WORLD AIDS DAY: DECEMBER 1, 1994
AIDS and the Family

by Matthew Friday
Staff Editor

On December 1, 1994, Egyptian and Rwandan children, families in Argentina, Zimbabwe, Malaysia and Colombia; AIDS networks in the Philippines; health and service organizations in Pakistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina; Girl Scouts in Yemen; and peoples across Europe and North America observed World AIDS Day.

Conceived six years ago after a world summit of health ministers called for a spirit of social tolerance towards people with HIV/AIDS and a greater exchange of information on the subject as a whole, each year's events and activities have focused attention on a different aspect of AIDS/HIV. This year's theme, "AIDS and the Family," will show the role played by traditional and non-traditional families in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Based on the idea that families take care and that "any group of people linked by feelings of trust, mutual support and a common destiny may be seen as a family," organizers' intention was to show the effectiveness of families in dealing with prevention, care, education and compassion while the human race learns to live with this disease. Because families "need not be limited to ties of blood, marriage, sexual partnership or adoption" it is expected that religious congregations, gangs, collectives, networks, support groups and circles of drug injectors can each define meaningful approaches to the problems affecting all of us, whether immediately or in the "over-arching family of humankind."

Coleen Haworth organized Monterey's observation of World AIDS Day 1994, which offered, among other things, a repeat of last year's very successful human chain. People with AIDS, friends and family (however defined, HIV+ and HIV-), formed a large circle at Monterey's Window on the Bay Park on Del Monte Avenue (across from Lake El Estero) at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 1. The now familiar red AIDS ribbon was extended, looped from hand-to-hand in a symbol of common cause and unity.

While the evening light burned, "Amazing Grace" was sung and both local and state politicians participated in a commemoration that included press and TV coverage.

Paid for by donations received from

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!
WE WALKED THE WALK
by Wes Kashiwagi
Staff Reporter

Over 700 of Monterey and Santa Cruz's finest citizens skipped brunch and raised more than $64,000 in pledges for MCAP and other local service organizations at this year's Walk for AIDS. Additional support from computer manufacturer Seagate, Monterey Peninsula Artists, and Wells Fargo Bank raised total revenues to over $90,000.

Sunny weather greeted walkers as they made their way from Monterey High School to Lover's Point and back. Parents with strollers, school kids, and grandparents walked shoulder-to-shoulder with local lesbians and gays. Groups from local businesses brought in thousands of dollars in pledges, and the top single walker raised well over a $1,000.

Steve Clark, Managing Editor of The Paper, led The Paper's group of walkers. "We wanted to actively show our support for the local community, and what better way than the Monterey Bay Walk for AIDS?"

After completing the 10K walk, Monterey participants were entertained by a blues band and provided with refreshments from local restaurants.

Other businesses that made significant contributions to the walk include CMI Direct Marketing, Western Graphics, Fashion Streaks, Odwalla Juice, and media sponsors, KSBW, Coast Weekly, Good Times, KDON and KQ92. (More Pictures Back Cover)

SECOND WAVE HITS THE COAST
by Wes Davis
Staff Editor

A recent article in Newsweek was entitled "Surviving the Second Wave." This article focused on why gay men, who have for years practiced protected sex, sometimes abandon the practice. It was a vindication of what I have said for some time. It was also the sad realization that we as a community have not been listening to one another.

Education must be linked to multiple issues to be effective. Those issues include self-esteem, a sense of hope, a sense of doing what is accepted by your peers, and social norms. We have heard for years the diatribe from the religious right about how no federal money should be spent to promote the "homosexual lifestyle." With that epithet as our guide we sanitized all of our HIV education so that it would not offend those bigots. In short, we instilled homophobia as a cultural norm. By doing this, we as a nation have told gay men and women that they have no right to exist. By doing this we have added fuel to the desperate attitude of hopelessness felt by many gay men.

We helped to foment the self-hate that gets in this, we as a nation have told gay men and women that they have no right to exist. By doing this we have added fuel to the desperate attitude of hopelessness felt by many gay men.

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Mission Statement

"To inform and give voice to the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender groups and individuals of Monterey County in order to contribute to the growth, stability, and cohesiveness of that community to the benefit of all its members."

Editorial Policy

The Paper invites submissions of articles, interviews, reviews, announcements, literature (e.g., poetry and short stories), commentary and letters to the editor. The Paper reserves the right to edit any submission. There is no payment or other remuneration for submissions. Copyright privileges revert to the author(s) upon publication.

If a contributor prefers to use a pseudonym or otherwise retain anonymity, we will honor that request. The Paper also reserves the right to refuse to publish materials that do not meet standards, but may not be limited to, the exclusion of libelous or slanderous remarks, or remarks intended to bring racism, abuse and/or prejudice to bear upon another.

The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the staff of The Paper, the Monterey County AIDS Project, State of California, or the Monterey County Health Department. The Paper does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnic group, religious affiliation, or physical challenge.

Advertising and subscriber lists will not be offered for sale or use beyond the delivery of this paper and its associated procedures.

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THE PAPER WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND...

by Matthew Friday
Staff Editor

...Fred Jealous of the local men's community. Creating the community in which he wants to live, Fred is helping men who are interested in climbing out of the oppression of the male role. In order to create the lives they really want instead of the lives they think they have to live, based on the ways in which men have experienced oppression, Fred uncovers anti-male, anti-gay, anti-female and anti-human "tapes" that confine men and limit their experience of self and others. He has been instrumental in the development of re-sensitization programs and workshops around the country, and participants usually seem very satisfied with the results of their work. He's a local guy, easy to find and very active. Thanks, Fred, for everything you're doing.

...Margo Edwards, counselor, therapist and instructor. Among other things, Margo's class in "Human Sexuality" at MPC features a panel on homosexuality. Drawing from the lesbian/gay community and P-FLAG, Margo provides the context for many students who've often had little or no contact with members of the homosexual community. The panel delivers the goods: life stories, personal experience, and lesbian/gay history from several perspectives, and follows up with a question and answer period. The format has offered sensitive and thought-provoking moments for all concerned and, like Fred's work above, offers invaluable bridge-building opportunities. Thanks, Margo!

...Dan Presser for an outstanding showing at the Australian Mardi Gras event at the After Dark in early October. Dan, owner of Four Winds Travel in The Barnyard (Carmel), has been diligent and very focused in meeting the needs of gay/lesbian travelers. While drumming up a little excitement around town, he's also been warmly responsive to the immediate needs and concerns of both people and (gay/lesbian) associations on the Peninsula. Thanks, Dan, for taking for these kinds of risks.

...Phyllis Peet, faculty advisor for MPC's BiGayLes Club. Yes! Courage, conviction, gentleness and a forthright sensibility have been evident in her involvement. Thanks, Phyllis, (probably for doing in good heart what you know must be done in providing safety and belonging in a campus setting). Also to the BiGayLes group itself for extending their hands openly to peers and faculty at MPC. You guys are terrific...

...and, finally, The Paper would like to commend Monterey Institute of International Studies instructor Carol McKibben. Carol's class, "Population, AIDS, and Global Politics" focuses on the global history of homosexuality, the roots of homophobia, and the development of international policies as a phenomena related to AIDS. Carol believes that the association of homosexuality with AIDS has had a profound impact on policy formation. Gender, class, race and ethnic issues are also explored in what Carol describes as high-powered discussion groups. She's brought in numerous guest speakers for the 17 students of this first-time MIIS class. Thank you, Carol, for your scholarship and humanity!

This column enthusiastically invites comments, "nominees" or candidates from the community, people you would like to see recognized in The Paper's pages. Provide your comments or a short paragraph, and the individual's phone number (so we can make sure it's okay to put their name in The Paper), and we'll take it from there. More than that will also be considered. Any submissions should be sent to The Paper (for "The Paper Commends..."), P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942, or call 899-2263.

The Healing Center, a non-profit expecting to open its doors in January, will be an alternative treatments clinic. These good people will offer chiropractic, dietary and nutrition services, as well as massage and Chinese arts therapies (such as acupuncture) on a sliding-fee scale. They'll be looking for people to answer phones, help in fund-raising and perform most of the other tasks associated with non-profit programs. Service providers and registered nutritionists should be encouraged to look into this unique and important opportunity as well. For more information, please contact Carie Ford at 375-5918.

The Marina Vet Clinic is open every Friday during regular hours. It offers a full range of disciplinary care and all experimental protocols are available. Eligibility requirements are waived for HIV veterans (including drugs and labs). For more information, call 384-2866.

The Monterey County AIDS Project has bred an uncounted number of invaluable programs. Besides much sought after volunteers for the Man-to-Man and Woman-to-Woman outreach programs, MCAP is again reaching out to another population at risk: youth. The Gay Youth Support Group offers a friendly, confidential environment for talk and group discussion; a place to share information and gather support for "playing safely"; and an opportunity for social networking. Contact Bobby Callery at 394-4747 or Debra Bronstein at 626-4620 for information. Incidentally, the Woman-to-Woman Outreach is seeking specifically critical support and assistance. For information, contact Anita at 655-2325.

Then there's The Paper itself--an animated example of cooperation, friendship and serendipity (oh, yeah, and a little hard work at times). If you're interested in contributing art, graphics, cartooning, articles, reviews, insights in general, poetry, stories, short essays on almost any topic, photography, or computer expertise, this is a venue that touches quite a few people simultaneously. It is creative, challenging, etc., etc. If you like the idea of hot ideas and a captive audience--snicker--consider The Paper your stage for a long or short run. You can contact The Paper at P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942 or call 394-4747.

Besides these, there are the on-going, mainly voluntary efforts of established local programs and sterling individuals (many of them modestly under-recognized) in MCAP, John XXIII, and the Gay Men's Health Coalition (among others). There are politicians and civic organizations interested in your attention and comments, as well as a number of religious, educational, spiritual, and minority-concerned organizations actively seeking some part of your heart, talent, time, and interest.

Whether you offer experience, friskiness, dependability, wisdom, readiness, a sense of humor, money, food, attention or a place (for an occasional meeting or get-together), it makes an immeasurable difference in the quality of life yours, ours, anybody's. Enough said...

"Random kindness...senseless acts of beauty" in seriousness and in play--as I see it, there's very little that's not immediately useful these days.
evolved into a positive social outlet that enables members to raise money for charities while meeting different people, building friendships and having a lot of fun. The Grand Cypress Empire of Monterey County, Inc. (which also includes Santa Cruz County) is a 501C(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

I.C.P. Ball 1995..Return to Sherwood Forest. On January 21st the court's Imperial Crown Prince Gigi will be hosting this event. The event will be held at the American Legion Hall either in Carmel or Salinas. Once that has been determined look for flyers. Doors will open at 7 p.m., the feast will start at 8 p.m. Entertainers from throughout California will be performing. The evening will be filled with different types of events..jousting, dart throws for prizes, "Jail-N-Bail" and lots of entertainment.

The following is a list of events for the 17th Reign so please mark your calendars and come enjoy the fun!

I'M STILL STANDING!

GARY TOSTA would like to thank all his clients, friends & family for the outpouring of love & support during his recent surgery. It is greatly appreciated!!
He would also like you to know that he is back at work ready to make you look your best Tuesday thru Saturday at

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located in Carmel Rancho Shopping Center 26346 Carmel Rancho Lane Carmel Please call for an appointment: 625-5006
Thanks Again!

Out to lunch - bi Megan Coffey

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 11, 1995 - From Broadway to Hollywood. A musical showcase to be held in Santa Cruz.
- March 11, 1995 - Second Annual Bay Area Live In Monterey. The entire show is a live performance by individuals and duets.
- April, 1995 - Closet Ball 1995. Have you ever wanted to have someone put the make-up on and dress you to look flawless? Well here's your chance. Closet Ball is for first timers. Be a contestant or be a judge. Call us for more info.
- May 27, 1995 - The Dual E+E Ball. Emperors and Empresses from all over California will come and entertain you, but please do not forget your sunglasses because this is a very glitzy/glamour event. Come see the outrageous dress and taxes.
- May 28, 1995 - Emperor's Night Out. Emperors will entertain you throughout the night, and how can you have a night out without some go-go boys and strippers?
- June 1995 - The Monterey Challenge. A challenge has been put forth to all courts to arrange a court performance from their own town to see which court can win the Best Court Performance 1995.

Mark your calendars so you can come and enjoy these events and help raise money for our community. If you have any ideas, no matter how strange or brilliant or silly, give us a call and we'll try and organize the event.

If you should have any questions or concerns or opinions, please feel free to call us at (408) 633-6481.
**BAYMEC**
**Central Coast Report**

**Synopsis by Matthew Friday**
**Staff Editor**

During BAYMEC's recent Garden Summit IV in Santa Cruz, local representatives Bruce Carlson, Barbara Derbyshire, Matt Friday and Jane Wynn were introduced with unanticipated fanfare. (Smile.)

Established to showcase political candidates and values endorsed by BAYMEC, the Garden Summit has become a major fund-raising event for the organization and is attended by elected (and aspiring) leaders from around the Central Coast. Such honorable folks as Congressmam Norm Mineta (San Jose), San. Farr (Carmel), Bill Monning (Salinas, 27th Assembly District), Mardi Wormhoudt (Santa Cruz - Supervisor) and Mark Tracy (Santa Cruz - Sheriff) were introduced and their virtues extolled. Each brought with them a good heart and strong words, inspiration and praise as much as warning, for what we've accomplished in this part of California and what lies ahead of us undone.

Next year's Summit will include more people from the Monterey area, we imagine, but also the opportunity to see success where before there were only risks, empowerment where there had been (understandably!) voter apathy, and networks where there had been only contacts.

Locally, BAYMEC's activities have included participation in public interviews with candidates for president of the California State University Monterey Bay campus. BAYMEC Board member Wiggsey Sivetsmen, who represents student services professionals on CSU campuses, asked tough and relevant questions, establishing a credible base for lesbian/gay concerns in the coloration of campus policies. Local BAYMEC representatives have also been instrumental in researching local candidates in city council and mayoral races. This is a dynamic, utterly respectful and satisfying process, incidentally, and we hope to see its rewards in fair, concerned and open activities around the County before the decade is out. Call 642-0820 or 899-2263 if you're interested in talking about some of these things.

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**TASK FORCE UPDATE**

by John E. Brennan
**Staff Reporter**

The Task Force has been busy lately. We have sponsored three-year subscriptions to The Advocate at the Monterey City Public Library, Pacific Grove Public Library, John Steinbeck Library in Salinas and Monterey County Free Library locations in Seaside, Prunedale and King City. We are happy to report the offer has been easily accepted by all public libraries we have approached.

On September 15, the Task Force decided to dissolve for lack of interest in future leadership and in general membership. The Monterey County Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Task Force has held its final general membership and board meeting and will cease to exist on December 3rd of this year.

As part of this dissolution, the Task Force has made a grant to the local PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) with the suggestion that this grant be used to provide local schools with gay-friendly and lesbian-supporting materials. Support this effort through PFLAG: P.O. Box 9052, Monterey, CA 93942, phone: 655-2629.

We have also provided financial support to two other causes. The Task Force has contributed funds to John XXIII to help bring the Names Project Quilt to the Peninsula. The Task Force has also contributed start up funds to the newly formed gay/lesbian/bisexual community resource center.

Monterey County has lost a group voice for lesbian, gay and bisexual education, support and advocacy with the loss of the Task Force. We encourage you to be a part of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community by participating in issues important to you whether associated with a group or not. Individual voices are heard. Is there a book you would like to see in a library? Purchase a copy for that library. Is there a Christian Right diatribe happening in the local editorials? Write a letter.

Finally, the Task Force would like to thank all the general members and board members throughout the four years the Task Force has existed in its current form. Only through their active participation and contribution has the Task Force been able to be a part of the local gay, lesbian and bisexual community in Monterey County.

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**TASK FORCE BRINGS**
**THE ADVOCATE TO LOCAL LIBRARIES**

by John E. Brennan
**Staff Reporter**

The Monterey County Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Task Force has sponsored 6 three-year subscriptions to The Advocate in local public libraries. The Advocate, a semi-monthly national publication, focuses on gay and lesbian issues: from gays and lesbians in the military to gay and lesbian cultural history, and from popular events, personalities and politics, to HIV and AIDS news. The non-profit Task Force, founded to provide support and a voice to the local lesbian, gay and bisexual communities, is proud to make this resource available. The Advocate will be in the City of Monterey Library, Pacific Grove Public Library, John Steinbeck Library in Salinas and in three branches of the Monterey County Free Libraries: the Seaside branch, the Prunedale branch, and the King City branch.

The Task Force has also begun working with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to make other suitable gay and lesbian materials available for local school libraries. PFLAG and the Task Force are working with local high schools to find an agreement on which magazines, books and other resources would be appropriate and helpful.

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**CORRECTION**

In keeping with The Paper's philosophy of being a voice of and for the community, we are always happy to print a correction on any inadvertent mistakes we might have published in previous editions.

In listing Bobby Callery's activities with the AIDS Action Committee of Boston (Peninsula Profiles, Sept/Oct. 1994) we inadvertently credited Mr. Callery with establishing the Buddy Program. The founder of that program was actually Peter Lombardi.

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**LAVENDER ROAD**
**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH MOVES**

by Joe Script
**Contributor**

The new location for Lavender Road Metropolitan Community Church is at Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey (across the street from Kinko's).

Lavender Road is a part of the greater Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches founded by Rev. Troy Perry over 26 years ago and now has more than 35,000 members worldwide. Like the Mother church, Lavender Road has increased its membership on the Peninsula and has outgrown the Little House in Jewell Park in Pacific Grove. The facilities at Mariposa Hall offer a good deal more room for expansion and a church office where pastor Jean Hart will be able to hold regular office hours.

Currently, Sunday services at Mariposa Hall are at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and see for themselves how going to church can be a pleasant experience. For more information, please call 335-0466 or 372-2182.

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Page 5
Aussies are known as folks who love a good time. We saw that first-hand on October 8th when the After Dark, Above which range from a 10 km bush walk to a good time. We saw that first-hand on of gay theater pieces to sporting events and Beyond, . Qantas and Four Winds the outlandish Swim Carnival. There’s Travel hosted a “Mardi Gras in Mon- also a gay and lesbian film festival as well Down Under.

One of the first things we learned about the Aussies is that everybody’s name is “Randy.” The name means "horny" in the land of the Southern Cross.

The best time to visit Australia is just about any time of the year. The land of the Koala has a temperate climate and, if you schedule your holiday for late February, you’ll be smack dab in the middle of the largest gay and lesbian celebration in the world—Sydney’s Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

The idea for an Australian Mardi Gras began 18 years ago with a letter from San Francisco's Gay Pride Association encouraging Sydney to hold its own gay pride demonstration. Initially it was held in the winter, now it's in the sizzling summer. Like its counterpart in New Orleans, the Aussie's party is more than one day—it's a month long celebration of gay and lesbian unity.

Mardi Gras in Sydney offers something for everyone: from world premieres of gay theater pieces to sporting events which range from a 10 km bush walk to the outlandish Swim Carnival. There’s also a gay and lesbian film festival as well as art exhibits and open forums. February’s spectacular will feature a Map- pletons exhibit.

Sydney’s Mardi Gras climaxes with an outrageous night-time parade, viewed by over 700,000 spectators. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

Be part of the action and learn for yourself why Australia is one of the friendliest, most popular travel destinations for gays and lesbians.

The vision will change as the discussion within diverse communities. Lambda CRC recognizes that the local communities are a very eclectic group of people with different needs, different ideas, and different solutions who still have enough in common to come together as friends and neighbors, strangers and siblings, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags, as artists and bankers, dykes and fags.

The Lambda CRC Steering Committee is working with the suggested meeting time of the 4th Monday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00. Contact Bobby Callery at 372-4829 to send a letter of interest or for the address of the next meeting.

We're here! We're Gay Friendly! We're Proud! Monterey Peninsula, get used to it!

Four Winds Travel is the Monterey Peninsula’s first and only member of the International Gay Travel Association.

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Where the good times begin
The Legislature and Governor Wilson have acted on all by Lobby for providing the information for this list. HIV-related legislation. _

Staff Editor proposed tegislation. Below are the final results ,of which was vetoed by Governor Wilson last year. _

Juana for medical -purposes .

pilot programs for one-on-one clean needle exchange. all prisoners without their consent.

Prevention and Education

+ AB 2610 (Bronshvag)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

SB 1048 (Watson)
DIED IN ASSEMBLY

Both bills would allow local jurisdictions to create pilot programs for one-on-one clean needle exchange. These are nearly identical to AB 260 (W. Brown), which was vetoed by Governor Wilson last year.

+ AB 2409 (Murray)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Requires county welfare offices to provide AFDC and Medi-Cal recipients with information on sex education, AIDS transmission, drug use, family planning services and birth control devices.

+ AB 3102 (Martinez)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Would designate the State Office of AIDS as the lead state agency for HIV and AIDS policies, as recommended by the UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies' evaluation of the Office of AIDS. Currently, no state agency is leading and coordinating California's response to the HIV pandemic.

+ SB 1351 (Marks)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Requires Department of Finance to break down Asian/Pacific Islander statistics when presenting re­ports containing population break downs.

HIV Testing

- AB 2815 (Boland)
SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR, 6-30-94

Requires mandatory HIV testing for persons convicted of any crime where the court finds probable cause of trans­mission of bodily fluids.

- AB 109 (Martinez)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Allows non-consensual testing of a patient's blood if a doctor or health care worker has experienced a "significant exposure."

Care and Treatment: Women's Health

+ AB 2200 (Speier)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Would create an Office of Women's Health within the Department of Health Services, which would be charged with coordinating and promoting women's health policies, e.g., AIDS.

+ AB 2849 (Escutia)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Would create two pilot "one-stop," comprehensive health centers for women with HIV: one in Los Angeles and one in the Alameda/Contra Costa area.

Care and Treatment: Communities of Color

+ AB 3501 (Martinez)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Would address the growing HIV epidemic in the Latino/Latina community. Requires Office of AIDS to prepare an evaluation of existing education, prevention, funding and service efforts and report its findings to the Legislature.

+ AB 3544 (Lee)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

States the intent of the Legislature that any comprehen­sive health insurance program adopted must specifically address the health concerns of communities of color, including cultural and linguistic barriers, use of community based clinics, access regardless of socioeconomic status, increasing number of qualified ethnic minority health profession­als.

Health Care: Private Insurance and Medi-CAL

+ SB 38 (Torres)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Includes SB 1357. Creates a California Health Plan Commission to implement a universal health care proposal for all California residents.

Other Important Bills

- ABX 20 (Andal)
FAILED IN SENATE JUDICIARY!!

- SB 1260 (Presley)
"SIGNED BY GOVERNOR"

Both bills would repeal the "Inmates' Bill of Rights," which specifically allows prisoners basic rights such as to have personal visits or make a will. If signed into law, the Department of Corrections would have the right to authorize mandatory HIV testing of all prisoners without their consent.

Business & Professions

- AB 2020 (Isenberg)
FAILED IN SENATE

Would allow optometrists, who are not medical doctors, to treat and diagnose eye disease without sufficient/additional training in whole-body medicine.

+ AB 2810 (Katz)
VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Domestic Partners Registration Bill, would provide basic benefits for domestic partners including sev­eral that would benefit persons with AIDS: 1) right to visit a partner in the hospital, 2) preferential ranking to be named conservator for an incapacitated partner; and 3) inclusion of domestic partners on California's statu­tory short form will.

+ AB 3232 (Alpert)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Would add tuberculosis treatment as an optional benefit under Medi-Cal (also included in the Governor's proposed budget).

+ SB 3335 (Caldera)
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!!

Requires Department of Finance to break down Asian/Pacific Islander statistics when presenting re­ports containing population break downs. 

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and vaginal secretions are structured to fight infections, the "pelvic history" of most women - lesbians included - contradicts this notion. It is a history of cyclic yeast infections, trichomonas, herpes, chlamydia, bacterial vaginitis, endometriosis, pelvic inflammatory disease, interrupted menstrual cycles, and unexpected spot bleeding, to name just a few conditions. This history, the unanswered questions about transmission, and the data on lesbian sex practices suggest that transmission is possible and that woman-to-woman transmission risk demands attention.

This article reviews the research on lesbians and AIDS, looking at seroprevalence surveys, transmission studies, and studies of sexual and other risk practices. It looks at lesbians and women who have sex with women but who do not identify as lesbians. And it identifies, in the midst of all of this data, the many questions that remain unanswered.

**What We Do Know**

While the data assembled up to now strongly suggests that the majority of HIV-infected women contracted the virus through injection drug use, it is important to note that the research disproving woman-to-woman transmission is flawed by the presumption that such transmission does not exist and by definitions that arise from this presumption. Most significantly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines women who have contracted HIV disease through non-standard routes - for example, injection drug use and heterosexual sex - in the "no identified risk" category. It further defines a lesbian as a woman who "has not had sex with a man since 1977." Recent surveys demonstrate that this definition excludes a majority of women who have sex with women.

The largest study of female-to-female transmission is flawed by the same presumptions. Researchers surveyed 960,000 female blood donors and interviewed 106 of 144 found to be HIV antibody positive. None reported sex exclusively with women since 1978, and only three reported sex with women and bisexual or injection drug using men. This implies that female-to-female sexual transmission is extremely uncommon. Blood donor studies, however, are skewed, because potential donors are asked not to donate blood if they believe they are at high risk for HIV infection. In addition, the study is flawed by the 1978 benchmark for defining a lesbian. Young women between the ages of 18 and 24 - a population more apt to be sexually active with multiple partners - were 2 to 8 years old in 1978! Because the process of sexual identity formation involves considerable sexual experimentation for most women who partner with women before they assume an "out" identity, it is highly unlikely that women in this age group would be coded "lesbian" in a study of this type.

A recent Italian study purports to have found no evidence of HIV transmission through lesbian sex despite reports of risky sexual activities among 18 lesbian couples. This study, however, is limited by the fact that it is small and, more importantly, that it followed subjects for only six months.

Other studies, which have focused specifically on women who have sex with women, have found significant seroprevalence and participation in high risk behaviors. The Lesbian AIDS Project (LAP) has had contact with more than 200 HIV-infected lesbians in New York. A New Jersey study found that 29 percent of HIV-infected women had had sex with women.

A San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) study of 498 lesbians and bisexual women found a seroprevalence rate three times the rate for women in San Francisco: 1.2 percent overall; 2.8 for bisexual women; and .9 percent for lesbians. Another San Francisco study - undertaken by Project AWARE - surveyed 711 women who had had sex within the previous three years with a man who was either gay or bisexual, an injection drug user, or from a country with a high incidence of heterosexually transmitted HIV infection. The study found that women who identified as lesbian or bisexual had higher seroprevalence rates - 14 percent - than either heterosexual-identified women who had had sex with at least one female partner and who had had no female partners - 10 percent and 11 percent respectively.

The risk of transmission must be interpreted in light of this evidence for seroprevalence. If sexual transmission among lesbians is indeed possible, then the fact that HIV infection is present in lesbian communities is a crucial factor. Several studies have found that women who have sex with women participate in activities that put them at high risk for HIV infection.

For example, while the San Francisco DPH survey found no clear evidence of woman-to-woman transmission, it did find high rates of participation in risky activities. Ten percent of the women reported injection drug use in the past 10 years, and a high proportion of these women shared needles. Among the 405 women who had sex with men (81 percent of the sample), 56 percent had unprotected oral sex, 39 percent had unprotected vaginal sex, and 11 percent had unproctected anal sex. A significant proportion of these women reported unprotected sex with men more likely to be HIV-infected: 15 percent had unprotected oral sex and 10 percent had unprotected vaginal sex with gay or bisexual men. Six percent had unprotected oral sex and 5 percent had unprotected vaginal sex with injection drug users. In terms of sex with women, 92 percent had unprotected oral sex, 29 percent had unprotected sharing of sex toys, and 25 percent engaged in unprotected vaginal fisting.

Likewise, the Project AWARE study found injection drug use higher among women who had sex with women - 41 percent of the sample - than among women who had not. Women who had sex with women were also twice as likely as those who did not to report anal sex with a male partner. A study of female injection drug users in 14 cities found that...
women who reported having sex with women were more likely to share syringes than women who did not, and that these women had higher rates of injection drug use, syphilis, and anal sex with men.

LAP surveyed more than 1,200 women throughout the United States, 79 percent of whom identified as lesbian or gay, and 11 percent of whom identified as bisexual. The survey found substantial rates of possible HIV-related risk behaviors during woman-to-woman sex: 26 percent reported vaginal fisting, 9 percent reported anal fisting, 28 percent reported rimming. Of those who had oral sex with a woman in the past three months, 24 percent reported that her partner had been having her period at the time of sex. Four percent of lesbians reported having sex with more than one man in the past three months, and 7 percent reported injection drug use. For poor women - including women of color - women in prisons, women living on the streets, and lesbians invisible to society because they are "punks" or "sex workers" or "nude dancers," the risk for HIV infection is much higher.

The Mechanics of Transmission

Despite all of this research, a great deal remains unknown about the mechanics of possible transmission between women and about the effects of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) on HIV viral load and on the conditions for HIV transmission. It is clear that it is much harder to transmit HIV between women who are having unprotected sex than it is to transmit it while shooting drugs with shared works or during unprotected sex with men. There is reason to believe, however, that the virus can be transmitted through vaginal secretions in high enough concentrations to be infectious over time, especially if there are existing cofactors, for example human papilloma virus (HPV), herpes, and yeast infections. It is also possible that HIV can be transmitted during unprotected oral sex when menstrual or any other blood is exchanged in a sexual encounter.

For some women, the notion of "rough sex" is the scapegoat for HIV infection, other STDs, and vaginal trauma. Generally, "rough sex" translates into S/M behaviors or, for some women, any penetration involving a dildo or other penis-like toy. This idea of "rough sex," however, has very little to do with creating the conditions for vaginal trauma since trauma can occur with any vigorous penetrative sexual act - with fingers, fists, or dildos. As is clear from the LAP sex survey, women are practicing a wider range of sexual activities than was previously thought, from rimming and sex-toy play to vaginal and anal fisting and group sex. The key is repeated exposure. Given the ways lesbians have sex - even with casual partners whom they often see more than once - there are many opportunities for repeated contact with female partners who might be HIV infected and for repeated exposure to HIV. Finally, it seems that lesbians often do not know their antibody status until late in the progression of disease and, therefore, do not recognize the need to protect their partners.

Conclusion

Above all else, providers, educators, and the larger lesbian community must acknowledge without judgment the complex reality of who we are and what we do. We know we live with and without sex with and the enormity of our sexual desires and behaviors. Safer sex literature and HIV prevention campaigns targeting women must include targeted messages for lesbians - the "out" lesbian, the women-who-partner-with-women who do not name themselves, the women in prisons, the women on the streets.

As is true for other people at potential risk for HIV infection, every lesbian must assess her own risk - based on clear definitions of risk behavior, her own behaviors, and the seroprevalence in her lesbian community - determine the level of risk to which she is willing to expose herself and her sex partners, and the steps necessary to protect herself and her partners from the risks she faces. Organizations like the LAP have published safer sex guidelines for lesbians - the risk for HIV infection is more than once - there are many opportunities for repeated contact with female partners who might be HIV infected and for repeated exposure to HIV. Finally, it seems that lesbians often do not know their antibody status until late in the progression of disease and, therefore, do not recognize the need to protect their partners.

Second Wave

the way of education. We can see the results of these homophobic efforts as an increase in incidence of new HIV infections among gay men.

So what is to be done? The Newsweek article also talked about how the gay community is trying to adapt to the second wave. Educational messages must be linked to self-esteem, and to changing the social norms that contributed to failed messages. An example of this would be telling any monogamous couple (gay or non-gay) who is HIV- that as long as they do not practice any behavior that would expose them to HIV, that they do not have to practice protected sex. This is truly different from what some educators tell men. We are told to act as if we are all infected, implying that being gay automatically means that you have HIV. Once two people have passed a certain period or time in a monogamous commitment, they have different options. This allows for some form of unprotected sex at their option. This allows us to focus hope that says just because you are gay doesn't mean you will get AIDS. This allows us to focus on the BEHAVIOR rather than the preference. It allows us to treat this disease for what it is, A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTRED, BLOOD-BORNE ILLNESS that anyone can get if put at risk.

As a community the Lesbian/ Gay/ Bisexual/ Transgendered community has suffered the most from this illness. We were the ones that early on recognized the need for, and the effect of, education. We were the ones who brought this to the attention of the world, and in so doing helped many to avoid HIV infection. How dare we now abandon hope to those who would see us destroyed. Regardless of preference, if you are not infected now, you do not have to become infected, and there IS hope for those who are infected. We can stop HIV. Our community proved it once. Let's prove it one more time. The best revenge I can think of against Senator Helms and his cronies is to outhe them. So Monterey, get out your surfboards, the second wave is headed your way. ▼

The Myth of Invulnerability

(Continued from page 8)

FOCUS: A Guide to AIDS

by E. Richard Brown, D.Min.
Contributor

A real problem for me as a gay Christian is the way many churches view homosexuality. Their interpretation of scripture is from a theological perspective that sees homosexuality as a sin. I have been a victim of that viewpoint for many years. I do not subscribe to that position. I believe that God was absolutely delighted when he created me the way I am. I also believe that God has called me to be an advocate for people that are marginalized by the churches.

In 1992, I graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California with a Doctor of Ministry degree. I earned that degree by writing a position statement on homosexuality and the church from a gay man's perspective. I was told by my theological mentor to keep a low profile about my homosexuality because the school had a position statement on sexuality. I could be kicked out of the program if certain people found out about me. We decided not to make a political issue out of my studies and I just focused on getting the degree.

In May of this year I moved back to the Monterey Peninsula. In the middle of January 1995, I will be leading some classes called "Homosexuality and the Church." The classes will be held for 8 consecutive weeks and will look at what the Bible really says about homosexuality. One of the objectives of these sessions will be to educate gay and lesbian people, whether they are Christian or not, so that we can counter the attacks by the religious right. There will be support and participation from many local pastors as well as the Monterey County AIDS Project, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the John XXIII AIDS Ministry. If you or your church would be interested in participating in these classes, please contact Richard at 373-5811. ▼

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An Interview with Anita Hilton
Women 2 Women Project
Coordinator, MCAP

Gregory LeRouxe: Anita, let's start with some background. When were you born? Where did you go to school? What brought you here? How did you get involved with MCAP?

Anita Hilton: I grew up in Southern California and where I went to school was uninteresting until California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, and then off to Paris.

GL: Did we do the Cordon Bleu?
AH: No. I attended the Jean Ferrandi 6E, a trade technical school where I taught and studied traditional French arts.

GL: Is this where your art background comes from?
AH: No. That's from a smattering of classes from a smattering of universities.

GL: So, you just made up stuff for your resume to get that big gallery job?
AH: Oh, no, no. I got hired at the gallery because I had the look.

GL: What look is that?
AH: I think I just look like I'm not from around here.

GL: So, why do you keep getting laid off from these galleries?
AH: Because my bosses have been Aries and they kept hiring younger women that they could sleep with.

GL: You and your Aries thing. Every time you say Aries it's like a bad taste in your mouth or a pain in your behind.

AH: Toxic relationships! You know the old adage about being a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs?

GL: Well, my long tail hurts. So tell me your best and worst habits.

GL: You can also tell a lot about a person by what they have by their bed.
AH: Well, I've got the new Armistead Maupin novel, a stack of HIV/AIDS woman-related material, a stack of safer sex supplies, a couple of political magazines, a nailfile, a telephone, and some bubble gum since I don't smoke.

GL: All right, enough coffee chatter. What brought you to MCAP and the Women 2 Woman Project?
AH: When I first moved into this area I needed therapy. Suffice to say there was some abuse going on in my relationship. I called around and asked different mental health agencies for help in regards to women's abuse issues, safer sex issues and HIV/AIDS issues. I actually had a woman who is a major player that works with women in this area say to me, "We don't have people like you in this area." Another emergency network volunteer told me she'd have to call me back after her husband, the police officer, left because he didn't like her doing this type of networking work. All I could think was, what the hell were these women doing in these positions?

Finally, it dawned on me from my past experience volunteering for an AIDS Project in Southern California that if anyone would know about mental health issues, it would be an AIDS organization. That phone call led to Joy Rubey at MCAP and a referral to a therapist. I saw this woman for a few years but what I realized was that she had never had a bisexual client before. A friend of mine who also saw this therapist commented one day about noticing how I had furnished most of the therapist's library. I had to laugh as I packed up my books and told the therapist I wouldn't be seeing her anymore. That's when I started networking with other women, and all of this brought me to MCAP.

GL: Anita, let's go back to your bisexuality. It seems like an issue not unlike my "Leather": misunderstood or unacceptable within our own population.

AH: I love talking about my bisexuality; it confuses people. It's not a conscious choice for me. Yes, I do like an androgynous appearance, but if you remove the visual, it's the qualities of the person that matters. I think it's more comfortable for people to accept gay, lesbian or heterosexual. I keep reminding people that bisexuals didn't build the fence; heterosexuals are building it on one side and on the other side homosexuals are painting it. For this reason, I stress doing outreach on a sexual practice basis, not sexual orientation. The W2W Project is not a separatist program. We do outreach to everyone, with an emphasis on women's issues.

GL: What keeps you from doing the volunteer crash and burn number?
AH: There's an incredible increase in HIV transmission among women, a 151% increase during 1992-1993 of sexually transmitted AIDS cases. I can't Saran-wrap every woman I meet or take them for testing. What I can do is educate. Prevention is the empowerment everyone needs to understand. I don't want to do this forever. I would prefer not to enable people. They need to understand the risks involved and act on that. I wish everyone would get the information, update the information and share the information. I think then the prevention issues would be much more effective.

GL: What can we do to help?
AH: Do something pro-active. The more people we can get out there with prevention information, the stronger the fight. Whatever your level of comfort is, there is plenty to do. It can just be licking stamps, delivering food, calling people; it doesn't have to be outreach. Call MCAP, ask other volunteers, but for heaven's sake, do something. I believe everyone is accountable for their actions. What you do affects others and what you don't really affects others.

GL: OK, Anita, time for your big finish. What last words do you have?
AH: I could be trite and just say get tested, or I could be a "whiny" person and say I hope we can get funding for the W2W Project so we can branch out in other avenues. There's much more work to be done. We need more materials andocolate, chocolate, chocolate! Not for me, for the outreach table. I also want to say, it's human to be afraid. It's also human to be curious. Most importantly, it's human to be compassionate. I think my epitaph on one of these P.G. benches should read, "What was wood became alive." We all go through a lot to get where we are.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Thanks to all who came out and made the Woman's Halloween Dance a success. I've got another one in the works for mid- to late January. It will be a benefit for MCAP's Woman to Woman program. For more information, call Marie at 375-8910.

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Sappho of Lesbos was a Greek songwriter probably the best ever. Today most people only know Sappho as a big name on a Tshirt that also lists Tchaikovsky and Alexander the Great. Her contemporaries and those who lived in the millennium after her revered her writing. Other ancient and classical writers believed her to be the greatest Greek song writer. One even went so far as to refer to her as "the tenth muse." The reason that we have any of her poetry today is that for about 1000 years Greek authors and teachers cited examples of her writing to show their readers and students how to write good lyrics. Most important to us, some of her writing was included in ancient anthologies of great Greek poetry, where it was missed by the forces that destroyed all copies of her ten books in the first half of the Christian age.

Sappho was an educated woman from an important family in the city of Mytilene, which during her lifetime was a prosperous Hellenic colony. She spent all of her 60-or-so years on Lesbos, which is an island just a few miles west of the mainland of Asia Minor (now Turkey). Sappho lived roughly from 630-570 BCE, when the Hellenes were colonizing the coasts of the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean. The golden age of Crete was 1000 years gone when she was born. Homer (the epic poet and earliest known author of a double mini-series) had lived 100 years before her. Sappho dedicated her life to serving a priest of the Cytherean Aphrodite, and as such, her chief public duty was to officiate at weddings of men and women. So, strangely enough for the most famous of all homoerotic women, several of her surviving poems are the lyrics to wedding-songs for heterosexuals.

These days we grub for whatever fragments of Sappho's poetry we can find. All that is left to us of the nine books of lyrics and one book of eleventh-century letters, total barely more than two hundred and fifty pages. And the fragments are not just from quotes in treatises on poetry; her songs were so well loved that some of her writing comes to us literally from the hands of the ancient dead. For over fifteen hundred years people were buried with a copy of a favorite of her songs to comfort them in their graves.

Sappho's writing is diverse. Sometimes she gives homey advice (Fool: don't try to bend a stubborn heart.) erotic (You came, and I was mad to have you: / your breath cooled my heart that was burning with desire ...) and ceremonial (Come now, my sacred harp / find your voice and speak to me.).

The greatness of her writing lies in three parts: her writing has the sound of natural speech, she perfectly follows rhythmic form, and she expresses feelings that are deep and personal. The conventional poets of her time were reciting and singing too much and sometimes stilted poetry old adventure stories. Sappho wrote about ordinary life. Where poets are often tempted to cheat on form, she followed exactly proper, complex interlocking rhythm. (Throughout this translation, Jim Powell crafts the pulse of the English words to match Sappho's Greek.) Because of her strict meter, her poetry is superbly singable, but for all the care taken to stay in rhythm Sappho's words sound normal. Her work is proof that good poetry can flow naturally, and follow form, and be deeply felt all at the same time. That's why she was revered by other Greek poets.

Sometimes Sappho's words sound to me for all the world like listening to my grandmother handing out folk wisdom across the kitchen table:

... for my mother said that when she was a girl if you bound the locks of your hair in back, gathered there in a circle of plated purple, that was truly a fine adornment, but for blondes with hair yellower, than a torch it is better to fasten it ...

And sometimes she speaks with historic depth in lofty, stately lines:

Cretan women once danced this way on gentle feet in time around the lovely altar, softly treading the tender flowers of the grass.

How can you claim Sappho as a hero until you have learned at least one of her poems by heart? This translation is a good source to choose from.

The following is a partial listing of local organizations, self-help and support groups and other contacts, and their phone numbers:

- AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Central Office 373-3713 or 424-9874
- ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), Monterey County 373-4491 or 373-0823
- After Dark (sight club) 373-7828
- BAYMEC 899-2263 or 655-1794
- Franco's Norma Jean Cafe 633-2090
- Gay Men's Health Coalition 649-2555
- Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey, Inc. 899-2048
- Health Department, Monterey County 647-7650
- HIV Positive Men and Women Support Groups 394-4747
- Integrity 484-2326
- John XXIII AIDS Ministry 655-1737
- MCAP (Monterey County AIDS Project) 394-4747 or 424-5550
- Metropolitan Community Church 439-0660
- National Coalition Building Institute 373-4606
- P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) Monterey 655-FLAG
- Pet Loss Grief Support Group 649-6283
- PPN (Peninsula Professional Network) 659-2446
- SCAP (Santa Cruz AIDS Project) 427-3900
- Transgender Support Group 462-3663
- Triangle Speakers 425-3227
- Women's Bisexual Network 427-4556
- Youth Group for Gay Teens 626-4620 or 424-5550

Keep an eye out for the next issue of The Paper!