

# AIDS Action UPDATE

the national voice on AIDS

FALL 1996

## Analysis: What's next after XI Int'l Conference on AIDS?

**F**or many of us, recent events at the XI International Conference on AIDS have come to symbolize the palpable hope that, after fifteen years, we may be permitted to believe that AIDS and death are not synonymous.

We allow ourselves to think that thought with some regularity now. The *Economist* magazine recently observed that "... for the first time since 1981, when a few inquisitive doctors noticed the outbreak of a strange and rare cancer in gay American men, there is hope." For all of us affected by AIDS, HIV-positive and HIV-negative alike, there is a personal and collective sense that we may have turned some kind of corner.

Quickly, though, we sense a multitude of new concerns, along with the old. We worry about the duration and size of the protease inhibitors studies, unknown side effects, access, cost, stage of disease and the

rest. As a community, and institutionally here at AIDS Action, we are confronted with a bewildering array of challenges. Where are we headed now? What are "our" issues? On what, exactly, should we spend the bulk of our time and other resources?

We saw the intensity and high-stakes quality of the new debate at our last board meeting. Do we focus the bulk of our energy and clout on medical treatment and drugs? On developing an AIDS standard of



*One World. One Hope.*

care? On research yet to be done? On Medicaid and health care reform? Prevention and education? Housing? Psychosocial services? Substance abuse treatment? Do we tackle all of these issues and risk superficiality? Or, do we focus on two or three and risk a major blunder in setting narrowed priorities? The questions, as always, are much easier than the answers.

As AIDS Action grapples with the complex ramifications of what Vancouver means, we should redouble our efforts to be as clear as we can about our mission, our priorities and whom we represent. We have a mission statement. It defines our constituency as "all people with HIV infection ... and all people at risk for HIV infection" and our mission with respect to that constituency is advocacy for "the national public policy interests of those communities, local organizations and individuals most heavily impacted by HIV."

That's a tall order. The assessing and fixing of priorities here has always been difficult; now, it is harder still. But it would be a terrible error to pretend it is not our job to make those assessments. The more candid and explicit we can be in defining and redefining our priorities in the face of this never static crisis, the better we will do our job. We can do it now with a bit more hope—even the ultimate hope, that we'll have no job to do at all in some of our lifetimes. ■

## AIDS Action plans events during D.C. AIDS Quilt display

**Join Hands. Fight AIDS. VOTE.**

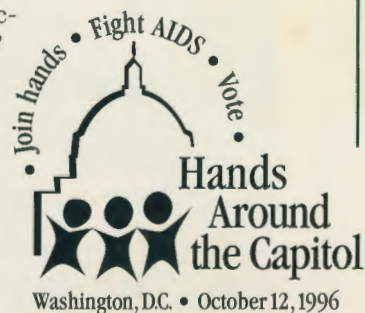
You've heard it before: Vote because America's future depends on who you send to Washington. Well, it's true. And part of that future involves a disease which has already claimed over 320,000 lives—AIDS.

Because that fact could be easily ignored in the election year frenzy, thousands of family members, friends, and lovers of people who have been lost to AIDS will surround the U.S. Capitol from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, October 12, in an expression of solidarity. At a time when our nation can't seem to agree on much of anything, our message will serve as a rallying call in the fight against AIDS: **Join Hands. Fight AIDS. Vote.**

"Ours will be a human chain of concern and remembrance for the 320,000 American lives already claimed by the epidemic, and a reminder to our elected officials that we remember, we care, and we vote," said José Zuniga, AIDS Action's Director of Public Affairs.

Co-sponsored by AIDS Action, Mothers' Voices, and Gay Men's Health Crisis, *Hands Around the Capitol* coincides with the D.C. display of the 45,000-panel AIDS Memorial Quilt. Join other display participants from across the country October 12 as we honor our dead and call on our elected officials in Washington to fight like hell for the living.

For more information, call (202) 986-1300, ext. 3060.



Washington, D.C. • October 12, 1996

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by Fred Miller

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## Berenson new Government Affairs head

Aimee Berenson, formerly AIDS Action's Legislative Counsel, assumed a new role in the organization August 9 as Director of the five-member Government Affairs department. Berenson had served as legislative counsel since arriving at AIDS Action in 1992, and has worked on AIDS policy issues ranging from housing to civil rights to federal appropriations for AIDS-related programs.

"I have every confidence that Aimee will continue to help AIDS Action navigate through the often murky waters of Washington's legislative process," said Fred

Miller, AIDS Action's Interim Executive Director. "Her leadership skills will be invaluable in the fight to maintain, and improve on, our hard-won gains in AIDS policy."

Before joining AIDS Action, Berenson was policy counsel for family law programs at the Women's Legal Defense Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union. Berenson is a graduate of the New York University School of Law, and is an adjunct professor of law at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. ■

## Kudos: AIDS Action receives Allies Award

When the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center honors leaders in the fight against AIDS during its national convention September 23-27 in Portland, Oregon, AIDS Action will be among the honorees. Ron Rowell, who is the Prevention Center's Executive Director and a member of the AIDS Action Public Policy Committee, announced AIDS Action's selection August 21.

Rowell explained that his organization's Allies Award will be presented to AIDS Action in recognition of our two-year struggle to get the Ryan White CARE Act

reauthorized. The Ryan White CARE Act program is the primary source of AIDS care dollars for cities, states, and community health clinics providing direct patient care and social support services to Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

"We are honored to accept this award on behalf of our more than 1,400 member organizations, including the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center—all of whom played a major role in AIDS Action's fight to get the CARE Act reauthorized," said Fred Miller, AIDS Action's Interim Executive Director. ■

## D.C. QUILT DISPLAY continued from page 1

### Remember Them With Your Vote



AIDS Action and the NAMES Project Foundation are set to culminate the year-long joint campaign known as, "Remember Them With Your Vote," during the October display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Display in Washington, D.C. To date, the campaign has distributed AIDS Action policy materials and state-specific AIDS fact sheets at 32 cities and towns across the country at which the AIDS Memorial Quilt has been displayed.

During the three days of the D.C. Quilt display, AIDS Action will collect "I'm Voting In Memory Of ..."



pledge cards for distribution to presidential candidates and will staff a table near the Washington Monument. AIDS Action staff will also distribute voter education and policy material, buttons and stickers, and other AIDS Action goodies.

"AIDS Action has been educating Americans across the country to remember AIDS during the November general elections," said Tracy Mickens-Hundley, AIDS Action's Director of Community Outreach. "We hope that when Americans cast their ballots, they will think of the 320,000 lives that have been lost to AIDS."

For information, call (202) 986-1300, ext. 3060. ■

## AIDS Action

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Gary Rose, *Legislative Representative*  
Javier Salazar, *Legislative Representative*  
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### WHO WE ARE

For eleven years, AIDS Action has been instrumental in achieving major public policy victories in the fight against AIDS. With our membership of individuals and community-based organizations from across the country, we educate lawmakers, support our local communities, and monitor AIDS policy to ensure that our elected officials in Washington never again forget their responsibility to Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

AIDS Action is two sister organizations working for one cause. AIDS Action Council, a 501(c)(4) organization, shapes federal AIDS policy by advocating for the vital interests of people living with HIV and AIDS and of the organizations that serve them. AIDS Action Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, fights for informed HIV/AIDS policy through community education and organizing, policy analysis and research, and media outreach.

**SURFING THE WEB? Visit <http://www.thebody.com>**

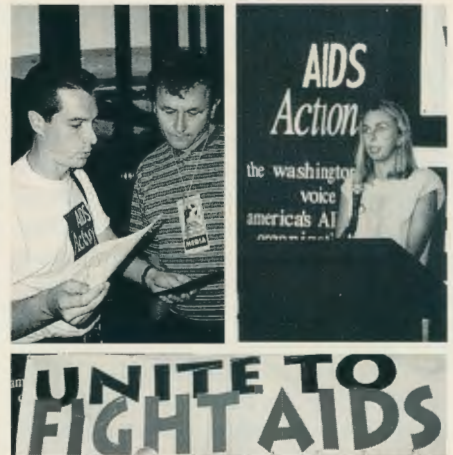
# AIDS Action '96 launched at conventions

**F**rench scholar Jules Michelet once theorized that the three parts of any political campaign are "education, education, and more education." AIDS Action took Michelet's theory and put it to practice in August as we launched a campaign to educate delegates and media attending the 1996 Democratic, Republican, and Reform Party national conventions about the vital needs of Americans living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

AIDS Action '96 was officially launched August 11 at the Reform Party Convention in Long Beach, Calif. AIDS Action staff distributed our five-point AIDS agenda for the second decade of the epidemic to Reform Party candidates Ross Perot and Gov. Richard Lamm, to party delegates, and to members of the media. The agenda, which also was widely distributed to GOP convention delegates in San Diego and to Democratic delegates in Chicago, outlines what must be priorities for the next President of the United States as he leads the national battle against AIDS [see article below].

"Our five-point agenda should serve as a roadmap for the next administration to deal with the vital needs of Americans living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including prevention, research and treatment, care, housing, and civil rights," said Christine Lubinski, AIDS Action's Deputy Executive Director.

Lubinski was AIDS Action's spokesperson in several public and media forums in



**Christine Lubinski addresses a crowd across the street from the Republican Convention in San Diego (left); José Zuniga "spins" at the Reform Party Convention in Long Beach (middle); Lubinski briefing the media at a Voices '96 media forum (right).**

Long Beach and San Diego. These forums, sponsored by AIDS Action, the AIDS Foundation of San Diego, Mothers' Voices, and Voices '96, garnered press attention and drew unprecedented local and national community involvement. Dan Bross, AIDS Action Foundation board member and former AIDS Action Executive Director, was AIDS Action's spokesperson at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

"AIDS Action's message was very well received in San Diego, in Long Beach, and in Chicago. It is clear that Americans are unwilling to allow for silence around AIDS during the national debate about the fu-

ture of our country," said José Zuniga, AIDS Action's Director of Public Affairs. "Our message is a simple one: More than 320,000 Americans have already died and countless thousands more will continue to die unless the next President backs words with actions in the fight against AIDS."

AIDS Action's travel to California was made possible through the generosity of an AIDS Action donor who contributed frequent flier flights. For more information about donating flights, please call Claudia French, Director of Development and Membership, at (202) 986-1500, ext. 3044. ■

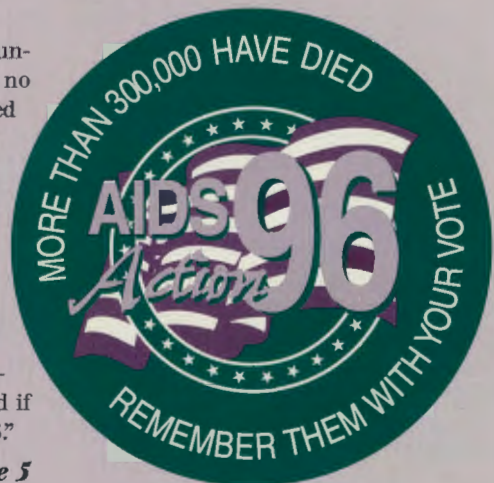
## AIDS Action's 5-point AIDS agenda

AIDS Action's five-point AIDS agenda was released in time for the start of the 1996 election year frenzy in San Diego, Chicago, and Long Beach—host cities of the Republican, Democratic, and Reform Party conventions.

"The Second Decade of AIDS & The Next U.S. President: A Challenge to Presidential Candidates in Campaign '96," speaks to five critical challenges faced by all Americans living with and affected by HIV and AIDS—prevention, research, care, housing and civil rights—and makes concrete leadership recommendations on each for the next President of the United States.

"After fifteen painful years of living under the specter of AIDS, there can be no question that the President of the United States must be the Commander-in-Chief in the fight against AIDS," said Fred Miller, AIDS Action's Interim Executive Director. "Today, more than ever, ending the AIDS epidemic and caring for those already infected must be a political priority for the highest elected official in the land. Unwavering presidential commitment and leadership are required if we are to win the battle against AIDS."

*Continued on page 5*



## AIDS ACTION POLICY UPDATES



### HIV IN THE MILITARY.

The efforts of a national coalition of AIDS advocacy groups, spearheaded by AIDS Action and the Human Rights Campaign, paid off again last month with the passage of a 1997 Department of Defense Authorization bill free of Rep. Bob Dornan's (R-Calif.) amendment mandating the discharge of HIV-positive military personnel. The provision's removal marks the second defeat in less than four months of Rep. Dornan's persistence to discriminate against service members on the basis of their HIV serostatus.

"This latest defeat should send a clear message to Rep. Dornan, and others who would legislate discrimination, that we will not stand idly by and allow you to destroy the careers and lives of patriotic Americans who happen to be HIV-positive," said Legislative Representative Jay Coburn, AIDS Action's chief strategist on this issue.

Rep. Dornan's amendment was replaced by one championed by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) which calls for equal treatment of all service members who are non-worldwide deployable because of a chronic health condition. ■



### HOUSING.

AIDS Action's efforts to secure additional funding for the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

program continue, even though both houses of Congress have passed fiscal year 1997 bills funding this vital housing program at the fiscal year 1995 level of \$171 million. HOPWA is the only federal housing program specifically designed to provide cities and states with the resources needed to meet the housing needs of people living with HIV and AIDS who are homeless, or are at imminent risk of homelessness.

AIDS Action's Director of Government Affairs, Aimee Berenson, and a small group of AIDS housing advocates nationwide, are leading efforts to rescue HOPWA funding from the budget axe. These efforts have already resulted in an eleventh-hour move by the Clinton administration to seek a HOPWA funding increase of \$25 million for fiscal year 1997, and in commitments by key members of Congress to push for increased funding during negotiations on the fiscal year 1997 Veterans Affairs/Housing &

Urban Development bill in early September.

"It is time for the Clinton administration and Congress to stop the excuses and ensure that funding for the HOPWA program is increased," Berenson said. ■



### FDA REFORM.

Three pieces of legislation that propose stripping the Food and Drug Administration of its regulatory ability to safeguard

the American public from unsafe or ineffective drugs have been stalled due, in large part, to the efforts of AIDS Action, and the Patients' Coalition.

AIDS Action Legislative Representative Gary Rose explained that the threat that a large number of amendments would be attached to the bills made the bills unappealing to many members of Congress who believed passage of FDA reform would be a 1-2-3 exercise.

"This delay provides more time for AIDS and patients advocates to negotiate with members of Congress over the more troubling provisions in the bills," Rose said. ■



### WELFARE REFORM.

Despite vociferous opposition from AIDS Action and other advocacy groups, a "bi-partisan" welfare reform bill

passed the House of Representatives and the Senate in August and was subsequently signed into law by President Clinton. The President indicated that, while disappointed with key provisions in the bill, the bill's positives outweighed the negatives.

This is the third version of the GOP congressional leadership's efforts to dismantle the welfare system. For the past 60 years, welfare has guaranteed federal assistance, including access to health care services, to America's most impoverished citizens, including people living with HIV and AIDS.

Especially troubling to AIDS advocates are provisions in the bill which erode access to health care through Medicaid. These provisions include barring legal immigrants from a variety of federal benefits, including access to Medicaid.

"We demand that President Clinton work to eliminate or improve key provisions of the welfare bill which unfairly penalize this nation's most vulnerable populations, including people living with HIV and AIDS," said Christine Lubinski, AIDS Action's Deputy Executive Director. ■



### HIV PREVENTION.

Under the guise of HIV prevention, Rep. Tom Coburn (R-Okl.) unveiled the HIV Prevention Act of 1996 in mid-August.

Rep. Coburn's bill would allow medical professionals to test patients for HIV without obtaining patients' consent, and would require that states report to the federal government the names of all people testing positive for HIV.

Further, the bill threatens to withhold Medicaid funds to any state that fails to comply with Rep. Coburn's prevention measures. Medicaid finances health care services for over half of all Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

"These policies have either been rejected by medical, public health, and prevention experts worldwide, or represent one-size fits all solutions from Washington that tie the hands of state and communities trying to effectively respond to the specific demographics of the HIV epidemic," said AIDS Action Legislative Representative Jay Coburn. ■



### HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM.

Congress' passage, and the subsequent signing into law August 20,

of the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act of 1996 [Kennedy/Kassebaum, H.R. 3103] ushers in modest but important health insurance reforms.

These reforms include limits on pre-existing condition exclusions, expanded guarantees of availability and portability of health insurance coverage, prohibitions on discrimination in eligibility for health insurance coverage based on health status, and changes to make the tax treatment of proceeds from viatical settlements more beneficial to consumers.

H.R. 3103 also includes a compromise on the controversial issue of medical savings accounts (MSAs)—a four-year MSA demonstration project with some important consumer protections such as limits on deductibles and out-of-pocket costs.

"Unfortunately, while H.R. 3103 makes it easier to obtain and maintain health insurance coverage, there is no guarantee that that coverage will provide the care you need at a price you can afford," said AIDS Action Legislative Representative Amy Andersen. ■

# Latinos at the Crossroads: AIDS Action lends a voice to the debate

**A**IDS Action made its premiere appearance this summer at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) in Denver, adding our voice to that of over 3,000 participants and more than 15,000 visitors attending "*Latinos At The Crossroads: A Time for Action*." Based in Washington, D.C., the NCLR is the largest Hispanic civil rights organization in the country.

AIDS Action's Community Liaison, Anthony Rios, exhibited and distributed federal AIDS policy educational information, including AIDS Action congressional voting records, Action Alerts, and related federal funding information. Our exhibit space was spiced up by joining forces with the

Center for Health Policy Development (CHPD), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded project based in San Antonio, Texas. The combination of colorful, culturally sensitive HIV prevention messages designed by CHPD, and the federal AIDS policy and funding information supplied by AIDS Action were well received by exhibit visitors.

Rios also participated in two very important education presentations made to NCLR conference attendees. The first presentation, which was delivered to over 100 members of NCLR's college youth leadership program, focused on the importance of voter registration and education. The second presentation involved an advocacy "wrap-up" at the end of a bilingual work-

shop entitled, "Empowering Latinas in the Prevention of HIV and STDs." This workshop was standing room only, which Rios explained, should serve as a testament to the increasing need for tailored prevention programs for women of color that are delivered in both the English and Spanish languages.

AIDS Action looks forward to expanding the relationships made in Denver and our increasing work with other advocates from around the country. For more information about AIDS Action's Community Outreach department, call (202) 986-1300, ext. 3067. ■



Anthony Rios

## AIDS ACTION 5-POINT AIDS AGENDA continued from page 3

### The AIDS Action agenda's five points are:

**1 PREVENTION.** The next President must ensure that all Americans have access to effective, skills-based HIV education and prevention programs targeting the diverse communities affected by the epidemic. These programs must be open, honest and sensitive to the needs of communities at risk for HIV. He must also fight attempts at any level to restrict the content of HIV prevention programs and education materials; must commit to adequate funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment; and must lift the prohibition on federal funding for needle exchange programs.

**2 RESEARCH.** The next President must increase funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and maintain the consolidated budget authority of the NIH's Office of AIDS Research (OAR). Additionally, he must use his authority to hasten the pace and productivity of AIDS research and ensure the expedient development of promising new

drugs that are affordable and accessible to all people living with HIV and AIDS. However, steps to accomplish this goal must not jeopardize the Food and Drug Administration's public health mission.

**3 CARE.** The next President must commit to strengthening federal support for health care and social services such as the Ryan White CARE Act and the Medicaid program; advocate for full Ryan White CARE Act funding, which includes the 50-state network of AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP); and maintain the Medicaid entitlement.

**4 HOUSING.** The next President must demonstrate a commitment to the reauthorization of the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program (HOPWA) and other federal housing programs with a concurrent commitment to increase HOPWA's funding as the demand for adequate housing among Americans

living with HIV and AIDS continues to increase.

**5 CIVIL RIGHTS.** The next President must show that mandatory testing and other HIV-related discrimination are un-American and unacceptable; ensure that the moral and legal authority of the federal government is used to fight discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS; and fully implement the Americans With Disabilities Act to prevent policies that bar people living with HIV and AIDS from insurance coverage, employment, housing and entrance into the country. Additionally, he must ensure that the HIV antibody test is not used as a means of social control or as a tool of discrimination.

**For a full text of AIDS Action's five-point AIDS agenda, please call (202) 986-1300, ext. 3065, or look for it on the World Wide Web (<http://www.thebody.com>). ■**

## George Gund grant funds Medicaid work

AIDS Action Foundation recently received a generous grant from The George Gund Foundation for a Medicaid policy project. The project's goal is to examine the policy implications of Medicaid restructuring for people living with HIV and AIDS, and to ensure that policy makers are aware of the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS who depend on Medicaid for life-saving care.

Support from the Gund Foundation will enable AIDS Action to develop and disseminate information about proposals for Medicaid reform that will enable the diverse AIDS communities to participate in the Medicaid policy debate as it affects health care for people with AIDS.

Because Medicaid pays for so much AIDS care, current and future efforts to reform this vital health care safety-net program will profoundly affect the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of Americans living with HIV and AIDS. For this reason, AIDS Action will continue its fight to protect and strengthen the Medicaid program. ■

## Profile in Courage: Pedro Zamora

AIDS educator, advocate, MTV star. In his short life, Pedro Zamora excelled in almost everything he did. Pedro touched the lives of thousands of young people, changing forever the way they think about people living with HIV and AIDS.

Despite his fear of public speaking, Pedro chose to live his life as a national AIDS educator and advocate.

Once when speaking to students at an inner-city high school, Pedro was asked, "What makes you care about people like us?" Pedro's answer demonstrated his courage and commitment:

"The pain that I feel, the anger, the hurt. I don't want anybody else to go through this. Nobody deserves to get this disease. I don't care who they are or what they did . . . You think it's easy to be here and be personal and answer all these questions? It's not. But if you see me, you might realize it could happen to you. That is why I am here."

An eight-year-old Pedro and his family came to the United States from Cuba in 1980 during the Mariel boatlift. The close-knit Zamora family was devastated when four of Pedro's older brothers were denied permission to leave Cuba. The tragedy of this separation deepened when

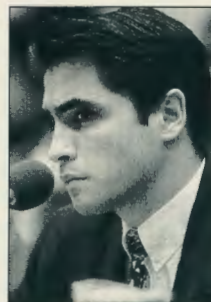
Pedro's mother died of cancer just a few weeks later.

Like many young people, Pedro did not have the tools to deal with this kind of loss. Pedro threw himself into school, becoming a star athlete and an honor roll member. But he also sought affection and reassurance through unprotected sex. At age 17, Pedro was diagnosed HIV-positive.

Pedro is best known for his role on MTV's *The Real World*. In 1994, Pedro moved to San Francisco to live with six strangers on national television. Although Pedro knew that living such a public life would be difficult, he also understood that he had an unprecedented opportunity to educate millions of young people about HIV disease. As a member of AIDS Action Council's board of directors, Pedro used the last months

of his life, whether on screen or in the halls of Congress, transforming the public's understanding of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Pedro died of AIDS-related complications on Nov. 11, 1994. In a short life marked by loss—his homeland, his family, his mother, and, ultimately, his life—Pedro demonstrated the power of one to change the world. ■



Pedro Zamora

## Pedro's legacy lives on in Zamora Fellows

Three of the nation's brightest young people shared more than just work space with AIDS Action staff this summer; they shared and actively participated in AIDS Action's work to effect sound AIDS policy. The Pedro Zamora Public Policy Fellowship Program, named in honor of AIDS Action's former board member and MTV *The Real World* star Pedro Zamora, welcomed its first fellows this spring.

AIDS Action has been honored to host, and impressed by the work and dedication of, three Zamora fellows: Monique Glover, Alon Unger, and Edna Flores.

Monique has worked on HIV and AIDS issues since she learned about AIDS in a sixth grade science class. While she was a

student at Colgate University in upstate New York, Monique developed, designed, raised money for, and distributed 1,000 copies of a day planner with information, facts, and prevention tips on HIV and AIDS for the incoming freshman class. She has also taught a seminar on HIV and AIDS, and will be studying public health at the University of Michigan. Monique says she is contemplating running for public office some day.

Alon represents young people ages 16 to 19 on the boards of two local HIV prevention organizations in his home state of Arizona. One organization is implementing a pilot program that uses sophisticated marketing techniques to develop prevention activities targeting at-risk groups. It was out of this work that Alon became involved with AIDS Action and the Pedro Zamora Public Policy Fellowship Program.

With the knowledge he has acquired this summer, Alon, who is also a medical student, is considering spearheading a grassroots advocacy effort in Arizona.

Edna became involved in HIV and AIDS education when she found out that the number of AIDS cases in the Filipino community was increasing at an alarming rate. When she completes her fellowship with AIDS Action, Edna plans to study medicine and health policy and run an organization that works on HIV and AIDS issues in the Asian-American community.

While at AIDS Action, each fellows had the opportunity to analyze legislation, to speak with elected representatives, to draft policy briefs, and to attend hearings and coalition meetings. It is through the work of these young people and their dedication to the fight against HIV and AIDS, that Pedro Zamora's legacy will live on. ■



Edna Flores

## WELCOME

# Orange County Consortium joins AIDS Action

**A**IDS Action is pleased to welcome the Orange County Consortium to the Board of Directors. The Orange County Consortium represents a region that is both politically conservative and powerful, and brings a needed perspective to the AIDS Action Council Board of Directors and its Public Policy Committee.

"Our member organizations and consortia are at the heart of AIDS Action's mission to represent the interests of communities and individuals affected by HIV and AIDS," said Claudia French, Director of Development and Membership. "We are delighted to welcome the Orange County Consortium and look forward to their active participation in all of AIDS Action's programs and advocacy campaigns." Members of the Orange County Consortium include the University of California at Irvine-College of Medicine, Hannah's House, AIDS Services Foundation, The

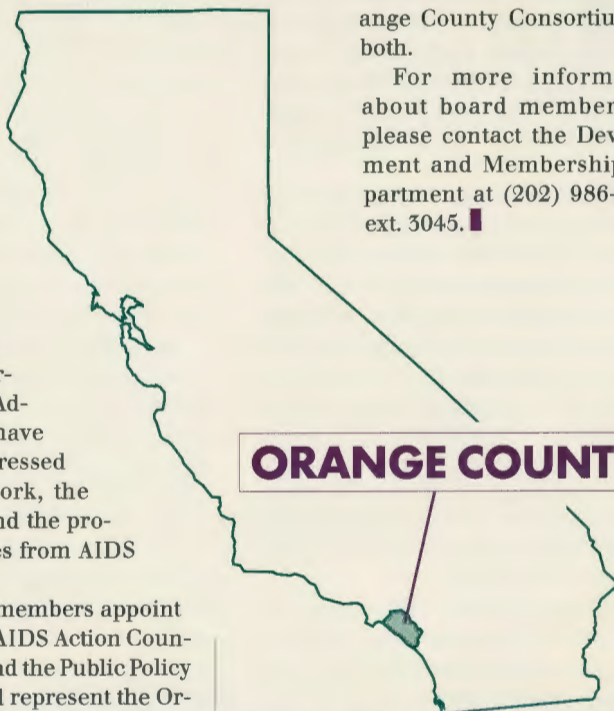
Center/ARP, Casa Delhi, Laguna Shanti, Public Law Center, and Straight Talk.

"The Orange County Consortium is excited to join AIDS Action. Our vote was unanimous," said Robert Gentry, chair of the Orange County Planning Advisory Council. "We have been consistently impressed with the quality of work, the level of information, and the professionalism that comes from AIDS Action."

Full or consortium members appoint a representative to the AIDS Action Council Board of Directors and the Public Policy Committee. Gentry will represent the Or-

ange County Consortium on both.

For more information about board membership, please contact the Development and Membership Department at (202) 986-1300, ext. 3045. ■



## AIDS Action Alliance Program

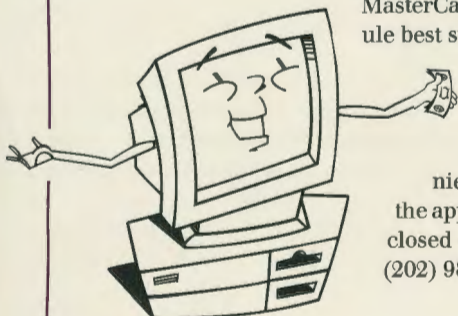
### Monthly Giving Made Easy

In response to the needs of our donors, AIDS Action is launching a monthly giving program called The Alliance Program. The Alliance Program is an exciting new way for you to support AIDS Action without ever having to write a check again!

The program works by directly transferring a monthly donation from your checking account to AIDS Action. You will receive a record of the transfer on your monthly bank statement, and an annual summary of your contributions for income tax purposes. The Alliance Program is being added to a program already used by AIDS Action donors who

can charge contributions to MasterCard or Visa, on a schedule best suited to that individual, usually monthly or quarterly.

To take advantage of this easy and convenient program just check the appropriate box on the enclosed envelope, or call us at (202) 986-1300, ext. 3040. ■



**1,000,000 AMERICANS ARE INFECTED WITH H.I.V. AIDS ACTION FOUNDATION FIGHTS FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM.**

**AIDS ACTION REPRESENTS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AFFECTED BY AIDS.**

**WE FIGHT FOR HUMANE AND ENLIGHTENED AIDS POLICIES. WE HELP PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES BECOME EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS.**

**WE ARE THE ONLY ORGANIZATION SOLELY DEDICATED TO SHAPING FEDERAL POLICY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS.**

**DESIGNATE 0835 IN THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.**

AIDS  
Action

1875 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW · SUITE 700  
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# AIDS Action staff turn up the heat in Houston

**A**s if Houston in July weren't hot enough, an AIDS Action trio recently headed southwest to turn up the heat on AIDS advocacy: Christine Lubinski, Deputy Executive Director; Claudia French, Director of Development and Membership; and Tracy Mickens-Hundley, Director of Community Outreach.

AIDS Action's trip to Houston began with an appeal to some of Houston's finest to support AIDS Action through membership in the Advocate program—donors who contribute \$1,200 or greater to help fight for the needs and rights of people with HIV and AIDS. Houston philanthropist Clark L. Carrol, M.D., opened his home for a special reception where former AIDS Action Foundation board member and longtime friend, Phil Lacey, and current board member John Gonzalez, gave impassioned speeches on the critical need for supporting AIDS Action's work.

AIDS Action, along with representatives from the congressional offices of Reps. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) and

Ken Bentsen (D-Texas), were at the center of a community forum hosted by The Bering Community Service Foundation, Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services, and Windsor AIDS Ministry Foundation. The stories shared during this forum were heart wrenching. One was from a 72-year-old grandmother spending her twilight years grieving for the loss of her daughter and raising two teenagers orphaned by that death. Other people spoke of the pain, destruction, and sadness that comes with surviving when individuals and organizations are pitted against each other for scarce resources.

Community leaders and organizations representing varied affected populations pledged that night to mobilize their energies to maximize political influence, dollars, and support for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Houston and in the State of Texas.

The trip culminated in a visit with the editorial board of *The Houston Chronicle*, who were challenged to cover the real stories about HIV and AIDS in America—the high rate of infection among young



*Key AIDS Action staff working in Houston (top left to right, clockwise): Christine Lubinski, Claudia French, and Tracy Mickens-Hundley.*

Americans and communities of color, the hope that combination drugs provide, and the practicality and reality of a drug therapy program that assumes a level of affluence and accessibility. ■



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Address Correction Requested

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