



AIDS & ANTHROPOLOGY

BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

Vol. 5 No. 1 July 1993

REORGANIZATION AARG AND AAA TASK FORCE ON AIDS

The Task Force on AIDS of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) was established in 1988. While AAA Task Forces normally are called into existence for a period of maximum three years, the Task Force on AIDS functioned for a four year period of time. Annette Weiner, the AAA President, called a planning meeting at the end of April 1993. Several representatives from the AAA Task Force on AIDS as well as members from the AARG were invited to attend this planning session. The AAA anticipates to develop a Commission on AIDS in 1994. The current Task Force on AIDS will be terminated in November 1993. One option discussed at the April planning meeting is to have the Task Force on AIDS convert into the Steering Committee of the AARG. Janet McGrath, the Chair-Elect of the AARG, has submitted an alternative proposal suggesting that the Task Force on AIDS become a working group or committee of the AARG. In the next issue we will give you a further update on the developments in this area. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR OPINION REGARDING THIS ISSUE. Overall, it appears that AIDS is viewed as a serious issue in which anthropologists should be involved. At this time, we would like to comment the members of the AAA Task Force on AIDS for the excellent job they have done; in particular we want to thank the President of the Task Force on AIDS, Merrill Singer.

THANK YOU DOUG!!!!

Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.
(University of Miami)
founded the AIDS and
Anthropology Newsletter
(now the AIDS and
Anthropology Bulletin) and
served as its editor from
1988-1989 and from 1991
till July, 1993. Dr.
Feldman has done an
excellent job in publishing
the Bulletin and we want to
express our thanks for all
the time and energy he has
devoted to his editorship.
Thank you and good luck
with all your other
activities.

BACK FROM BERLIN

If you attended the
Eighth International
Conference on AIDS in
Berlin (Germany), and would
be willing to write a
summary of anthropological
presentations on AIDS for
the next issue of AAB,
please contact the editor
(see page 4 for the
address).

REORGANIZATION AARG AND AAA TASK FORCE ON AIDS

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Summarizing, the following two proposals are being considered:

- (1) Convert the AAA Task Force on AIDS into the Steering Committee of the AARG;
 - (2) Convert the AAA Task Force on AIDS into a working group of the AARG.
- We would like to hear your opinion on this for the next newsletter.

AIDS AND TOURISM

The Society for Applied Anthropology has proposed that AARG have a session in "Tourism and AIDS" at the next SfAA meeting in Cancun, Mexico in March 1994. Douglas A. Feldman has agreed to chair the session, and would like to hear from anthropologists and other social scientists who would like to participate in this session. Please contact:

Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D., Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Miami School of Medicine. R-669, P.O. Box 016069, Miami, FL 33101, USA; phone: (305) 547-6559; FAX: (305) 547-3384.

AIDS SYLLABI AVAILABLE

The AAA Task Force on AIDS has published The Anthropology of AIDS: Syllabi and Other Teaching Resources. Edited by Ralph Bolton and Erika Kempler, this publication is free to those who request it. Write to: AAA, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22202, USA. This publication is a must if you are considering a course on AIDS.

AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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92)
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AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin

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THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AIDS

Merrill Singer, Robert G. Carlson, and Steve Koester are organizing a volume entitled The Political Economy of AIDS for an existing book series edited by Ray Elling at Baywood Publishing Co. They are seeking 1-2-page chapter outlines from interested authors.

Political economy, as defined in the volume, is an approach to understanding social processes and health issues in the light of (usually unequal) social relations across national, class, racial, ethnic, gender, sexual organization, and related lines. Central to political economic analysis is examination of the role of power in shaping social events and social conditions (including health status and access to resources and other things of value). Chapters may focus on any specific topic area within the domain of AIDS and may address issues that are international, national, regional, or local in scope but must do so from a political economic perspective.

Address inquiries to Merrill Singer (FAX: 203-724-0437). Send a copy of concise chapter outlines by September 15, 1993, including a realistic date when your 25-30 page paper can be completed to each of the co-editors:

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CONFERENCES

October 24-28, 1993: annual meeting American Public Health Association, San Francisco, California, USA. Contact: APHA, 1015 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA; (202) 789-5600.

November 4-7, 1993: Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, 36th annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Contact: Howard J. Ruppel, Jr., M.A., Executive Director, SSSS, P.O. Box 208, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314; phone: (319) 895-8407.

November 12-17, 1993: Seventh International Conference on AIDS Education, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Contact ISAE Executive Office, University of South Carolina, School of Public Health, Columbia, SC 29208, USA; phone: (803) 777-6217.

November 17-21, 1993: American Anthropological Association 92 annual meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: AAA, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203, USA; phone: (703) 528-1902.

December 12-17, 1993: Eighth International Conference on AIDS in Africa, Marrakech, Morocco. Contact: Societe Africaine Anti-SIDA, Secretariat de la Conference, 1 Place Charles, Nicolle. Casablanca, Morocco; phone: 20 02 04.

**In Memory of Dr. Paul Michael Toomey
July 23, 1951 - July 21, 1992.**

The science of anthropology and humanity at large, has lost all too soon a vibrant and courageous contributor. At the age of 40, Paul Toomey was deprived of the second half of life due to fetal complications of AIDS.

A Newton (MA) native, he matriculated at Bowdoin College and graduated with honors in 1973. He earned his graduate degree from the University of Virginia, where he completed his doctoral studies in Anthropology in 1984. Paul taught students at Cornell University and at Tufts University. He has a variety of publication on his work in India. Later this year a book will be published on his numerous field trips to this country which he loved. Most recently, Paul was employed by the U.S. Department of Defense as an Intelligence Research Specialist. Upon his retirement he was presented with the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Paul became the champion at the New England Junior Ice Skating competition. His competitive drive and tenacity persisted throughout his career. He also retained an interest in sports, especially skating. Within his circle of colleagues he was often referred to as the "ice-skating anthropologist."

It is Paul's endearing personality that is his most enduring legacy. One might say the concept "personality" was invented to describe him. Also his voice of maturity and reason was a great gift. Let us remember Paul as a man who enriched the lives of others.

In the words of Paul himself, it is befitting to remember him this way:

"Buddhists compare moral life to a ball of melting wax. For a long time, I thought this melting would be like burning in fear and loneliness. Now I understand, the melting will be more like a dissolution into the glow of public sympathy and the warm breath of people's loving affection."

1993 AARG PAPER PRIZES

The deadline for the second annual AARG paper prizes competition will be on September 30, 1993. The purpose of the awards is to encourage HIV-related research and publications by anthropologists. Papers would be original, 15-30 double-spaced types pages, and the sole author must be an anthropologist, anthropology graduate student, or undergraduate anthropology major. Previous winners of the award are not eligible.

Send four copies to the committee chair: Janet McGrath, Ph.D., Chair, AARG Paper Prizes Committee, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, 11220 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA. Please indicate whether you are competing in the professional or in the student competition. A \$100 award will be given for each prize.

All information for the next issue of AAB should be sent to: Claire Sterk Elifson, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 30303, USA. phone: (404) 651-1760; FAX: (404) 651-1718. The next deadline for all copy is September 15, 1993.

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**NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS:
RESEARCH SUGGESTS PROMISE AS AN AIDS
PREVENTION STRATEGY**

Do Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs) slow the spread of the AIDS virus by reducing needle sharing among addicts? GAO identified nine NEPs that had published results. Of the three studies with findings based on strong evidence, two supported a reduction in needle sharing while the third reported an increase. Seven of the nine NEPs looked at whether the programs increased drug use. All five NEPs with strong evidence found that drug use did not increase among users; four reported no increase in the frequency of injection, and one found no increase in the prevalence of use. GAO also found the forecasting model developed at Yale University to be credible. The model established a 33 percent reduction in new HIV infections among New Haven (CT), NEP participants during one year. Although these findings suggest that NEP programs may hold promise as an AIDS prevention strategy, the law now blocks HHS from using funds to directly support NEPs. HHS does, however, have the authority to conduct demonstration and research projects that could provide needles to drug users.

FROM: GAO/HRS-93-60. March 23.

AARG

AARG is a Special Committee of the Society for Medical Anthropology, a unit of the American Anthropological Association. AAB is published quarterly and is the official newsletter of AARG. To contact the chair of AARG, write Norris G. Lang, Ph.D., CSW, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, Texas 77004-5882, USA; phone: (713) 743-3781.

AAB strongly encourages the submission of letters to the editor (200 words), research reports (300-600 words), think pieces (200-500 words), announcements, requests for cooperation, employment opportunities, positions wanted, and startling discoveries. The deadline for

submission is September 15, 1993. To contact the editor see page 4.

To become a member of AARG and receive AAB, send a check or money order for US \$15 payable to AARG to: AARG, c/o Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D., Treasurer, 5224 Even Star Place, Columbia, MD 21044-1832, USA. Please include your name, title, address, phone number, and topical and geographical key words for publication in our semi-annual revised membership list. Membership is free for anthropologists residing in developing countries, or graduate students actively involved in AIDS research or activities. AAB is sent without charge to selected policy makers and journalists.

Due to the recent change of the AAB editor, the updated membership list will be included in the next issue.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of HIV/AIDS

Education and Prevention
for Children & Adolescents

The publication is scheduled for the Fall 1994. The aim is to provide a forum for empirical research findings that will have direct program and practice applications for new AIDS-related school programs, curriculum enrichment, and multicultural community-services. For more

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information contact: Julio Morales, Ph.D. & Marcia Bok, Ph.D., Co-editors, Journal of HIV/AIDS, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, 1798 Asylum Ave, W. Hartford, CT 06117.

Journal of Drug Issues

The Journal of Drug Issues is planning a special issue on "Drug users helping their own: research on user self-help organizations, user-driven AIDS interventions and users unions."

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Robert S. Broadhead will be the special editor for this issue. He can be contacted at Dept. of Sociology U 68, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269. The special issue is scheduled for Spring 1995, vol.25(2).

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