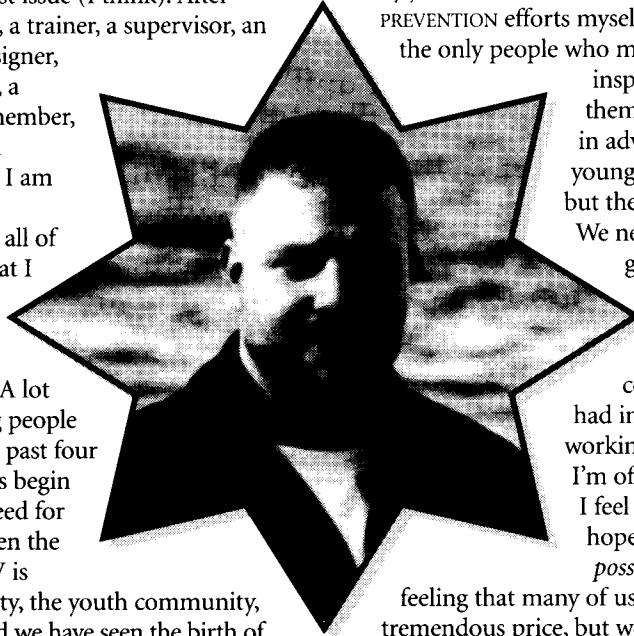


THE (LAST?) LETTER FROM THE EDITOR,

Ominous? Scary? Sad? Yes these are all feelings that have been running through my mind as I've put this issue of REALITY together. I guess the headline is a little misleading...No this is not the last issue of REALITY but it will be my last issue (I think). After four years of being an advocate, a trainer, a supervisor, an editor, a publisher, a graphic designer, a friend, a planner, an organizer, a Capitol Hill educator, a board member, a resource, a creator, and person someone could turn to for help, I am taking a break from HIV.

I have been given so much by all of the people and opportunities that I have encountered. I have grown ten fold since I first tested positive and started becoming active four years ago. A lot has changed for us, being young people living with HIV/AIDS. Over the past four years we have seen organizations begin to more clearly recognize our need for appropriate services; we have seen the Government recognize that HIV is real, and that it is our community, the youth community, that is next to be hardest hit; and we have seen the birth of organizations and even two conferences devoted to helping us lead better, healthier, more informed and stronger lives. If that is not enough, we have seen ourselves on TV, in the media and at the White House.



With all of that said, I sometimes feel so frustrated-sad-angry that there are still young people testing positive all the time. I don't know, it may just be me, and I know I've scoffed at PREVENTION efforts myself in the past, but we are the only people who may have a chance to

inspire our peers to protect themselves. I believe strongly in advocating for services for young people living with HIV, but they can't just be handouts. We need to turn around and give back when we can.

That's all.

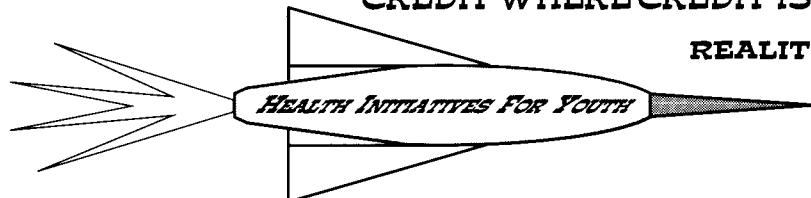
Now that I've gone off on a tirade, let me come back to me. I have had incredible experiences working in this arena(?) and now I'm off to do some stuff for me. I feel something, it may be false hope or dare I whisper, *a possible cure*, but I have a feeling that many of us might make it. At a tremendous price, but we might just make it through this. I hope.

Take care of yourselves and the people who love you because that is what it is all about.

Sam Scott, Editor

BEFORE I GO THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE I REALLY NEED TO THANK. JOANNE LOTHROP, FOR PUSHING ME AND UNDERSTANDING; JAMES COLGROVE, FOR ALWAYS MAKING TIME; SUSAN, MARIO, JESSIE, BILL, LORRAINE, ALNISA, RON, AND EVERYONE ELSE AT HIFY FOR ALWAYS LETTING ME KNOW THAT THEY WERE THERE FOR ME. JANET SHALWITZ FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW. TO NICK, JAMES R., RYAN, DON, VANESSA, TOM AND HONEY FOR JUST BEING. GREG MILLARD FOR LISTENING AND HELPING ME TO LISTEN TO MYSELF. PETER FOR LOVING ME AND MAKING ME FEEL IT. LASTLY MY MOM FOR ALWAYS BEING MY MOM (THANK YOU) AND LARA FOR BEING MY SECOND MOM, THE REST OF MY FAMILY AND FREINDS FOR ALL THE COUNTLESS WAYS YOU'VE HELP ME TO BECOME WHO I AM TODAY.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.



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