

Hearing on Aid Cuts Disrupted in Philadelphia

LA Times
From Associated Press 4/22/89

PHILADELPHIA—Hundreds of activists upset with proposed cuts in social services spending disrupted a city budget hearing Friday, and 12 protesters were taken into custody, authorities said.

Police led the protesters from City Council chambers after Deputy Police Commissioner Thomas McGeehan asked them to move from council members' chairs so the hearing could resume.

City Solicitor Seymour Kurland said he did not know if those detained would be charged.

Mayor W. Wilson Goode last month proposed a \$2-billion budget that would cut spending for the homeless, AIDS and community organizations but bolster police and health clinic staffs. Goode was not at the hearing Friday.

400 Jam Chamber

The protest was organized by a coalition of labor and community groups. About 400 people had packed the ornate chamber gallery, carrying signs saying "AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power" and "Save City Health Services."

Testimony by city finance officials had just begun when protesters began climbing over railings and seizing microphones on members' desks to make speeches or shout slogans.

Council President Joseph C. Coleman tried to gavel the protesters into silence several times but gave up before noon and called a recess. Most of the protesters then left, but about 40 stayed.

When city officials tried to reconvene the hearing, the 12 protesters who refused to go to the part of the room set aside for the public were detained. The hearing then proceeded quietly with a limited number of people allowed to sit in the spectators' gallery.

Act Up SF

Children Used in Clinical Trial

Uproar Over AIDS Study

By David Perlman
Chronicle Science Editor

Doctors seeking ways to ward off infections in sick infants and children with AIDS have come under fire from a militant group that accuses the physicians of "killing babies."

The charges — including accusations of "genocide" — come from San Francisco members of a national organization called ACT UP — the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

After voicing their protests earlier this week to medical researchers at Children's Hospital Oakland, members of the group have planned a larger public demonstration at the University of California in San Francisco tomorrow.

Their anger is directed at a small-scale clinical trial under way at 11 medical centers around the country in an attempt to learn whether injections of gamma globulin, a component of the human immune system, can boost the immunity of the children with AIDS.

The confrontation illustrates a profound dilemma in the AIDS epidemic. Medical specialists believe that in order to test new therapies reliably and safely, it is vital to conduct the trials under what are known as randomized double-blind placebo-controlled conditions.

In this case, the placebo is albumin, an inert and harmless protein substance that has no effect at all. Half the young AIDS patients participating in the trial around the country are being injected with the gamma globulin, and half are receiving the placebo.

Neither the parents of the children nor their physicians will know until the two-year trial is complete which patients are in which group. Only the researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md., who are directing the trials, hold the

coded assignments of the young patients.

Parents are free to remove a child from the process at any time. And if a child's illness grows worse or severe infections increase, then the parents and physicians can cancel the child's participation and make sure that gamma globulin rather than the placebo is being used.

To the members of ACT UP, many of whom have AIDS, using placebos at all in testing any new AIDS therapy is unconscionable. If the therapy is known to be safe, they demand that it be available to anyone who might conceivably benefit.

But to Dr. Diane W. Wara, the pediatrician directing the gamma globulin trials throughout Northern California, that argument is not only false, but potentially dangerous. Whether gamma globulin can truly help the children, or whether its risks outweigh its benefits, can only be determined clearly and without bias by administering placebos to half the children randomly, she maintains.

"I've been using gamma globulin to protect against bacterial infections in infants and children with other immune system defects since 1973," she said in an interview, "and I do believe it can improve the quality of life for our AIDS patients who are on AZT," an AIDS drug.

"But at least half the pediatricians disagree, and we have an obligation to the children with AIDS to know whether or not it can help before we use it for all kids with AIDS," she said.

AZT Trials

Wara is also directing another trial to see whether AZT, the anti-viral AIDS drug now licensed only for adult AIDS patients, can treat the disease safely and effectively in children. After 14 months, that trial is nearly complete.

"Now we all firmly believe the AZT will prolong the life of children who are sick with AIDS," Wara said. So she and her pediatric colleagues around the country are pressuring the U.S. Food & Drug Administra-

tion to speed final approval of oral AZT for children.

She has already won a commitment from California child health officials to pay the full costs of the AZT treatment for every young child in the state who needs it and cannot afford it.

For the national gamma globulin trials in children with AIDS who are already taking AZT, nine will be at UCSF, three at Stanford, 12 at Children's Hospital Oakland, and a few more in Santa Rosa and Fresno. Several, including two at UCSF, have already been enrolled.

Slow Infusion of the Drug

All the youngsters, ranging in age from three months to 12 years, are being given AZT to treat their basic disease. And the injections, either the gamma globulin or the placebo, must be administered once a month by slow infusion into their veins — a process that requires three to five hours in the hospital each time.

Gamma globulin is a blood component that contains varied antibodies capable of fighting viruses and bacteria. The substance is pooled from the virus-free blood of many donors in order to provide as wide a variety of infection-fighting antibodies as possible.

But gamma globulin poses risks of fever, severe shock and low blood pressure, and if it does work in the AIDS patients, the children will have to receive the costly and disruptive infusions every month for the rest of their lives, according to Wara.

If placebos are not used in the trial, Wara argues, it would be impossible to know with certainty whether or not the gamma globulin was responsible for limiting or even preventing the infections and for the response to antibiotics.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation does not support the charges that ACT UP is raising against the gamma globulin trial. If the rules for the trial are aggressively followed by the physicians involved, then the use of placebos is justified, said Pat Christen, the foundation's public policy director.

Metropolitan News

The New York Times

NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT / WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1987



The New York Times/Sara Krulwich

32 Arrested at an AIDS Rally in Manhattan

Demonstrators holding hands during a moment of silence yesterday in Foley Square. A march and rally sponsored by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (Act Up) ended in a sit-in

outside the United States Court House. Police arrested 32 protesters for disorderly conduct. They were demanding increased Government involvement in the fight against AIDS.

ACT UP/SF

BAR

Breaks Up, Goes 2 Ways

9/20/90

by Dave Gilden

Like an amoeba that grows too large, ACT UP/San Francisco underwent mitosis last week.

"After the publicity surrounding our actions at the International AIDS Conference, we got hundreds of new members and increased our revenue from \$300 or \$400 per month to many thousands," said ACT UP Secretary Jeff Herwitt. "But with 300 new people attending meetings, we also had 300 new opinions about what to do."

The resulting differences caused a breakdown in ACT UP's consensus decision-making process.

"ACT UP has been basically paralyzed since the conference," Herwitt noted.

Every vote was blocked by vetoes on the part of a few members, and this created

personal animosities, which in turn led to more vetoes. Eventually, the consensus process itself became a bone of contention, Herwitt said.

At last Thursday's ACT UP meeting, attempts at reaching a temporary compromise system that would entail passage of resolutions by an 80 percent majority vote when consensus could not be reached were ultimately blocked by five members. This precipitated a walk out by 100 members interested in forming a new local ACT UP chapter, to be called ACT UP/Golden Gate.

The new group met Monday night and agreed to make decisions by a two-thirds majority vote for the time being.

Michael Wright, who led the walkout on Thursday said, "I didn't want to sit around and discuss process any longer. I wanted to get

(Continued on page 30)

ACT UP

Their campaign is apparently succeeding.

"We're not putting billboards in space. We're not even talking about it," an angry Lawson says now. "It's a very sore subject. We've literally been burned. The press can either make you or break you."

Lawson said the billboard was primarily designed to put scientific instruments in space, and his company — based in Roswell, Georgia — was only seeking a corporate sponsor.

"He's clearly talking from both sides of his mouth," said Daniel Olias Silverman, campaign director for the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) in San Francisco. "In his press release he called it a billboard. He's just trying to change the name because of public pressure."

On May 13, CALPIRG picketed Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where aerospace engineer Preston Carter reportedly helped design the project. (Carter wasn't taking phone calls, but directing them to laboratory spokesman Jeffrey Garberson, who in turn said Lawrence had nothing to do with it.)

Lawson also plays up the environmental aspect to the billboard. The biodegradable billboard would burn up on re-entry, he pointed out, releasing ozone into the atmosphere and countering ozone depletion. During orbit the billboard would also contain sensors to monitor ozone depletion.

"Claiming that these ethereal eyesores are good for the environment is a blatant case of greenwashing," said Caroline Harwood, director of Earth Day 2000. "They are nothing more than a dangerous gimmick and an attempt to blench another pristine part of nature with corporate advertising."

But Lawson believes corporate sponsorship of the space industry is the wave of the future, particularly when governments are strapped for cash. "This is already happening overseas. We are behind the times. Are we going to be last in line?"

Silverman isn't impressed. "The next thing you know the sunset will be sponsored by a soft drink."

PETER HEGARTY

Rethinking gay activism

ACT UP folds and shrinks across nation

LESS THAN A month after the largest gay rights demonstration in history in Washington, D.C., one of the most influential gay activist groups — ACT UP/D.C. — has shut down, and other chapters around the country appear to be following suit.

"We're burnt out on doing that brand of activism," said the D.C. group's best-known activist, Michael Petrelis. "There's no community support, no finances." He explained that the national political map has dramatically changed with the election of Bill Clinton and that it's time for activists to take stock of the new terrain.

"The way that ACT UP operates worked really well against the hostile [Reagan and Bush] administrations," said D.C. activist Steven Smith. "But now we've got a friendly administration. I think that it's time for the next wave — whatever that may be. We need some fresh ideas, and we need some new ways of doing things."

continued on next page

Welsh in the dog house

Joanne Welsh, the cop who charged Chief Tony Ribera with sexual harassment, wants to return to duty after three months on stress leave. But she says the department is trying to punish her by offering a choice of three paperwork assignments, one of them in the records room, known as a dumping ground for cops who have had their guns taken away. "It's a well-known punitive work assignment," she says. But Deputy City Attorney Dan Maguire says doctors who examined Welsh suggested she return to limited duty. Making matters worse for Welsh, the city is trying to wriggle out of paying her \$10,000 in disability, arguing that the media hype Welsh whipped up about her sexual harassment charges — not her work environment — is the true source of her stress.

A new wave of unionism is hitting S.F. But its members are not blue, white or pink-collar — they are collarless: T-shirt wearing, college-educated activists, artists and intellectuals who work at nonprofits, environmental groups, book stores and the like. The May 21 vote of employees at Green Apple Books to join the United Food and Commercial Workers Union follows the trail already blazed by Cody's Books, the Exploratorium, the Sierra Club, UC grad students and more. UFCW organizer Bill Fiore explains: "Absolutely there's an upsurge in union activity. These are educated people who see there aren't many jobs to move to, so the only way to make their jobs better is to organize where they work." The issues driving the new unionism, however, sound familiar: unfair terminations, too few benefits and demeaning treatment. "It may sound corny, but it's all about dignity," says Fiore.

Mayor Jordan's speech to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation on May 13 is coming under fire from Supe Angela Alioto. Jordan proudly told the crowd that the city's AIDS budget had been spared from cuts necessary to reduce the deficit. "If I make any cuts in AIDS programs Wendy will lock me out of the house," the mayor said. A week later, the Health Department surprised the foundation by sending a letter saying that \$97,000 was being cut from its media programs. Moreover, Jordan's planned \$56 million cut out of the Health Department budget will mean a big reduction in services for many AIDS patients, particularly at S.F. General, which treats about 3,500 outpatients with AIDS each month. Dr. Paul Volberding, director of the AIDS program at General, is less than happy with the cuts. "These patients need X-rays, scans and other tests more than other patients," he says. "With the cuts, they won't get the necessary drugs, and the number of beds for them will be reduced." Ironically, the reduction in services will mean higher costs for the city as patients will be forced to crowd into emergency rooms to receive primary care, adds Volberding.

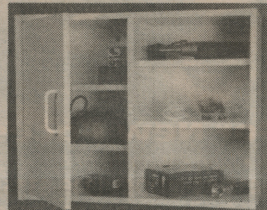
Prez Clinton's apparent flop on banning nuclear testing has peace activists hopping mad. In his 1992 campaign booklet "Putting People First," Clinton wrote that "to stop weapons of mass destruction from spreading [we should] take the lead in negotiating a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty through a phased approach." But in a report to Congress delivered May 6, Clinton advocated the resumption of testing by September 1993. There has been no testing since September 1992 under the current moratorium, which requires the President to negotiate a comprehensive ban by 1996. But a resumption in tests in the U.S. would probably prompt Russia and France to follow suit and thus kill any chances of a ban being signed by 1996.

CONTRIBUTORS: GEORGE COTHRAN, VINCE BIELSKI, DAVID MORGENSTERN



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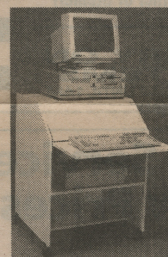
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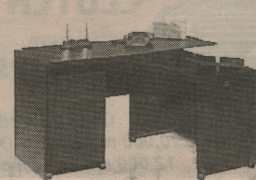
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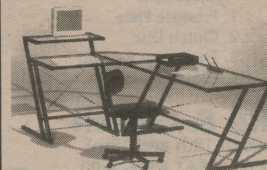
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REAR WINDOW

continued from previous page

Most ACT UP chapters nationwide have either folded or grown sluggish following years of confrontational street politics that were the hallmark of AIDS and gay activism. Larry Kramer, the New York playwright and founding patriarch of ACT UP, admitted in an interview that all is not well within the activist group. "Some ACT UP chapters, including L.A., New York, San Francisco and others, have declined in activity," he said. But he blames the demise of the D.C. chapter on political apathy. "ACT UP never really took root in D.C., mainly because the community is not an activist community," he said.

A few chapters, like ACT UP/Philadelphia, have pretty much abandoned the streets for more cerebral goals, like sending alternative treatment advocates to the 9th International AIDS Conference in Berlin later this year. Others have had major drops in membership, like ACT UP/New York, which has fallen from nearly a thousand to only about 150 members.

Ironically, some activists say their very success has partly contributed to the

hull in more militant tactics. Virg Parks of ACT UP/Golden Gate in San Francisco said, "All those demonstrations happened [at the 1990 6th International AIDS Conference in San Francisco] because they wouldn't let us in. And now, as a kind of counterpoint to that, I'm speaking at the 9th International AIDS Conference because they invited me to. That's becoming much more of a common occurrence," Parks continued. "We don't have to scream and yell and march and block the street and get our heads bashed by the police and get arrested. We don't have to do that any more because the system is willing to work with us."

But there is a real danger of rampant apathy, Parks adds, in this growing insider status. Clinton, for instance, has fallen short on such campaign promises as lifting the HIV immigration restrictions and naming an AIDS czar to coordinate federal programs to battle the epidemic.

"AIDS activists and gay civil rights activists were being incredibly naive if we thought that Bill Clinton was going to be our hero," said Parks.

KEITH CLARK

Recycling scam

Plastics end up overseas in landfills

A NEW STUDY by Greenpeace says that about half of the plastic containers that Americans recycle actually end up in overseas landfills, mostly in Asia.

The remainder, the study says, is melted down to produce cheap products like urinal shields and shoe soles, which end up in landfills in a matter of months. "People think that they are doing the right thing by setting this stuff out on the sidewalk to be picked up," said Greenpeace spokesman Bill Walker. "But that's a complete myth."

Between September 1992 and February 1993, more than 30,000 tons of plastic waste passed through West Coast ports on the way to countries like China, the Philippines and Guatemala, according to the study.

In an effort to shut down this global pipeline of plastic waste, the environmental group is targeting waste collection companies that do the shipping. Referring to the nation's largest waste collector, Ann Leonard of Greenpeace said, "Recycle America should change its name to Dump on China because it's not recycling and it's not in America."

On April 28, several Greenpeace activists chained themselves to railcar-sized containers at the port of Long Beach and blocked the loading of 20 tons of plastic waste onto ships headed for Southeast Asia.

But Gary Petersen, director of environmental affairs at Recycle America, said the real villains are plastic resin producers and container manufacturers. They refuse to use recycled plastic in the making of new products. "The plastics industry needs to get its act together," Petersen said.

However, he did admit that the bottom-line profit motive of waste collectors also drives the shipping of plastic waste overseas. With so much plastic refuse clogging the market here, he said, waste collection companies have to sell plastics at extremely low prices.

Petersen also rebuffed claims by Greenpeace that much of the waste shipped overseas ends up in landfills. "While in certain circumstances people may be doing stupid things, the people we deal with are reputable. They don't do those things that Greenpeace says."

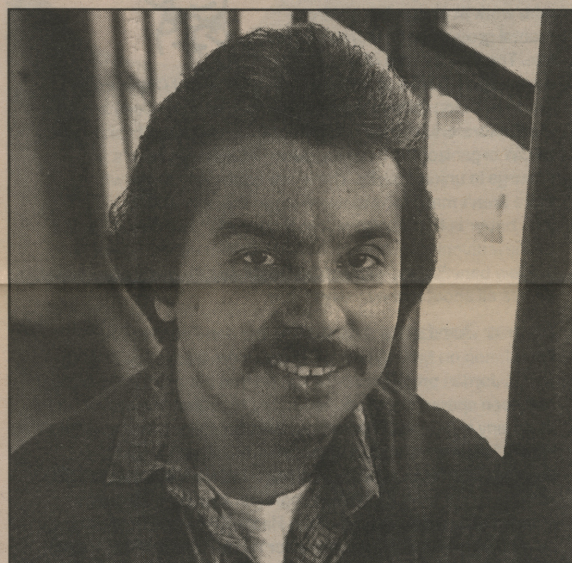
The problem of overseas dumping is severe enough to have gained the attention of Carol Browner, head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Greenpeace has met with Browner's deputies, and report back that they are amenable to a ban or some limitations on the exportation of plastic waste. But, sources say, Bush holdovers in the EPA are still blocking restrictions, and environmentalists will have to wait until those officials are purged by Clinton.

The recycling controversy begs a bigger question: Should companies stop producing plastic once and for all?

Petersen contends that plastics are here to stay, and that the emissions created in producing and recycling plastic products are "minuscule."

Walker of Greenpeace sees it differently. "This stuff is bad start to finish," he said. "It emits carcinogens when you produce it, it creates fodder for landfill after it's created, and it emits more toxic substances when you try to re-process it. The only environmentally sound thing to do is to stop using plastic."

GEORGE COTHRAN



Mops of Wrath Abel Coronado, one of many migrant workers still being exploited in California, is suing his former janitorial firm.

Minimum wage slaves

Suit: migrants swindled out of their rights

WHEN ABEL CORONADO, a Guatemalan immigrant, was first offered a job as a movie theater janitor, he was given a contract to sign before beginning his assignment. Eager for work, Coronado signed the form without realizing it precluded him from basic employee rights to overtime pay and a salary above minimum wage.

According to lawyers who last week filed a lawsuit on his behalf, Coronado's case is representative of what has become a very common form of migrant worker exploitation in California.

The lawsuit, filed May 20 in Santa Clara County Superior Court, claims that Lucero Service Co., the janitorial firm that hired Coronado, made him sign on as an independent contractor rather than as an employee. As a result, the company, which cleans more than 30 theaters in the Bay Area (including the cavernous Kabuki 8), allegedly vio-

lated state labor laws by often paying Coronado less than the minimum wage and never giving him overtime for working seven-day weeks of up to 50 hours, said the suit.

"Increasingly, employers conveniently and arbitrarily classify employees as independent contractors to deny workers minimum wage, overtime, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance," said José Sánchez, an attorney at the San Francisco Employment Law Center.

The lawsuit also alleges that Coronado, a supervisor, was wrongfully fired after he refused to carry out a manager's order to increase the workload of the janitors without increasing their compensation.

Harry Braten, president of Lucero Service Co., was unavailable for comment.

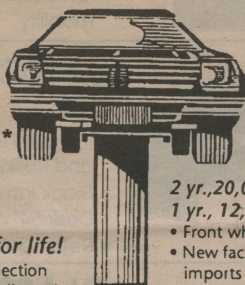
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Why Does the State Abuse Women With AIDS?

By Carol Tice

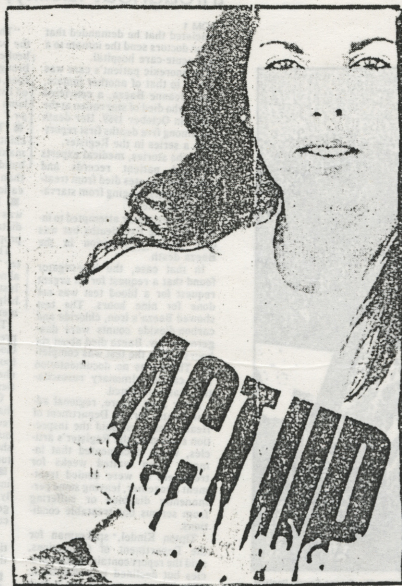
Though the carpet is worn in Mary Lucey's rented Venice home and the couch sports a few holes, her smile indicates the place is her idea of paradise. Her lover, Nancy, emerges from a back room to ask if she needs anything. A pair of big shaggy dogs lounge in the sunny entryway.

Only the stacks of protest literature and the tired look around Lucey's eyes break the homey mood. As she talks about her life, it becomes clear why this simple domestic scene gives her such pleasure. Addicted to heroin at eighteen, she eventually landed her in the California Institution for Women at Frontera for drug use. She was paroled in 1988.

Last year, a one-night stand with her ex-husband left her pregnant. Six months into the pregnancy, she became ill and learned she had AIDS. One year ago, she had the baby and gave it up for adoption. (The baby has tested negative.)

Later she was returned to Frontera for a parole violation. "I got high and I got caught," Lucey, now thirty-two frankly admits. This time, as a woman with AIDS, her incarceration in Frontera's Walker A — the segregated ward for all of California's women inmates with HIV disease — was a new and nightmarish experience. (The ACLU has filed a lawsuit alleging a stay in Walker A constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.) Though she was released in a week, what happened in Walker A is never far from her mind.

Determined to help the women who remain on the ward, Lucey became active in the women's caucus of ACT-UP/LA (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Los Angeles).



Mary Lucey

What happened when you were returned to Frontera?

I had my AZT on me, so they sent a medical technician-administrator over to interview me to go into Walker A. He took my AZT away and said, "You're not going to get this back until you see a doctor." I was out in a week and I never saw a doctor in that time. I was really shocked that they took my AZT away from me — how could they jeopardize my health like that? But then I got into Walker A and I was totally amazed at what was happening in there.

What were the conditions?

All these women were in there that were either HIV-positive, ARC [AIDS Related Complex], or AIDS. The people who were just positive were put in with people that were full-blown AIDS. The staff very seldom would touch anybody in the unit. I saw a lot of sick women that weren't being treated for simple things that can be treated. You had to have so many T-cells in order for the doctor to give you AZT. There were women having babies, and these women weren't getting six-week checkups. One woman had a yeast infection so bad she couldn't get out of bed. From what I hear, she still hasn't gotten treatment. So I'm surprised she's still alive.

There's no AIDS doctor. The infirmary does not have a

license to treat people. So if somebody's dehydrated, they can't even give them an I.V. They can't give injections. They're basically equipped to give out aspirin — that's the end of it. Also, when you go in front of the parole board, you have to wear a mask or you don't get paroled.

Other inmates are allowed Family Living Unit (FLU) visits, where their kids and spouses can stay over for two nights. But in Walker A, if you have children under eighteen, you cannot have a FLU visit with them. You cannot have a FLU visit with your spouse, either. A lot of these women in Walker A are doing a lot of time and they're not going to ever get out alive. And for them not to be able to spend any quality time with their children is really bad. They can come into the visiting [area] and see them, but visiting isn't private. So it's cruel.

I think if my parole officer thought I deserved to be in there, she would have left me there. I think she felt like I slipped, but it's no reason to give somebody a death sentence.

What sort of relationships develop among the women on Walker A?

There's a lot of tension. Also, there's no education for these women. They're not even going to hand you a pamphlet. You're in the dark. They have an AIDS counselor there — the women call her The Grim Reaper, because she has no compassion. She has that thing where she doesn't want to touch them. She hands you an AIDS maintenance book and says, "Here's the book, you're going to die, there's nothing more I can tell you." When I spoke to her, she knew less about the disease than most of the women did.

What problems have you been hearing about since you left?

My friend Judy Cagle called me up and said, "We have absolutely no heat. We haven't had heat this year. Women are getting sicker and sicker." You only get one blanket, and it's an army blanket. So a lot of the inmates were getting dressed in their clothes and sleeping in the same bed to stay warm. And they were being threatened that they would add six months of time for homosexual activities. Some of them don't have six more months. And all they were doing was trying to keep warm. I got through to the program director, and he went over and got the heat turned on.

I don't understand why these women are segregated. Even if they're just HIV positive, they're segregated from the rest of the prison, and that's another reason why women don't come forward and get tested. Because they're scared of being put in Walker A.

So you think there are women in the general prison population that are HIV-positive?

With as much needle exchange as is going on out there? Oh, definitely. There's roughly 2,600 women in Frontera. I'd say at least 500 are positive. And there's about 30 women in Walker A. Most women are terrified of going into Walker A, because there's death all around. It's real hard, if you're dying in there.

What's your life like now?

My life now — being an activist is a full-time job. Every day of my life has more quality time now. I really appreciate my freedom. I have a very good relationship. I'm really happy with my life. I thought that being positive, oh, it's downhill from here, but it's not like that. I like living a lot better now. I've been feeling real healthy, and I quit smoking.

Honestly, my support program is Nancy and ACT-UP, the women's caucus. We take every precaution to protect Nancy. We do practice safe sex — we're very cautious. She tests periodically and the tests always come back negative, thank God. But we don't put ourselves in a high-risk category. I think a lot of people don't tell their partners that they're positive, and I think you're risking somebody else's life, and you're playing God, and it's not right.

■ Due to the lack of response from prison officials, ACT-UP has created a new committee to address this issue. The Prisoners With AIDS Advocacy Committee United (PWAAACU) meets every other Sunday in Venice. For information, call the ACT-UP hotline, (213) 654-1639

L.A. Reader — April '91

Care for prisoners with AIDS protested



John Kimball, right, shouts at police during a protest Friday in Frontera demanding better care of AIDS patients at the women's prison there. Ana Venera/The Orange County Register

Report: Conditions vile at prison

Inspector says Frontera filthy, medical staff largely indifferent

By James V. Grimaldi
The Orange County Register

Doctors and nurses at the women's state prison in Frontera provide dangerously indifferent medical care in facilities that are filthy, antiquated, understaffed

and poorly organized, the state health department said in a report released Friday.

The inspection report by the California Institution for Women, the nation's largest women's prison, said the medical facilities are so disorganized that ill in-

mates are not provided comprehensive plans to treat their ailments or track their illnesses.

The announced inspection on Sept. 19-20 by the Department of Health Services was prompted by a series of articles in The Orange County Register that detailed a longstanding pattern of neglect by an ill-equipped and often indifferent medical staff.

The Department of Corrections agreed Friday to write a plan to

correct the myriad of problems found during the inspection, said Paul Keller, regional health services administrator.

The Department of Health Services evaluator found a paralyzed inmate with multiple sclerosis defecating in her bed because there was no one to help her to the bathroom.

In another case, the investigator found an anorexic inmate so

Please see FRONTERA/26

FRONTERA: Problems exist throughout facility, report says

FROM 1
emaciated that he demanded that prison doctors send the inmate to a local acute-care hospital.

The anorexic patient's care was similar to that of another inmate, Joyce Joanne Baeza, a convicted forger who died of starvation at the prison in October 1989. Her death was among five deaths first reported in a series in the Register.

For the stories, medical experts reviewed patient records and found five inmates died from starvation ailments ranging from starvation to diabetes.

The investigator attempted to investigate the five deaths but was only given information in the Baeza death.

In that case, the investigator found that a request for an urgent request for a blood test was not done for nine hours. The test showed Baeza's iron, chloride and carbon-dioxide counts were dangerously low. Baeza died about six hours before the test was completed. There was no documentation that cardio-pulmonary resuscitation was performed.

Mary Jane Moore, regional administrator for the Department of Health Services, said the inspection confirmed the Register's articles, which documented that inmates often waited weeks for treatment or were denied treatment altogether, leaving some permanently disabled or suffering from serious but treatable conditions.

Tipton Kindel, spokesman for the Department of Corrections, said the report contained inaccuracies but declined to name them. "We have recognized for a long time that there are conditions that need correcting" at Frontera, Kindel said.

The Department of Health Services' inspection had to be announced in advance so the investigator could gain permission to enter the prison, Moore said.

The report noted a wide range of problems from shoddy medical care to faulty plumbing and possible asbestos contamination.

The report said:

■ The psychiatric unit, which houses 94 inmates, was "found to be crowded, dark. There was a strong urine odor. The floors were cluttered with trash and debris. The floors were stained and there was water damage to the walls.

"The inmates complained about the backup of the sewer, showers broken, cold water, cold food, flies, cockroach infestation, crowded living conditions, medical problems ignored and a lack of therapy."

■ The 17 acutely disturbed psychiatric inmates housed in the maximum-security Greystone building receive no therapy other than use of psychotropic medication.

■ Food-preparation equipment was unlawfully unsanitary, and the dietary kitchen was being used improperly.

The dietary kitchen health center "is not to evaluate the nutritional needs of the high-risk inmates." Instead, the dietary kitchen was helping kitchen workers plan menus.

There were no therapeutic diets prescribed for patients with high-blood pressure, stomach problems, food intolerances, diabetes and chewing and swallowing difficulties.

One inmate who was receiving dialysis two times a week did not receive the proper diet. Another inmate was unable to eat because she was missing her lower dentures.

■ The heating and air-conditioning system does not work correctly. In the summer, the infirmary gets as hot as 90 degrees and as cold as 48 degrees in the winter.

The ventilation system malfunctioned, endangering the control of the spread of infection.

■ Fire hazards can be found throughout the medical facilities.

Parts of the infirmary lack fire doors, adequate fire-alarm systems, working exit signs and smoke detectors. The generator cannot supply emergency lighting. Wiring was exposed and electrical plug covers were broken.

Oxygen cylinders were stored unsecured outside the infirmary in a room cluttered with trash and debris.

■ Unsatisfactory conditions were found throughout the infirmary.

Room vents were either missing or caked with thick layers of dirt and grime. Clean and soiled linens were stored in the same closet.

■ Infectious waste was stored in a large receptacle without a tight-fitting lid. Flies lighted around the container. Flies landed on staff members, patients, supplies and food.

4 patients' records evaluated

The Orange County Register

A Department of Health Services investigator reviewed the records of four inmates who were patients in the infirmary of the California Institution for Women. Here is the evaluator's analysis:

■ Inmate was admitted to the infirmary for anorexia nervosa. She weighed 87 pounds.

Lab work ordered two days earlier was not on her health record. When found, the lab work revealed abnormal symptoms. There was no nursing assessment, no care plan. The only documentation of food intake was Sept. 18 when a quarter of her dinner was consumed. Staff said she was refusing food. Her blood pressure was 80/40.

The evaluator determined that the patient be transferred to an outside acute-care hospital.

■ An inmate on dialysis twice a week was ordered to restrict her fluid intake, but there was no documentation that it was monitored. "They just eyeball it," a nurse told the evaluator.

There was no dialysis diet prescribed.

There was no patient-care plan, nursing assessment or dietary assessment.

A lab report was requested but had not been returned to her chart. When it was found, they revealed abnormal symptoms.

■ An inmate was admitted with diagnosis of a stroke, seizures and Parkinson's disease.

Her records did not contain a nursing assessment, patient-care plan or dietary assessment.

She had lost her lower dentures and had not received new dentures. Therefore she was unable to eat.

A breast cancer patient, she was upset that her chemotherapy had been discontinued when she was admitted in July 1990.

■ Inmate admitted with multiple sclerosis was found to have no nursing assessment, patient-care plan or dietary assessment. The inmate, who is paralyzed below the waist, was not given a physical evaluation or a therapist for upper extremity weakness.

Also, she was given no devices to help her move. She has requested a trapeze bar to help her pull up and turn from side to side.

She must defecate in her bed because there is no one to help her.

She is given a bath once a week, and it is the only time she gets out of bed.

[ACT UP/SF]

SF WEEKLY

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Seeking Art World Success In S.F.

By Glen Helfand

SO THE HELP of David Lynch hasn't pushed Chris Isaak into the stratosphere of superstardom — that doesn't mean you can't live in the Bay Area, be hip and hit it big. MC Hammer got huge here (and moved). Red-hot bands Digital Underground and Faith No More have major label deals and still live here. Jellyfish, that band that floated up from nowhere, is exploiting their psychedelic hometown roots to land themselves on network television. We live in a mecca of free thinking and political correctness where stardom is a nasty word — yet we all hover around it.

In the visual arts, success is an even more slippery concept. Contemporary art is often perceived as highbrow and elitist; artists' importance within the local cultural framework is often given short shrift. At its most underground, the local art community is populated with many of the same black-clad hipsters you'd find at many a SOMA nightclub. But these days, glamorous superstars of the arts, people like Keith Haring, Cindy Sherman, Robert Mapplethorpe or Jeff Koons, are harder to find in San Francisco.

Drawing crowds made up of every cool person in town, Mark Pauline blurs the lines between sculpture and rock and roll with his Survival Research Laboratories industrial-strength performance events. You'd be hard-pressed to find that same group of people at a painting exhibition.

San Francisco is a bit confused when it comes to its art.
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Cops On Trial

Police Commission finally opens Dolores Huerta case (p. 6)

Work Sucks

But here's how to get a job (p. 10)

Poor Righteous Teachers

Trio on a positive bandwagon (p. 18)

Change Your Life

Call TeleClub today (p. 47)

ACT UP Blows Up

It had come to symbolize gay power in S.F. It was the fastest growing political group in town.

Last week, it split into two camps.

Is the rupture permanent?

Michele DeRanleau reports.

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Waiyde Palmer
(left), Andrea
Stanley (top
right), Adele
Morrison

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Finding the perfect job

continued from previous page

won't be competing against five million other wannabes to shovel toxic waste for minimum wage. Employment agencies also probably have a better idea what jobs you are qualified to perform. While you might envision yourself as mayor of Hillsborough, they might see you more as the data entry type, and you'll probably get better hours.

Since I first entered the job market shortly after birth, I have held jobs in all ends of the spectrum. One of the first lessons I learned is that the boredom quotient directly relates to the salary. The more idiotic and brainless a job is, the more money you will be given. I once made \$10 an hour to run spelling checks on news copy. I thought I was going to be arrested for theft.

Then there are jobs that you essentially perform for free because they are "status jobs," the kind of jobs you can brag about at parties and high school reunions, the kind of jobs that everyone views as symbols of success, where it doesn't matter if you're living on \$1.63 a month because you are now a member of a recognizable elite. It's a tough trade-off, although I would opt for the paycheck least likely to bounce in most cases, unless the status job is too seductive to resist.

The best job I ever had was as a summer camp counselor. Most people scoff at the thought, but look at the

facts: Three months of free room and board in a nice location, unlimited use of the camp Ford Escort, weekly paychecks that translate directly into disposable income, and a perfect tan by the end of the summer. And, best of all, there are zero (0) job responsibilities. None! You get paid to do nothing but sing a few rounds of "Down by the Riverside" over fish sticks and banana pudding.

Any time an actual summer camp approaches you with a problem, like "I'm homesick," "I'm in love with the camp dog," or "I've broken out in a strange yellow rash," I would just throw them a pack of Marlboros or a pack of Dr. Pepper and they go away happy as clams at high tide! And you become such a popular counselor that the campers give you all the goodies that arrive in the mail from home: the chocolate chip cookies, the peanut brittle, Hershey Bars, salt water taffy.... There are few jobs that offer such a magnitude of benefits—personal freedom for three months but isn't that a small price to pay for unlimited junk food, a great tan and hundred personal slaves?

The worst job I've held involved assembly line and corrugated cardboard. I won't elaborate, except to say this job was a good argument against drug testing.

If I could have any job, I would choose Tom Wolfe's. Has he ever broken a sweat? Does he have to use public transportation for two hours a day to get to work by 8 am? Does he have to haggle with his employer to get his name included on the company dental plan? No. Tom Wolfe never even seems to work. Every couple of years he takes a new book out and his suit never wrinkles. That is the ideal job.

ACT UP Blows Up

continued from page 9

Women, they argue, also face economic barriers such as insurance requirements, and are discriminated against by an official definition of AIDS that excludes HIV symptoms that show up only in women (such as chronic yeast infections).

AT ITS BEST, ACT UP acted as a publicity machine, bringing attention to specific problems, framing demands and getting them articulated through the media. In the process, the group embarrassed the system into change. ACT UP's various committees investigated delays, proposed actions to the general body and acted as publicists, lobbyists, investigative reporters and merchandisers.

A week before the split, Dobson was predicting the organization's demise, but was confident that his allies would help create a new group to pick up the slack. "I have to believe what we're doing is going to work," he said. "If we continue with the status quo, our friends are going to die. We are going to lose as many people in the next two or three years as in the last 10." Dobson himself has a T-cell count of less than 50, the sign of a severely compromised immune system.

"The key for us is not to get bogged down in political realities," Dobson says. "We can't look at what we've been able to get; we have to be able to get what we need. We need treatment and education, but not at the expense of other services."

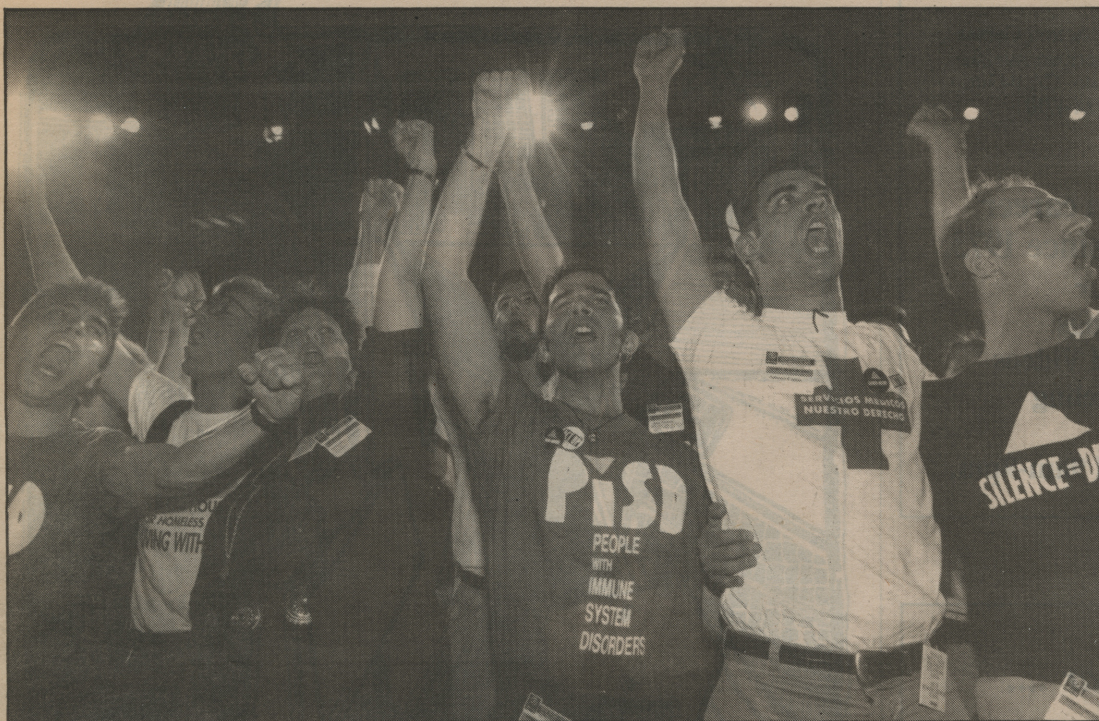
Adele Morrison, a supporter of the political approach, also recognized the eventual split. "As the crisis shifts and (AIDS) starts to impact more in

people of color communities, ACT UP has had to look at how it wants to deal with issues," Morrison says. She says that as a black woman, she must work harder to increase visibility of and attention to her issues. "The focus is still on the people in power who aren't doing anything," she says. "But we have to be able to articulate facts—how AIDS impacts all affected groups. The [treatment faction] has to be willing to put their butts on the line when it's not them. That's what it means to be an ally."

For three years, ACT UP has been the soul, if not the heart, of politics in San Francisco's gay community. Alternately criticized and praised by its own community, the organization has pushed science to work faster and has brought attention to the epidemic before most people were personally affected by it.

They ushered in a new wave of street activism when Reagan's policies and the AIDS epidemic had nearly halted the momentum of the gay liberation movement. But there was always a current of mistrust between the treatment faction and the young radicals who swelled ACT UP's ranks. As the radicals raised underlying political issues, they brought differences to the surface, differences one organization could no longer contain.

Members on both sides of the split say they are committed to the fight against AIDS, and that the two groups will probably function more efficiently away from one another. It's a political divorce where the participants will probably continue to live together—sometimes more harmoniously than others times. As Wade Palmer points out, "We can't let our forward momentum get bogged down in age-old political debates. We need to continue to challenge whoever needs to be challenged, but we need to quit pointing fingers at each other. We are all part of the solution. These people are my life rafts." ■



Passion Play The united front presented by ACT UP at the International Conference on AIDS in June has dissolved into two factions—equally determined to fight the AIDS battle as they see fit.

ACT UP Blows Up

Politics splits San Francisco's AIDS activist movement into two camps — but both sides agree to continue the struggle

By Michele De Ranleau

ALATE SUMMER breeze cooled the evening air, but inside the Women's Building on Thursday, September 13, the exasperation of 200 members of ACT UP/San Francisco caused room temperature to climb as they braced for a fight — not the fight against AIDS, but a fight over how best to fight the disease.

Voices cracked with frustration as the group tried to hammer out a compromise. One man sobbed visibly as he expressed his concern that the organization he had devoted so much effort to was reaching the breaking point. When he finished, half the people in the room clapped. "Once again, do not clap," warned facilitator Eric Chiasullo, raising his hand for emphasis. "We are not supporting positions now, we are simply hearing objections to the proposal on the floor." Chiasullo tried to keep the discussion flowing smoothly. But almost every objection was accompanied by whispered asides, snapping fingers to indicate approval, or loud groans of disgust.

It has been three months since the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, when members and supporters of ACT UP, angry at government inaction against the epidemic, had their dissatisfaction beamed into American living rooms during six steady days of protest. Since the conference, the local chapter of the organization has tripled in size.

It was a phenomenal rate of growth that, at first, was welcomed by the leather-jacketed activists who had ushered the group through its infancy. But it didn't take long for many of them to realize that the organization would not be able to accommodate the internal political and procedural differences that accompany growth.

ACT UP had become, in the words of one member, "a quagmire of stagnation." More often than not, the organization's consensus style of decision-making — a process that required unanimity before any action could be taken — had led to increasing indecision. The rift between two emerging factions was widening.

On one side were the pragmatists who wanted the organization to focus its attention

solely on treatment issues, in the hope of expediting the clinical use of medications that show some promise against AIDS, but are not fully tested. On the other side were the more idealistic members, who wanted to continue to take the fight against AIDS to the streets in an effort to catalyze a political solution appropriate to the demands of the epidemic.

At the meeting, representatives from both factions met in what turned out to be a heated discussion, to try to iron out a compromise. But as time went by, more objections than solutions were raised, more amendments were proposed and more voices were raised against each other. Toward the end of the session, only a small group remained.

When the general body reconvened, the debate on whether to abandon decision-making by consensus in favor of a less unwieldy system continued. Several people agreed to put aside their personal objections to the proposal for the "good of the group." Following a few minutes of discussion, Chiasullo called for the final step in the consensus process. "Do we have any blocks?"

Three hands were quickly raised, once again paralyzing the group. Muttered curses accompanied the scraping of metal chairs across the wooden floor as half the members stood up and walked out of the room.

ACT UP/San Francisco, the most vocal and visible local political organization in the fight against AIDS, had split up.

THE AIDS COALITION to Unleash Power (ACT UP) began as a political expression of gay men's very personal feelings of powerlessness as they realized that they were being left to die while the government and media acted as though the best way to deal with the epidemic was to ignore it. It was a movement born of frustration — not ideology.

Wayde Palmer was there at the beginning — one of those who "[wasn't] afraid to fight and had nothing to lose" by signing the AIDS Action Pledge in 1986. He was also one of the 30 or so members of the pledge group who proposed changing their name to the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power in January 1988. In doing so, they joined a growing national coalition

dedicated to direct action for the purpose of bringing public attention to the epidemic.

"We were a group of people who discovered that no matter how far we had come or how many small successes we had gotten, graves were still being dug and people were still being written off by the government," Palmer recalls.

Palmer, who is 28, remembers his parents' involvement in the anti-Vietnam war movement of the '60s, and likes to compare his political activity to that of his family. "The difference between the anti-war movement and us is that

"Some people equate the fight against AIDS with revolution with a capital R. The people out here expect the pandemic . . . to end before capitalism does."

**John Sinclair
ACT UP**

they had pictures on TV every day to keep their anger alive," Palmer says. "We have memories and old photographs. Ours is a silent war."

For Palmer and others, ACT UP was a way to transform grief into anger and anger into power. "If you're vocal and loud, people have to deal with you," says Adele Morrison. "ACT UP is a big gang. We have our look, we have our colors, but people have to realize that our image is not all of ACT UP."

Indeed, the image of ACT UP that television has popularized — the boisterous young rebels who shouted down Health and Human Services

Secretary Louis Sullivan at the AIDS conference in June, and the indignant protestors who shut down the Golden Gate Bridge in a well-publicized sit-in last year — is only half the story. Behind the raised fists, day-glo hair and angry rhetoric, is a sophisticated medical agenda and intimate knowledge of the AIDS bureaucracy.

As ACT UP raised questions about science and the government's response to the epidemic, "we were increasingly looked at as having the answers," says Jesse Dobson, who knows as much about the internal workings of the clinical trial system for new medical drugs as most researchers.

A columnist for the *Sentinel*, a San Francisco-based gay weekly, Dobson emerged as a leader in ACT UP's treatment issues caucus, and sits on an advisory group of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), which oversees AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health. He is one of a handful of activists who have penetrated the AIDS bureaucracy and work inside the system — backed up by the power of the street shakers.

IT WAS THE increasing willingness on the part of people like Dobson to work within the system that precipitated the breakup of the San Francisco chapter. As some ACT UP members began to work with scientists and researchers, other members worried that the treatment issues caucus was selling out for superficial changes — changes that would only benefit those who could afford the exorbitant price of medical treatment.

"If ACT UP's goal is to end the epidemic, it's not going to end by getting health care and treatment to middle-class white gay men," protested Rebecca Hensler, a member of ACT UP's women's caucus and an advocate of the rights of sex workers, pointing out that the incidence of AIDS among people of color and continues to grow at alarming rates. "It's not enough to make treatment available; it has to be available to everyone."

Members of the treatment issues committee agree that the widespread availability of medication is a justifiable goal, but say that there has to be a treatment before anyone can get it. "Everybody is here because they want to fight AIDS, but not everybody has the same idea of how to go about it," said John Sinclair immediately after ACT UP's breakup. "Some people equate the fight against AIDS with revolution with a capital R. The people out here expect the pandemic . . . to end before capitalism does."

Members of the treatment faction maintain that what they refer to as "enforced political correctness" within ACT UP only delays the ultimate goal. "It's a matter of trust," Dobson said two weeks before the breakup. "The people on the inside [of the AIDS bureaucracy] have to avoid selling out, while the people outside have to act responsibly so they don't undermine the people inside."

Dobson and other local ACT UP members worked with representatives from the Federal Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and pharmaceutical companies to design and implement a "parallel track" testing mechanism, which allows promising drugs to be released to people who are unable to enroll in trials, even before the trials are completed.

Jerry Althoff is one who is personally benefiting from the parallel track release of the promising new antiviral drug called DDI. "If it weren't for these people, the activist community," Althoff says, "I'm one of the ones who would be — up the creek right now."

After specifically targeted ACT UP protests, and ensuing media coverage, the FDA streamlined the drug approval process; Burroughs Wellcome, the pharmaceutical giant that holds the patent on AZT, lowered the price of the drug 20 percent on two occasions; and researchers ended the use of placebos in some infant trials, a practice some say allowed infants with AIDS to die without receiving any kind of treatment. The ACTG established a "patient constituency working group" to give people with AIDS a say in the policies that affect their lives, since the clinical trials are often the only access to the latest advances in medical technology.

But opponents of the insider approach say this technology only benefits those who have access to it. In inner-city communities where the virus is spreading through needle-sharing and unsafe sex, they explain that many do not realize they are at risk. They lack basic health information, not to mention information on clinical trials or even HIV testing.

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