

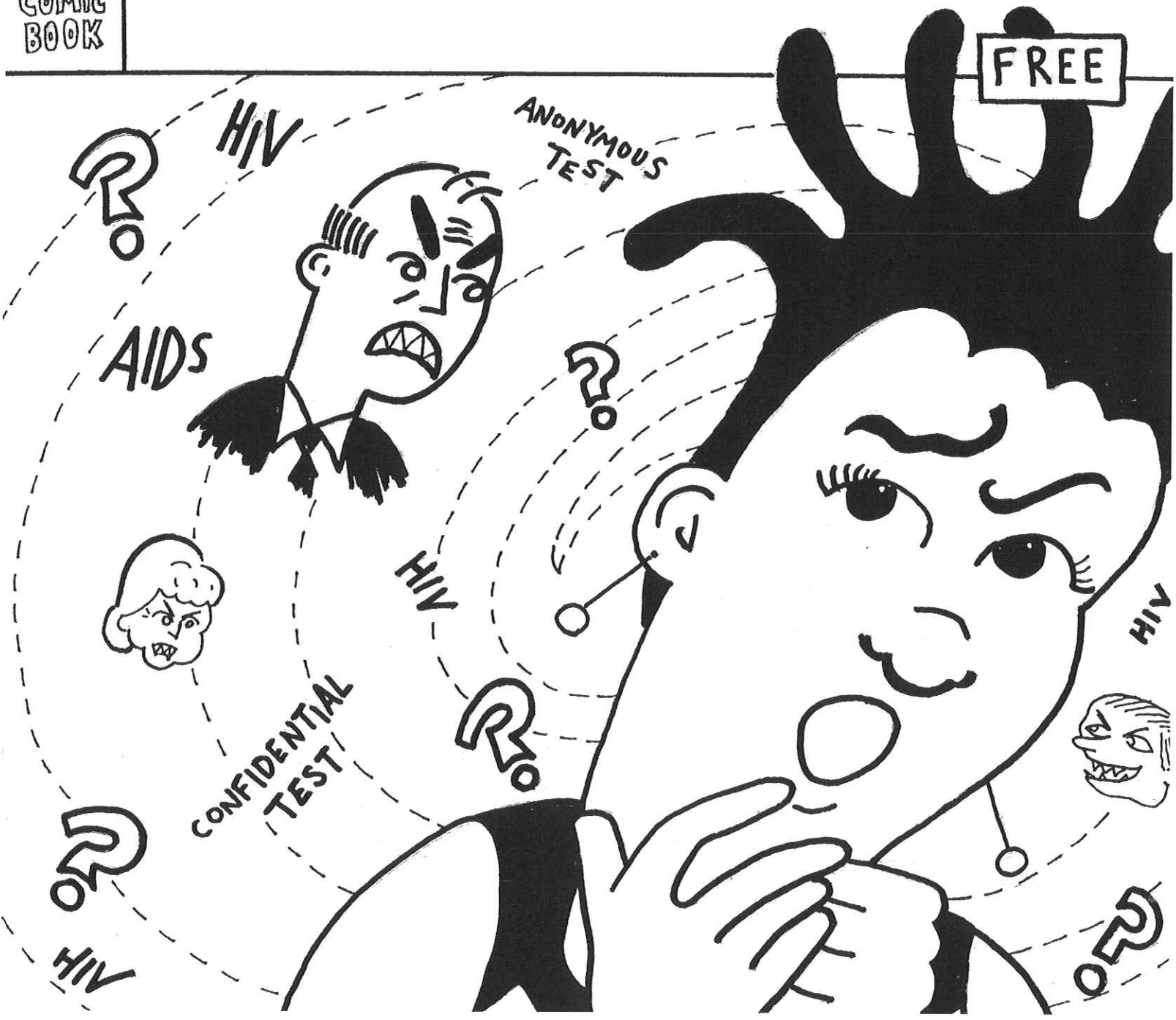
yell

The youth education lifeline of **ACTUP**

COMIC BOOK

# The FOSTER KID'S GUIDE TO HIV TESTING!

FREE





# Glossary



**AIDS** ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME. IT'S WHEN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM BREAKS DOWN.

**IMMUNE SYSTEM** YOUR BODY'S NATURAL DEFENSE AGAINST INFECTION AND DISEASE.

**HIV** HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS. THE VIRUS THOUGHT TO CAUSE AIDS.

**YELL** YOUTH EDUCATION LIFE LINE. A COMMITTEE OF ACT UP THAT FOCUSES ON TEEN ISSUES AND AIDS.

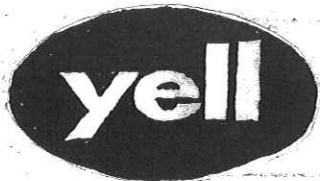
**ACT UP** AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER. A DIVERSE GROUP OF AIDS ACTIVISTS COMMITTED TO DIRECT ACTION TO END THE AIDS CRISIS.

**CWA** CHILD WELFARE AGENCY.

**ANONYMOUS TEST** ONLY YOU KNOW THE RESULT OF

YOUR TEST. YOU ARE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY A NUMBER. YOU NEVER HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME. YOU TELL YOUR RESULTS TO WHO YOU CHOOSE TO TELL.

**CONFIDENTIAL TEST** YOU MUST GIVE YOUR NAME AND MANY PEOPLE WILL KNOW THE RESULT OF YOUR TEST.



THE YOUTH EDUCATION LIFE LINE

of



PRESENTS...

# The FOSTER KID'S GUIDE TO HIV TESTING!



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV TESTING? IT WOULDN'T BE SUPRISING CONSIDERING THE CONFUSING PROCESS SURROUNDING IT. SOME PEOPLE MAY LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE YOU HAVE NO CHOICES BUT IN MOST CASES YOU DO.



WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF ENTERING THE FOSTERCARE SYSTEM YOU WILL BE INTERVIEWED AND YOUR RISK FOR HIV WILL BE JUDGED.



DO YOU HAVE SEX? ARE YOU GAY? DO YOU USE DRUGS? HAVE YOU EVER...

When you enter the foster care system the agency will determine if they feel you are at risk for HIV, the virus thought to cause AIDS.



They may decide they think you're not at risk for HIV.



Now The choice is yours. you may choose not to be tested or, if you wish...



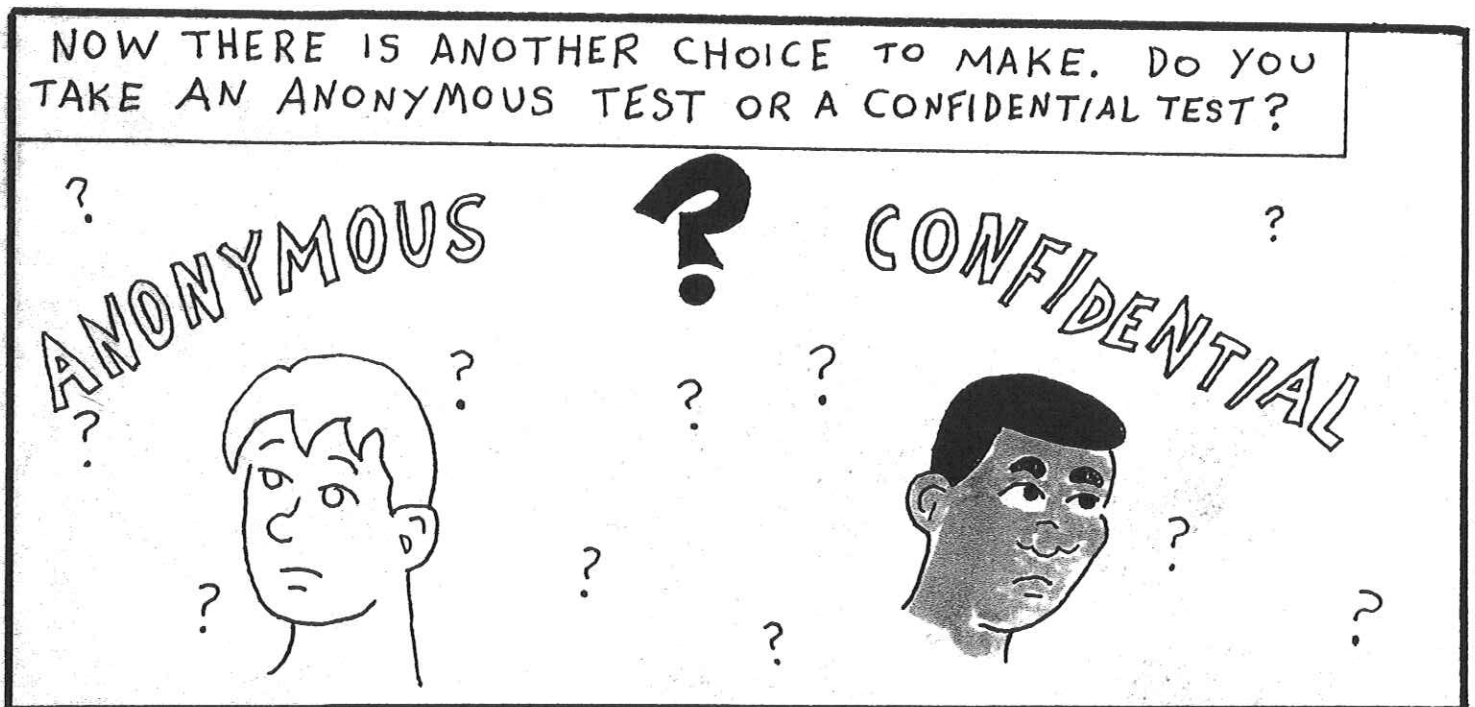
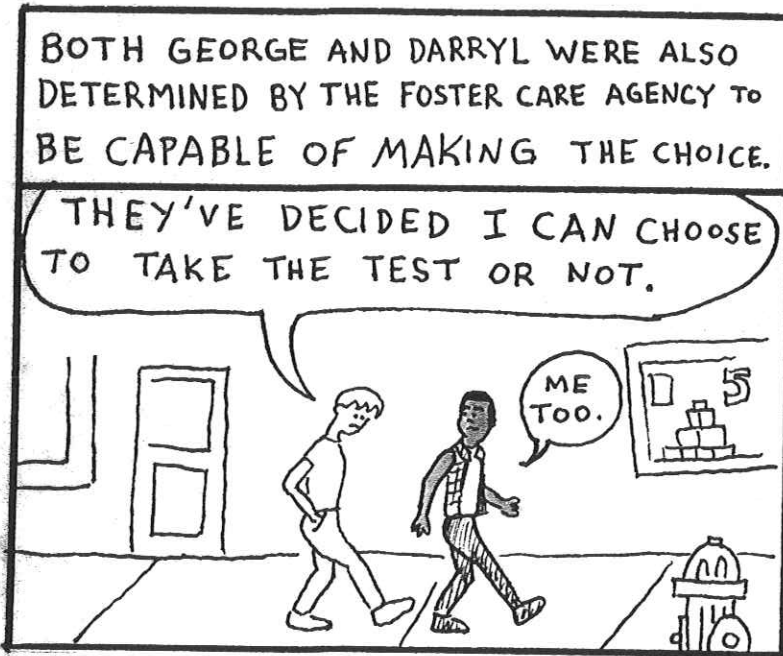
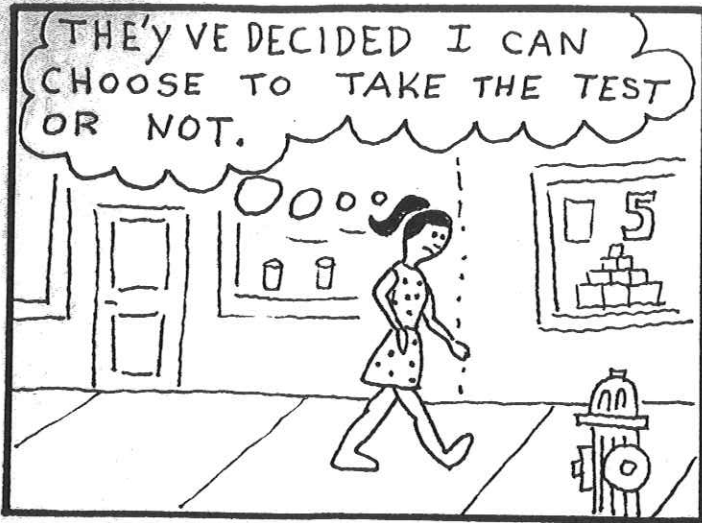
But for AKIKO HIRIYOTO, things were different.



THE AGENCY DECIDES IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER TO TAKE AN HIV TEST OR NOT, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE IS.







Neither Darryl or George knew the difference between a confidential and anonymous HIV test. Here's what happened to them.

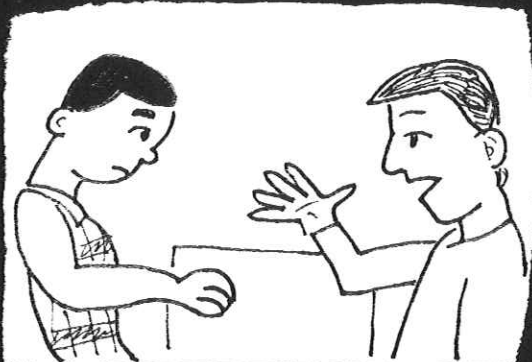


DARRYL CHOSE AN ANONYMOUS TEST.

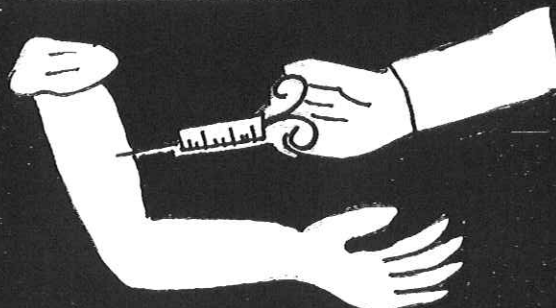
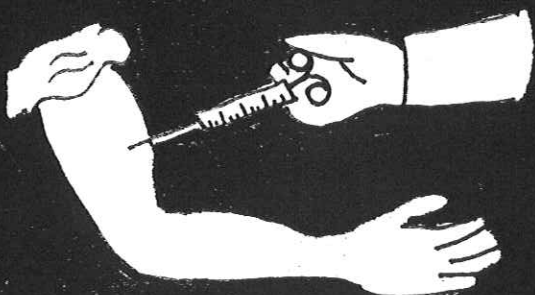


GEORGE CHOSE A CONFIDENTIAL TEST.

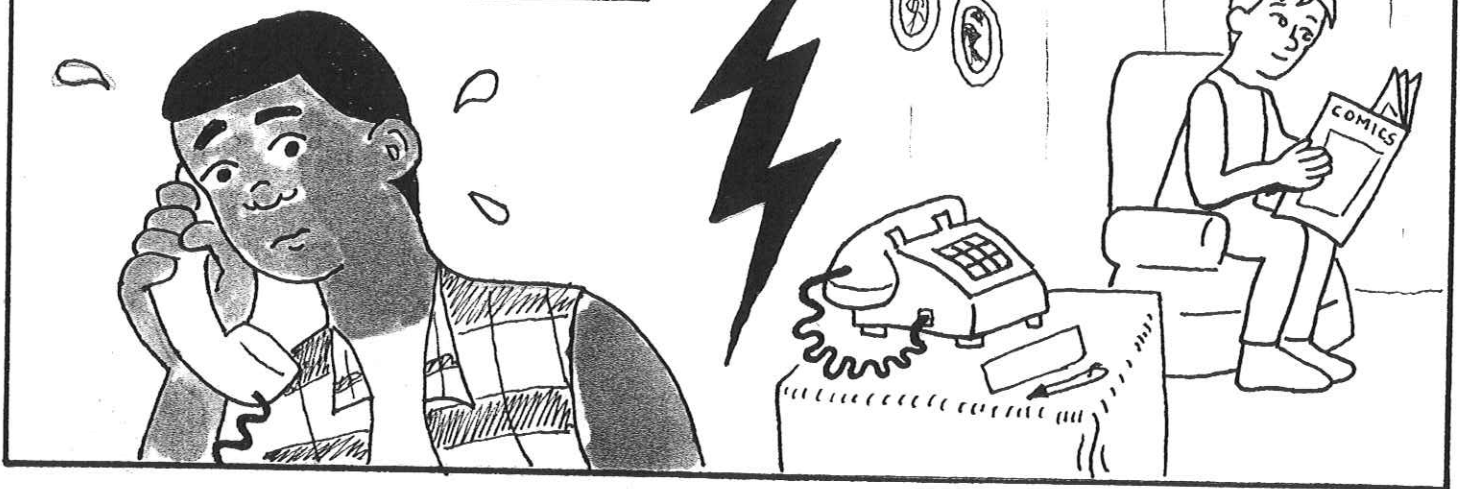
BOTH GOT PRE-TEST COUNSELING



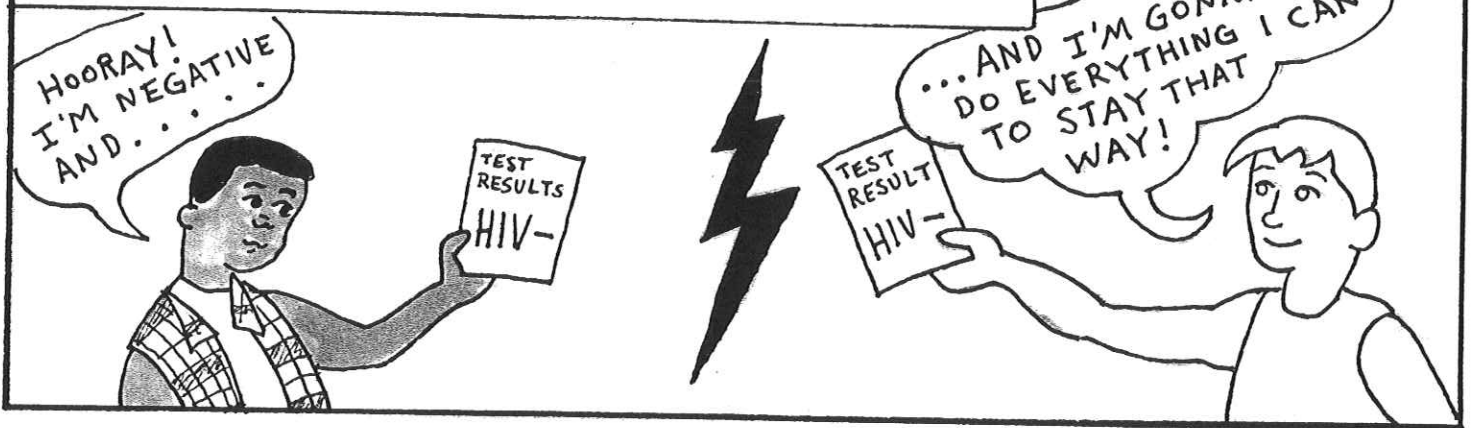
BOTH TOOK A TEST FOR HIV



Both have the option to choose to pick up their test results or not.

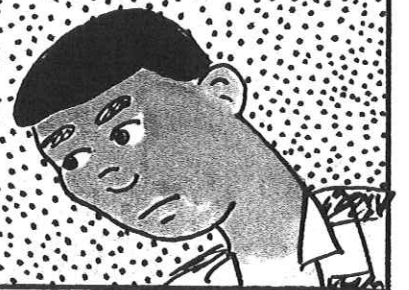


IF Neither George nor Darryl pick up their results, the story ends here. Likewise, the story ends if they do pick up their results but both test HIV negative.



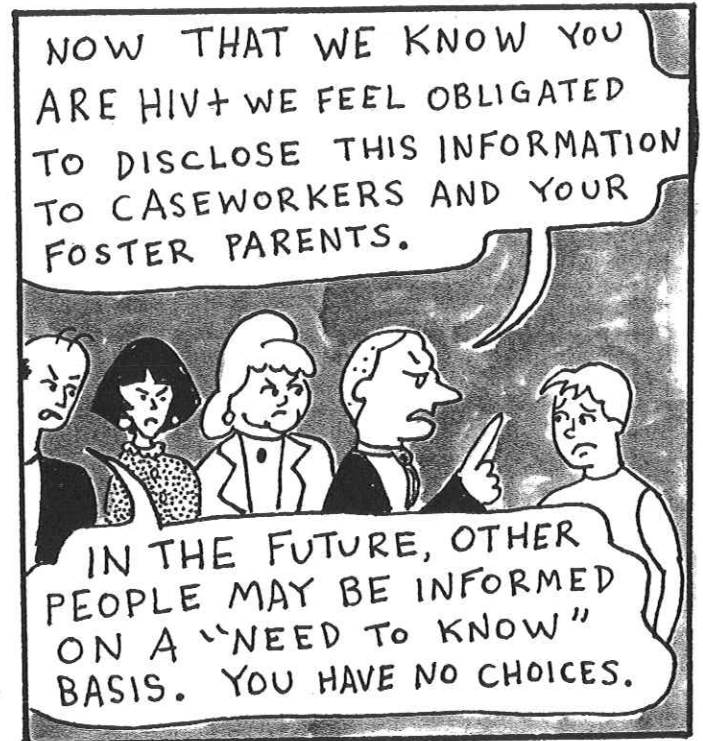
But IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY. IF they test POSITIVE for HIV. When Darryl got tested, he never had to give his name. The people who tested him knew him only by a number so when the result came in, only Darryl himself knew the results.

NOW I CAN DECIDE WHO I WANT TO TELL AND WHO I DON'T WANT TO TELL. I CAN DECIDE FOR MYSELF WHAT SORT OF TREATMENTS I WANT TO TAKE.





But George did not choose to take the ANONYMOUS test. George took a CONFIDENTIAL test so for him testing HIV positive left him in a very different situation.

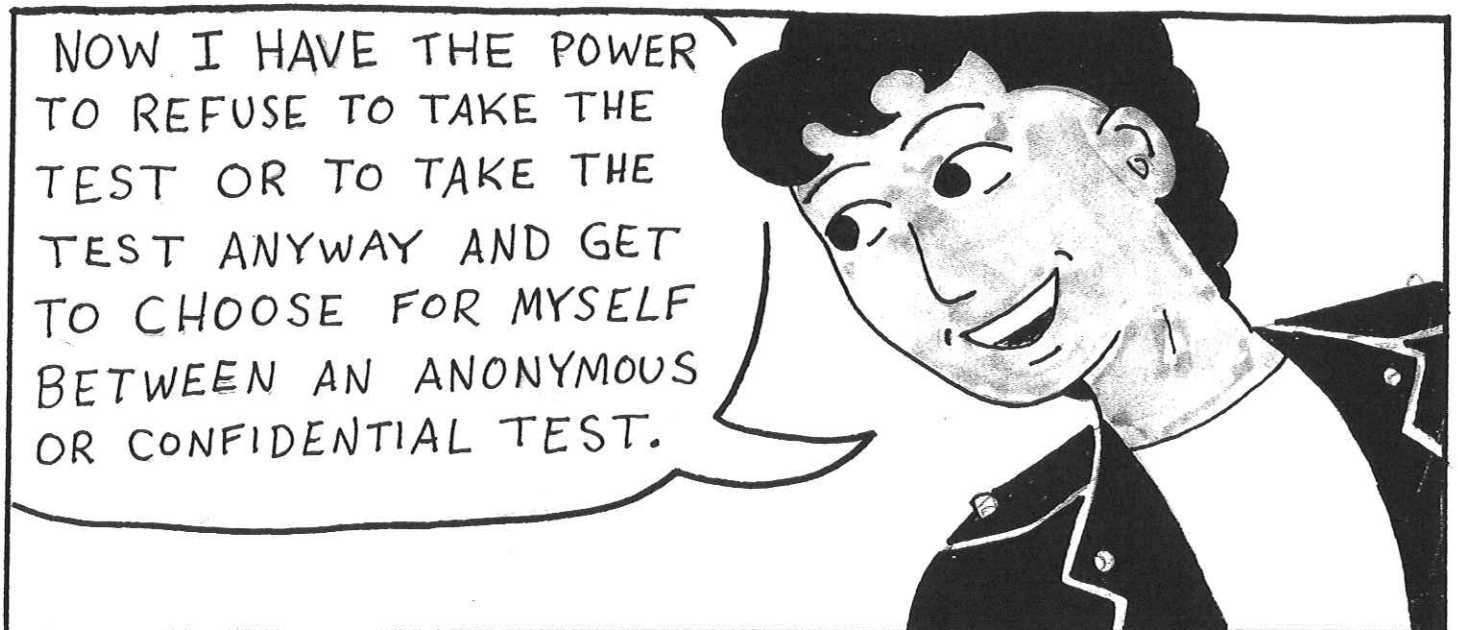
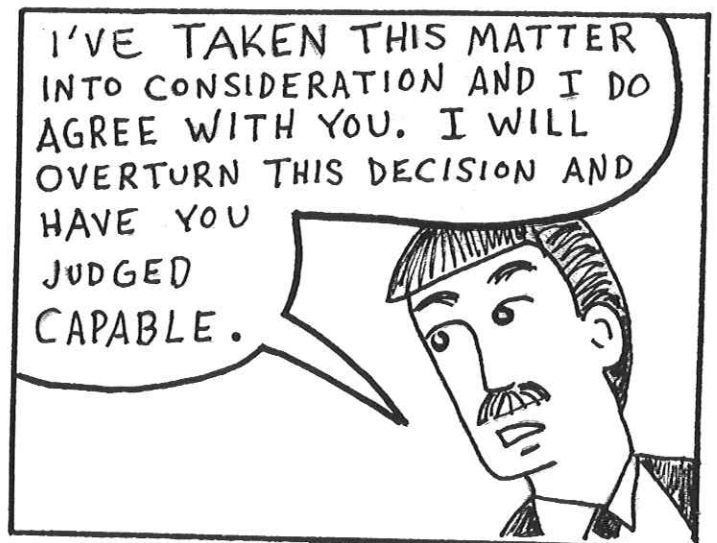


IF George had chosen to take an ANONYMOUS test he would have had more control over the situation. In some cases however you may not even have the chance to choose between an ANONYMOUS or CONFIDENTIAL TEST.

REMEMBER, the foster Care Agency decides if they think you are able to choose for yourself whether to take an HIV test or not. They could choose to think you ARE NOT CAPABLE to decide for yourself.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN ? ? ?



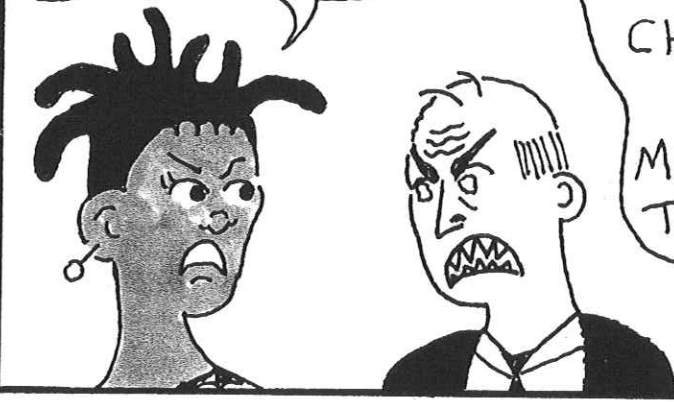


MELINDA WASN'T AS LUCKY.



MELINDA,  
I JUDGE YOU TO  
BE INCAPABLE OF CONSENT.  
YOU WILL BE TESTED FOR  
HIV.

I DON'T WISH TO  
BE TESTED.



SORRY YOU  
HAVE NO  
CHOICE  
IT'S  
MANDATORY  
TESTING.

IF I MUST  
TAKE THE TEST THEN  
I WANT IT TO BE AN  
ANONYMOUS TEST.



NO.

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.  
YOU WILL BE GIVEN A  
CONFIDENTIAL TEST. IT  
MEANS THAT CERTAIN  
CASEWORKERS AND OR  
FOSTER PARENTS WILL  
HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR  
TEST RESULTS.



IF I TEST POSITIVE CAN  
I CHOOSE THE TYPE OF  
MEDICAL CARE I WANT?



NO. THAT WILL  
BE CHOSEN FOR  
YOU!

MELINDA FELT SHE WAS LEFT WITH FEW OPTIONS.

THIS IS ALL SO UNFAIR.



I SUPPOSE I COULD **TRY** TO TALK TO HIS BOSS OR SUPERVISOR... **WHOEVER THAT IS!**

BUT...

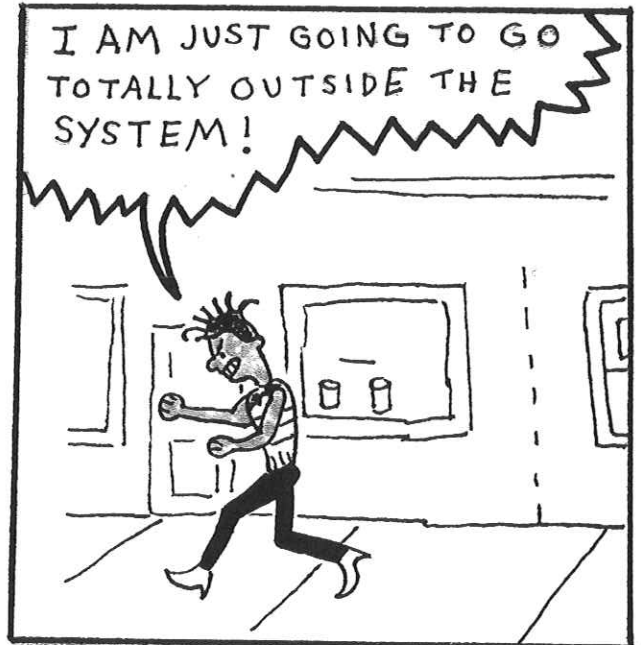
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHO THAT IS!



AND EVEN IF I DID FIND OUT WHO THE SUPERVISOR IS... I DON'T THINK I WANT TO TALK TO HIM ANYWAY! I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE TALKING WITH ANY OF THESE PEOPLE AT ALL.



I AM JUST GOING TO GO TOTALLY OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM!



MELINDA CAN TALK TO A LAWYER FOR FREE, TOTALLY ANONYMOUSLY.

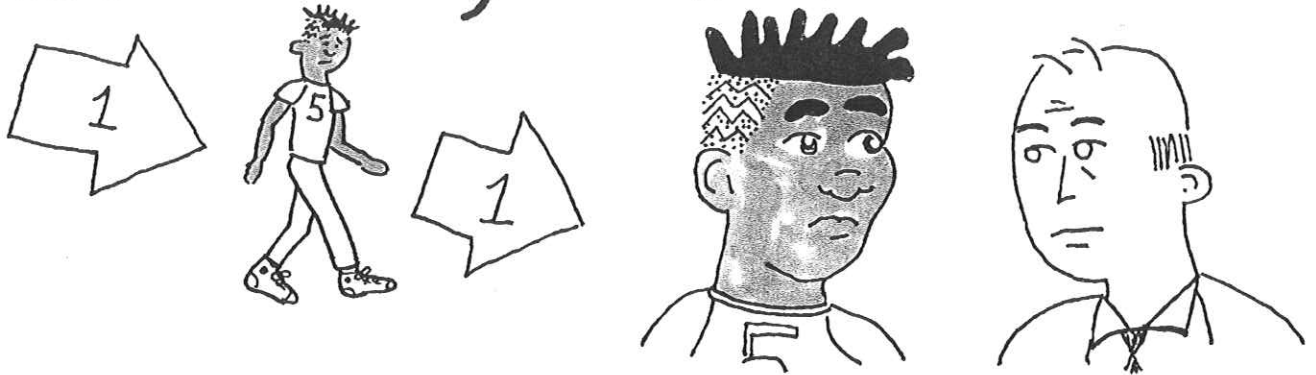
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE MY NAME RIGHT NOW, BUT I HAVE A PROBLEM REGARDING FORCED HIV TESTING.



WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY. MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU.



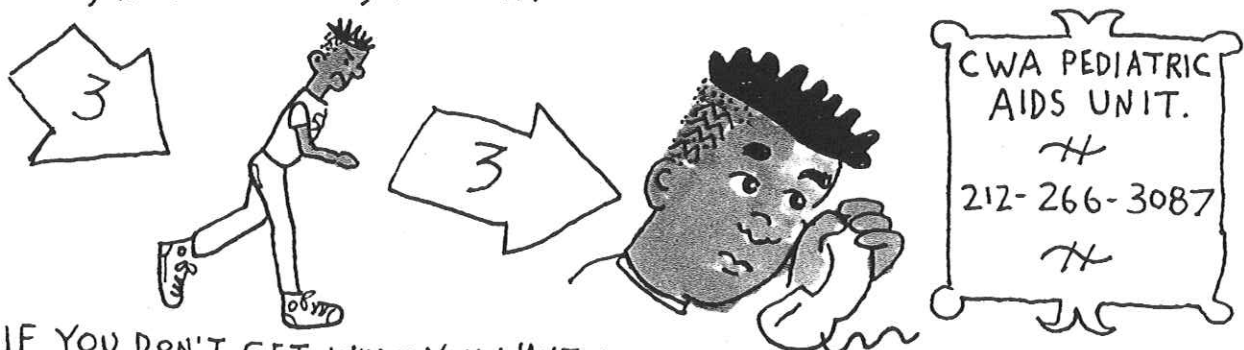
Here is a **summary** of the appeal process:



① **START OUT WITHIN YOUR AGENCY—** SOMEONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE DESIGNATED TO HANDLE APPEALS. YOU START WITH YOUR CASEWORKER.



② **THEN, IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY CHOOSE TO TRY YOUR CASEWORKER'S SUPERVISOR.**



③ **IF YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT FROM YOUR AGENCY, OR YOU'RE AFRAID TO TALK TO THEM, YOU CAN APPEAL TO CWA'S PEDIATRIC AIDS UNIT. CALL (212)-266-3087**

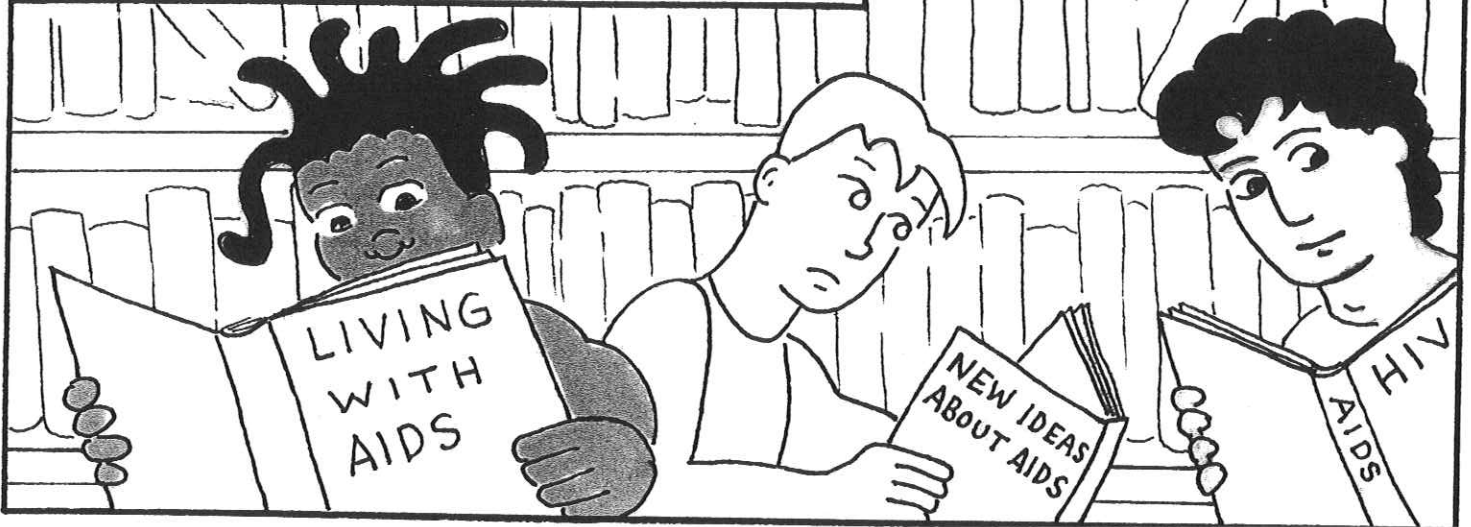


④ **IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM, BETSY KREBS-STEIN, A LAWYER AT THE YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER, HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP WITH THIS. 212-675-6181**  
You MIGHT ALSO TRY...

CAROL A. MARCUS ATTORNEY AT LAW (718) 275-0346



IF YOU TEST POSITIVE, REMEMBER TOO, THAT HIV NEED NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE. MANY PEOPLE LIVE LONG LIVES AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED HIV POSITIVE, AND CONTINUE TO LIVE TODAY. THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS FOR TREATMENTS SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO EDUCATE YOURSELF, SO THAT YOU CAN DECIDE WHAT YOU FEEL IS BEST FOR YOU.



WHETHER YOU ARE HIV POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR DON'T KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS, YOU MUST NEVER ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT COULD PUT YOU OR OTHERS AT RISK FOR AIDS. SINCE HIV IS SPREAD THROUGH BLOOD, SEMEN, VAGINAL FLUID AND BREAST MILK, THESE BODILY FLUIDS MUST **NOT** ENTER YOUR BODY. YOU CAN'T TELL IF SOMEONE HAS AIDS JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM AND YOU SHOULD ASSUME THAT ANYONE AND EVERYONE COULD POSSIBLY BE HIV POSITIVE.

ONE WAY YOU CAN AVOID CONTRACTING AIDS IS TO NOT HAVE SEX. THIS IS CALLED ABSTINENCE.



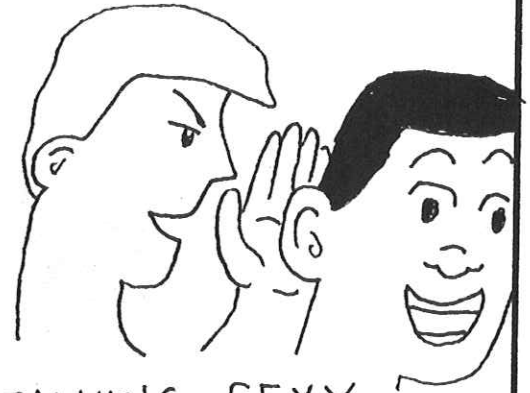
IF YOU DO HAVE SEX, THESE SAFE SEX ACTIVITIES POSE NO RISK.



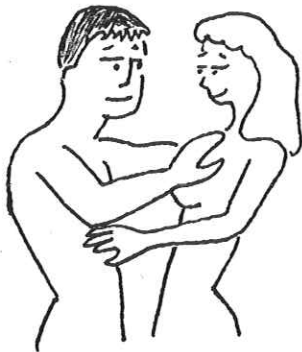
HUGGING



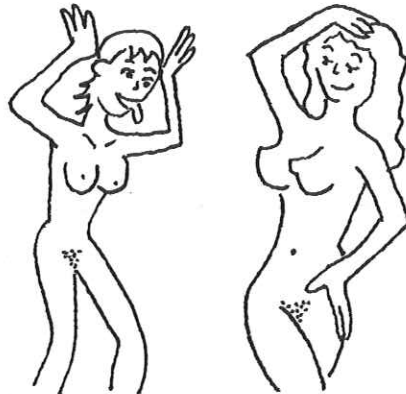
KISSING



TALKING SEXY



CARESSING



VISUAL TURN-ONS



MASTURBATING

IF YOU ENGAGE IN VAGINAL OR ANAL SEX YOU CAN BE SAFER BY USING A LATEX CONDOM AND A WATER BASED LUBE WITH NONOXYNOL 9.

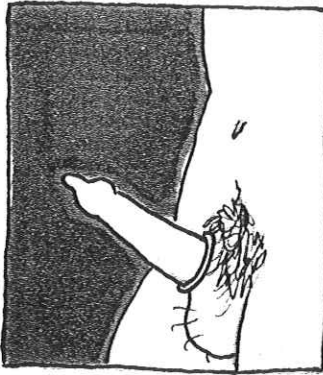


HOLD THE TIP OF THE CONDOM TO SQUEEZE OUT THE AIR, TO LEAVE ROOM FOR SEMEN WHEN YOU CUM. PUT THE CONDOM ON THE END OF THE ERECT PENIS.

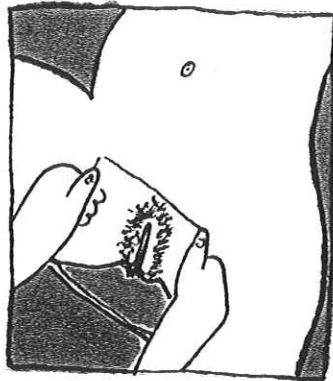


KEEP HOLDING THE TIP OF THE CONDOM, AND UNROLL IT ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE HAIR. WHEN YOU PULL OUT, HOLD THE CONDOM ON THE PENIS AS YOU PULL OUT - THEN ROLL IT OFF AND TRASH IT. (TO BE EXTRA SAFE, PULL YOUR PENIS OUT OF YOUR PARTNER BEFORE YOU CUM.)

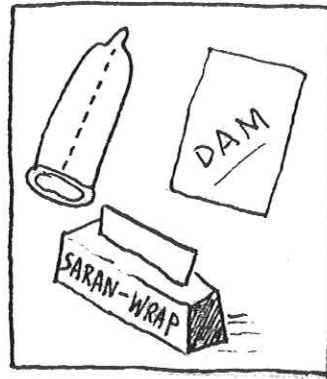
## DOING IT MOUTH TO . . .



USE A CONDOM  
FOR BLOW JOBS



USE A DENTAL DAM  
(A SQUARE OF LATEX) TO  
COVER THE VAGINA  
OR ANUS.

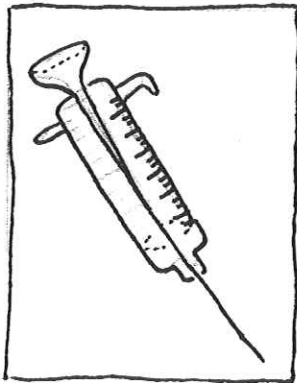


YOU CAN BUY DAMS,  
CUT OPEN A CONDOM  
OR USE REGULAR  
SARAN WRAP.  
(MICROWAVABLE SARAN  
WRAP DOESN'T WORK)

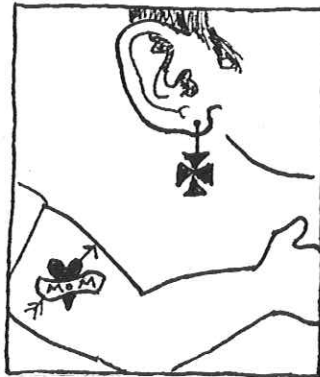


BE AWARE THAT  
YOU CAN PASS HIV  
TO YOUR BABY  
BEFORE IT'S BORN  
OR THROUGH BREAST  
FEEDING.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE IS A DANGEROUS AND DEADLY  
ACTIVITY. NOT ONLY THAT, SHARING NEEDLES IS A VERY EASY  
WAY TO CONTRACT HIV.



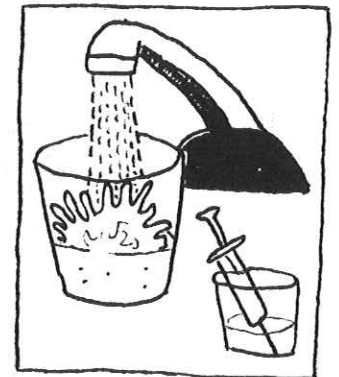
IF YOU INJECT DRUGS  
OR STEROIDS YOU  
CAN GET HIV BY  
SHARING NEEDLES  
COOKERS OR COTTON.



NEVER SHARE  
NEEDLES... EVEN  
FOR EARRINGS OR  
TATTOOS.



IF YOU INSIST ON  
SHARING NEEDLES  
AND WORKS...  
CLEAN THEM WITH  
BLEACH...



... THEN RINSE THEM  
WITH PLENTY OF WATER.  
AND, DON'T SHARE THE  
WATER EITHER.


YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT  
YOURSELF FROM AIDS!  
EDUCATE YOURSELF AND DEMAND YOUR  
RIGHT TO CONDOMS!

YELL is the Youth Education Life Line of ACT UP  
(the Aids Coalition to Unleash Power), a diverse, non-partisan  
group of individuals united in anger and committed to  
direct action to end the AIDS crisis.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<b>NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE</b>	<b>(800) 342-AIDS</b>
<b>NYC DEPT. OF HEALTH AIDS HOTLINE</b>	<b>(212) 447-8200</b>
<b>MINORITY TASK FORCE ON AIDS</b>	<b>(212) 563-8340</b>
<b>GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS</b>	<b>(212) 807-6655</b>
<b>MT. SINAI ADOLESCENT HEALTH CENTER</b>	<b>(212) 247-7214</b>
<b>H.M.I. FOR LESBIAN AND GAY YOUTH</b>	<b>(212) 674-2400</b>
<b>NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS HELPLINE</b>	<b>(718) 601-5817</b>
<b>LOWER EAST SIDE NEEDLE EXCHANGE</b>	<b>(212) 228-7734</b>
<b>ANONYMOUS TESTING (DEPT. OF HEALTH)</b>	<b>(212) 337-8200</b>
<b>SIDA HOTLINE (EN ESPANOL)</b>	<b>(800) 344-7432</b>
<b>LESBIAN AIDS PROJECT</b>	<b>(212) 337-3531</b>
<b>BELLVUE ADOLESCENT HIV/AIDS CLINIC</b>	<b>(212) 561-6333</b>
<b>ASIAN &amp; PAC. ISL. COALITION ON HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>(212) 349-3293</b>

YELL PRESENTS THE FOSTER KID'S GUIDE TO  
HIV TESTING WAS WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED  
BY TONY ARENA, WITH INVALUABLE HELP  
FROM KATE BARNHART, TOM BEER, AND YELL!

 CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE ACT UP MAILING ADDRESS:  
332 BLEEKER STREET- SUITE G5  
NEW YORK, NY, 10014

PHONE: (212) 642-5499 E-Mail : ACTUPNY@Panix.com  
Web site: <http://www.actupny.org>

Meetings Mondays 7:30 PM, Gay & Lesbian Services Center 208 W. 13th St.