

Deficit, continued from page 1

If all efforts to get provincial funding fail, the Celebration '90 organizing board will have to gear up for more community fundraising.

"We're competing for the same dollars in a small city with two big AIDS organizations," says Brookes. "Trying to raise money for an event that's already history is going to be very difficult. People have had the party, they don't want to know about it any longer."

Local businesses will be called upon to donate to the cause and help in fundraising.

"Some gay businesses are saying they didn't make a lot of money. They say they invested a great deal in the Games, cleaned their clubs up and put on special events, but didn't make a lot back. I find that hard to believe," Brookes said.

"With all those people in town, there's no way they were all at the Celebration Centre. It was packed every night, but it certainly wasn't big enough to take 30 000 people. I think not just the gay businesses but the straight businesses were making a lot of money."

One of Mees' duties during October will be looking into fundraising in Vancouver and through other Gay Games organizations. An October garage sale of Games memorabilia will help raise needed funds. The English Bay Swim Club has promised to donate some of its proceeds from Games activities (about \$5 000), and \$17 500 is yet to come in from the federal government. Casino nights are planned and "break-open" lotteries at Heritage House, Dufferin Hotel and Shaggy Horse should produce \$2,500 a month.

A final issue of the Celebration '90 newsletter will contain an appeal for donations. Its publication depends on sponsors coming forward to cover printing and mailing costs, says Brookes.

"We never expected to make a huge profit from the Games," she says, "to break even would have been a true expectation."

Opening and closing ceremonies didn't draw as many spectators as anticipated and the Celebration '90-backed play *Warm Wind in China* lost \$40 000. Reviews weren't good and it was closed before the end of its month's run to cut losses. The literary festival also ran into the red.

"Looking back, I think the cultural festival could have been as rich and entertaining if it had been organized by independent organizations, where they took the profit or loss from their events," Mees reflects.

Celebration '90-backed concerts at the Orpheum (GAYLA and Over the Rainbow) made a profit, as did the Celebration Centre, although not as much as expected. Because attendance dropped off at the closing, the ceremonies at BC Place Stadium failed to break even.

"So we're left with a bit of a debt," muses Brookes. "Compare that with other events like the Goodwill Games which were much smaller than our event. They had all that government and corporate funding, and they're still millions of dollars in debt."

"Regardless of the deficit it was still an incredible success," says Mees. "Every cent we lost was worth it in the end."

Celebration '90 encourages you to write to the Provincial government telling them why you think the Gay Games should receive GO BC funding. Send your letter to: Howard Dirks, Minister of Provincial Secretary, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8X 1X4.



"Look Hon, a kiss-in...at Joe's Cafe on the Drive in late September. The demo has resulted in a boycott of both Joe and his cappuccino. "We're here, we're queer and we don't want your coffee," angry East End dykes and fags are asserting. Joe says he's not a homophobe but that fateful first day, admonished a group of lesbians openly displaying affection by kissing and hugging. Protesters gathered for days of open demonstrations after the wimmin stormed out. At press time the protests are continuing in the late afternoons, with no resolution in sight. "These people, the lesbians, are the people that made this house," a waiter at Joe's recognizes. Joe says he doesn't have any problem with lesbians, "I didn't kick them out, I just asked them to stop kissing." He says he's losing his other customers— they're asking him where his morals are. A former toreador, Joe was quoted as saying that the dykes are tougher than the bulls he once faced in the bullfighting ring in Portugal. Poor Joe! Photo by Margaret Knight.

Let's ask why

St John Ambulance pulls out

St John Ambulance pulled out of its commitment to Celebration '90 at the last minute and with no prior warning. Now, the organization doesn't want to answer to public concerns.

The following is a copy of a letter sent to St John Ambulance Vancouver branch manager Bridget Milsom after Gay Games III:

I am writing as a member of St John Ambulance who has, until now, been proud to be associated with the organization and wear the uniform as an active first aid volunteer for the past four years.

In the fall of 1989, I initiated informal discussions with the management staff at St John House and with individual members of my division 426, and others, about the possibilities of St John assisting with first aid services during Celebration '90. Based upon the positive responses received from all my inquiries and discussions, my recommendation to the Gay Games committee was that St John be approached for assistance.

In January, 1990, Jim Svenson, medical services chair, sent a formal request for assistance to St John. Confirmation for assistance was received in April and this was

acknowledged by a sizeable donation in recognition of the invaluable assistance St John was offering. Formal liaison was established between Celebration '90 and Andrea Saunders and Wendy Clark of St John Ambulance.

The estimated number of people who participated in and/or attended Games events was 35 000 people. Being that Celebration '90 was larger than the Goodwill Games, the BC Summer Games or the Canadian Special Olympics, attracting participation from 27 countries, it certainly would have provided St John with an excellent opportunity for public relations on an international level.

With these figures in mind it is obvious that all scheduling for medical and first-aid coverage for Celebration '90 events was relying very heavily on the volunteers and assistance St John had promised to provide.

On August third — one day before Celebration '90 was due to begin — I received a phone call from Andrea Saunders informing me that St John would not be honouring its promise and that no volunteers had been assigned to assist with first-aid coverage of the events.

No attempt was made or had yet been made to formally contact either Celebration '90, or Jim Svenson, and it was left to me to convey this information. As you can well imagine, this last minute pullout of such a major element threw the medical services coverage into chaos and resulted in dangerously inadequate coverage for some venues.

I was the identified member of St John who made the initial contact and recommendations about St John assistance. I therefore found myself in the position of trying to explain and defend to people from many countries in which St John is active what was essentially an inexcusable and indefensible action on the part of St John. I am on a personal level so upset by this action that I am seriously considering my continued membership in this organization, as are a number of other members who are not homophobic and do not wish to be labelled as such.

I feel that St John Ambulance owes a formal apology to all the participants and volunteers of Celebration '90, specifically and the lesbian/gay community and those who supported the concept of Celebration '90 in general.

I can only suggest that this apology be published in at least the local news media, including *Angles*, the news magazine of the local gay community. I trust that immediate attention will be given to this very serious matter.

Mik Radoslovich

A call to the local St John Ambulance netted one Mrs Gore who told *Angles* "we are not going to refute this in the newspaper. As far as we are concerned the matter is closed." She said St John Ambulance wrote the author of the letter a letter and explained the circumstances of the situation. She said they want no press. "We gave her a concise explanation of what happened in the letter," Mrs Boyd said. So it seems St John Ambulance feels it doesn't owe the lesbian/gay community an explanation, much less an apology. If we want an explanation, we will have to write and ask her for one. Could there possibly be justification for such behaviour? Let's ask: St John Ambulance, Vancouver Branch (and provincial headquarters), 6111 Cambie Street, Vancouver. Ed.

AIDS virus targets smokers

(reprinted without permission from the August/September issue of ACTUP Seattle's newsletter).

Smoking may significantly speed up the development of AIDS in people infected with the HIV virus according to new epidemiological work done at the University of California at Berkeley.

While these results are preliminary and need confirmation, smoking appears to be a serious factor in the appearance of disease, said a report to the Sixth International Conference on AIDS by Rachel Royce, a former UC Berkeley graduate student and current research fellow at Harvard University.

Smokers in the study of 1 000 men in the San Francisco Men's Health, were nearly twice as likely to develop AIDS or to die during an observation period of over four and a half years. It was not proven, however, when the men became infected. Possibly the smokers contracted the virus earlier than the non-smokers, although researchers felt that was unlikely.

"We can't be sure, but it looks like the smokers are progressing faster to disease. Over 56 months they are nearly twice as likely to develop thrush, AIDS or to die," Royce said in an interview.

Smoking directly affects the cells of the immune system. It has long been known that smoking causes leukocytosis (an increase in the number of white blood cells.) Royce and Warren Wilkelstein, professor of public health at Berkeley, confirmed recently that such an increase also occurs in the T-cells that are prominently involved in fighting the AIDS virus.

In spite of that, Royce said she does not think the higher average T-cell levels in the smokers are serving any protective function. In any case, the count tends to decrease soon after infection, so that later there is a relatively small difference between smokers and non-smokers in number of T-cells.

The study was done in association with Peter Bacchetti, assistant adjunct professor of epidemiology at UCSF. These results announced in San Francisco, Royce said, should be confirmed by biological and clinical studies that spell out the connections between smoking and disease.

Further information is available from Rachel Royce (415) 642-3997.