

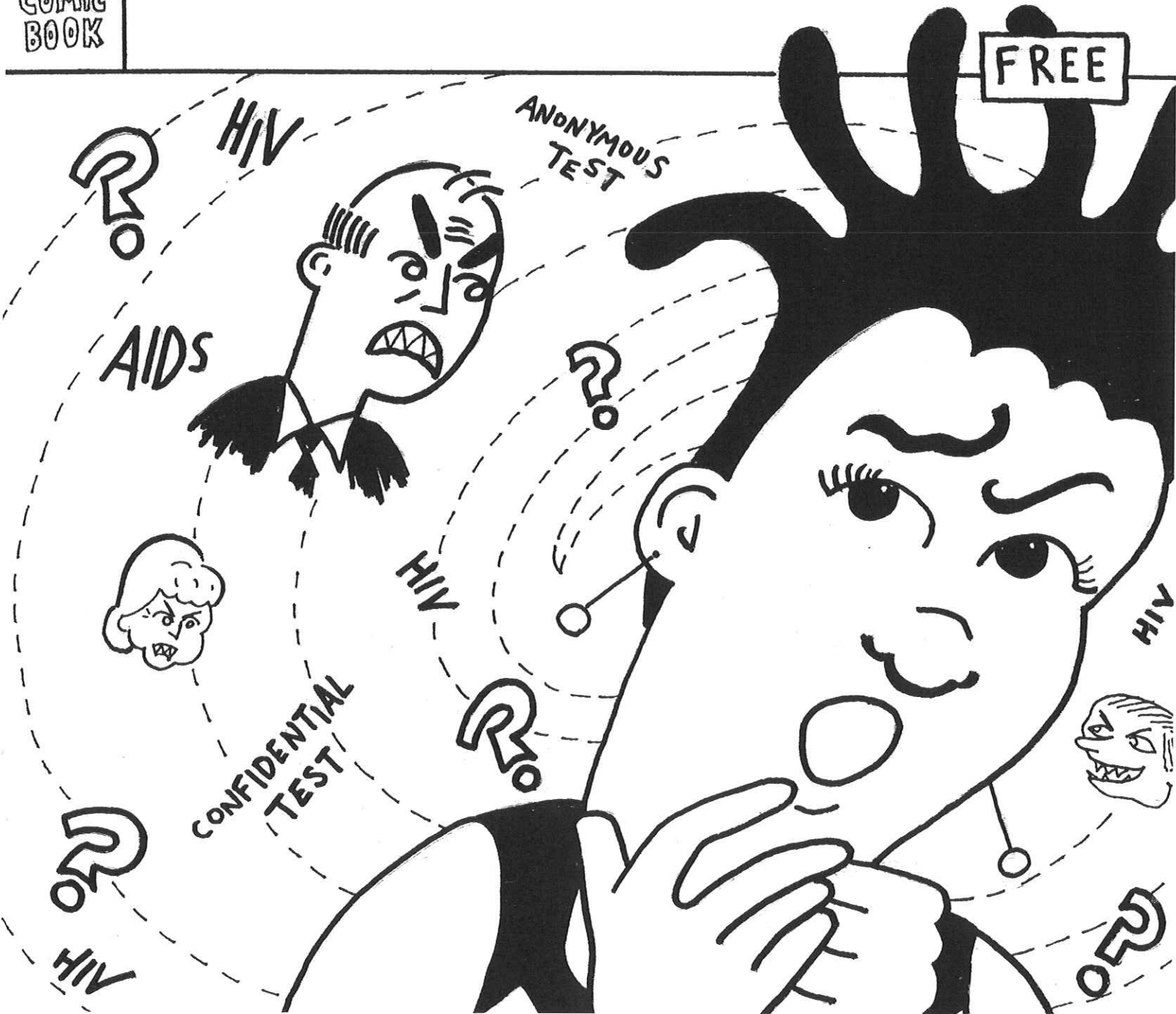
The youth education lifeline of **ACT UP**

ACT UP - 1-800-458-5231

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.

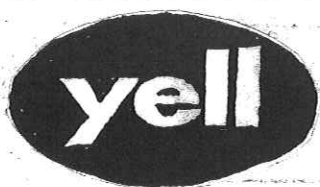
ACT UP AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER. A DIVERSE GROUP OF AIDS ACTIVISTS COMMITTED TO DIRECT ACTION TO END THE AIDS CRISIS.

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

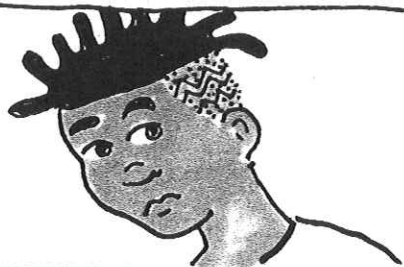
ACT UP

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.



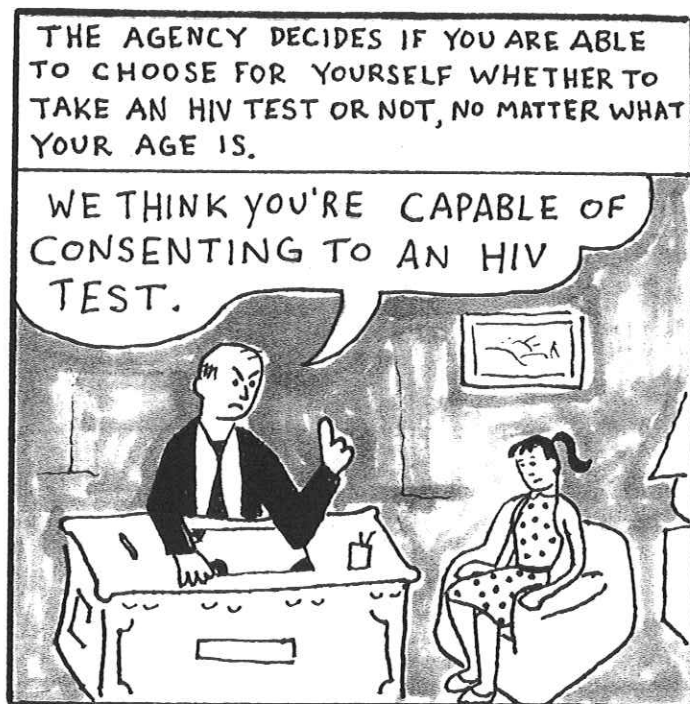
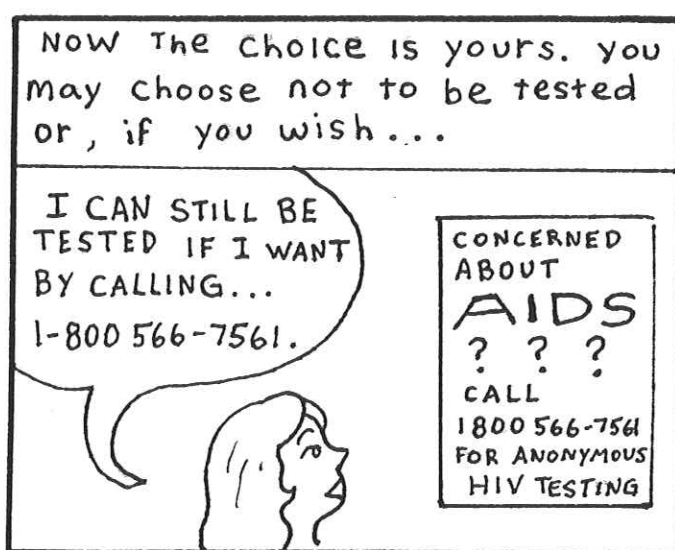
WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF ENTERING THE FOSTERCARE SYSTEM YOU WILL BE INTERVIEWED AND YOUR RISK FOR HIV WILL BE JUDGED.

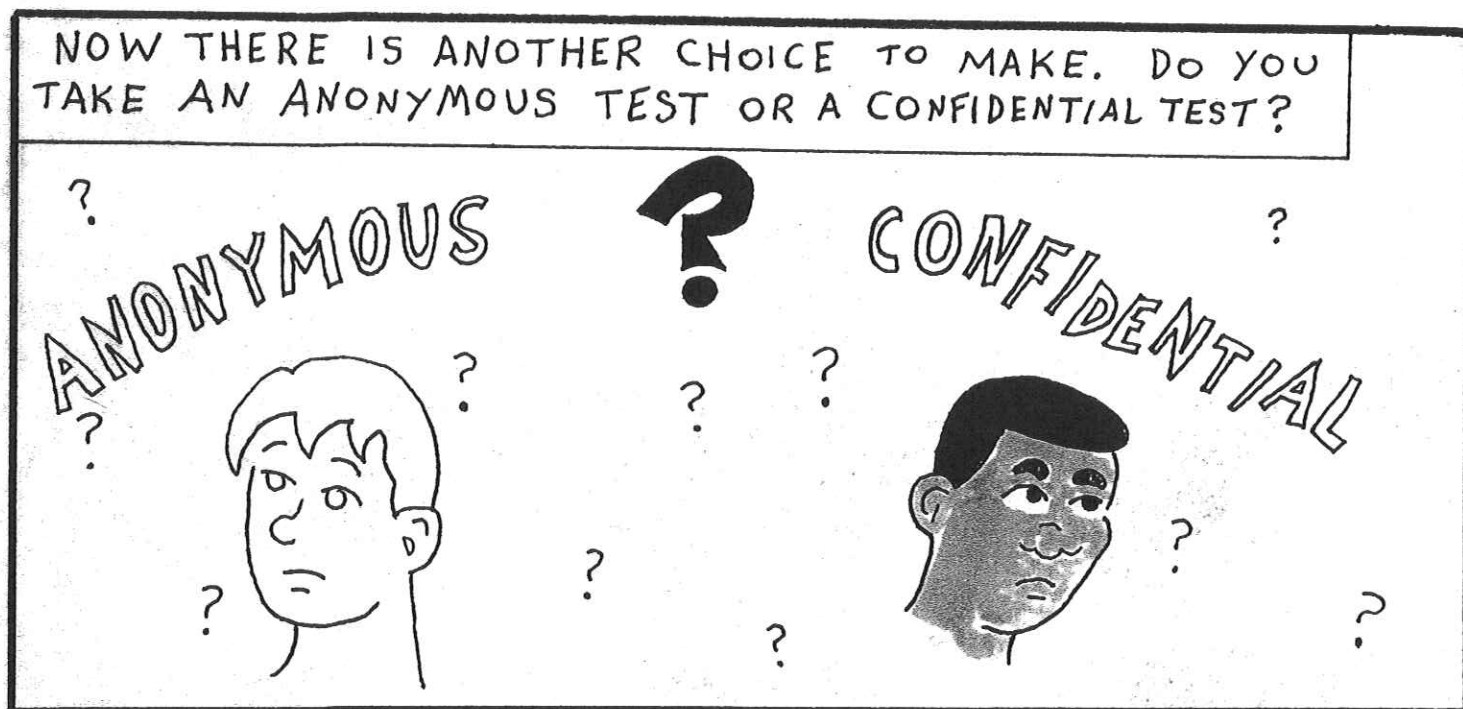
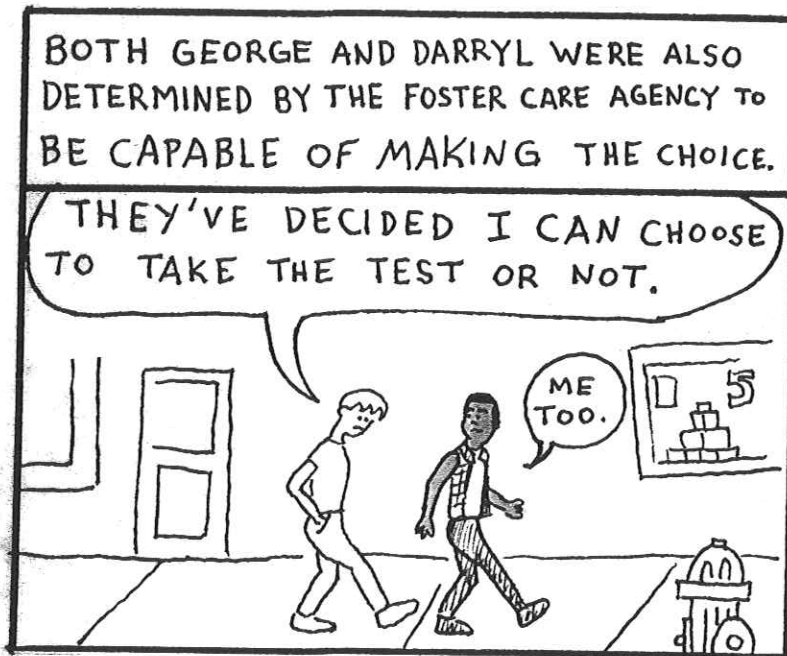
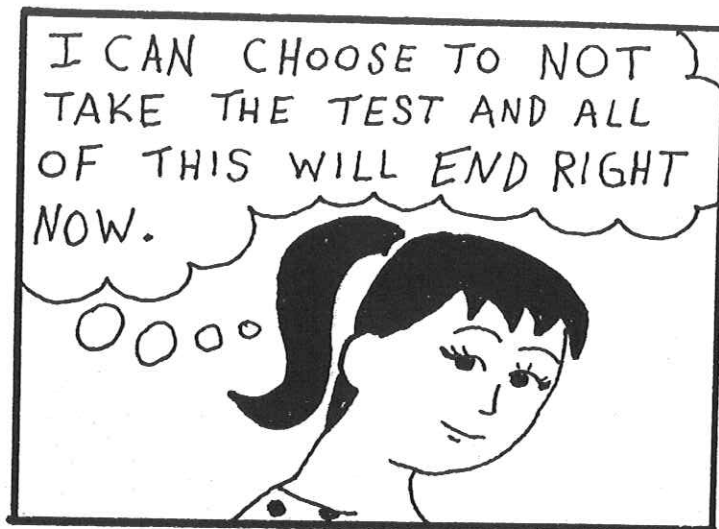


DO YOU HAVE SEX? ARE YOU GAY? DO YOU USE DRUGS? HAVE YOU EVER...



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.





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

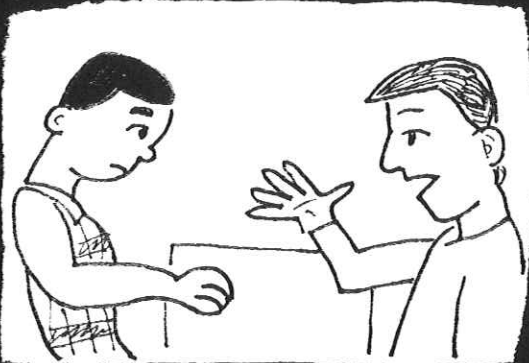


DARRYL CHOSE AN
ANONYMOUS
TEST.

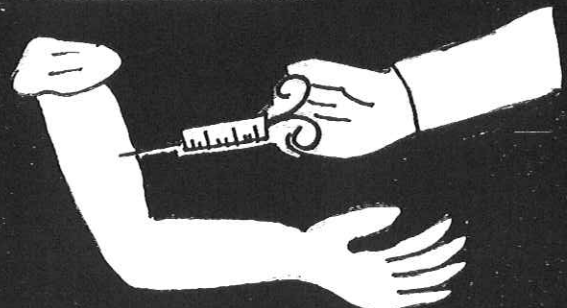
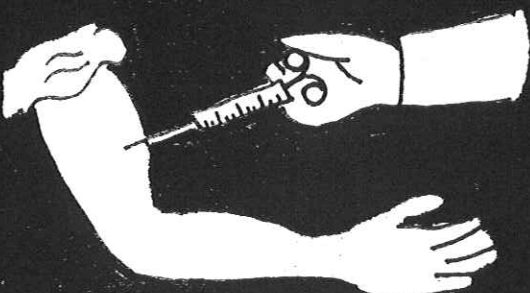


GEORGE CHOSE A
CONFIDENTIAL
TEST.

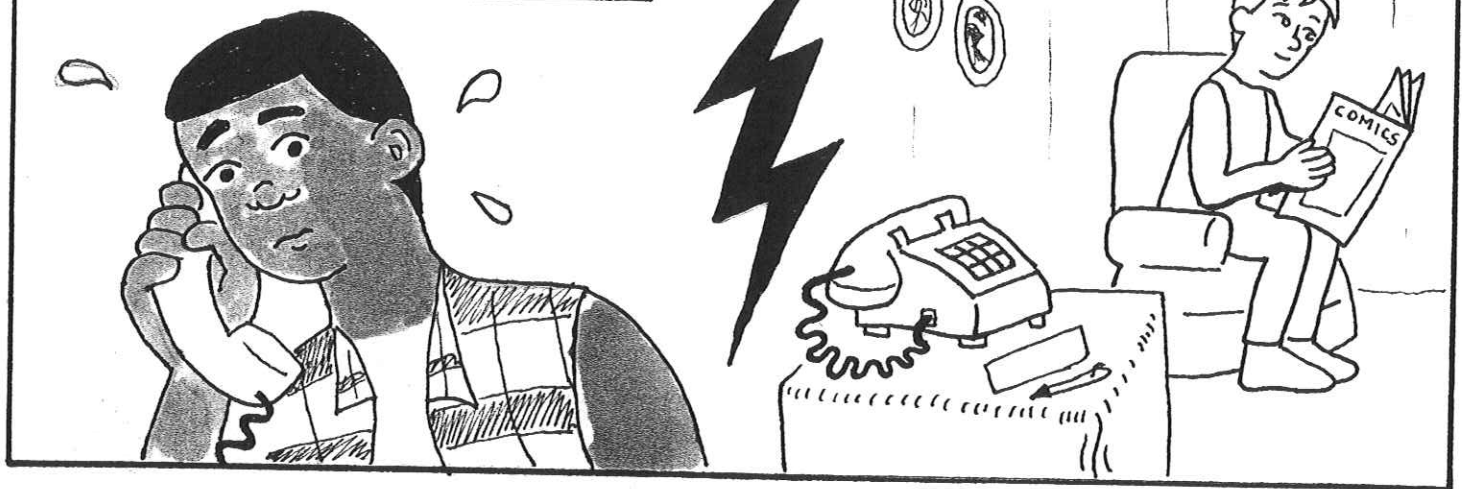
BOTH GOT PRE-TEST COUNSELING



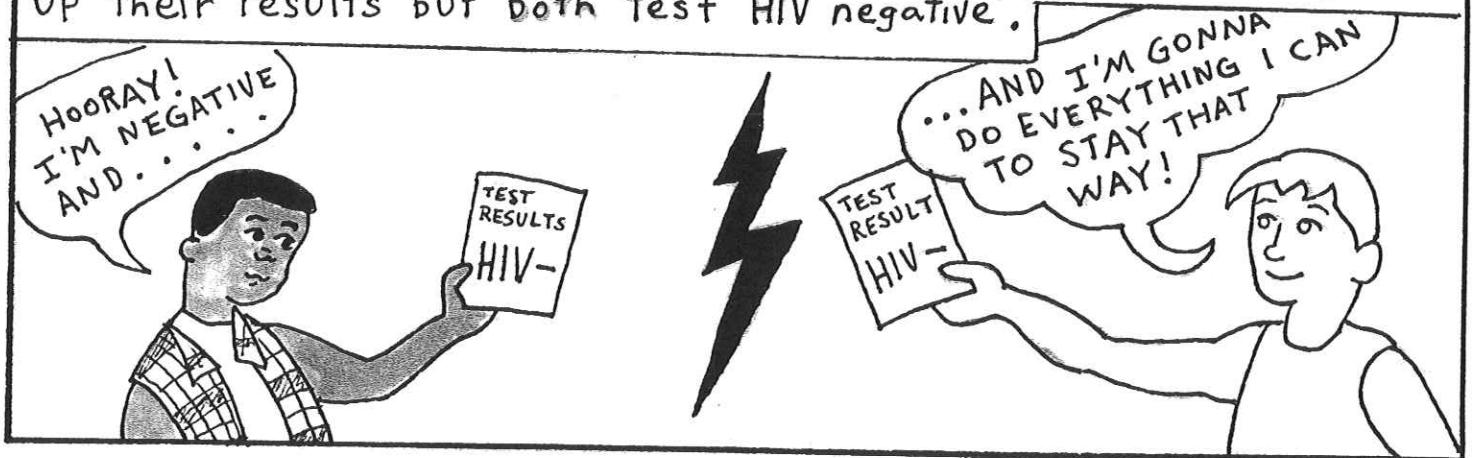
BOTH TOOK A TEST FOR HIV



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

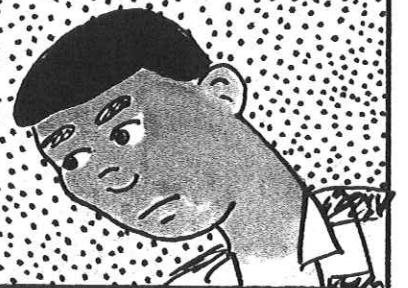


IF Neither George nor Darryl pick up their results, the story ends here. Likewise, the story ends if they do pick up their results but both test HIV negative.



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.



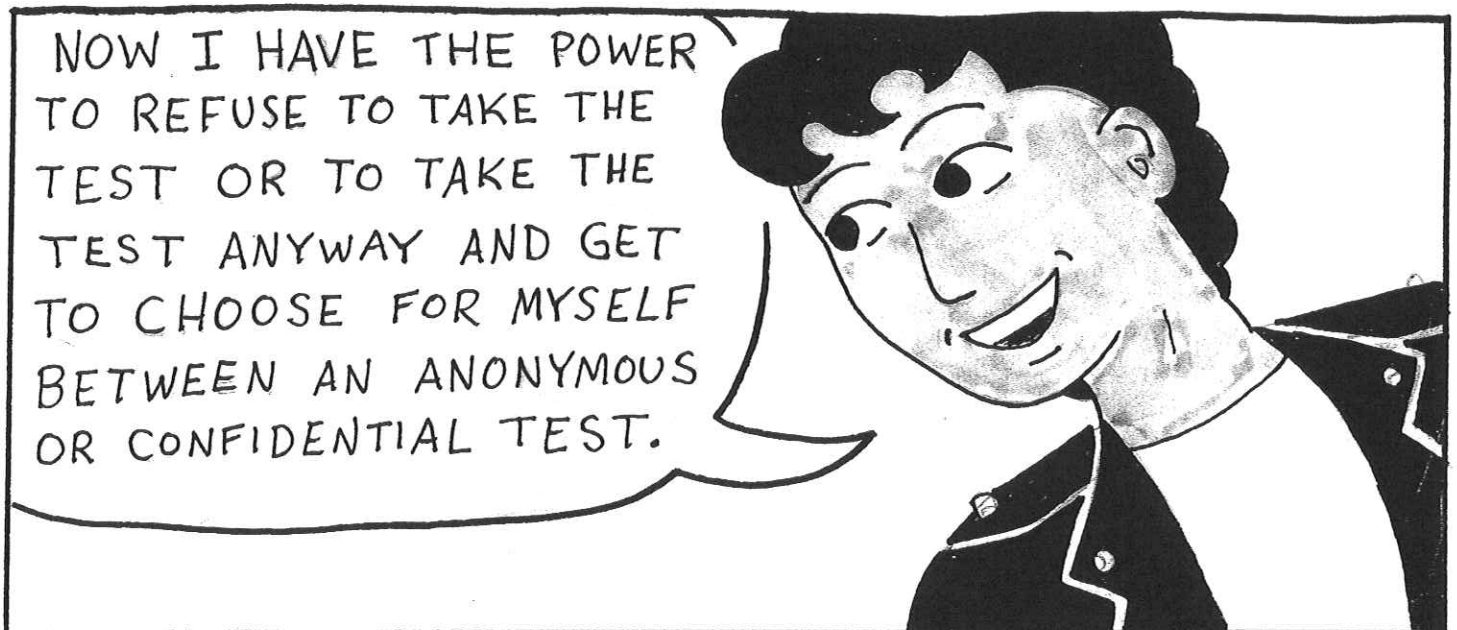
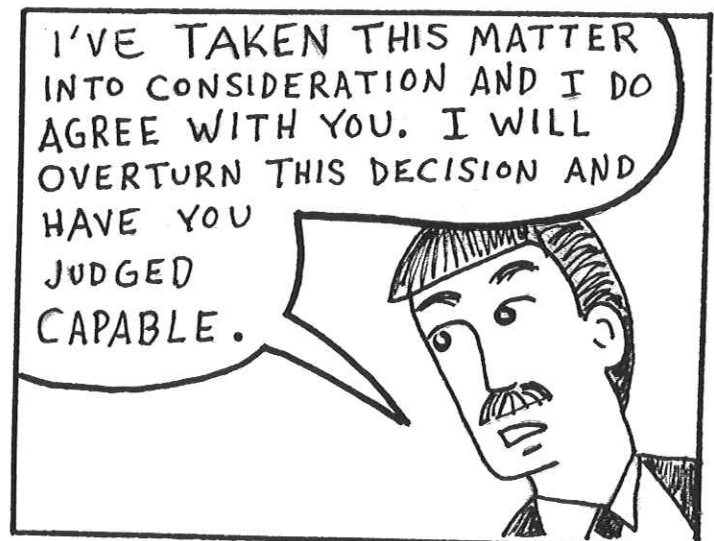
But George did not choose to take the ANONYMOUS test. George took a CONFIDENTIAL test so for him testing HIV positive left him in a very different situation.



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.

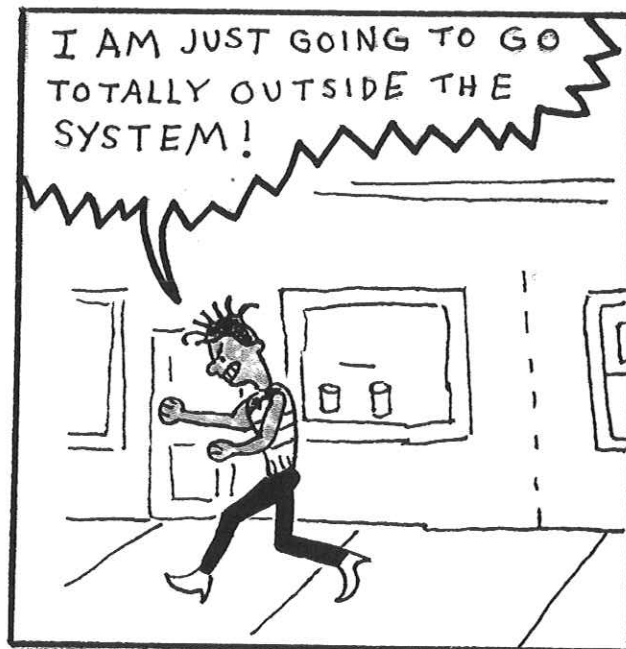
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
YOU WILL BE GIVEN A
CONFIDENTIAL TEST. IT
MEANS THAT CERTAIN
CASEWORKERS AND OR
FOSTER PARENTS WILL
HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR
TEST RESULTS.



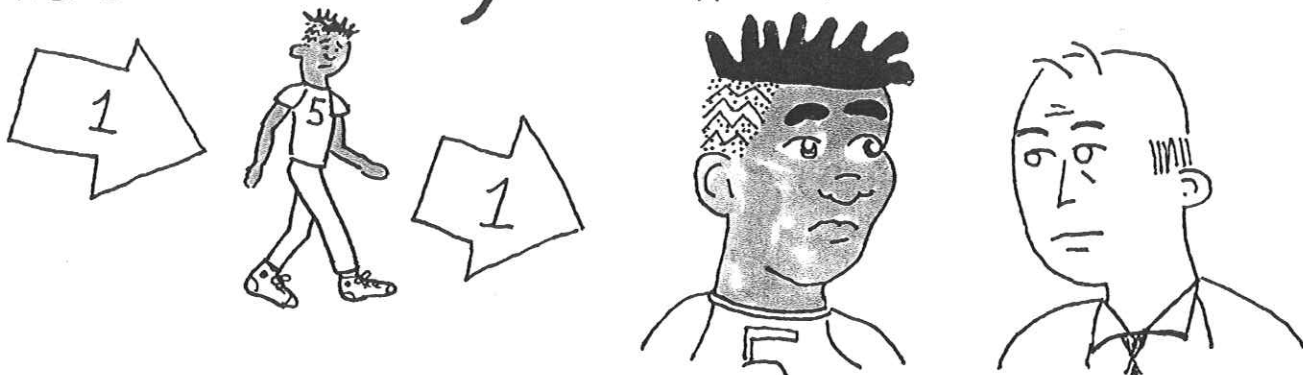
IF I TEST POSITIVE CAN
I CHOOSE THE TYPE OF
MEDICAL CARE I WANT?



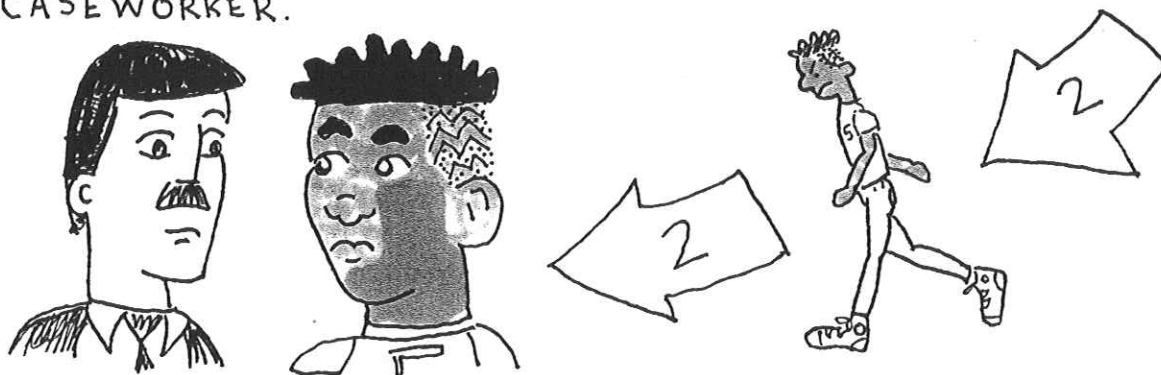
NO. THAT WILL
BE CHOSEN FOR
YOU!



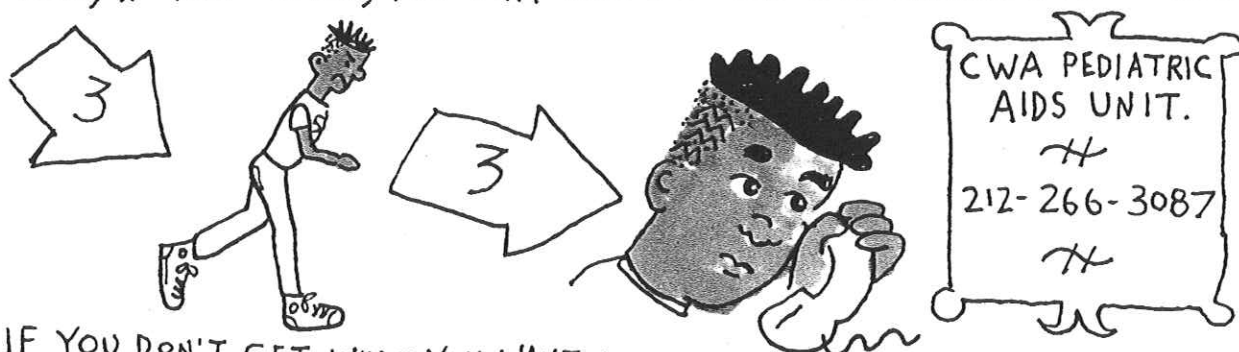
Here is a **summary** of the appeal process:



- 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.



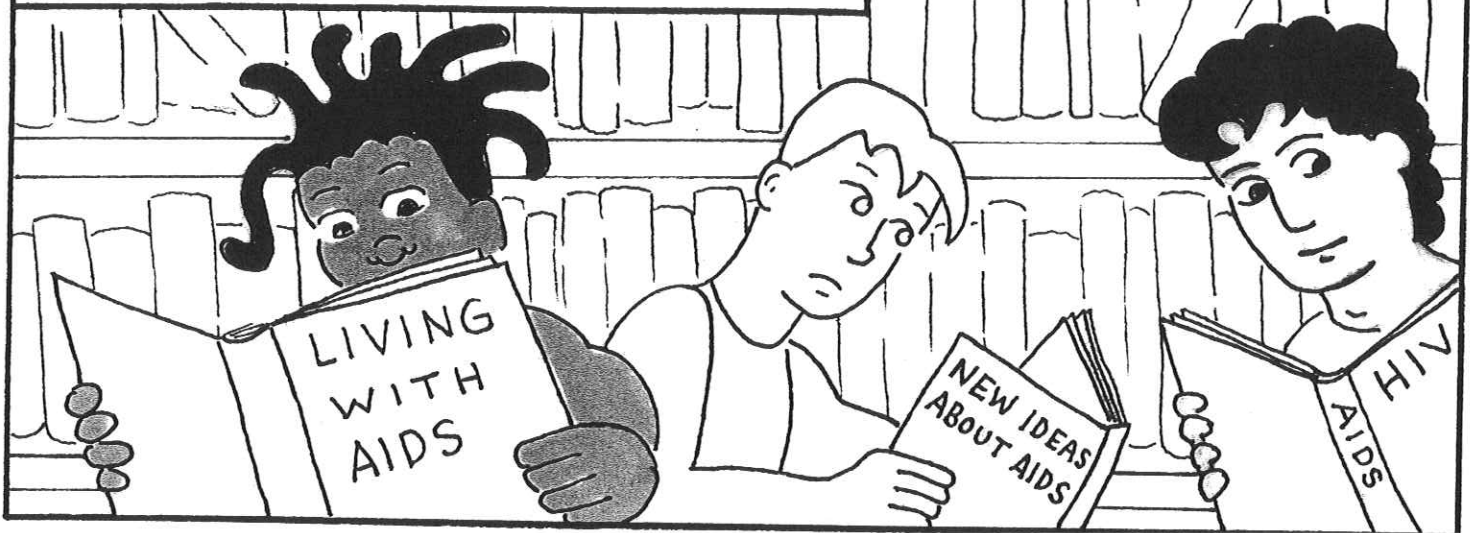
- ③ IF YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT FROM YOUR AGENCY, OR YOU'RE AFRAID TO TALK TO THEM, YOU CAN APPEAL TO CWA'S PEDIATRIC AIDS UNIT. CALL (212)-266-3087



- 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.



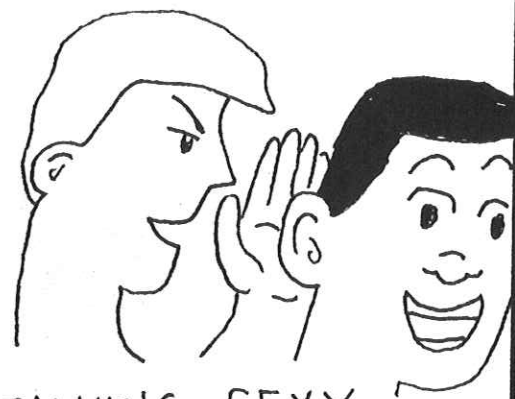
IF YOU DO HAVE SEX, THESE SAFE SEX ACTIVITIES POSE
NO RISK.



HUGGING



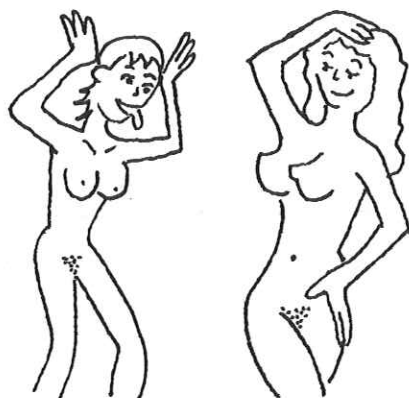
KISSING



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.

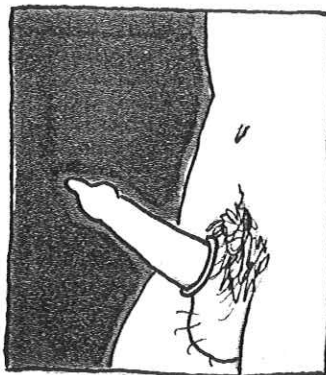


HOLD THE TIP OF
THE CONDOM TO
SQUEEZE OUT THE
AIR, TO LEAVE ROOM
FOR SEMEN WHEN
YOU CUM.
PUT THE CONDOM
ON THE END OF
THE ERECT PENIS.

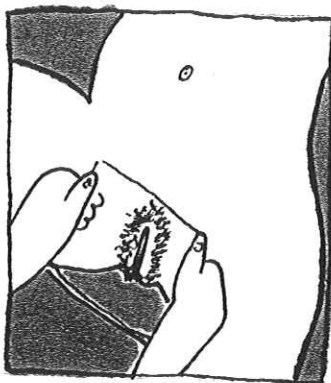


KEEP HOLDING THE
TIP OF THE CONDOM,
AND UNROLL IT ALL
THE WAY DOWN TO
THE HAIR.
WHEN YOU PULL OUT,
HOLD THE CONDOM
ON THE PENIS AS YOU
PULL OUT - THEN ROLL
IT OFF AND TRASH IT.
(TO BE EXTRA SAFE, PULL
YOUR PENIS OUT OF YOUR
PARTNER BEFORE YOU CUM.)

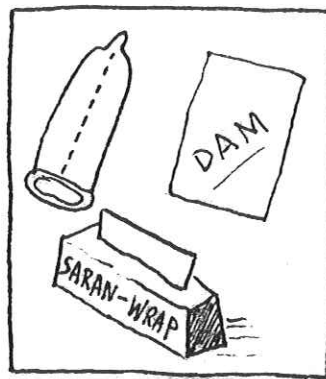
DOING IT MOUTH TO . . .



USE A CONDOM
FOR BLOW JOBS



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

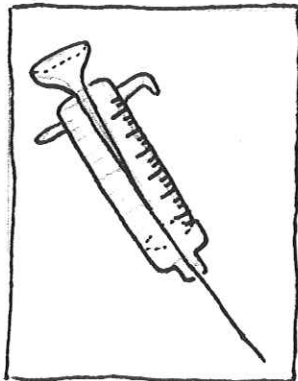


YOU CAN BUY DAMS,
CUT OPEN A CONDOM
OR USE REGULAR
SARAN WRAP.
(MICROWAVABLE SARAN
WRAP DOESN'T WORK)

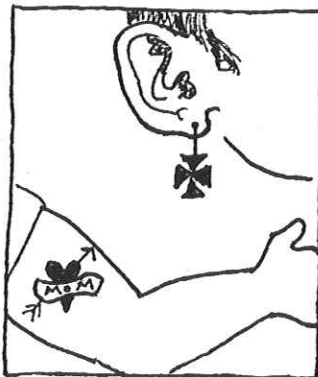


BE AWARE THAT
YOU CAN PASS HIV
TO YOUR BABY
BEFORE IT'S BORN
OR THROUGH BREAST
FEEDING.

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:

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

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.