



Editor's Letter

Courage to Change

August 1, 2005 By [Walter Armstrong](#)

Life is change, and no one knows this better and feels it more sharply than people living with HIV. As an AIDS magazine publishing for more than 11 years, *POZ* has also had its share of changes.

All too often, these “changes” were the cruel effects of the disease itself. We had to deal with many deaths in our own wild, wonderful *POZ* family: courageous PWAs who came out in our pages; writers and reporters who broke news and pressed the patient-empowerment angle; activists who spent their last breath demanding HIVer rights; and readers whose trust, loyalty and honesty remain our most valuable resource.

But increasingly, in the epidemic and at *POZ*, change is for the good. There was the remarkable comeback of our founder, Sean Strub, who rose from his sickbed to steer *POZ* with his compass of healthy treatment skepticism and loud and proud activism. Then, a year ago, another change arrived in the form of a new owner. He immediately got our gifted and growing staff down to the business of—you guessed it—more change, kick-starting all kinds of innovations.

The magazine you hold in your hands—with its stunning new look and feel, right down to the logo—is only one such change. For another eye-opener, go to [POZ.com](#) and check out the matching new design and the new services it offers, from *POZ* Personals’ online dating to help for health and happiness at *POZ* Mentor to 24/7 AIDS coverage and commentary at *POZ* News & Views.

But there’s more at stake here than magazine redesign and internet interactivity. There’s the vision that a global HIV community can come together—one Personal, one Mentor at a time—to forge a movement for change. Changes like the new ethic of responsibility and leadership in prevention by HIVers proposed by David Evans in this month’s trail-blazing feature story, *Bite the Bullet*. That’s what the new *POZ* is about: creating in print and online a space where HIVers worldwide can connect, debate and dream big—of such urgent issues as female empowerment, an end to stigma and a cure for AIDS—and then make change that realizes these dreams.

In that sense, this radically new *POZ* is a faithful return to our roots. For that’s why Sean launched the magazine in the first place: He knew that, contrary to the then-official view that AIDS was a death sentence, surviving this disease was a reality. And having the courage of his conviction, he

felt compelled to spread the word.

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