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WE NEED YOUR HELP
Be a part of a rapidly growing foundation that helps people with AIDS.

The Friends of People With AIDS Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that exists to meet the needs of people with AIDS, needs that otherwise go unmet. We're a group of volunteers, not a government or church agency. That means we are free to meet those needs in the way that is best for our friends with AIDS.

Since we started the foundation in 1990, the board members & volunteers have provided more services every year. We're still growing, and now we need more members.

All positions are non-paid. That's because all of our dedicated funds go directly to clients. We have no paid staff & no offices. We operate from our homes using telephone, pager and cellular phone to meet the demands of the task we've set for ourselves.

Some of the services provided by the foundation are:

- Tod's Corner (free clothing and medical supplies)
- Emergency travel and lodging
- Emergency food baskets
- Entertainment
- Phone service for those in long-term care facilities
- Cremations
- Pet-related expenses
- Services for those in prison
- Latino outreach program
- Christmas and Easter gifts for the children of PWAs

*plus many other services paid for by our general fund

We have volunteer positions open at all levels of commitment; from the most casual to the most dedicated.

If you are interested in joining our family and really making a difference in the lives of people with HIV, send us a résumé or a letter of interest.

FRIENDS OF PWAs FOUNDATION
PO Box 69553
Portland, OR 97201
Attn: Corey Baker

world briefs

ARGENTINA
Argentina's under secretary for penal policy, Julio Aparicio, estimates that one-third of the nation's prisoners are HIV positive, the state Telam news agency reported.
At Buenos Aires' large Caseros prison, half of all inmates have tested positive, Aparicio said.

BRITAIN
In a British legal first, a lesbian who murdered a man with whom her female lover was having an affair received a reduced sentence Jan. 5 because of the "provocation" caused by the relationship, reported *The Scotsman*.

The marital-cheating "provocation" defense previously has applied only to heterosexual killers.

The High Court in Glasgow sentenced Vicki McKean, 28, to only eight years for the murder of Stephen Blackwell, 40, saying his fling with Connie Andrew, 27, mitigated the crime. McKean stabbed Blackwell 11 times as he sat in her living room.

"Normally [the provocation defense] is only open in cases where a man has found his wife in the act of adultery and kills her lover on the spot," *The Scotsman* said.



London's famed Royal Ballet will tackle AIDS in mid-February, with a one-act ballet featuring prima ballerina Dacey Bussell as the virus and the corps de ballet as white blood cells, reported the *Evening Standard*.

The score will be a composition by the late Benjamin Britten.

Tests are underway in Britain on "chemical condoms" that may allow HIV-positive men to impregnate women without passing on the virus, the *New Scientist* reported on Jan. 4.

Following a number of additional tests on the safety, comfort and convenience of the virucidal compounds, researchers hope to test the substances in certain Third World countries with a high incidence of HIV infection and a high incidence of men who refuse to wear condoms.

The virucides would probably be marketed as gels, creams or foams, the *New Scientist* said.

CANADA
Canada Post will issue an AIDS stamp just prior to the 11th International Conference on AIDS, which takes place in Vancouver, B.C., in July.

The design will be based on the conference poster, created by Vancouver artist Joe Average, which has been described as a Picasso-like collage of faces.

COSTA RICA
The Costa Rican Movement Against AIDS is a new organization that provides food, toiletries and hospital equipment to people with AIDS and counsels their families and friends, reported the new Costa Rican gay newspaper *YKE*.

So far, 14 people have utilized the group's services.

Volunteers meet Tuesdays at 8 pm at the San José gay club Déjà Vu. For more information, call 011-506-285-5368 or 011-506-223-3758.

The Costa Rican gay group Triangulo Rosa says it will use a new AIDS grant from the Dutch government to rent and equip a community center and expand its work to the provinces.

Costa Rica has 1,000 "diagnosed cases of AIDS," according to Triangulo Rosa, "but estimates as to the number of HIV-positive people here run as high

as 15,000." Seventy percent of AIDS cases are among gay men, the group said.

Contact Triangulo Rosa at Apartado 1619-4050, Alajuela, Costa Rica; phone/fax: 011-506-234-2411; Internet: rastern@sol.racsa.co.cr.

CYBERSPACE
The Human Rights Campaign, the largest lesbian and gay political organization in the United States, has an Internet World Wide Web site up and running that allows you to plug in your ZIP code and retrieve the voting records of your members of Congress on gay and AIDS issues.

The site then lets you send a pre-scripted message (which you can edit) to your senator or representative, urging that he or she vote in accord with your wishes.

"It's an innovative action center," says HRC electronic media manager Phil Attey. The Web address is <http://www.hrcusa.org>.

So far, most lesbian and gay Web sites merely disseminate information without giving visitors an on-line option to do anything with the data.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is now on the Internet World Wide Web at <http://www.geko.com.au/~mardigras>. The site was created by Digital Queers Australia and receives free access and disk space from the Geko Internet service provider.

DQA plans to put other Australian queer organizations on the Web also.

NETHERLANDS
According to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, Netherlands has extended full equality to same-sex couples in the area of state pensions for widowed persons.

POLAND
Poland's new constitution that will ban discrimination based on sexual orientation faces a final vote in Parliament in the next few months.

Gay men and lesbians are encouraged by the fact that Poland's new president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, previously headed up the committee that drafted the document. But they remain worried about opposition from the powerful Roman Catholic Church.

The only other country to protect gay men and lesbians constitutionally—via an interim constitution that is awaiting final approval—is South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA
Gay men and lesbians here are mobilizing for the final months of their battle to keep a ban on sexual-orientation-based discrimination in the nation's post-apartheid constitution.

The protections are in the interim constitution, but activists remain concerned about opposition from the African Christian Democratic Party.

"Until the clause is in the final constitution, the gay and lesbian community must remain united and mobilized," said Karin Burger of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality.

The coalition has launched a letter-writing campaign to the Constitutional Assembly, printed 25,000 postcards that will be sent to the body, and declared Jan. 27 "A National Day of Action," during which activists in each province will collect signatures on petitions and conduct other public activities.

The final vote on the constitution is expected in May.

VIETNAM
Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam's clear AIDS capital, the *Lao Dong* newspaper reported on Jan. 7.

According to the National AIDS Protection Committee, two-thirds of Vietnam's 293 AIDS cases are in the city, along with 1,598 of the country's 3,375 HIV carriers.

One hundred thirty-four Vietnamese have died of the disease.