

Cascade AIDS Project Bike for Life

The Cascade AIDS Project (C.A.P.) is producing its first annual "Bike-for-Life" this month. CAP's goal is to raise \$25,000 for AIDS education and support services and provide a great day in the sun for hundreds of riders. The event will take place Saturday, July 26. All participants will gather at Terry Schrunk Plaza (3rd and S.W. Madison) at 9 AM. The Bike-for-Life event will get underway at 9:30 A.M.

The route will cover two courses. The first is a 10 mile route for the interested but not overly zealous riders through East Portland. For more avid biking enthusiasts, a second 35 mile route runs along Marine Drive, with a beautiful view of Mt. Hood and the Columbia River. Both routes will start at Terry Schrunk Plaza downtown and end at Mt. Tabor Park, where there will be a barbeque and refreshments for all participants.

A map of the Bike-for-Life route can be obtained when you register to ride. To register, call the C.A.P. office at 223-5907. There will be a \$5 registration fee, payable at registration, which includes a Bike-for-Life T-shirt.

Prizes are being presented to the three riders with the most money pledged. First prize will be a week long vacation for two in Hawaii! Second and third prizes will be new bicycles. Register now and start getting those pledges! After the ride, participants will gather at Mt. Tabor Park (Group Area B) for a barbeque and refreshments as C.A.P.'s guests. All

friends of C.A.P. are invited to join the party and are being asked to make a \$2 contribution to help cover food costs.

There is still a need for volunteers to be monitors along the bike route, as well as people to help serve at the barbeque. If you do not intend to ride but would like to help, contact the C.A.P. office at the above number.

C.A.P. would like to make this First Annual Bike-for-Life an overwhelming success. With your support we can make this Portland's largest fundraising event in the battle against AIDS. All proceeds will go to support the PAL Project, the Brinker Fund and CAP education.

ARC patient receives disability benefits

In what appears to be the first reported case of its kind, an administrative law judge has ruled, in Portland, Oregon, that a person with AIDS-related complex (ARC), is nevertheless entitled to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration.

The case of *Cherri Beirley* was heard before Virgil E. Vail, Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearing and Appeals on April 9, 1986. In a decision issued on May 29, 1986, Judge Vail found that the claimant was "disabled" under "Section 1614 (a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act" and that the disability had continued from the date of the claimant's application in June of 1985 through the date of the hearing.

Reports from Ms. Beirley's physician indicated that in his opinion, the condition would continue for at least 12 months, one of the conditions necessary to support a finding of eligibility.

"What this means," said Beirley's attorney Ben Merrill, "is that until now persons with ARC have been held not to qualify for SSI because they didn't have frank AIDS — the presence of the anti-virus (a positive HTLV-III test) and an opportunistic infection. But ARC incapacitates people just the same. They are unable to work because of their ARC symptoms. What Judge Vail found was that even though Ms. Beirley's condition was not found to fall within the recognized SSA conditions for automatic qualification of eligibility for SSI benefits, the reality of the situation was that the effects of her symptoms made it impossible for her to qualify for the work force. And the bottom line is: She's eligible for benefits." Judge Vail's decision reads in part:

"I find that the effects of these persistent multiple symptoms, and especially the claimant's extreme fatigue, have effectively reduced her residual functional capacity to the point where the claimant would be unable to complete sustained work activity during a regular work day or work week. It would follow, therefore, that there are no jobs which exist in significant numbers in the regional or national economics which the claimant could perform including her past work as a cashier, bartender and waitress. Accordingly, the claimant has been disabled under the standards of the Social Security Act commencing on April 15, 1985."

Merrill was careful to point out that "this doesn't mean that a person with ARC can benefit by piggybacking the benefits under the system. For example, a person will have to choose between SSI and State aid programs such as disability or welfare. But it does give ARC people a chance to get SSI and, in concert with some other programs, such as Aid to Dependent Children, may increase their monthly support base. Perhaps most important is the fact that ARC has been at last recognized for the debilitating condition that it is."

CAP and CHES merge

Due to the growing AIDS crisis in Oregon, two community based AIDS organizations — the Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) and Community Health and Essential Support Services (CHES) have merged to form a single organization.

The new organization, operating under the name of the Cascade AIDS Project, will enhance public education efforts regarding the AIDS crisis and provide more comprehensive support services to persons diagnosed with AIDS and AIDS RELATED COMPLEX (ARC).

According to Brown McDonald, CAP Executive Director, the number of AIDS cases in Oregon is expected to reach 100 by this summer and the number of ARC cases is projected to exceed three times that amount.

McDonald said, "With the number of cases continuing to grow, the demand for services is increasing rapidly. By reorganizing, we can expand community outreach programs, enhance access to services and increase fund raising activities."

Previously CAP provided community education and outreach programs, and CHES provided emotional support services, such as

the award-winning PAL Project, and practical support services (running errands, cooking meals and shopping).

The Cascade AIDS Project is now comprised of a 16-member board of directors chaired by Mike McGowan, an executive director, and four staff persons including, Director of Education — Scott Ekblad, PAL Project Coordinator — Tia Plympton, Practical Support Services Coordinator — Paul Starr, and Administrative Assistant — Michael Pavlin.

Gerald addresses SCLC conference on AIDS

In a speech delivered on May 31 to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) National Conference on AIDS, Gil Gerald, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), called on the Black community to recognize racism and homophobia as key impediments to AIDS prevention and care among Blacks.

The SCLC Conference on AIDS was the first AIDS conference organized by a major national Black organization in the United States. In his remarks, Gerald charged that, as Blacks, "We somehow remove ourselves from Lesbian and Gay people and then dare to celebrate the lives and contributions of James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Langston Hughes, Bayard Rustin, Alain Locke, Countee Cullen, Bessie Smith, Porter Grainger, Lorraine Hansberry, Wallace Thurmond, Bruce Nugent, and Sylvester — all people we love and appreciate for their contributions to community life."

NCBLG, a network of 3,000 people, is the only autonomous Black Lesbian and Gay organization in the United States with chapters in San Francisco, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis.

August Faerie gathering at Wolf Creek

Faeries flying naked through the woods, stargazing slumber parties, a ritual sweat lodge, skinny-dipping, spiritual circles, a fashion show of Goodwill glamour, tea dances, glitter, and hugs and kisses for days on end — one can find it all at the West Coast Faerie Symposium & T-Dance.

This spiritual gathering of radical faeries will take place on 80 acres of secluded land at Wolf Creek in southern Oregon. Wolf Creek has been home to gay communes, *RFD* magazine, and a Faggots and Class Struggle conference 10 years ago.

The gathering runs for 10 days, from Saturday, August 23rd, through Monday, September 1st; one can attend for all or part of that time. There are no prescheduled events — just a safe space into which to bring ideas, needs, joys, tears and an open heart.

Participants will camp in the meadow and share vegetarian meals, at a cost of just \$10-15 per person, per day, sliding scale. Dry bulk foods will be provided; bring your own fruits and vegetables. And leave your watch at home. There'll be a sundial set to faerie time. The caretaker of the site requests a maximum of 200 persons, so preregistration by August 1 is a must.

For registration information, write to West Coast Symposium, P.O. Box 1851, Portland, Oregon 97207.

WOMEN IN THE WOODS



at BREITENBUSH HOT SPRINGS

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AND

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Phoenix rising foundation
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