

## NEWS BRIEFS

October 25, 1987 is the second anniversary of the release of the report of the all party Parliamentary Sub-committee on Equality Rights, Equality For All, which called for the inclusion of sexual orientation protection in the Canadian Human Rights Act. Two years after the release of this report the federal Tories are still stalling, if not opposing, such protection. EGALE in Ottawa would like to use this anniversary as a time to put pressure on the government to act on this proposal. They are encouraging groups across the country to hold media events, to send telegrams to the Prime Minister, the standing committee on human rights, and their MPs and to hold other activities on the weekend of the 25th and Monday the 26th. For more information contact EGALE at P.O. Box 2891, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5W9.

**The AIDS "educational" program in Ontario's Catholic schools to begin this year will stress chastity/abstinence as the way to avoid AIDS.** While the use of condoms will be mentioned, the stress will be on abstinence instead of sexually active lifestyles. Condoms will only be discussed within the context of the church's moral and ethical teachings which completely oppose heterosexuality and sex outside marriage.

**In what could be a very important legal struggle to establish the rights of teachers and other employees who test antibody "positive", a Nova Scotia teacher who has been exposed to the presumed AIDS virus is planning to challenge a school board decision to remove him from his classroom.** Eric Smith was reassigned by the school board to a non-teaching job after some parents threatened to keep their children out of his Grade 6 class at the Cape Sable Island elementary school. Smith shows no signs of AIDS itself but has tested "positive" to HIV. The Nova Scotia Teacher's Union, of which Smith is a member, has a policy stating that teachers or students who test anti-body "positive" have the right to teach or attend class unless they require special treatment. The decision to reassign Smith has also been criticized by AIDS experts in the province who say he may never develop AIDS and that he is absolutely no threat to his students.

**The issue of AIDS funding became an election issue in the recent Ontario elections.** The victorious Liberals announced during the campaign that they will spend \$12.5 million over the next two years on educational and other efforts to control the disease. Half this amount will be allocated to Ontario's 43 public health units to develop new techniques to monitor the spread of AIDS (no doubt including contact tracing), to better collect statistics, and to help organize community and school education and prevention programmes. Of the rest: \$3 million will go to the already established province-wide AIDS education program; \$1.2 million for TV Ontario to produce programs to train teachers in AIDS prevention programmes; \$800,000 for a new special AIDS section of the Health Ministry; \$700,000 for an AIDS information hotline; and only \$800,000 in additional funding for community-based AIDS groups. Meanwhile the opposition NDP on August 15 had already promised to spend \$30 million on a three year programme to support AIDS education. NDP leader Bob Rae made this announcement at a meeting with a number of AIDS activists and with St. George/St. David gay NDP candidate John Campney.

**Events for International Lesbian Week are again being planned in Vancouver for the week of October 5 to 11. International Lesbian Week was established at the International Lesbian Conference in 1986 in Geneva as a time to form links between lesbians organizing around the world.** Events for this year will include fundraising events, a workshop on menopause, a gathering of women of colour, a workshop on class by Dykes for Dykedom, a display at the Vancouver Lesbian Centre on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and an event in solidarity with the lesbian and gay march on Washington in the U.S. All events will be accessible, through low cost sliding scale admissions, provision of childcare, wheelchair access, and smoke-free space. This is the second year International Lesbian Week will be celebrated in Vancouver. Last year's events drew an attendance of 1,300. For further information contact the VLC at 254-8458.

**Close to 300 people joined Winnipeg's first ever Lesbian and Gay Pride March and celebration on August 2. Following the victory that was finally won in getting sexual orientation protection included in the provincial human rights legislation, there was much cause for celebrating in the streets.** Margie Coghill, a central participant in the lobbying for sexual orientation protection, spoke at the rally following the march and got a standing ovation. Entertainment was provided by Martin, Lori, Tracey Riley, Kris Parry and Heather Bishop.

**Fire damage struck Prince Edward Island's feminist publisher, Ragweed Press in mid July.** The fire in an adjoining building caused thousands of dollars of smoke, soot, and water damage to Ragweed, which is owned by Libby Oughton. The fire came shortly after Ragweed announced the release of the first title under its new feminist and lesbian fiction and poetry imprint, Gynergy. Gynergy was launched with the publishing of Nicole Brossard's book length, lyric erotic poem "Sous la langue" ("Under Tongue"), undertaken jointly with Montreal's new feminist bookstore and publisher, L'Essentielle. Gynergy also plans to publish a second volume of Christine Donald's poetry, and a collection of lesbian erotic writings, for which they are still seeking submissions. Funds to help support Ragweed can go to the Ragweed Survival Fund at Charlottetown's Confederation Court Mall branch of the Bank of Montreal.

# ALWAYS

## Tivey fired at AIDS Vancouver

VANCOUVER—Alan Herbert, former president of AIDS Vancouver, was forced to make a quick departure from Doll 'n Penny's restaurant when patrons booed, hissed and threw food at him. They had just heard that Bob Tivey had been fired from his job as AIDS Vancouver's spokesperson.

In September, Herbert will be leaving town following his August 27 resignation as president of AIDS Vancouver. "Negative pressure was not what led to my decision," Herbert said.

Former vice-president Bruce Vichert, one of Herbert's closest allies on the society's board becomes acting president in a move that is widely seen as a face-saving gesture.

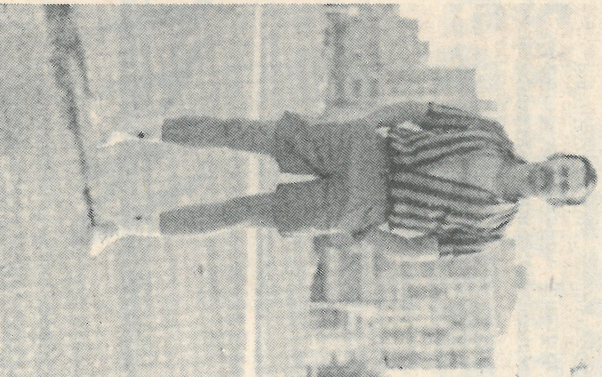
Fred Gilbertson, vice-chair of the Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Community Centre, commented, "Now the board may take a serious look at the role of AIDS Vancouver and what to do with Tivey."

Bob Tivey was fired just two days after a July 30 public forum where he demanded an advocacy role for AIDS Vancouver.

"I see advocacy as a key role. If AIDS Vancouver says 'no advocacy' it's time to start a new organization," he said. His comments drew loud applause from the audience of almost 100.

Tivey sees a deeper reason for his dismissal: the conservative position of the AIDS Vancouver board of directors. "A couple of people (on the board) see AIDS Vancouver run with no voice, just providing services," he said.

"The services need to be there but AIDS Vancouver will lose support



BRETT JOHNSTON

from the gay and lesbian community because it isn't the kind of organization we thought it was. No longer will a gay man be able to say, 'I have concerns around AIDS and AIDS Vancouver is looking out for me,'" said Tivey.

Tivey said the board of AIDS Vancouver "has a position of extreme conservatism. You do it the way the bureaucracy says you're supposed to do it. There's no reason why the provincial government shouldn't fund programmes for gay men. We shouldn't have to hide the fact that we are gay. AIDS Vancouver is not a totally gay organization but let's face it 85 per cent of people with AIDS are gay and bisexual men, 80 to 85 per cent of our

## Campney's campaign

TORONTO—New Democrat John Campney's bid to become the first openly gay Member of the Provincial Parliament was thwarted by the Liberal tide which unfurled over Ontario during the September 10 general election. Campney lost the downtown Toronto riding of St. George-St. David to the Liberal Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott and finished a close third behind another high profile incumbent, Tory Susan Fish.

Although the New Democrats have never held this heterogeneous riding which includes the bourgeois Rosedale section, the Yuppie Cabagatown district, the working class areas of Regent Park and St. Jamestown as well as the predominantly gay North Jarvis high rise buildings, Campney's candidacy was given a high priority status by the provincial Party. This was not only a sign of support for an openly gay candidate, but a tribute to the pre-election work that had been undertaken by Campney and his supporters in the riding.

Campney's efforts were further bolstered by NDP leader Bob Rae. Rae was the only party leader to be present at the June 28 Lesbian and Gay Pride Day in Toronto, and, once the election was called, he participated in a round-table discussion with Campney and representatives of AIDS community groups where he called for increased financial support for these groups.

While this help was no doubt welcomed, the most interesting and en-

couraging aspect of the campaign was the support offered by a small army of gay, lesbian, and yes, even straight, volunteers. While many of the gay community luminaries and local NDP apparatchiks did not get involved as campaign workers, John was able to attract people who had never been involved, or even voted, in an election.

All these efforts, however, fell short of an electoral victory. While the NDP maintained its support in the North Jarvis area and for the first time ever won polls in Regent Park, it was difficult to make inroads into Scott and Fish's power base north of Bloor Street. Nevertheless, throughout the campaign, Campney was able to question his two opponents' credibility. Red Tory Susan Fish, for example, was portrayed as a voice in the wilderness. Her personal credentials as a supporter of gay and lesbian rights became more and more incongruous with the Conservative's increasingly reactionary positions. Indeed, the Tory candidate in Etobicoke-

Lakeshore, Al Kolyn, based all of his campaign literature on anti-gay, anti-choice, anti-immigrant and anti-franco-phone diatribes. As for Liberal Ian Scott, at several of the all candidates meetings, Campney attempted to pin him down, so to speak, on the lack of AIDS funding and also on the reasons why he, as the Attorney General, had not included sexual orientation in his Bill amending the human rights code. "All you had to do, declared Campney,

volunteers are gay, lesbian or  
In the course of a one-hour  
view with Tivey at an outdoor  
the west end, several people  
him to wish him well. One man  
woman shook his hand, sa  
heart is with you, Bob."

Tivey said hundreds of  
whom he knew about half,  
that in the previous few days  
for me but for my position, I  
it on the line for us."

In response to a petition  
to recall Tivey, Alan Hei  
"There is no money for hi  
Once we fill our shortfall o  
we can hire him back."

At the same time, Herbert  
a new plan for fundraisi  
Vancouver has become a do  
agency of the United Way  
becoming a full member org

"AIDS Vancouver must l  
table to our community as  
community at large," Fred  
said. "Either the membersh  
Vancouver has to be opene  
board of directors which  
that open membership elect  
has to be a board on which c  
organizations such as the V  
Vancouver Lesbian Comm

Human Rights Coalition,  
Federation of Labour, the S  
study group, the PWA Coa  
representation and select  
reps."

The fate of Bob Tivey and  
cal climate at AIDS Vanc  
still up in the air at press tin  
son said, "I hope the situati  
out so we can focus on the r  
the homophobic governme

was to add two words—just  
the pen." Scott's answer  
occasions were either evas  
gant. In any case they failed  
the audience. Unfortunately  
voter in the riding was pres  
meetings.

On election night, surrou  
supporters, a visibly m  
Campney thanked everyone  
with the campaign and ret  
he was proud of the support  
from all the communities of  
St. David and especially of  
lesbian community. While  
mood was still upbeat, s  
somewhat dampened later  
was learned that NDP M  
and lesbian rights suppo  
Gigantes had been defeat  
ing of Ottawa-Centre.

In a way, these twin defe  
end of a particular type of  
the gay and lesbian commu  
recognition. Evelyn Gigan  
amendment to include sex  
tion in the human right  
John Campney's candidacy:  
gay man can be seen as Ik  
events which have come t  
does not mean, as a libera  
tion would suggest, that  
tion is a thing of the past. I  
gay and lesbian political str  
shift and go beyond the str  
recognition of our fundam  
rights.