

An AIDS Video for the Deaf

By Craig Nelms
Q-Notes Staff

Nearly everyone has heard about AIDS by now. NEARLY everyone. All over the U.S., outreach is now being initiated to specific sectors of the population who may not have gotten the message. Culturally sensitive health education programs have begun in larger cities. Drug abusers and the homeless (who don't watch the news or read a paper and probably haven't heard enough about AIDS) are the targets of education. And several local interpreters for the deaf are doing their share in the war against AIDS.

According to reporter Karen Garloch in *The Charlotte Observer* (5-25-88), several interpreters have made an educational video, utilizing facilities and personnel at Central Piedmont Community College. The video is presented in sign language, and will be made available in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and other nearby states for use by institutions and educators who deal with the deaf. Gallaudet College, a university for the deaf in Washington, D.C., will also be using the video. The funding for the video (less than \$200.00) was provided by Metrolina AIDS Project.

I think this is wonderful. These interpreters, MAP and CPCC have done a fantastic thing in making this video. Let's hope it generates more local outreach to special groups, and more national outreach to those persons with disorders that limit communication. For the deaf, the blind, and for those who can't read, it is imperative that unique media be used to inform them. No one should be infected with HIV because society has not provided them with information in a form they could understand.

In a city the size of Charlotte, there are many doctors one can see when HIV associated illnesses arise. The problem we face is the difficulty these physicians have in obtaining up-to-date information.

It is important to take some responsibility for our own treatment.

TO YOUR HEALTH

A. Find the right doctor. Don't see a general practitioner for toxoplasmosis; see an infectious disease specialist for anything HIV related.

B. Whenever you are diagnosed with something, RESEARCH it. Learn about it. If you can't get to the library, send a friend. I suggest checking the different reference guides at UNCC; ask the reference librarians for help. For a reasonable fee, they can order photocopies of any articles they don't have in-house. Look up any drugs prescribed for you in the same manner; learn how to use the *Physician's Desk Reference* (PDR).

C. Make you doctor sit down with you and discuss the risks and benefits of the various treatment options available. NEVER agree to a treatment before asking about alternative treatments (except for emergencies). Make an informed choice.

D. Trade information with your doctor. When you come across an interesting article, give your MD a copy. Ask for copies of any articles he/she may have that relate to your treatment.

I suggest that you obtain a copy of the publication "AIDS: A Primer For The Primary Care Practitioner," distributed by the World Hemophilia AIDS Center (address below). This 4-page primer familiarizes MD's with symptoms they need to look for, the tests that need to be run, and preferred treatments for specific diagnoses. Your doctor will find it interesting, and if your MD is new to the AIDS field (or only treats a few patients), this publication could be a lifesaver.

"AIDS: A Primer"
Board of Medical Quality Assurance
Attn: The Action Report, Editor
1430 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
Ask for a reprint. It's free, but do send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Social Highlights

Bobby Waymack has been appointed the Pastoral Leader for New Life MCC for the duration of the church's search for a new pastor.

New Life is still going strong, and is starting some new activities which include a church choir as well as a weekly Bible study group, and is also planning an attic sale in August ... Come on, it's time to get rid of some of that old drag you've been keeping.

New Life meets on Sunday evenings at 6:45 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Sharon Amity. For information or directions, call Ed or Sandy at 365-2308.

Speaking of getting rid of stuff, MCC Charlotte is having a major yard sale on June 11 from 7:30-noon. It's spring cleaning time, you know. Call 563-5810 for location and directions. Regular worship is 11 am on Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Couples, Inc., is a political organization which believes that same-sex couples and other gay and lesbian families should be entitled to the same rights and privileges as married heterosexual couples.

To reach Couples, Inc., write P.O. Box 77266, Atlanta, GA 30357 or call (404) 634-3061.

The Tradesmen, Charlotte's local Levi/Leather group has elected its new officers. They are:

President - Tony W.
Vice President - Barry B.
Secretary - Steve D.
Treasurer - Roger N.
Sergeant at Arms - Butch S.
Director of Activities - Jim L.
Member at Large - Chuck G.

The club will also be hosting the welcome party for the Drummer Boy Contest, July 1st at Oleen's. Dog Days of Summer will be the theme for club night, August 5 at B.R. There will be drink specials all day.

Acceptance, a social/support group for the gay and lesbian community meets each Thursday at 8 p.m. The meetings are informative, as well as fun. The group is hosting a covered dish dinner on June 23 at 7:30 p.m. at John's House. For more information, call John at 333-1428.

Q-Notes needs help

We need writers, photographers, ad layout people, ad sales reps, etc. You name it we need it.

Contact:

**QCQ P.O. Box 221841
Charlotte, N.C. 28222**

ALWAYS,

Monday and Tuesday 25¢ Draft;
House Drinks \$1.50

Wednesday Pool Tournament
\$20 Bar Tab to winner; House Drinks \$1.50

Thursday All The Draft You Can Drink \$4

Sunday Open at 3 PM;
Free Pool from 3-8 PM;

Cookout at 5:30 PM; House Drinks \$1.50 All Day;
Sunday Night's Show "Kasey King's Bargain Basement"

O L E E N ' S

1831 South Boulevard ■ Charlotte ■ 373-9604