

Aids polic

By Karen Valihora  
from the McGill Daily  
University Press

I am your residen  
mate and I have been  
to the AIDS virus...W  
itate before you eat  
same kitchen utensils?  
wonder whether my bla  
saliva is on that towel,  
that faucet?

AIDS, the acquired  
deficiency syndrome, m  
ried by 30,000 to 50,  
dians, according to the  
Centre for AIDS. This  
passed through unprot  
ual intercourse or sha  
venous drug needles.

Universities have nee

Human Ri

HALIFAX (CUP) - Nova  
tia's student lobby group has  
demned the provincial go  
ment's decision to deny p  
tion to lesbians, gay men  
AIDS carriers in the human  
act.

Royden Trainor, interim  
of the 20,000-strong Stud  
Unions of Nova Scotia, said  
is "appalled that the govern  
would be so callously homo  
bic."

The recommendations  
included in a report releas  
first week of October by the  
Scotia Task Force on AIDS.

"There were no good re  
for denying fundamental an  
sic human rights for HIV-po  
or gay members of our soc

said Trainor. "There are,  
ever, lots of bad reasons fo  
ing so and the government  
to know them all.

"It would be nice if w  
help make this province a  
more humane and a little  
just."

The task force was se  
after sixth grade teacher  
Smith was transferred to a  
teaching position when p  
in the southwestern Nova

Poignant Look At AIDS Victim

By Cori Cusak

Reprint from the Cord Weekly

"I've got AIDS, but AIDS  
hasn't got me."

Those very brave words,  
spoken by Toronto actor, James  
St. James, are at the very heart of  
why this gentleman has become  
Canada's longest surviving AIDS  
patient. His life to date is  
chronicled in June Callwood's  
new book, *Jim: A Life With AIDS*.

This touchingly poignant  
story of St. James's struggle to  
accept his homosexuality, the  
conflicts with his religious  
beliefs, his fatal diagnosis, and  
his struggle to beat the odds may  
very well become a bible for  
those who've either known some-  
one with the disease or have con-  
tracted it themselves.

St. James's courage and  
strength, and his desire to help  
others is underlined throughout  
the book. From the time when he  
was growing up in a strict  
Jehovah's Witness family, to his  
realization of his homosexuality,  
and right up to the present day,  
others consider St. James to be a  
friendly and thoughtful individu-  
al.

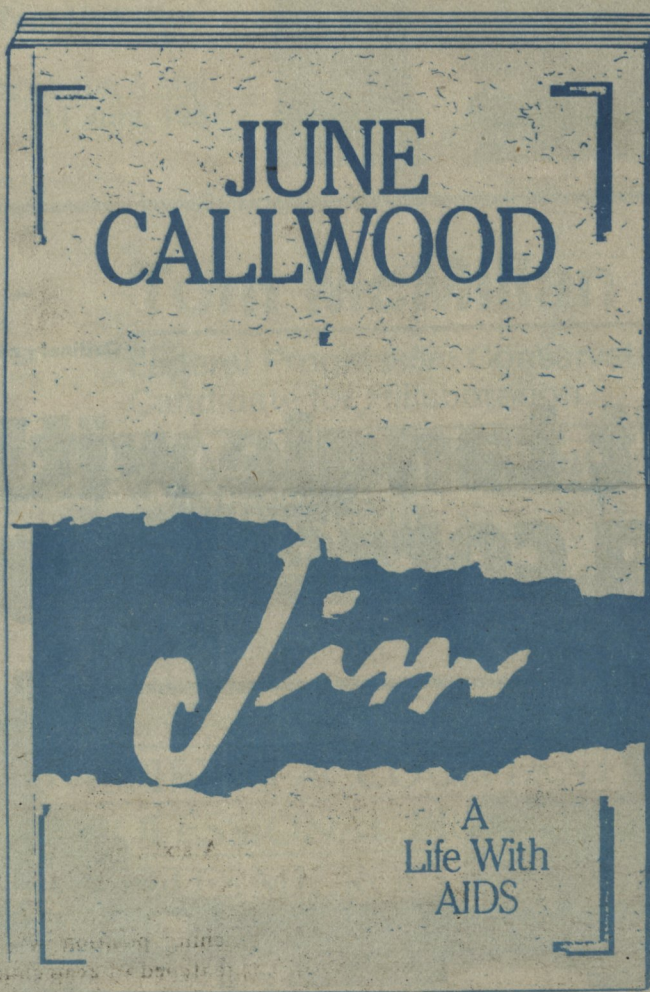
Facing the rejection of his  
peers in high school, and the  
divorce of his parents, Jim  
learned to steel himself against  
the hatred and fear of  
homosexuality that others learn  
early in life. He was lonely and  
frustrated through most of his  
teenage years. The struggle be-  
tween his religious beliefs

(Jehovah's Witnesses are devoutly  
against homosexuality) and his  
awakening sexuality almost  
proved too much for him to hand-  
le.

Jim plunged into a life filled  
with contradiction. For months he  
would remain celibate and devour

the bible with almost insatiable  
zeal, and then suddenly would  
flip the coin and spend his time  
cruising 'leather' gay bars pick-  
ing up strangers.

the seedy, dangerous sexual un-  
derground of the homosexual  
community in the early eighties.  
It was during this time that he  
contracted AIDS.



He was constantly searching  
for someone to spend his life  
with, but never seemed to reach  
that pinnacle. A brief marriage to  
a beautiful Jehovah's Witness  
ended in ruins and sent Jim run-  
ning to his father's home. Moving  
between his hometown of Brant-  
ford, Toronto, and New York,  
Jim fell deeper and deeper into

Since his diagnosis, Jim's  
story is one of such an unbeliev-  
able amount of courage that it  
demands respect and admiration.  
He has fought against unbeliev-  
able odds, outliving more than  
eighty people he's met with  
AIDS. His work with the AIDS  
Coalition of Toronto (ACT) and  
the Toronto People With AIDS

(PWA) Foundation has helped a  
great many destitute sufferers  
find a little solace in their pain.

June Callwood, one of Cana-  
da's best known journalists and

the author of *Twelve Weeks In  
Spring*, has written the book from  
her association with St. James,  
and tape recordings that he began  
shortly after being diagnosed. Her  
sense of compassion for the  
plight of AIDS victims is evident  
in the tasteful way that she  
reveals Jim's character. More  
than making St. James a martyr,  
she turns around and reveals his  
inner fears, conflicts, and desires.  
Outwardly St. James appears to  
be a strong, confident young man,  
but the inclusion of a suicide at-  
tempt, his longing for close  
physical contact and his anguish  
at the loss of his mother and sister  
tell a different tale. When Jim  
suffered disfellowship from the  
Jehovah's Witnesses for refusing  
to stop associating with  
homosexuals and 'worldly'  
people, those who still followed  
the faith were no longer allowed  
any communication with him, in-  
cluding his mother and sister.

*Jim: A Life With AIDS* is a  
book that will enlighten anyone  
who seeks to understand the ef-  
fects of this devastating disease  
on the lives of everyone con-  
cerned. As AIDS becomes in-  
creasingly more prevalent in our  
society, this book will become a  
source of inspiration and strength  
for all whose lives are touched by  
the disease.

If you are facing AIDS, or  
you know someone who has it or  
has died of it, or are simply seek-  
ing some understanding, Jim St.  
James's message and June  
Callwood's book, *Jim: A Life  
With AIDS*, give both the facts  
and the feelings associated with  
AIDS.

If AIDS affects you or anyone  
you know then *Jim: A Life With  
AIDS* may be the second most im-  
portant book you own, next to  
*The Bible*.