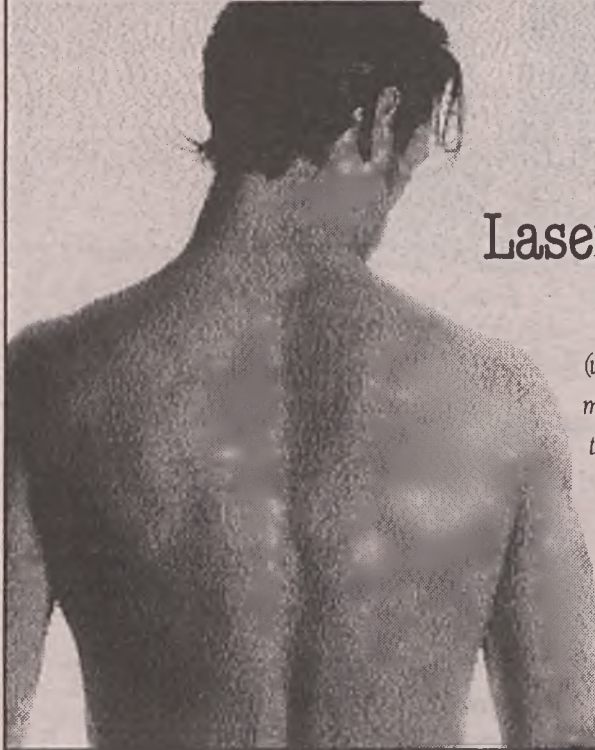


Take care of

HAIR that you don't want THERE



Laser Hair Removal

The latest advances in laser technology, (using the TKS™ process) offer a hair removal method that is safer, faster and more effective than previous methods.

Find out how this remarkable treatment can help you remove your unwanted hair.

Call today for a consultation.



Triangle East

Ear, Nose, Throat & Cosmetic Surgery
1704 Medical Park Drive
Wilson, NC

George E. Newsome M.D.

Fellow American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery

Toll Free: (800) 262-3682

Tel: (919) 243-7274

Fax: (919) 243-7747

Gay men's health summit planned

by Kirk Read
Special to Q-Notes

BOULDER, CO—Several hundred activists and health professionals are expected to gather for a Gay Men's Health Summit over the weekend of July 29 - August 1 to launch an ambitious multi-issue, multicultural gay men's health movement.

"The summit will tackle many of the difficult questions facing our communities, not only about HIV/AIDS, but also mental health and violence issues, other sexually-transmitted diseases, substance use and abuse, and the host of issues men are facing as we enter middle and old age," said Summit organizer Eric Rofes, longtime activist and author of *Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures*.

Already, the summit's attendees have proven to be a diverse group. Some have been working in AIDS or gay men's health for several decades and are interested in creating a stronger, more visible grassroots movement among gay men focused on a range of health concerns. Others are drawn to this summit because they hope to reenergize gay men to be actively engaged in political activism, volunteerism, community life, and health promotion efforts.

"My hope is that this gathering will bring together healthcare and community leaders to share what we have learned from successes, to better describe and prioritize the remaining challenges, and to forge a common understanding that will inform a new era of constructive activism that will enhance our communities' health," said Ken Mayer, professor of Medicine and Community Health at Brown University.

Attendees will come to the conference site, the Regal Harvest House in Boulder, from different locations, cultures, generations and professions, but share common concerns about improving gay men's health and wellness. One particular concern of the summit is to ensure the involvement of gay men under 35, especially around such hot-button issues as circuit parties, barebacking and recreational drug use.

Mark Beyer, Men's Prevention Coordinator at the Boulder County AIDS Project, is a 28-year-old who characterizes the summit as urgently needed to broaden the scope of gay men's health considerations. "For years, the only health issue I felt concerned with and connected to was HIV/AIDS; there were prevention campaigns directed at me — a gay man. Where would I get information pertinent to other health issues I faced as a gay man?"

To begin answering this question, the summit will include speakers, panels, workshops and organizing meetings on a range of topics including:

- health promotion for gay men of color;

- substance use and abuse;
- the implications that gender and masculinity have on gay men's health;
- health issues facing older men: prostate cancer, heart disease, lung cancer;
- the politics and health issues emerging from circuit parties;
- making young gay men into health advocates;
- model gay men's health projects;
- changes in gay cultures in response to the increasing centrality of cyberspace;
- sex debates in gay male communities and community health implications;
- the politics and health issues emerging from barebacking;
- a new generation of HIV prevention for gay men;
- rural gay men's health needs;
- tensions between various gay generations;
- mental health issues facing gay men of all colors;
- activism focused on gay men's sexual health and access to technologies.

The summit is a humble, grassroots organizing effort with ambitious aims. There are no corporate sponsors or large organizations leading the effort. It is being organized by concerned men and women in various parts of the country who are handling logistics, program planning, publicity and housing. All people motivated to improve the well-being of gay male communities are welcomed to participate in both the conference and its planning.

Alan Brown of New Haven, CT is the president of the Electric Dreams Foundation, a new non-profit group that promotes safer partying. His close interaction with circuit party culture has convinced him that thoughtful strategy about gay men's health is urgently needed to counteract the fear and blame that characterizes controversial debates in gay male culture. "I think that a lot is at stake now for gay men. We can and must actively manage our way to a healthier place. We need the best minds, honest and open dialogue, and lots of energy and imagination to reinvent the whole idea of health. The Boulder Summit is a line in the sand. No one is going to do it for us."

For summit registration and housing information, download materials from the Boulder County AIDS Project web site at www.bcap.org; phone: Mark Beyer at (303) 444-6121; email: summit@bcap.org. For more information on programming and workshops, phone Eric Rofes at (415) 255-6210 or email erofes@aol.com. ▼

Would you Buy a used house from this man?



Joe O'Connor

An openly gay man that deals 'straight' in business: a vocal activist within the L.G.B.T. community, seeking your continued support.

"I SELL CHARLOTTE"

704-569-0806

<http://members.aol.com/charncjoe>




We all agree, Joe is the one to call for your real estate needs.

The Prudential
Carolina Realty



Helping You Every Step of The Way...



Andy Vernon, Realtor
704-593-2247
"Personal Service is The Difference"

Whether buying
selling or relocating,
I'm here to provide
you professional
service with a
personal touch.

