

Join The Fight!

Support

The Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men

in their work to pass legislation guaranteeing equal rights to Lesbians and Gay men in Vermont and insuring protection for People With AIDS and HIV+ persons. Contribute to our cause and add your name to our mailing list. We need your help.

Yes, I want to be a part of making Vermont safer for Gays and Lesbians. Add my name to your mailing list.

Accept my contribution of _____ to help with expenses and general coalition building efforts.

Mail form and donations to:
Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men
PO Box 1125
Montpelier VT 05602

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THANK YOU!

The Aids Reader by Nancy McKenzie

Ed Peters

Balanced, comprehensive, and direct all describe Nancy Mckenzie's excellent book, *The AIDS Reader: Social, Political, Ethical Issues*. Articles and viewpoints from established names such as Larry Kramer from ACT-UP, Dr. Anthony Fauci from the Center for Disease Control, David Barr of the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund are included with the Supreme Court's opinion of *Bowers vs. Hardwick* (1986), Carol Levine, Peter Arno, GMHC, and Nancy Stoller Shaw to mention only a few.

Thirty-one articles from a variety of authors are collected under six sections: *The HIV Virus and its Epidemiology*, *The Social Context of HIV Infection*, *HIV and the Right to Health Care*, *HIV and the Issues of Prevention*, *HIV and the Political Crisis of the Private*, and *"HIV and the Role of the Community"*. Mckenzie's objective is to provide a complete book on the current status of AIDS. She builds balance by including different author's standpoints. Each article stresses a position, while each section brings together these distinctive positions into a complete and current theme of information and action. For example, in the first section, *The HIV Virus and its Epidemiology*, the reader may want to ignore the "scientific" jargon of this biological threat. Yet each article is readable and flows into the next one. This section ends with Stephen Jay Gould's frightening article, "The Terrifying Normalcy of AIDS".

McKenzie then shifts into the social context of AIDS. She brings us to the new and often hidden face of women, minorities, drug addicts, and the homeless with AIDS. By identifying these

special and at-risk groups, she moves us to the extremely important topic of National Health Care as it relates to AIDS. She includes articles from Karen Davis and Diane Rowland's article on the uninsured and underserved with the testimony of David Barr from the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Prevention and HIV screening issues are discussed historically and ethically. McKenzie leads these and other related issues of gay and lesbian rights, AIDS demonstration, the right to privacy into the fourth section, *HIV and the Political Crisis of the Private*. Richard Mohr's article and arguments for civil rights and the sexual minorities is worthwhile reading for everyone. McKenzie concludes the book by addressing the everybody's responsibility to assault and end the multi-faceted threats of AIDS. Ed Wolf's touching "A week on ward 5A" concentrates on the emotional, social, and spiritual costs and rewards of being an AIDS volunteer.

Picking up this book may be intimidating because the size and the variety of its content. I recommend that you read what you like, each article is a gem to a different reader. Don't read the book cover to cover. Instead, focus on a section, title or author that appeals to you, gradually reading other articles to get a wider scope of McKenzie's intent of providing balanced and current opinions and facts on the AIDS crisis. She provides us a reference book of current AIDS information and viewpoints, its history and lessons learned, and its failures and successes. This book is a valuable health resource. It is not "just for lesbians and gay men", but it is for everyone -- service providers, educators, activists, caregivers and patients, and especially for you. ▼

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