

# Sign in WAN meeting 10/4

Amanda Newstetter Planned Parenthood 652-9025

Marsha Blachman

UCSF AIDS Health Proj 476-6430

TRISHA CASE

URBAN HEALTH STUDY / LESBIAN AIDS PROJECT

~~Terri Moore Dr.~~ <sup>Program</sup> ~~(WCAP)~~ <sup>Westside AIDS Case</sup> Mgmt. Home Care Program 431-9000  
776-2102

Jacquie H. Hansen Midcity + Hospitality House 751-4321

Annie Lewis U.C.S.F. School of Nursing 476-4455

~~Priscilla Alexander~~ CAL-PEP 558-0450

Gloriae Pickett Cal - pep Coyote 558-0450

Sarah Derby 648-1058

Elizette Parker The Center for Health Trng 929-9100

~~St. John Family Project~~ CAL-PEP 430-4455

Linda Kearney 281 Mathews St Oak 653-2106

<sup>(Ward 5A, Ward 8B SFH Medical Student Consult Service)</sup>  
Sarah G. Johansen 128 Sadium Village West Lebanon NH 03784 603-643-1306

SHARON McComb UCSF Family Planning Clinic / SFCH 1001 Potrero, Ward 6D PM 33  
S.F. 94110 #8213063

eileen hansen marin aids support network 457-2437 w/ 621-5620h

Elsa Matos-Leal, RN MNHC 240 Shotwell St SF 94110 552-3870 x253

Rita Fahrner 333 Valencia St 94117 94103 DPH Perinatal Project 864-4589

~~Renay Williams~~ 333 Valencia 19th Project 864-4589

Belma Gonzalez women's Needs Center 1825 Haight St SF 94117 221-7371

Julie Possey Mid-city Consortium to Combat AIDS 751-4221

Janet Taylor Institute For Advanced Studies home 885-5076  
Human Quality S.F.

Ruth Schwartz SFAF 864-4376 x 2030

Mari Downing 511 1/2 16th 386-5386

Dana Lear OCB pep + 1 HEd 528-4922

Judy Marks AHP Box 0884 SF 476-6430

Kate Bartholomew 877 53rd St. Oakland 94608 ~~876~~ 654-3819



**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY NOV. 1**

**9:30 - 11:30**

**25 VAN NESS, 3RD FLOOR**

**Attachments:**

WAN Minutes: 1/4/88

Proposed Revision: Board Structure

Memo re: Potluck donors

Book Review: "Safety First" by Janet Saevitz

**WAN Minutes: 10/4/88**

**Agenda:**

Announcements  
Job Announcements  
Childcare  
Potluck Report  
DPH Conference Report  
Montreal/San Francisco AIDS Conferences  
Legislative Updates (102/96)  
Legislative Committee  
Board/Structure Discussion

**Announcements**

1. Ellice Parker is serving on the Perinatal Sub-committee of the California AIDS Leadership Committee, a group creating a policy document to present to the legislature in November. If you have input which might be useful to her, call her at 929-9100.
2. AIDS Health Project is starting two new groups for women. The first is a 5 week closed group for worried well women. The other is an 8 week closed group for HIV+ women. Clients can schedule an intake interview by calling the Project at 476-6430.
3. A video is currently being produced which will include a round table discussion between women with AIDS and women without AIDS. If you would like to participate, you can receive information by calling Jackie Hansen at 751-4221.
4. The Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action has produced a brochure entitled "Fear and Falsehoods: The biggest AIDS Threat" which encourages no votes on prop.'s 102 and 96. They are making the brochure available with the name of your organization on the back at cost. For information, call or write:

Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action  
PO Box 7293  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(408) 426-6520

5. Davira Shain, safe sex instructor, is forming a company to distribute all forms of safe sex devices and safe sex information. Anyone interested in being part of this company or contributing to a limited partnership is invited to a meeting at the office of Thomas Thrasher Esq., November 9th at 10:30 am at 30 N. San Pedro Rd., Ste. 135, San Rafael, CA For more information cal (415) 454-4758.
6. There will be a fundraiser on October 19th 5:30 to 8, at the Fort Mason Firehouse for the No on 102 Campaign. Mathilda Crim will speak and donations are \$25 and up.

7. Maria Comacho at the SF AIDS Foundation is spearheading a day long event to coincide with International AIDS Awareness day on November 1. She is hoping to involve all agencies in the area. If you're interested in participating in the planning, contact Maria at 864-4376.
8. The AIDS Voicemail system has just added women's issues as a special interest group. We will include more information about the system and how to become a part of it next month.
9. Midcity Consortium to Combat AIDS will celebrate AIDS Awareness month on October 29. Contact them at 751-4221 if you would like to celebrate with them.
10. Angie Lewis, HIV Specialty Coordinator, Department of Physiological Nursing at the University of California, SF, is developing nursing preceptorships in the area of AIDS. If you might be able to offer one or you would like to participate in one, you can contact her at (415) 476-4455.
11. Planned Parenthood is being picketed often by an action oriented right to life group. There is a large picketing planned for the end of the month. If you are willing to be a client escort, please call them at 751-4221.
12. An event entitled "To Church or not to Church: Conversations on Lesbian/Gay Spiritualities, Politics and Faith" (Nov. 4-6) will feature Sally Gearhart and Chris Glaser in conversation. To receive a schedule, call 338-7396 or 457-1115.
13. The Women's Centers and AIDS Project (WCAP) is pleased to announce the publication of its selected Resource List of Educational Materials for Women and Families. This 15-page annotated listing of videos, books, educational brochures, posters, and newsletters focuses on prevention/educational materials targetted to women, and includes sections on materials targetted for: Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, Lesbians, Adolescents, Special Populations and much more. For more information or a free copy, contact:

Gerry Pearlberg, Project Director  
Women's Cneters and AIDS Project  
Women's Action Alliance  
370 Lexington Ave., Rm. 603  
New York, N.Y. 10017

14. A new group is forming for lesbians who have been battered in relationships with women. For information, contact Audrey Martin, MFCC at 428-1505.
15. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is holding a conference on Novemebr 18-20 entitled "Creating Change: A Notional Conference for Gay and Lesbian Organizing and Leadership Skill Building" in Washington D.C. For inforamtion or to register, contact them at 1517 U Street NW, Washington D.C. 20009, (202) 332-6483.

16. Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center will conduct an audio teleconference on October 28 from 12:30-1:30 entitled "AIDS: The Present/The Future". For information or to register, contact Cynthis Elliott at (415) 923-3440.
17. The National Association for Home Care is holding their annual meeting October 25-29 in San Francisco. The theme is quality assurance. For information or to register, contact:

NAHC  
519 C Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202-547-7424

18. The Children's Quilt Project, which sews quilts for HIV infected children, is looking for volunteers. You can reach them at 548-3843.
19. The Charles Bannerman Memorial fund is requesting proposals from minority activists for 3 month sabbaticals. The fund grants \$10,000 stipends for the sabbaticals. For an application, write:

Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program  
c/o The Youth Project  
2335 18th Street NW  
Washington D.C. 20009

20. The Center for Constitutional Rights has set up a project focused on AIDS education for women and people of color. They will serve as a base for networking, information exchange and legal support as well as publishing a comprehensive resource guide. Contact them at:

666 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10012  
(212) 614-6464

21. Shanti Project is offering a group for 5 to 11 year olds who are diagnosed with AIDS or have a friend or family member with AIDS. Contact them at: 777-CARE.
22. Marty Jessup, R.N., who did consulting with Santa Clara County and the Bureau of Drug Services regarding treatment of pregnant addicts, wanted to let us know that she relied on WAN's Perinatal Statement in her written report and found it very helpful.
23. The Child Welfare League of America is offering three training institutes in Los Angeles focused on HIV infection and child welfare. The first will begin October 31. For more info, contact:

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.  
440 First Street, NW, Suite 310  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2085  
(202) 638-2952.

24. Johns Hopkins has created posters geared toward medical staffs re: infection prevention. Call Kathleen Coughill at (301)955-6680 for further information.
25. Jim Wigore would like to add more women to his Faces of AIDS show. Please call 673-1284.
26. California Association of AIDS Agencies (CSAA) is now responsible for dispersing Combined Health Appeal of California funds to health agencies throughout the state. If you'd like more information or would like to help them solicit these funds, contact them at: (916) 447-7199.
27. CAAA is currently planning their 3rd Annual Conference. The conference will be held January 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. Exhibition space will be available at the 2 1/2 day conference. To receive more information, contact them at

CAAA Annual Conference  
1900 K Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, CA 95814

28. Viacom Cablevision and the SF AIDS Foundation have announced a joint education and fund-raising project. Details of the program, including schedules for AIDS awareness week October 24-28, are available by contacting Beth Knutsen at Viacom, 863-8500, ext. 423.

#### Job Announcements

Positions: Perinatal/Pediatric AIDS Coordinator  
Minority Health Educator  
Education Coordinator  
Organization: Alameda County Health Department  
Contact: Jane Riggan  
268-2639

Positions: Certified Home Care Workers  
MSW Social Worker

Organization: Westside AIDS Case Management Home Care Program

Contact: Teri Moore  
431-9000

Position: Coordinator, AIDS Legal Referral Service

Organization: Santa Clara County Bar Association Law Foundation

Contact: AIDS LRS  
SCCBA Law Foundation  
210 South First Street, #401  
San Jose, CA 95113

Positions: Shipping Assistant, Marketing Department  
Shipping Supervisor, Marketing Department  
Administrative Assistant II: Education Department

Organization: San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Contact: Personnel Manager  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
PO Box 6182  
San Francisco, CA 94102-6182

or at offices  
25 Van Ness Ave., Ste. 660, 9-6.

Position: Executive Director

Organization: California Association of AIDS Agencies

Contact: Search Committee  
CAAA  
1900 K Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Executive Director

Organization: AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, Inc.

Contact: AVOC  
P.O. Box 558083  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

### Childcare

It has been very difficult finding someone to do childcare at our monthly meetings. Cheryl requests that you let her know if you or someone you know might be willing to be hired at \$5/hr. to provide childcare each month. If so, leave a message for her at 864-4376, x2030.

### Potluck Report

Marsha Blachman reported that the potluck for HIV-affected women, their families and service providers was a huge success! 75-80 people attended and the music and food were enjoyed by all. Sistah Boom, Blazing Redheads and Burn and Crash all performed. Over 40 businesses donated food and other items (see the attachment so that you can support these businesses and let them know you appreciate their support). Stern Grove was a great location. Marsha was applauded by all for the wonderful job she did!

### DPH Conference Report

Teri Moore reported on the recent DPH conference. She was alarmed by the statistics regarding women and children. (These are available on cassette and slides with Pat Evans) The content of the conference she found disappointing in that San Francisco is the model for many programs currently beginning to be applied to smaller communities. Therefore, the conference held little new information for SF based workers. There were lots more workshops related to women this year. Children, however, are still a largely ignored population.

### Montreal/ San Francisco AIDS Conferences

WAN has heard that the planners of the 1990 International AIDS Conference in San Francisco are planning very little or no community involvement and that the one presentation geared towards the general community is currently planned for the morning of the SF Gay Freedom Day Parade. Many members in attendance expressed outrage at this if, in fact, it is true. The group felt that we must begin now to make our voices heard to assure community involvement and social services information be included in the conference. Montreal has responded to community concerns and seems to be planning a broadbased and inclusive conference. It makes no sense that San Francisco, the hub of AIDS acitivity, do less.

A few suggestions were offered to begin dealing with this issue. First, John Ziegler and Paul Volberding (two of the main conference planners) will be invited to a WAN meeting to discuss our concerns and find out what they have planned. Second, a committee will be formed not only to plan this meeting but to make our voice heard in relation to the conference. We will pass on further information as we receive it.

### Legislative Updates (102/96)

Many people in the know still believe 102 will pass in the November election. This would be disastrous for the HIV affected community. A group working to defeat both bills meets every Wednesday at 7:30, 25 Van Ness Ave. in SF. Please try to attend the fundraisers and get involved to defeat these very frightening bills! Although the focus has been largely on 102, it is very important to continue to talk about 96, which more specifically affects people of color and those accused of crimes.

In another development in the legislature, the Waxman Bill, including as one of its provisions mandatory testing of prostitutes, has now passed both the Senate and the House.

### Legislative Committee Meetings

The group felt it was very important for the legislative committee to become more active given 102 and 96. Ellice Parker, Priscilla Alexander and Linda Kearney will meet and begin work.

### Board/Structure Discussion

As per last month's plan, the membership in attendance spent an hour further discussing several items related to the new Board and its structure as well as the overall agency structure (see last month's minutes for a copy of the structure as outlined in the by-laws).

Discussion began with a report of a meeting between local Board members and Venus Medina, a Washington-based staff person with National AIDS Network. She supervises projects in L.A., Boston and Phoenix and has access to RFP's nationwide. She offers the Board her fundraising skills, proposal writing skills and national information. She seems very energetic and committed to helping WAN in any way she can.

Next the group moved to a discussion of the relationship between the general membership and the Board. There were mixed opinions about what the membership intended for the Board. Some saw the Board as a practical body the carry out, on a daily basis, the operations of WAN while others felt the Board was merely a necessary legal entity. There was general concern that the power stay with the membership and that the Board work for the main body. Several items were seen as crucial to structuring the Board in a way that works. These include: that the Board is made up of members we trust to carry out the interests of the larger body, and that they can be removed if they do not; that the Board members are people who have agreed to give a larger segment of their time to WAN; that WAN already has a statement of mission, priorities and goals which the Board will follow. Members felt strongly that Board meetings should be open and that members should be informed of the agenda in advance. After much discussion, there was general agreement that the Board would carry out the work of the body, that they would spend more time looking into issues and bringing recommendations to the main body, that they might be thought of as a "central committee" (a smaller group comprised of members) and that they would eventually be responsible for overseeing personnel issues. Many members also felt it was important that, although the Board is directly accountable to the membership, it also needs to have some defined autonomy and power. A slightly altered Board and membership structure was proposed (see attached) which was generally approved. At this point in the discussion, it was proposed and accepted that the Board members meet and discuss their function, then come back to the body with their thoughts.

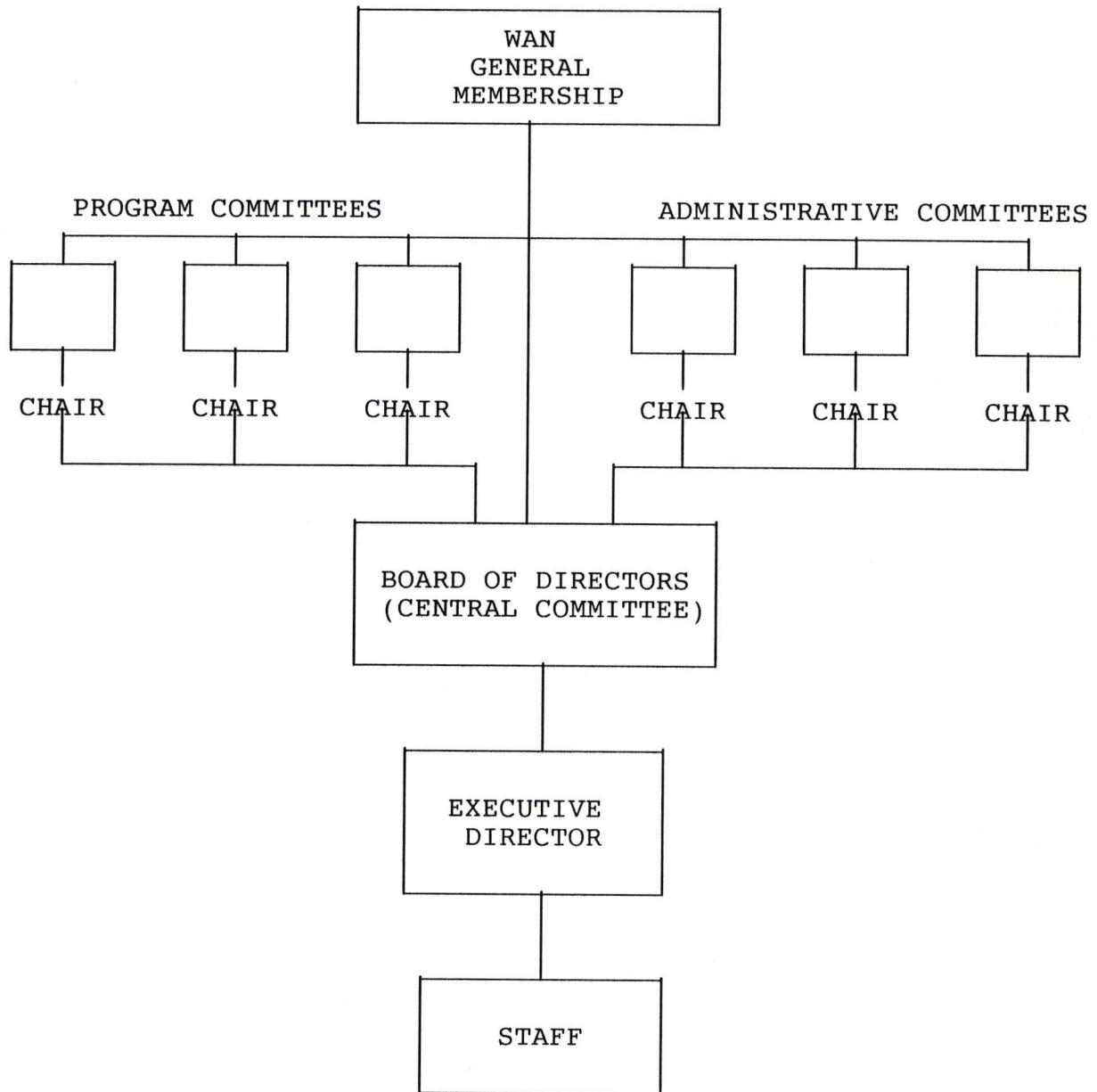
The membership also wanted the Board to prioritize a few items for discussions along with structure. These included electing officers and adding an HIV+ member in one of the 6 auxiliary positions.

A few items were postponed until after the Board meeting. These included future funding/operating budget and program and administrative committees.

The Board meeting will take place:

October 27, 10am-12pm  
333 Valencia St.

BOARD STRUCTURE: PROPOSED CHANGES 10/4/88



Program Committees: Education, Legislative, Social Services

Administrative Committees: Fundraising, Outreach/Recruiting, Hiring

**THE  
AIDS  
HEALTH  
PROJECT**

A project concerned  
with AIDS Prevention  
and Health Promotion

October 4, 1988

MEMO

TO: Women's AIDS Network Members  
FROM: Marsha Blachman, LCSW  
Women's Services Coordinator

(MRS)

This is a list of businesses that donated to our Women's Summer Send-Off Potluck Party on September 23, 1988. Please consider patronizing these stores and thanking them for their support of our endeavors.

Zuni Cafe-SF  
Acme Bread-Berkeley  
The Bagelry-SF  
Castro Cheesery-SF  
Cheese Board Collective-Berkeley  
Cock-a-doodle-do-SF  
Cybelle's Pizza-SF  
The Coffee Mill-Oakland  
Double Rainbow-SF  
Julie's Supper Club-SF  
Just Desserts-SF  
Living Foods-Berkeley

Nabalom Bakery-Berkeley  
Nobel Pies-Oakland  
Noe Valley Pizza-SF  
Piedmont Bagel Bakery-Oakland  
Rings-SF  
7-Up Bottling Company-SF  
Soho Natural Soda-SF  
Rainbow Grocery-SF  
Greens/Tassajara Bakery-SF  
Auntie Pasta-Oakland  
Square 1-SF  
Children's Charmers-SF

# Books

JANET SAEVITZ

## Safety First

### MAKING IT: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO SEX IN THE AGE OF AIDS

by Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly.  
 Spanish translation by Papusa Molina.  
 Illustrations by Alison Bechdel.  
 Firebrand Books, Ithaca, 1987.  
 56 pp., paper, \$3.95.

**WOMEN AND AIDS**  
 by Diane Richardson.  
 Methuen Inc., New York, 1988.  
 192 pp., paper, \$8.95; cloth, \$25.00.

### THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT WOMEN AND AIDS: HOW TO ELIMINATE THE RISKS WITHOUT GIVING UP LOVE AND SEX

by Helen Singer Kaplan.  
 Simon & Schuster/Fireside Books, New York, 1987.

192 pp., paper, \$4.95.

**C**an I ask you a personal question?" the woman sitting next to me at a performance of *Pulp and Circumstance* ventured, eyeing my book at intermission. "Do you read in bed?" "All the time," I replied, "especially books about sex — safe sex — with pictures." I was referring, of course, to *Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS*.

Had intermission lasted a little longer, I would have gone on to tell my somewhat bewildered companion that authors Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly have deftly woven a serious discussion of AIDS transmission and prevention into a lively and often humorous booklet (in Spanish and English) that doubles as a showcase for Alison Bechdel (of "Dykes to Watch Out For" fame).

The book's practical tips on minimizing risk and enjoying sex in bisexual, lesbian and straight relationships are explicitly and colloquially worded (and lots of fun to read). The authors tell you everything you need to know about condoms and dental dams, and include safer sex guidelines for IV drug users and women in the sex industry.

For lesbians who have watched with empathy and concern as the epidemic escalated among gay men but felt risk-free by sheer virtue of their political identification as lesbians, Patton and Kelly debunk the fallacy that

AIDS is not their problem: "Remember that risk comes from what you do, not how you label yourself.... An epidemic starts somewhere, and it takes time for the virus to move from one community to the next. Women who have sex primarily with women just happen to be the last sexual group for the virus to reach."

In the final analysis, the best defense, as the AIDS Foundation likes to say, is information. To that I would add: the best information is nonjudgmental, sexually explicit, politically

astute and culturally sensitive. You'll get a healthy dose of all that in *Making It*.

Diane Richardson, a lesbian and social psychologist, employs a decidedly less playful approach in *Women and AIDS*, billed by its publisher as "the first feminist response to the challenge of the AIDS epidemic." An excellent and comprehensive book, *Women and AIDS* offers us a sweep-

ing view of the epidemic and its impact on diverse communities of women.

The book covers safer sex practices in lesbian and heterosexual relationships with chapters that reiterate all the now-familiar guidelines and a few new ones as well: Richardson suggests, for example, that using a cervical cap or diaphragm to collect menstrual blood may make sex during a woman's period safer in both male-to-female and woman-to-woman contact. In addition, the author's sensitive and exhaustive treatment of lesbian concerns around the epidemic reveals as much about tensions, prejudices and politics in the lesbian community as it does about the low infection rate of gay women with AIDS:

*Historically, there has been tension between the lesbian community and gay men. Nevertheless, many lesbians have played an important role in the development of AIDS organizations, fundraising and other forms of AIDS-related work....*

*Equally, there are lesbians who, while they may sympathize with*

*gay men over AIDS, feel it is important that they put their time and energy into issues they feel are of more direct relevance to women, and more especially to other lesbians. Some lesbians feel angry that gay men, who have previously shown little interest or involvement in issues that concern women, now expect lesbians to support them.*

She ends with a vision of the challenge that the epidemic holds for all of us. Those of us who have struggled over the years to diminish the effects of a moralistic society on women's sexuality now have a golden opportunity to encourage the development of new meanings for sex which do not focus exclusively on the act of intercourse. Ultimately, Richardson leaves few stones unturned in her coverage of AIDS transmission and prevention in *Women and AIDS*, and all that is left to the reader's imagination are the many ways to enjoy the safer sex she advocates.

The same, unfortunately, can not be said for *The Real Truth About Women and AIDS: How to Eliminate the Risks Without Giving Up Love and Sex*.

In a manner reminiscent of Masters' and Johnson's much-criticized new book, physician and sex therapist Helen Singer Kaplan subjects the reader to hysterical tirades on the fallibility of condoms, the untrustworthy nature of high-risk men and the need for obsessive testing and retesting for the HIV antibody. A Holocaust survivor who likens the AIDS epidemic to mass exterminations by the Nazis, Kaplan's stated objective is for every woman "to protect herself and her yet unborn babies" from infection.

Hence, the only acceptable, low-risk sex in Kaplan's book is "dry sex," sex with confirmed monogamous partners, sex with someone you have known for a long time ("perhaps you grew up with him"), or sex with men who have a confirmed negative antibody status such as those belonging to "reputable AIDS-free [singles] clubs." So much for Holocaust analogies.

Unprotected vaginal, anal or oral intercourse with a high-risk male, a stranger or a known car-

Unprotected vaginal, anal or oral intercourse with a high-risk male, a stranger or a known carrier of the virus she grimly terms "suicidal sex," and proceeds to inundate the reader with horror stories.

Condoms, although they do reduce the risk of HIV transmission, should only be used under a few "special circumstances," argues Kaplan, such as by IV drug users, homosexual men, men who frequent prostitutes and sailors on leave in African ports.

Later, in a chapter rather euphemistically entitled "Great Safe Sex in the Age of AIDS," Kaplan exhorts us to be mindful of even the most remote possibility of transmission:

*The rule is "keep it dry." If you should "wet" each other, you must get up at once and wash any part of your body that has been in contact with potentially infected fluid. Scrub with soap and water in addition to disinfecting the area with un-*

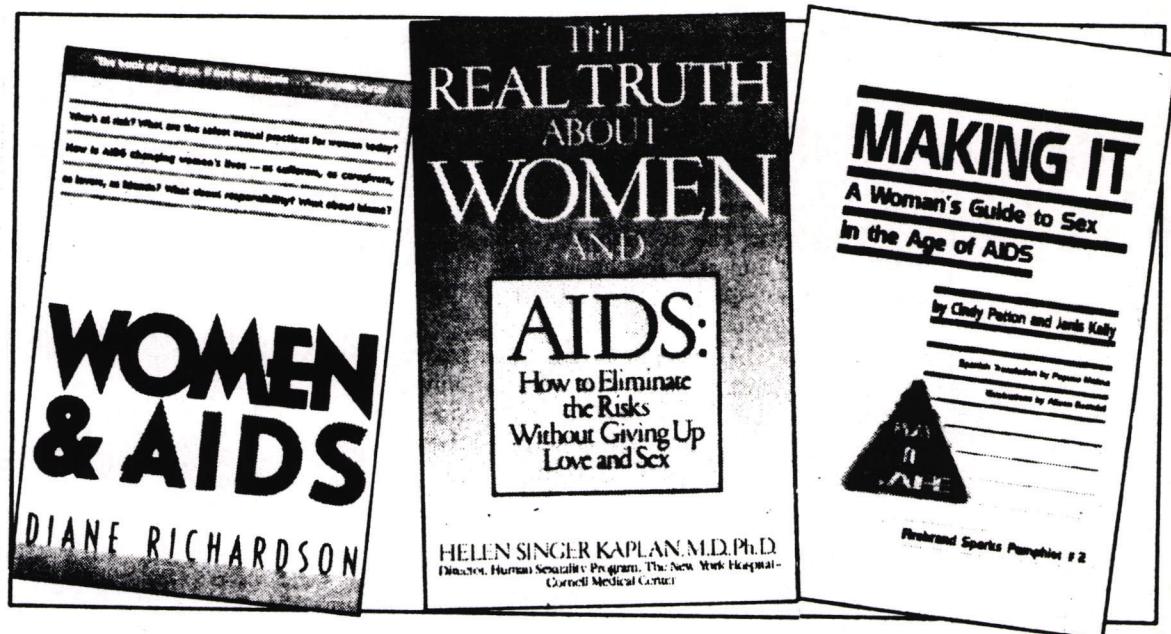
diluted rubbing alcohol or a dilute solution of Lysol.

Reassurances are few and far between in this book. After stating that the AIDS virus is very fragile and dies quickly outside the body, Kaplan nevertheless warns darkly that semen left unwashed on the hands after a sexual encounter could enter the body: "If you bite your nails or eat something with your fingers a few hours later, some virus might have survived and you could become infected."

At this point, the reader may correctly conclude that the only thing worse than a deadly communicable virus is an author such as Dr. Kaplan who manages to get such drivel published.

Nowhere are the needs of lesbian, bisexual and Third World women, or partners of IV drug users addressed in this book other than in a few scant lines. And Kaplan undermines her credibility with an incessant use of exclamation points and italics that rivals *Cosmopolitan*. Women who get through this alarmist, heterosexist tome are likely to feel frightened, frustrated and angry, particularly with men who, Kaplan implies, cannot be trusted to be truthful or communicative when it comes to negotiating AIDS prevention tactics in a relationship. For the *real* truth about women and AIDS, Patton's and Kelly's *Making It* and Richardson's *Women and AIDS* are your best bets.

Janet Saevitz is a health care writer and former editor of the STOP AIDS Project newsletter who practices safer sex.



Cartoonist Alison Bechdel's work appears throughout *Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS*.