



AccessEXPO focuses on five diseases: malaria, tuberculosis, sleeping sickness, kala azar and HIV/AIDS

exhibit, which stopped in downtown Portland this summer, was created to raise public awareness about the lack of affordable and effective medicines for life-threatening diseases in developing countries. "What we are trying to do...is to bring this reality to life for the U.S. public in order to raise awareness about the access-to-medicines crisis—and the crisis in R & D for neglected

diseases in particular—and mobilize action in the search for new treatments for neglected diseases."

The exhibit, which travels in a remodeled 48-foot trailer, features photographs, audiovisual material and the life stories of people who suffer from five diseases: malaria, tuberculosis, sleeping sickness, kala azar and HIV/AIDS.

Born and raised in Portland until moving east for college, Cohen still considers the Rose City home. But romantic dreams of the Big Apple drew her at an early age.

"New York has an energy and an edge that I don't think I could live without at this point," the 30-year-old says. "It's a city that in some ways exposes all of society's hypocrisies and inequities—such wealth and privilege living right alongside such poverty and despair. One can feel rather schizophrenic walking down the street here. But it is also a city that reveals the remarkable strength and dynamism of true diversity."

Indeed, the diversity of New York City might partly account for the fact that Cohen hasn't faced any serious difficulties in her work as a result of being a lesbian. "Of course, I've always worked in the progressive nonprofit sector, so I suppose I've minimized the opportunities for this to be an issue in my workplaces."

Cohen says the most demanding part of her job is being powerless to alleviate others' suffering: "The most difficult thing is undoubtedly bearing witness to needless suffering and death

and at the same time having to face the incredible indifference and neglect of wealthy governments like the U.S.—which continues to pursue foreign policies, including trade policies, that harm the lives of people in developing countries in need of treatment and refuse to cough up the necessary financial resources to adequately address major public health crises like the AIDS pandemic—as well as the pharmaceutical industry, which places patents and profits above the needs of people."

On the other side of the coin, Cohen considers empowering folks to help themselves the most rewarding aspect of her work. "By far the best part of this job is witnessing the transformation of people's lives when they become empowered with the knowledge they need to begin demanding access to treatment—and when they finally gain access to the medicines they need."

Cohen recalls a recent visit to an HIV clinic

in Khayelitsha, a poor township outside Cape Town, South Africa: "One young woman I met had just started to take [anti-retroviral therapy] the day before, and as she described the way she felt, she was practically leaping with triumph, with her fist in the air."

Unfortunately, more than 95 percent of people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world do not have access to this life-saving treatment—something Cohen hopes we will help her to change. **JM**

For more information about DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS go to www.doctorswithoutborders.org. Visitors can sign an online petition urging President Bush and the pharmaceutical industry to devote more resources to research and development for neglected diseases.

CAITLIN SMITH is a free-lance writer and scientist in Portland.



The exhibit came to Pioneer Courthouse Square in July

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



Lower maintenance than your last date.



Lisa Costello | 503-372-3129
Personal VW Consultant | vdublixa@hotmail.com

Herzog-Meier

Clearly Not Just a Patio Cover



Optically Clear, UV Block,
Shatter-Proof, 200 Frame Colors

CLEARVUE Free Estimates
patio covers (503) 544-8178

COME DISCOVER YOUR OWN BACKYARD!

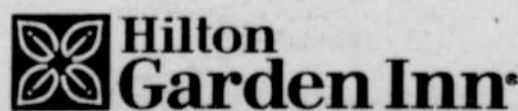
... at the new

HILTON GARDEN INN
PORTLAND/LAKE OSWEGO

Enjoy the

"Discover your Backyard" Package!

For only \$69.00 enjoy lodging for two on a Friday or Saturday night, with breakfast for two in the morning! (plus tax, subject to availability)



Hilton Garden Inn
Portland/Lake Oswego
14850 KRUSE OAKS DRIVE • LAKE OSWEGO
(503) 684 8900
Group Code: BKY • www.hiltongardeninn.com

Protect Your Assets Through Estate Planning

Call the Law Office of James D. McVittie
503-224-6611

• To Receive Your FREE Booklet *A Practical Guide to Estate Planning*

• Schedule a FREE 30 minute consultation to discuss your personal estate plan.



James D. McVittie
Attorney at Law
2310 NW Everett
Suite 200
Portland, Oregon
97210
503.224.6611

Create Your Own!

core CONCOCTIONS SUNDAY

Pick your two favorite flavors & wrap them around a core of your two favorite toppings. Yum!

Buy One Get One FREE!

(Core Concoctions, Sundae) With This Coupon.



One per customer. Limited time only.
Expires 10/30/02.

© Ben & Jerry's Homemade Holdings, Inc. 2002

Uptown Shopping Center
39 NW 23rd Place 503-295-3033
SE Hawthorne Blvd.
1428 SE 36th Ave. 503-234-2223

Locally owned & operated by Big Cow Partners, LLC.