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Calendar

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FRIDAYS

October 30

Men of Tropixx

November 6

Coverboy Revue

November 13 (&14)

Studz Male Strippers



Friday, October 23

Lady Adonis Female Strippers

Saturday, October 31 - Halloween Party

Every

Saturday Super Saturday Shows	Sunday Karaoke at 11:30	Tuesday Karaoke at 11:30	Wednesday Wicked Wednesday Variety Show	Thursday Levi/Leather Night with Ken 11:00pm Pool Tournament
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Bill is recipe for more HIV infection

by Steven Fisher
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—At a September 29 Congressional hearing on HIV names reporting, AIDS Action, the nation's largest AIDS advocacy organization, denounced H.R. 4431, a bill sponsored by Reps. Coburn (R-OK) and Ackerman (D-NY) that would require all states to establish new programs to collect and maintain names people with HIV as well as implement mandatory partner notification measures.

AIDS Action denounced the names reporting proposal as a "bureaucratic scheme" that could act as a disincentive to HIV testing at a time when there are as many as 300,000 HIV-positive people in America who are unaware of their status. AIDS Action leaders said the group supports reinvigorated voluntary HIV testing efforts, including better access to rapid testing.

"If Coburn ran a theater, he'd try to attract crowds with tear gas," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action. "We don't need lists and an HIV police force. We need an effective plan to encourage people at risk for HIV to get tested, get counseled and get the tools to protect their health and the health of others."

Not only would the Coburn-Ackerman plan act as a disincentive to encouraging testing, critics charge, but it also fails to address deficiencies in access to health care as well as new life-prolonging drugs. Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor, is not eligible to low-income HIV people until they develop AIDS.

"It's the Titanic all over again. We're counting up all the passengers but not providing enough lifeboats," added Zingale. "Our volun-

tary testing and prevention structure would be decimated if people fear that getting a positive test could mean their name is reported to the government and they would be denied access to life-prolonging drugs and adequate care."

AIDS Action labeled the partner notification provisions of the bill "oxymoronic" since effective partner notification requires the full cooperation and participation of people with HIV in consultation with health care professionals. To be effective, partner notification must be voluntary, consensual and run by experienced, trusted health care professionals, not "a new government police force, they noted.

Instead of enacting the Coburn-Ackerman bill, AIDS Action leaders urged Congress to pass its Virtual Vaccine prevention plan, which is designed to ensure that HIV prevention and education efforts receive the same attention as the race to find a medical vaccine.

Included in the Virtual Vaccine plan are a 25 percent increase in funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; treatment on request to help stem the twin epidemics of substance abuse and AIDS; a national effort for better access to rapid HIV testing; creation of a web site featuring anonymous e-mail with prevention counselors; condom ads on television programs rated "S" for sexual content; and a national testing and referral database.

"If Coburn wins and passage of effective HIV prevention fails, people with HIV could once again be driven underground, people at-risk for infection might avoid testing and we could witness a tragic new crisis in the epidemic, just as we are beginning to make progress," added Zingale. ▼

the art of meeting women More on making contact

by Rhona Sacks
Special to Q-Notes

Whenever you walk into a social gathering, notice the women who are alone. They are probably as nervous as you are. These women are the easiest to approach as they greatly appreciate the contact. Show your self-confidence and sincerity by walking right up to a woman who is alone, looking her in the eye, smiling broadly, extending your hand and warmly saying, "Hi!"

In preparation for your introduction, remember to say "Stop!" to any toxic self-talk, such as: "What if I walk up to her, say 'Hi,' and she ignores me? It's not worth taking the risk; forget about it." Counteract your doubting with some tender self-talk: "I love meeting women; I make contact easily with the women I want to meet."

Be conscious of the way you sound when you say, "Hi." How will your tone be perceived by a new contact: Bored? Anxious? Depressed? Happy? Enthusiastic? Practice putting positive energy into your greeting — you want it to be gracious and inviting. Let your loving self shine through your salutation and you will be warmly received.

Dancing queen

You spot a woman who is dancing and you want to meet her. What do you do — besides continue to watch her? The most unobtrusive way to get close enough to make contact is by dancing, with a friend, near her. This will also give you a chance to evaluate the relationship between her and her dance partner. After you've concluded that the two of them are probably not lovers, face the woman you want to meet, establish eye contact and flash her a broad smile. If she returns your gaze and smiles, chances are she's interested in meeting you. So, introduce yourself to her and her dance partner, then introduce both of them to your dance partner. And don't forget to compliment yourself for being so fearlessly assertive. You're doing great!

A couple of friends

Making contact with other couples is similar to making contact with single women. Be assertive and affable. When you meet another interesting lesbian couple, don't be reticent. Suggest exchanging phone numbers and getting together for dinner. Don't wait for them to call you; take the initiative and call them to set up a double-date. Friendships are no different from romantic relationships. It takes time and effort to turn strangers into friends, so make the call. ▼

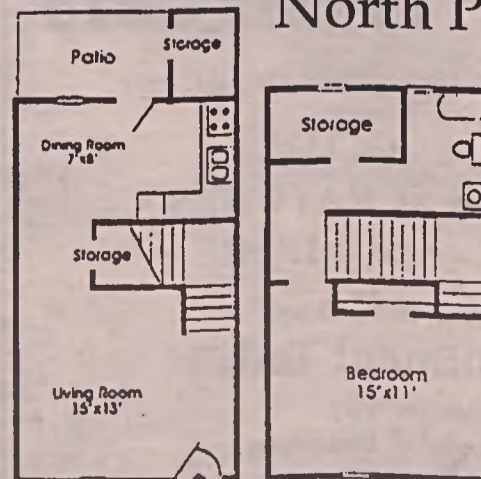
[Rhona Sacks is the author of the #1 Best-Seller *The Art of Meeting Women, A Guide for Gay Women* (Slope Books, 1998). Send your questions and comments to Slope Books, PO Box 150636, Brooklyn, NY 11215-0636 or rhona@gaywoman.com.]

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