

LESBIANS

We are everywhere.



THE LESBIAN
COMMUNITY
PROJECT

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events wheelchair accessible

Tues., June 21
Lesbian Forum: Unemployed Lesbians
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1624 NE Hancock
7pm - 9pm
Join us for this discussion.

Sat., July 9
5th Annual Pride Dance
Emerald Ballroom, Tiffany Center
SW 14th & Morrison, 8pm - 1am
A ♀♂♂♀ Event
Be Proud! Dance Your Sox Off!

Sat. & Sun., August 13 & 14
Tournament of Choice
9th Annual Softball Tournament
Prairie Fields, Brush Prairie WA
Support Your Local Athlete!

A membership organization...join today!

(503) 223-0071/TDD
Fax 242-1967
P.O. Box 5931
Portland, OR 97228

Anti-Violence Project
796-1703/1-800-796-1703



1939 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD.
503-232-5944

RSVP GAY VACATIONS
SEA SPIRIT CRUISES
NEW ENGLAND
SEAPORTS
CARIBBEAN

REGENT SPIRIT CRUISE
SPANISH RIVIERA
SEPT. 4-11

ATLANTIS
CLUB MED 1
FRENCH AND SPANISH
RIVIERA
SEPT. 17-24

CALL FOR INFORMATION AND BROCHURE

national news

Coalition effort a qualified success

Activists converge on Washington, D.C., for AIDSWATCH '94

by Bob Roehr

Over 300 grassroots AIDS activists came to Washington, D.C., May 22 to 24, from 40 states across the country, to lobby for increased funding for AIDS. AIDSWATCH '94 was a coalition effort of 20 national and local organizations, with principal coordination by the National Association of People with AIDS.

"People with HIV disease need to be in the forefront, giving the epidemic a face," said NAPWA executive director Bill Freeman.

Hometown lobbyists made 145 scheduled appointments and about 100 additional drop-in visits, according to NAPWA and AIDSWATCH coordinator Lisa Ragain. The numbers are about double those in the past.

The centerpiece of their effort was a letter drafted by Rep. Gerry Studds and Rep. Connie Morella and signed by 44 colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was directed to Rep. Neal Smith, chairman, and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee which will begin marking up the AIDS budget in June.

The intent is to increase AIDS-related funding in the budget by \$95 million for prevention, \$126 million for care, and \$130 million for research over what the Clinton administration has requested.

Mark Agrast, legislative assistant to Studds, said the major problem they are facing is the congressional mandate for spending limitations. "All of the health moneys are in the same pot, and if you want to exceed the budget request from the White House in one account, that has to come out of another account."

Members of Congress can no longer simply increase funding in their area. It is part of the changes instituted over the last several years in an attempt to control government spending and the federal deficit.

Agrast believes the constituent visits have been very effective. Citing the group Mothers' Voices, he said, "What can you say to a mother who is losing her child, or has lost her child? It is amazingly persuasive."

Still, he acknowledges, "Every program today is facing a level of justification that never entered the picture before." He is hesitant to predict victory in achieving all of the goals of increased funding.

A thousand people gathered Sunday evening, May 22, at Lafayette Park, across from the White House, for what was billed as "Coming Out of the Darkness," the 11th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. It was organized by the National Minority AIDS Council.

George Stephanopoulos, senior advisor to President Clinton, addressed the group in Lafayette Park. He said the President was "committed to more funding" for AIDS and that the administration "will tolerate no discrimination whatsoever of those who have AIDS."

He urged the group to push for more funding, saying the administration does not "resent the pressure."

The group then walked down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol for a concluding rally at the foot of Capitol Hill.

At the reflecting pool, the Capitol Building glowed bright in the darkening sky, while more speakers presented their concerns.

Robert McCabe, a person living with AIDS, launched an attack on Congress for its role in the AIDS crisis. "We the people are dying, while self-righteous, pompous, affluent white men sit in Congress and play political games with nonissues like Paula Jones and Whitewater."

AIDS czar Kristine Gebbie hosted a White House reception on Monday evening, May 23. It was at the Old Executive Office Building, the ornate gray pile of stone directly west of the White House, technically part of the White House compound. According to John Gurrola, Gebbie's spokesman, several hundred people were invited.

Bill McMillan had come from Chicago, where he sits on the Cook County AIDS Services Planning Council and is a member of ACT UP. Weeks

earlier he had filled out a detailed registration form for AIDSWATCH '94. He was told it would also be used "for security clearance purposes for this reception."

When he got to the gate at the building he was told he could not enter. "They gave me no reason why," he says. He thinks it is because he was arrested at the Centers for Disease Control several years ago in a civil disobedience

action over expanding the definition of AIDS. Conflicting reports placed the number of those denied entrance as high as 30. Reasons for denial included not making a security clearance, not being on the guest list, and not having a picture ID to confirm identity.

Keith Cylar, co-director of Housing Works, a group working with homeless people with AIDS in New York City, said that most of those denied entrance were with his group. He went inside and convinced Gebbie to come out and talk with those excluded. She did, for about 10 minutes. She apologized for any mix-up, but basically she said there was nothing that she could do if they had been denied a security clearance.

The group subsequently decided that since some were denied entrance, they would boycott the event.

Cylar recounted that Cornelius Baker, NAPWA's public policy director, then suggested that he cede his speaking time at the event inside to someone from Housing Works so that they could articulate their issues.

Sheila Ames agreed to speak and explained the situation outside. She noted that those excluded were predominantly people of color who were living with AIDS. She urged the guests to walk out of the reception in protest. Many began to leave.

Outside, said Cylar, "we did a bit of a pep rally and a talk." He called it "an incredible bonding experience." But he criticized Gebbie for lack of leadership on something so simple as a phone call on running security background checks.



ART MEDIA
Summer Sale
June 18-25

Save 20% Storewide*

* 20% off regular Art Media price, Downtown & Beaverton except special tag items, magazines, special orders of non-stock items.

Beaverton Store 2710 SW Cedar Hills Blvd. (in Walker Center) 646.9347
Downtown Portland Store 902 SW Yamhill 223.3724
Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 9:00-6:30 Sunday 12:00-5:00