

National Notes

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session was Dr. Satcher's first meeting with representatives of the lesbian and gay community as head of the CDC.

Representing AAPHR were the organization's President Kate O'Hanlan, MD; Executive Director Benjamin Schatz, MD; President-elect Bob Cabaj, MD; Secretary Stosh Ostrow, MD; and AIDS Task Force Chair Alvin Novick, MD.

AAPHR urged the CDC to promote effective HIV prevention strategies for gay men and lesbians, and to promulgate a policy on HIV-positive health care workers that is based on science and not hysteria or politics. AAPHR also encouraged the CDC to develop a plan to combat anti-gay and lesbian violence, and the high rates of substance abuse, suicide and other health problems in the lesbian/gay community.

According to O'Hanlan, "We were delighted to have this opportunity to discuss issues of critical importance to our community with Dr. Satcher and his associates. I was impressed by Dr. Satcher's commitment to working with us to combat the homophobia that prevents the delivery of vital services to our community. There was a consensus that we all share the same goals. The meeting was extremely productive. I look forward to an excellent working relationship with the CDC. After twelve years of official animosity toward our community by the previous administrations, I welcome Dr. Satcher's open door policy."

In April of 1993, at a meeting with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, AAPHR was urged by the Secretary to meet with the heads of the CDC, NIH and other agencies under her

authority. According to Schatz, "This important meeting with Dr. Satcher is only one of many ways in which AAPHR is working to promote lesbian and gay health. Among AAPHR's current projects are the publication of a groundbreaking paper on the ways in which 'Homophobia is a Health Hazard'; a survey on the impact of homophobia and AIDS-phobia on physicians; and the hosting next July of a national meeting to explore in depth HIV prevention strategies targeted to gay men and lesbians."

Condom company sponsors Gay Games

OAKLAND, CA—Mayer Labs, distributors of Kimono and MAXX condoms and Aqua Lube water-based lubricant, announced in late January that the company has signed on as a sponsor of the Gay Games IV, making it the first US condom company to support an international sporting event of any type.

Mayer Labs says it hopes to help celebrate the diversity and culture of the gay and lesbian community while also reaching hundreds of thousands of health-conscious consumers with its fun, practical approach to safer sex and condom use.

"With over 500,000 people expected to attend the week-long series of health and fitness events, it's a natural fit for our business" said Mike Smith, Vice President of Mayer Labs. "Our Kimono and MAXX condoms, as well as our Aqua Lube, are very popular among gay men and lesbians. For years we have supported gay and lesbian groups and provided condoms to a variety of AIDS organizations nationwide."

Mayer officials say this corporate sponsorship is a direct extension of the compa-

ny's seven-year history of support for the gay and lesbian community. Mayer Labs was the first company to place condom ads featuring same-sex couples, as early as 1987, and regularly participates in annual Gay and Lesbian Parades in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"We are a small company, and this is a big step for us," said David Mayer, President of Mayer Labs. "But we see this as an opportunity to educate people about safer sex and condom use, and promote a positive outlook about health, athletics, and sex."

"We'll be very visible throughout the week in New York," added Smith, who came to Mayer Labs in 1990 after co-founding the NAMES Project, the ever-growing AIDS Memorial Quilt. "Our famous Dancing Condoms will be passing out samples throughout New York. We may even participate in a few sports, or launch our own condom-related sporting events during the week. There are several zany ideas on the drawing board. Whatever we do, our primary objective is to have fun using condoms!"

ACT UP participates in health care summit

WASHINGTON—Steve Michael, Wayne Turner and Cheryl Spector, coordinators and lobbyists for ACT UP/Washington's national lesbian and gay effort to forge a community consensus around a single payer Canadian style health care system, met with leaders of other national organizations at a meeting organized and sponsored by U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone on February 5.

ACT UP has endorsed and is strongly lobbying Congress, other national gay/lesbian and AIDS organizations and community


members to support Sen. Wellstone's S491, The American Health Security Act.

In summarizing the spirit of the all day meeting, Wellstone said, "It's clear from Saturday's meeting that while the Congressional process is moving full steam ahead, the full force of public support for universal, affordable, comprehensive health care reform has yet to be felt. The energy of the 95 groups and individuals who joined together on Saturday must focus immediately and effectively on holding members of Congress accountable, beginning with this President's Day recess, February 12-21. Our community includes all of us who support the principals of my single payer bill; union members, consumer, AIDS activists, people with disabilities, advocates for mental health and substance abuse care, and many others. We can be heard, but we must act now."

Wellstone praised ACT UP by saying the organization, "has played a constructive role in submitting testimony at a Senate hearing on single payer, and has contributed a number of creative suggestions for media outreach over the coming months. I look forward to continuing to work with ACT UP and all of the advocacy groups combating AIDS."

Michael characterized the meeting as "very helpful" and said that Wellstone needed assistance in order to get his bill through Congress. "This is a great opportunity for the lesbian/gay and AIDS communities to finally build one of those progressive coalitions around an issue that matters for all Americans," he said. "If we can energize the grassroots of our community behind this bill, we can build the kind of goodwill among progressive members of Congress and within the consumer, union and health care movement that the Human Rights Campaign Fund can only dream of."

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