are choosing to delay sexual activity. Periodic abstinence, however, carries with it certain risks. A 1988 National Survey of Family Growth found abstinence to have a contraceptive failure rate of 26% when not practiced consistently. So, in abstinence...as in condom use - consistency is key.

Q. Why is this information being released now? Aren't people already using condoms?

A. We are releasing this information now because recently presented scientific data sheds new light on this important public health issue. We feel the public needs this information, and the MMWR is the most rapid means to disseminate it to public health professionals and the public. Most sexually active people are not using latex condoms every time they have sex. For example, in San Francisco, only 6% of heterosexual males with multiple sex partners reported always using condoms. In another study, only about 20% of sexually active American women reported that their male partners used condoms. A national survey of heterosexual adults with multiple sex partners found only 17% used condoms all the time (Catania). One of the key determinants of condom use is the belief that they work. Therefore, it is important for sexually active individuals to get the message that latex condoms can provide effective protection from HIV if they are used correctly and consistently.

Q. Don't education programs about condoms result in increased sexual activity among adolescents?

A. No. Several studies have shown that levels of sexual activity among young adults decreased or remained the same after sex education programs which included information about condoms. In a recent Swiss study of 16-19 year olds, an AIDS prevention efforts focusing on condoms use did not increase the level of sexual activity or the number of sex partners of young people. However, condoms use did increase among those already sexually active. A 1992 study reported in Family Planning Perspectives found that AIDS education and sex education resulted in decreases in the number of sex partners and the frequency of intercourse. Having received education was also associated with more consistent condom use.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The AIDS Project

MONDAYS - Support group for HIV-negative partners of HIV-positive persons. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS - People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 - 12:00 noon at the AIDS Project.

Living Well - Focusing on quality of life and empowerment, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the AIDS Project.

THURSDAYS - Women Living with HIV, 1:15 - 2:45 PM at The Aids Project.

Men Living with HIV, 5:30 - 7:00 PM at The AIDS Project.

All the above support groups meet at 22 Monument Square, 5th Floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for further information

ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS - Support group for mothers, sisters and loved ones of people with HIV disease at 7:30 p.m. Call Sandy (774-6877) for location.

The AIDS Project can be reached at 774-6844 or 1-800-851-2437.

Lunch is served at 12:15 each Thursday at TAP. Support group participants and clients welcome.

The Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Lewiston/Auburn area. Call Diana Carrigan at the TAP-Lewiston office: 783-4301

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

MASS is currently sponsoring three support groups relating to AIDS and HIV. These groups are anonymous and confidential, providing a safety environment to share feeling and problems concerning HIV infection.

TUESDAYS - MASS offers a group for family members and friends of people who are HIV-positive. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS - Group for people who are HIV-positive. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Call MASS at 725-4955 for more information.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition

Groups for anyone affected by HIV/AIDS on the third Monday of each month in Belfast. Call 338-1427 or 338-3135 for information.

Every other Thursday mother's group for mothers of persons living with HIV/AIDS or who have died of AIDS in Belfast. 338-1427.

THURSDAYS - PWA/HIV support group in the Rockland

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition Support group for people with HIV and their loved ones. Come any time or call 786-4697 FMI.. Thursday 7PM at the American Red Cross, 70 Court St. 2nd fl., Auburn. (743-7451)

Southern Maine Medical Center, Biddeford Wednesday, Support group for Family and Friends Who Care 7 p.m. Cafeteria #3, 2nd floor.

BOAT CRUISE '93

At 6:00 PM, the boat slipped from its dock at Casco Bay Lines and headed out into the bay. The lower deck served as a dance floor decorated in yellow and teal green trimmed with miniature white lights and dancers moved to a variety of music including country, pop, and RB top singles played by David. When not dancing, one could sample the delicious food provided. Chicken liver pate, colorful veggie platters, delicious sandwiches and some mouthwatering cookies and cakes made for quite a spread. Thanks to Woodford's Cafe, Chet, Greg, Mark and others who made this feast possible. The evening was a mixture of dancing, eating and mingling, highlighted by the NAMES Project 50-50 raffle drawing won by Matthew Smith. Thank you to Matthew for your donation of \$60 to the PWA Coalition-your kindness and support is much appreciated. The thank you list for this event is long and very special to us. Without the continuing support of local businesses and individuals this event would not have been the delightful evening that it was.

For printing posters and tickets:

Blackstone's

For selling tickets:

Drop Me A Line, The Underground, The Chartroom, Blackstones, The Outpost, Ananael, The Metro, Conceits

For decorations and flowers

The Paper Patch, Harmon's and Barton's Florist, Minott's Florist-Thank you, especially Heidi and Steve!

For refreshments:

Woodford's Cafe, Greg, Mark, Chet Scott

The crew at Casco Bay Lines was extremely courteous and helpful-as always.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS goes to **VIDEOPORT** for being a most generous financial sponsor for this event!

...and to everyone else, PWAs, friends, moms, and let's not forget grandmothers..a big thank you for turning out to support our cause and also delighting us with colorful clothing, such as leopard pants!!

David C.

***Here it is, the bottom of the page with all the announcements, so I guess it's a good place to say..hi! I'm back. Next month, I will resurrect my column From My Corner of The Office, but it will have a slightly new name. I'm sitting here at the computer on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon when the rest of the sane world is outside, BUT...you know...I guess I wouldn't want it any other way. This organization has a lot of work to do, work that needs to be done and my part is this newsletter.

WHAT'S YOUR PART?

JUNE

FROM KITTERY TO CALAIS: THE MAINE SCENE

A Brief Look At HIV/AIDS Related News Across The State

Eastern Maine AIDS Network Reaches Out To Bangor Area Homeless Population

Case Manager Sally-Lou Patterson and Educators Laura Neal and Denis Cranson have been stopping by the Greater Bangor area shelter and Salvation Army Soup Kitchen twice a month to talk one-on-one with clients about HIV/AIDS. A lot of interest has been generated on-site, many questions answered and other referrals have developed as word of mouth travels throughout the homeless community. Condoms and educational materials are available through the outreach program at the shelter, and the EMAN staff does scheduling for next day no cost walk-in HIV testing at the EMAN offices. (This testing program has been made possible through a specially awarded grant from the Maine AIDS Alliance.) In place since early 1993, EMAN looks forward to continuing this service into the new year.

ACT-UP Portland Raises Funds For Condom Crusade

August 24th saw a lot of good times happening at Zoots, a popular Portland night spot, as teen AIDS activists from Kennebunk and Saco joined with Portland Act-up members in a Chem Free Night fund-raiser dedicated to providing monies for condoms, latex gloves and educational materials for distribution during their direct action protests. ACT-UP Portland meets every Sunday evening at the Portland YWCA at 7:00 PM and has drop in hours Monday evening from 6 - 8 PM at their office at 142 High Street #222, Portland, ME. For more information, call 828 - 0566.

The AIDS Project Welcomes New Director

Deborah Shields has accepted the position of executive director of Maine's largest AIDS service organization and began work on July 12. Deborah has been involved with several Boston area AIDS organizations, among them the AIDS Law Clinic, Aids Action Committee, Minority AIDS Council and Prisoners with AIDS Task Force. In her new position as executive director, Deborah is looking forward to "increasing the visibility and political stature" of The AIDS Project. She sees one of the priorities of the second decade of the AIDS epidemic will be to increase the quality of life of persons living with AIDS. In prevention, she wants to help keep the spotlight on public health, focusing attention on high risk behaviors instead of high risk groups. She points to the increased incidence of HIV among adolescents and women as an indication that a serious lack of awareness persists and that there is still resistance to effective prevention education. Welcome to Maine, Deborah Shields !

AIDS Lodging House Hosts Annual Picnic

Bill's eggplant Parmesan was the " unofficial " best dish of the evening as The AIDS Lodging House hosted its annual picnic. Rick Bouchard, program director indicated that among the new proposals being looked at by the ALH board are the possibility of a name change and provisions for non-HIV positive significant others to live at the House. Already in place is the new non-smoking policy. As of July 1st the ALH is a United Way funded affiliate and will welcome two social work interns to their staff this fall - a BSW from USM and a MSW from UNE. Rick is looking forward to attending the first National AIDS Housing Conference in Chicago this September. When he returns, the ALH will be working on a plan for the program to provide more housing options in this area. Also in the fall, the ALH will join MASS in training volunteers for the Buddy Program and the Lodging House. There are ongoing volunteer opportunities at the ALH in the area of maintenance, administration and board activities. Persons wishing more information about The AIDS Lodging House, may wish to receive their quarterly newsletter. Send your name and address to: ALH, 233 Oxford Street, P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04104. Applicants for residence need only call for an application and interview at 874-1000.