

Herskowitz explained that many people with HIV suffer from cardiomyopathy, where the walls of the heart thicken and make it pump blood less efficiently. Cardiomyopathy can be a cause of congestive heart failure.

Herskowitz, who studied 24 HIV antibody positive people suffering from cardiomyopathy, said the condition often shows up before any other symptoms or opportunistic infections.

Study Finds Isoprinosine Benefit

A controversial drug intended to strengthen the body's defenses against disease appears to slow the development of AIDS in people infected with HIV. The drug Isoprinosine seemed to result in an eightfold reduction in the progression to AIDS in people who took the medicine for six months.

The FDA, however, expressed skepticism about the findings, in part because they contradict earlier findings showing no benefit.

Doctors speculate that Isoprinosine boosts the power of the white blood cells that patrol the bloodstream to fight infection.

New Antibody Tests Don't Require a Needle

The latest tests for the HIV antibody eliminate the need for a blood sample. The Wall Street Journal reports that Calypte Biomedical, Abbott Laboratories, DuPont, and Burroughs Wellcome have developed a urine test, while Epiteome is working on a saliva test.

If approved, researchers said, these tests would be valuable in developing nations where medical supplies like needles are hard to come by.

Drugs with No Copayment

The San Diego University Pharmacy now offers to absorb the copayment for PWA's who have insurance. The pharmacy offers a toll-free number and Federal Express delivery of the prescription within 24-48 hours. For more information or to order, call Priscilla at 1-800-445-4391, or write: San Diego University Pharmacy HIV Program, 141 Suite #1, University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103-3007. •

Stephen Patrick Gallagher

1948—1991

Stephen Patrick Gallagher, GCAP's friend and longtime administrative assistant, died January 7 in the Carle Hospice Unit of complications related to PML, a condition caused by the JC virus and one seen increasingly in people dealing with AIDS.

Shortly after December 10, when Steve was diagnosed preliminarily with toxoplasmosis, GCAP placed Steve on a medical leave of absence and guaranteed to hold his job. GCAP helped to arrange his memorial service, held January 19, and the board is exploring ways to honor his service to the community more formally.

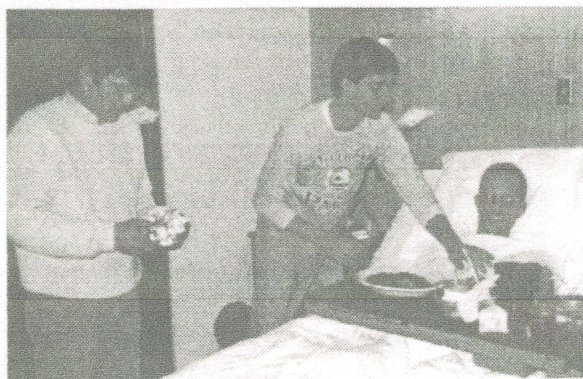
Steve was born July 29, 1948, at Bettendorf, Iowa, and moved to Champaign in the late 1970s. He became involved in GCAP early in 1986 and was the primary Buddy for Michael Hyman—a PWA whose approach to dealing with AIDS is honored each year with GCAP's Michael D. Hyman Memorial Award for lifetime service to GCAP.

With the procurement of its first major grant, GCAP took the logical step of hiring Steve as its first administrative assistant. Few had such wide-ranging knowledge of HIV in all its aspects, from detailed medical information to the psychological and emotional factors that go hand in hand with AIDS.

An achievement of Steve's that gave him tremendous satisfaction was earning, in January 1990, a Bachelor's of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois. This past fall he began work on a graduate degree in social work, so that he could bring academic skills to his own considerable practical experience, and thereby continue his healing efforts more fully.

As we deal with our own loss, let us also remember the very personal loss of his longtime companion, David L. Paulson. Throughout the difficulties of Steve's illness Dave remained a caring and loving companion. Steve himself would have said that Dave found the right thing to do, and did it well.

According to Steve's request, memorial contributions are being accepted by the Gay Community AIDS Project.



Steve Otto and Luke Kennedy are on hand to help Steve Gallagher enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by Kennedy's Restaurant.