

FREE

COMICS

AIDS NEWS

P.O.C.A.A.N.





VJ



Delores



Ms. Terry



Kenji



Mort

A LETTER TO OUR READERS

In the best of all possible worlds, you would not have to live with the fear of nuclear holocaust, deadly diseases, poverty, hatred or injustice. In the best of all possible worlds, there would always be bread on the table, love in our homes, and difference would be cause for celebration.

But we do not live in such a world. We are faced with many problems and the solutions are never easy nor simple.

AIDS affects all of our lives and will continue to do so into the next decade, either because we know someone who has it, or because we fear getting it ourselves. We have few weapons against the disease, but those we have are mighty: *compassion, information, and education.*

This comic book is designed for you and your friends to get information about AIDS, to use in educating each other and the adults in your lives. It is crucial that you have the facts. Only you can decide for yourself what to do. We all need the ability to respond to this disease without hysteria and blaming, to work together to care for people with AIDS, and to protect ourselves and our loved ones from this fatal disease. We hope this book will help.

Be safe —

People of Color Against AIDS Network
Leadership Tomorrow

Many thanks are due:

-to P. Catlin Fullwood, Kazas Jones, Jeff Sakuma and Karen Hartfield of POCAAN, and Annette Cleaves, Mary Ann Ekman, Tina Narr, Bill Covington, Loralee Wenger, Howard S. Wright III and Elaine Ko of Leadership Tomorrow for guiding the creation of this comic.

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-to the American Friends Service Committee for its ongoing support which has made the work of POCAAN possible.

-to the Norcliffe Foundation and the Bishop Foundation for providing the funding for the completion of this project.

-to the kids at Indian Heritage High and the Orion Center for taking the time to make this a better comic book.

-to Leonard Rifas, the cartoonist, without whom this book never would have happened.



Rosalba



Chuy



Kim



Kat

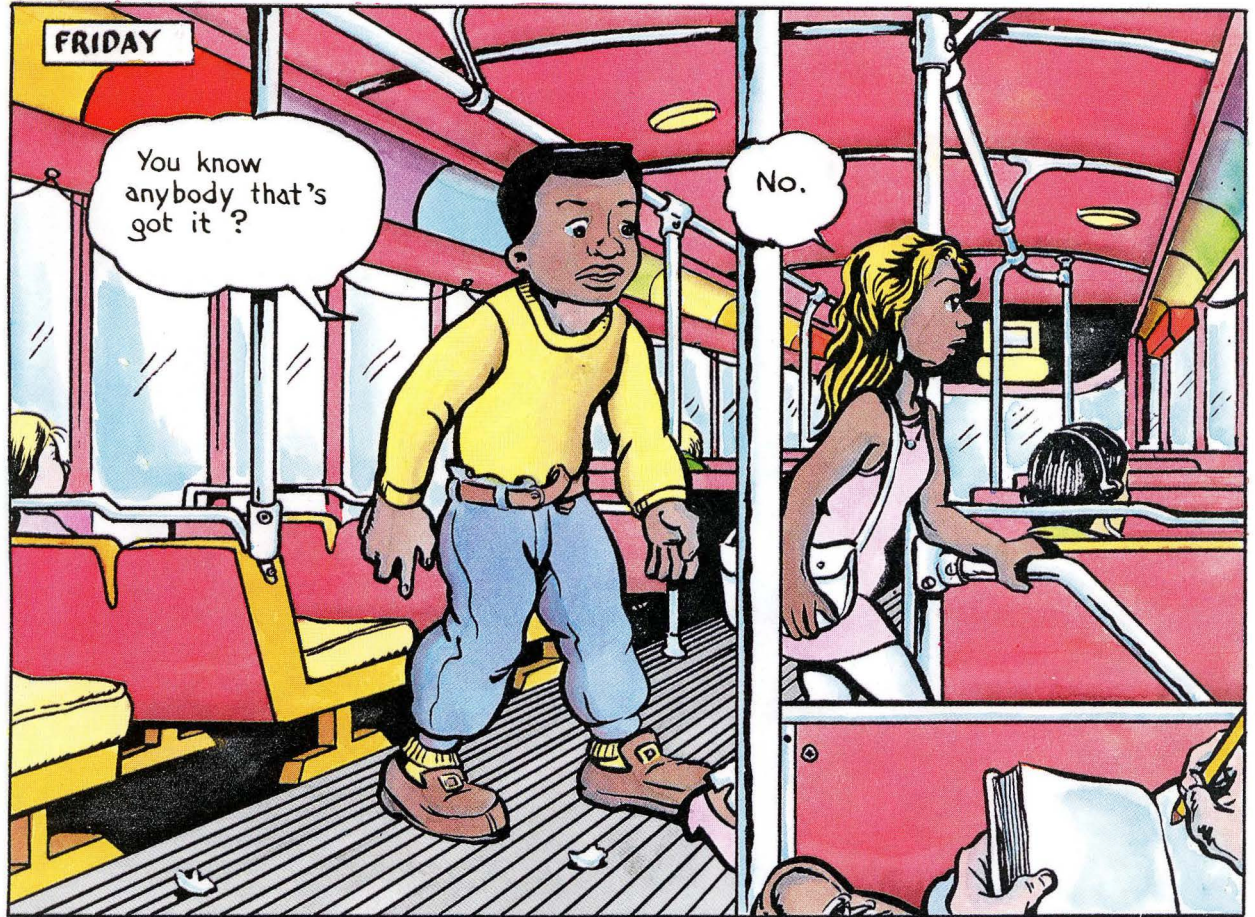


Jeff

FRIDAY

You know anybody that's got it?

No.



But I heard that the guy who owns Bob's Restaurant has got it.

yeah?

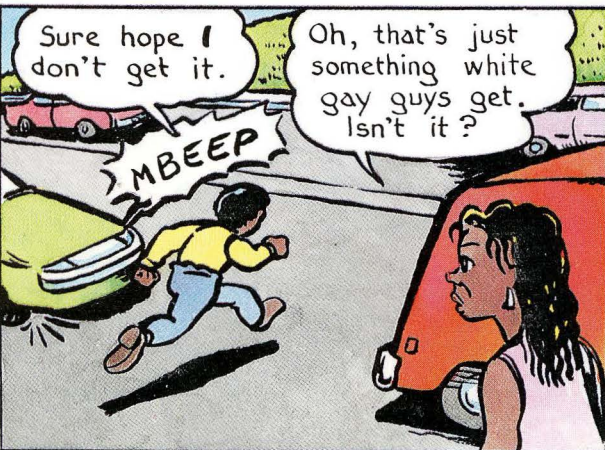


My cousin's friend has got it.

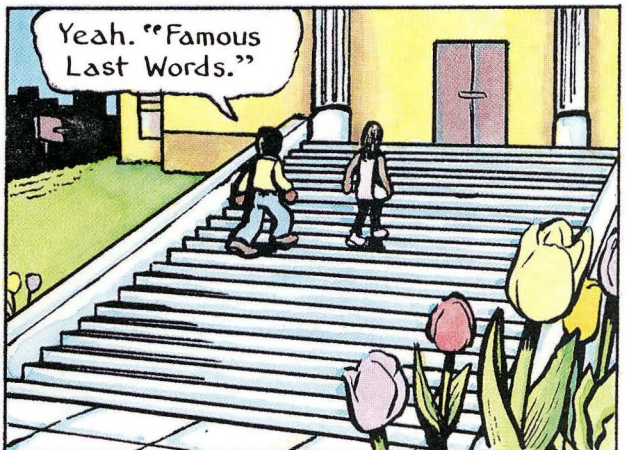


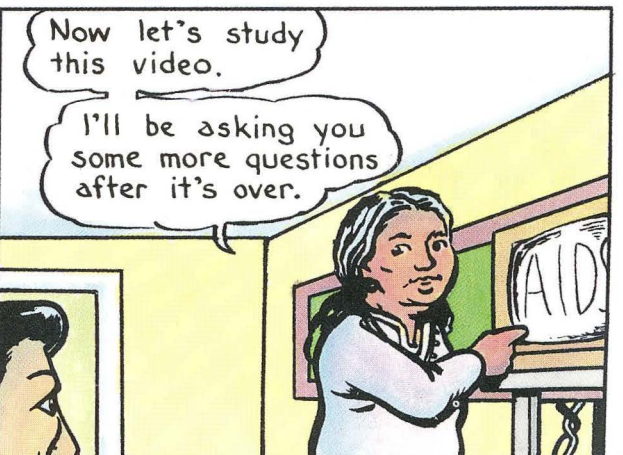
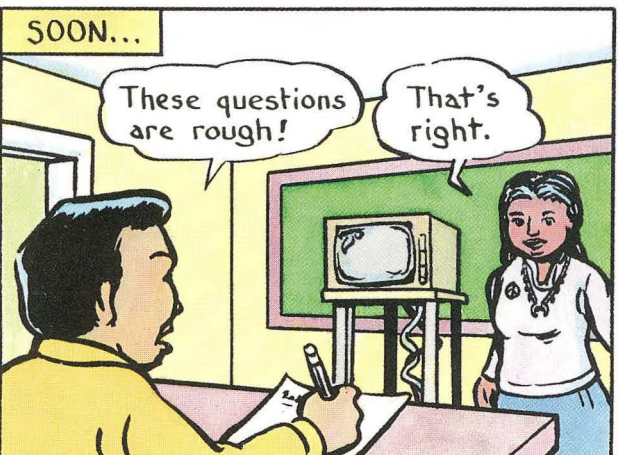
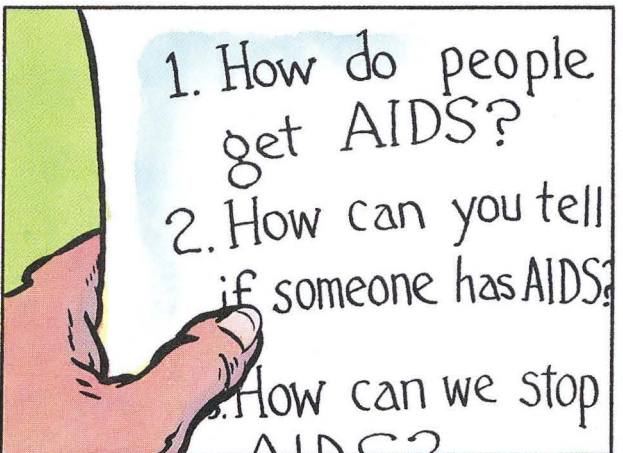
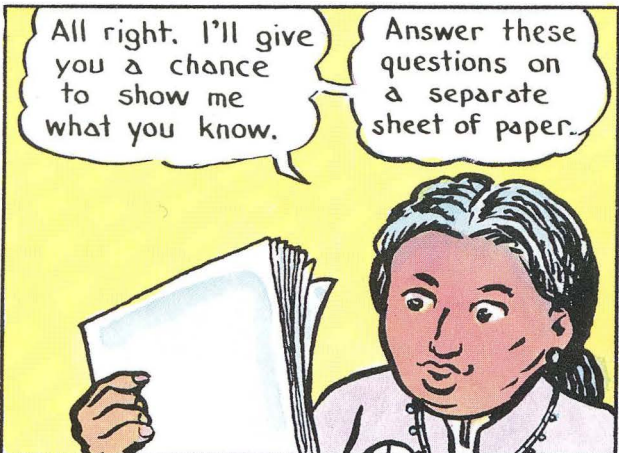
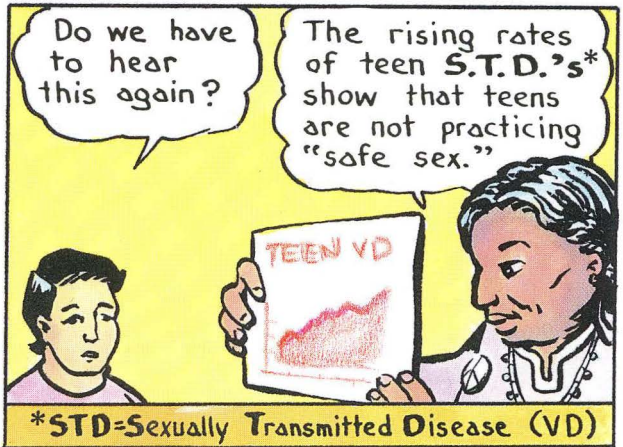
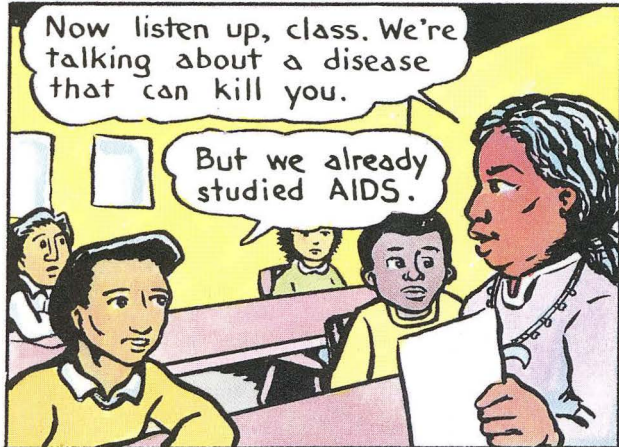
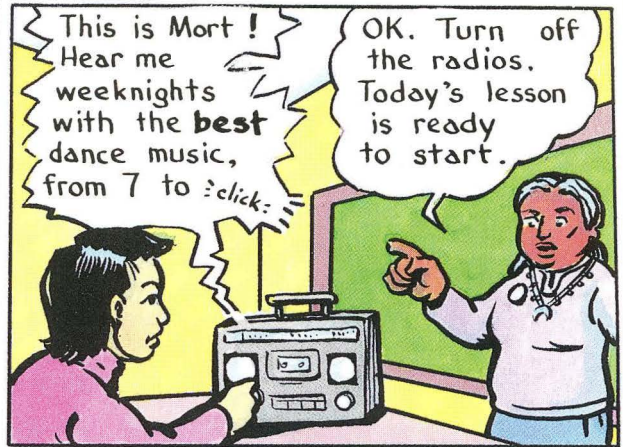
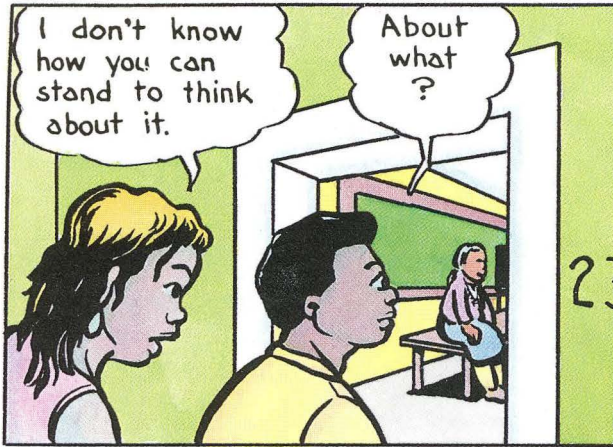
Sure hope I don't get it.

Oh, that's just something white gay guys get. Isn't it?



Yeah. "Famous Last Words."

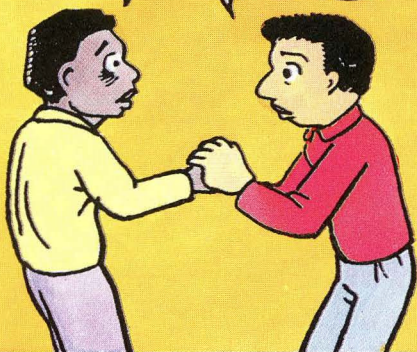




You can't get AIDS from a hug or a handshake.

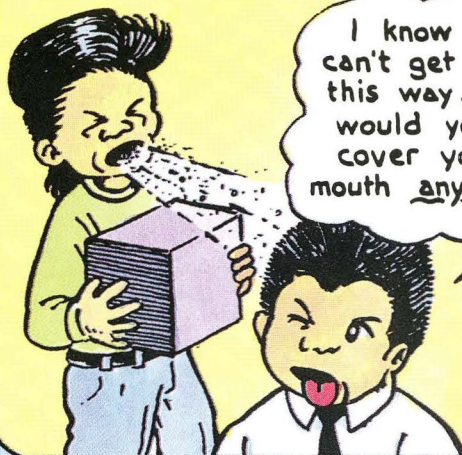
I've got AIDS.

That's terrible.



You can't get AIDS from coughs and sneezes and spit.

I know I can't get AIDS this way, but would you cover your mouth anyway?



You can't get AIDS by eating food prepared by someone with AIDS.

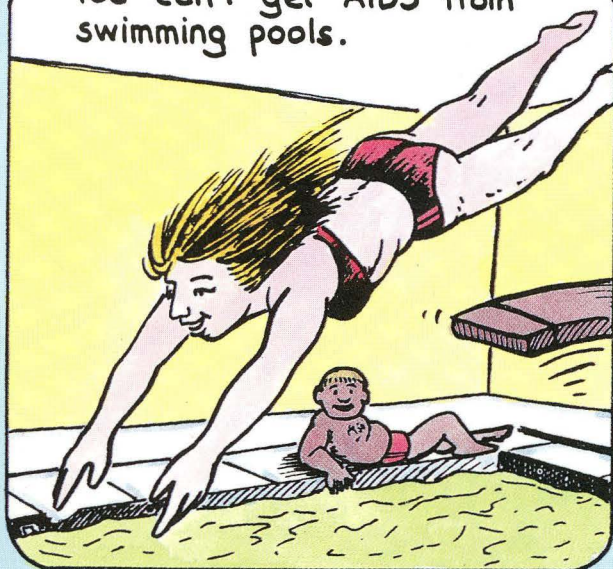
YUM



You can't get AIDS just by living with or taking care of someone with AIDS.



You can't get AIDS from swimming pools.



You can't get AIDS by being bitten by mosquitos.

You can't get AIDS by kissing mosquitos, either.

The answer is still no.



You can get AIDS by having sex with someone who has the AIDS virus.

I'll never forget you, baby.

What will you remember about me?

Using latex condoms reduces the risk of catching AIDS.



Oh no! Here I am, an AIDS virus trapped in a rubber.

GOOD.

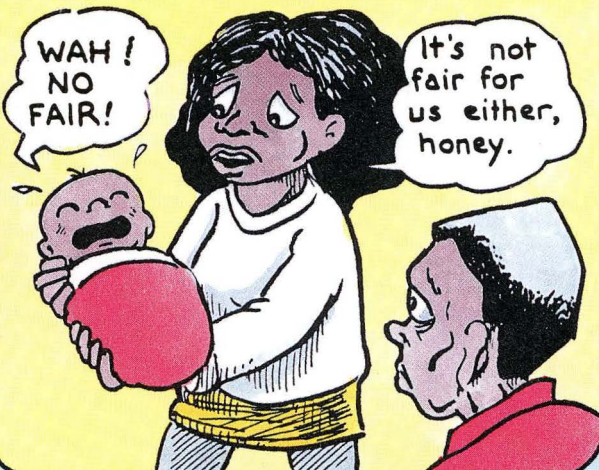
Another way you can get AIDS is by sharing needles to shoot drugs.



This is the safest way to shoot drugs.

Don't share needles!

Some babies are born with AIDS (if their parents have AIDS.)



WAH! NO FAIR!

It's not fair for us either, honey.

Some people got AIDS from blood transfusions. Now all blood is tested to be sure, it's safe.



You can not get AIDS by donating blood.

The safest way is to not have sex and not shoot drugs.

When you do have sex, protect yourself with a condom, and a foam, cream or jelly with nonoxynol-9 in it. This chemical may kill the AIDS virus before it can infect you.



SYMPTOMS of AIDS

Symptoms to watch out for include... a fever that lasts for weeks.



Sudden, unexplained weight loss.



Don't worry! I can explain...

Not weight-LESS, you Goofus!

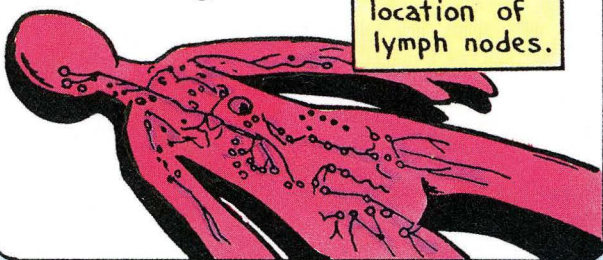
Diarrhea that lasts for a month.

You too?

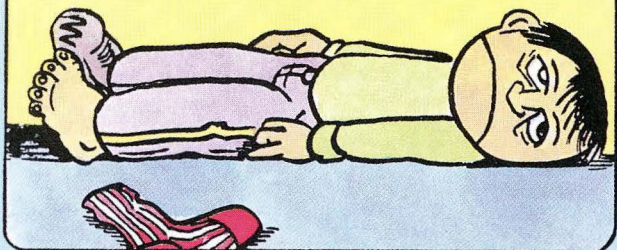


Swollen glands.

location of lymph nodes.



Being very tired.

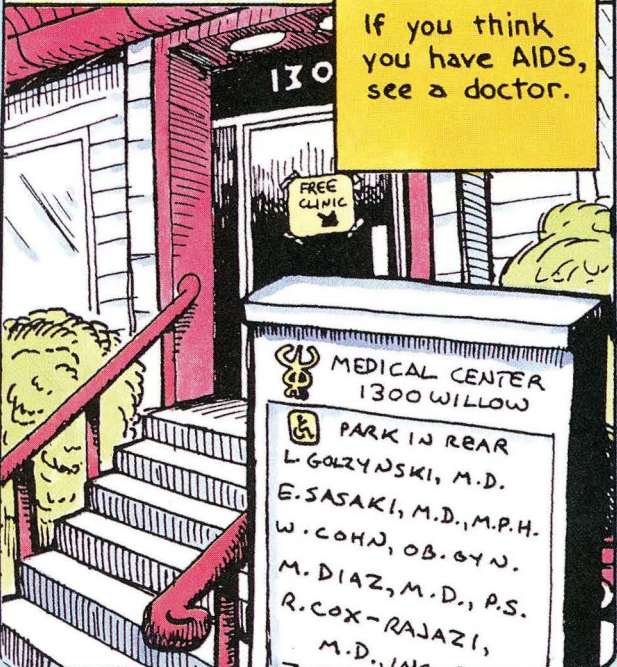


Drenching night sweats.

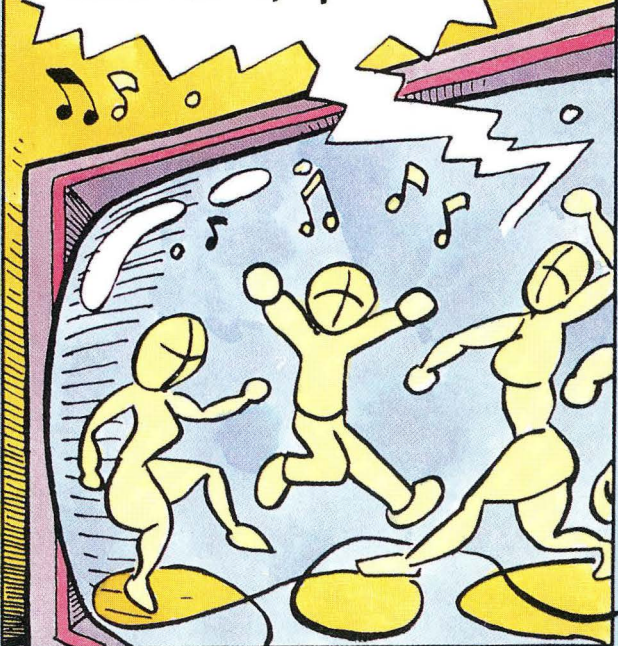


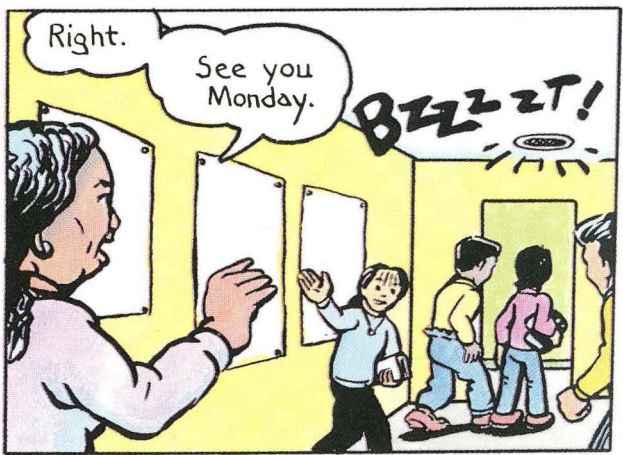
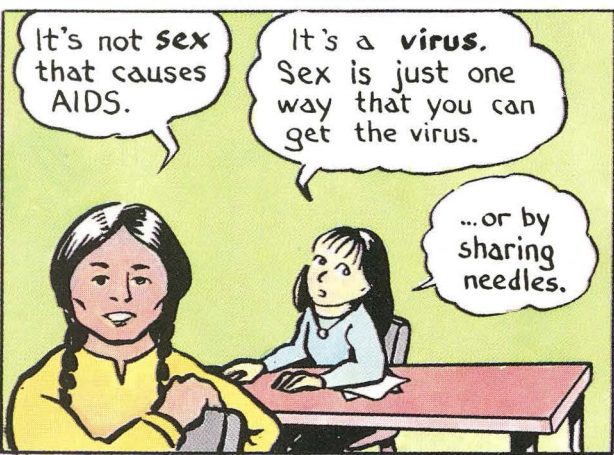
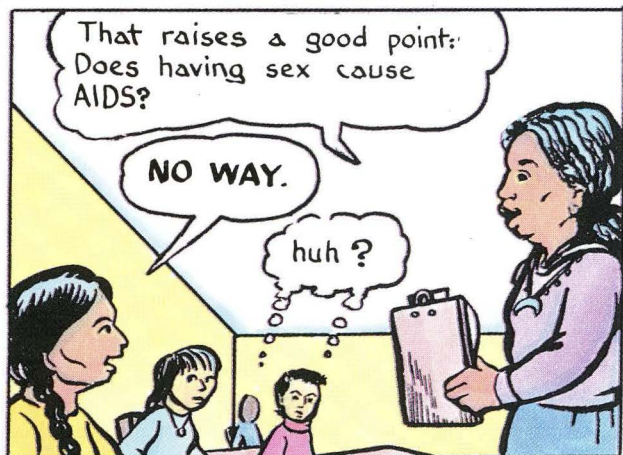
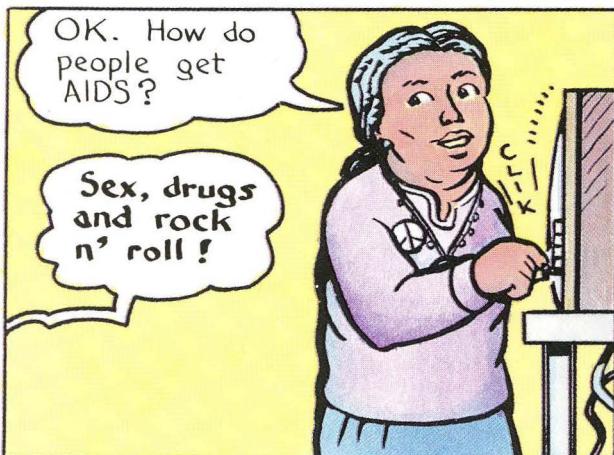
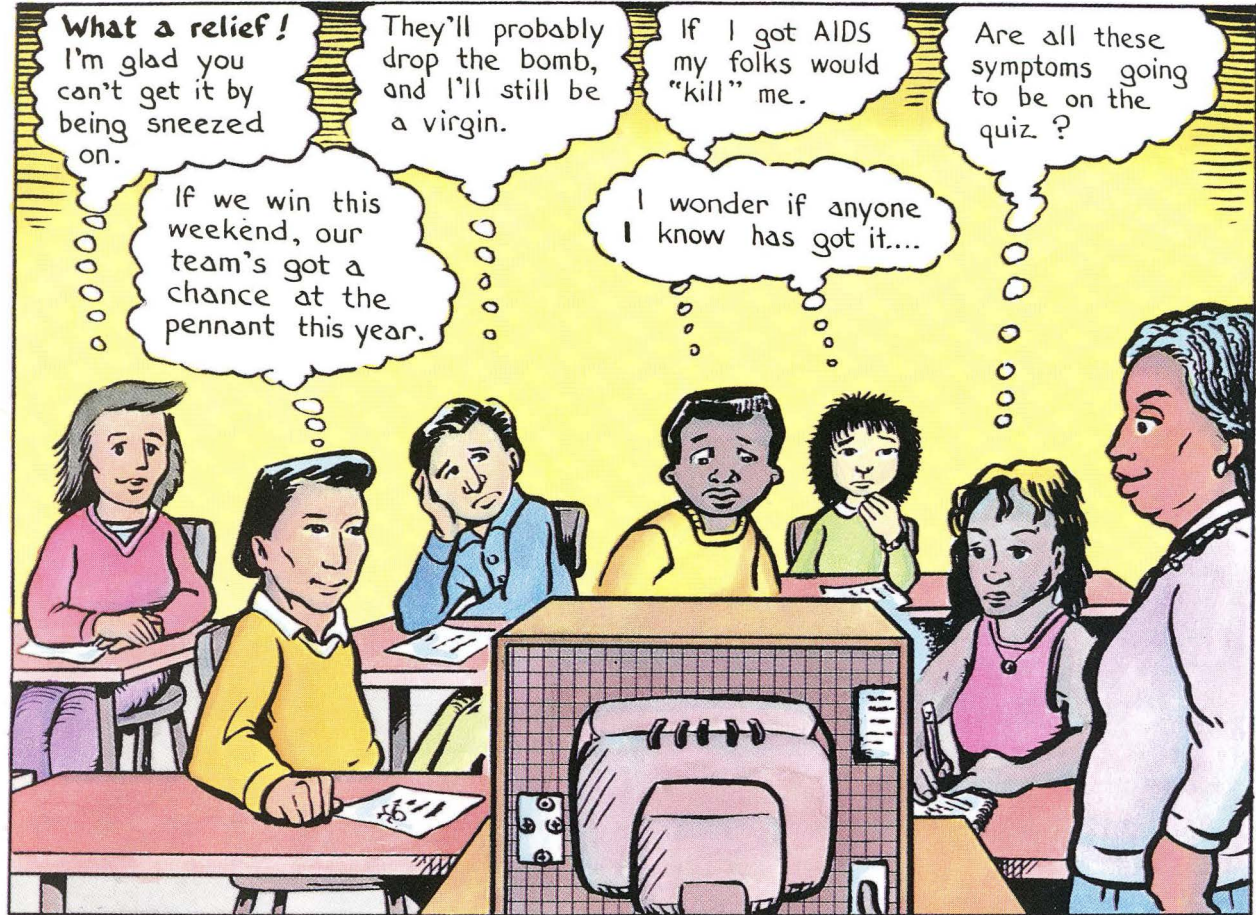
These symptoms COULD be a sign of AIDS, or they could be something else.

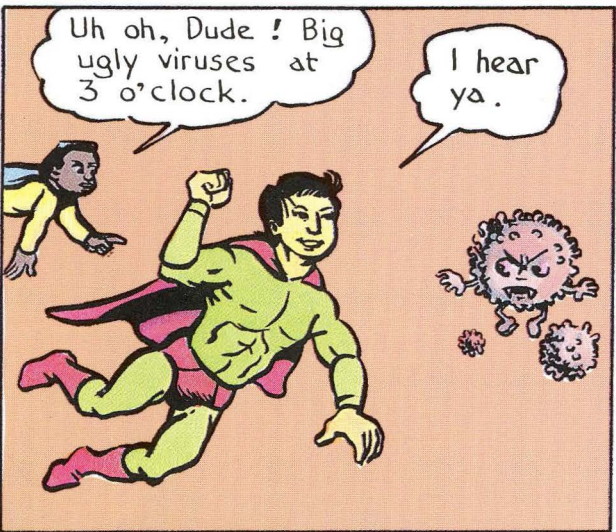
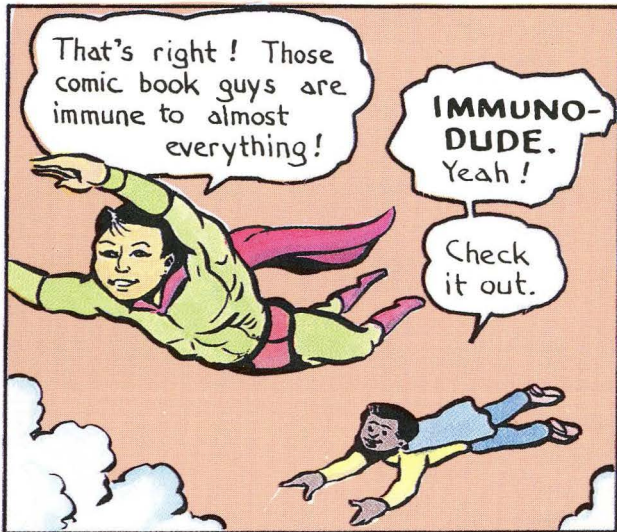
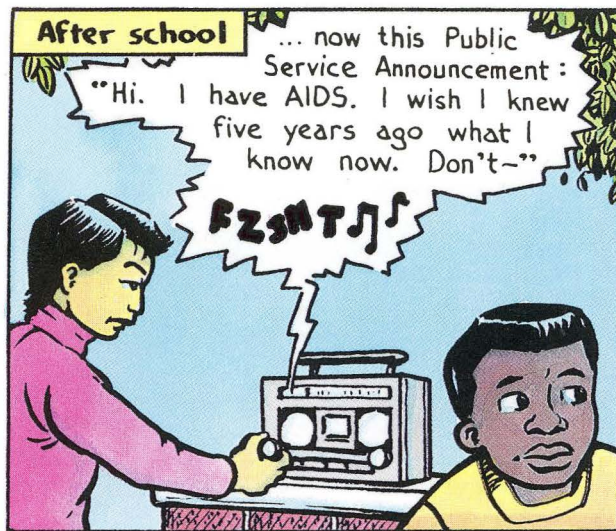
If you think you have AIDS, see a doctor.

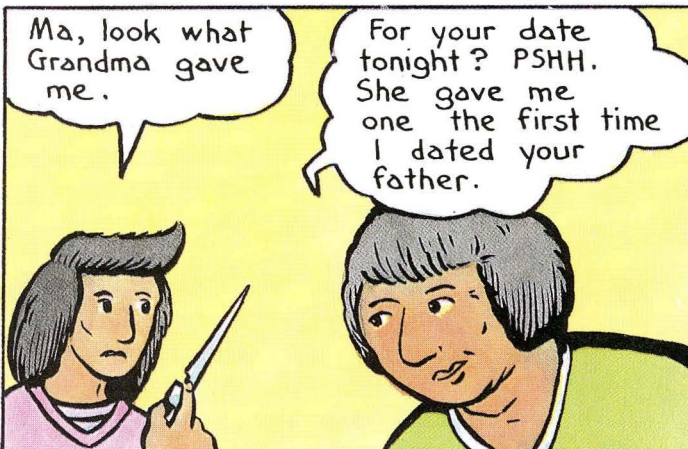


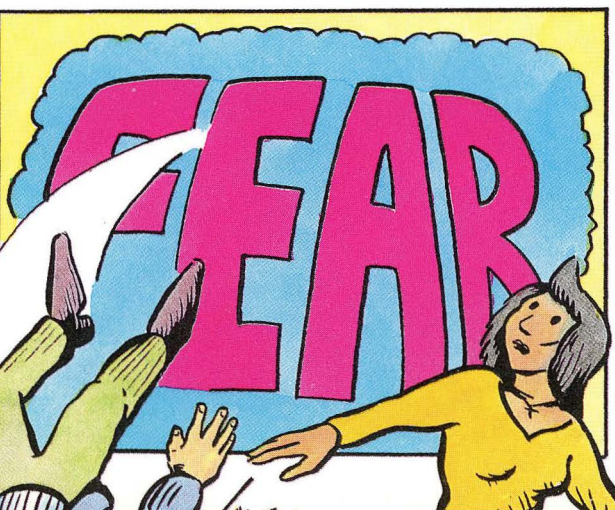
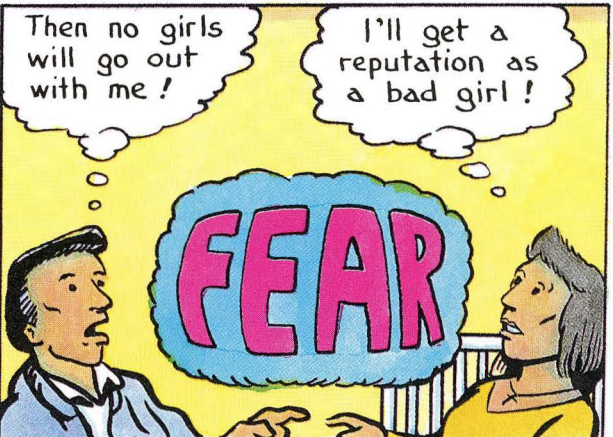
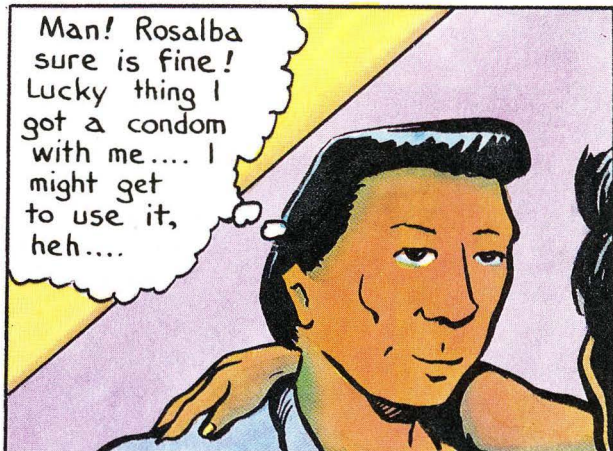
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TELL! REMEMBER: Most people carrying the AIDS virus have NO symptoms.











11 P.M... Kenji's folks are out for the evening.

Ken-Bunny. I don't want to.

What's wrong?

Why do you hang around with ... VJ ?

Is **that** what's bothering you?

I know VJ is gay. So what? He's my friend.

But what about AIDS?

You can't say that gay sex is the same thing as unsafe sex. It's not.

You weren't being very safe just now when I said stop.

Come on! I don't have AIDS. You're being paranoid.

Most people carrying the AIDS virus **don't know** they've got it.

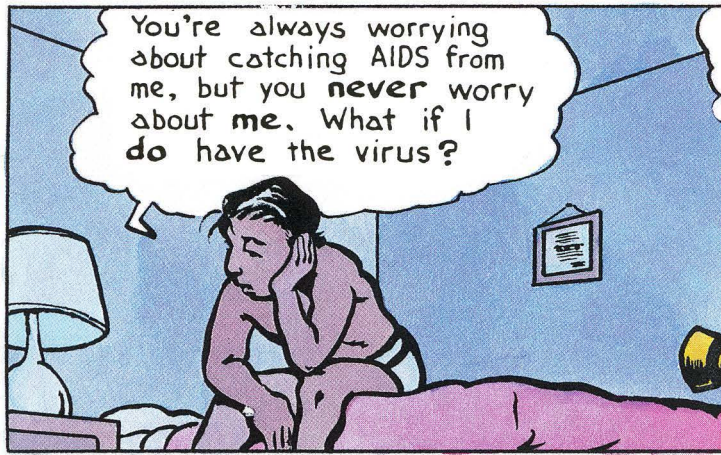
Look, **I'm** not gay. I don't shoot up. There's **not** a big risk that I've got AIDS.

But what about that time you told me about when you...

Hey! Stop reminding me. I was high, OK?

But being high doesn't **prevent** you from getting AIDS. It just makes you more likely to risk **getting** it.

I've got a **reason** to worry, and a **right** to demand that things be safe.



You're always worrying about catching AIDS from me, but you **never** worry about **me**. What if I **do** have the virus?



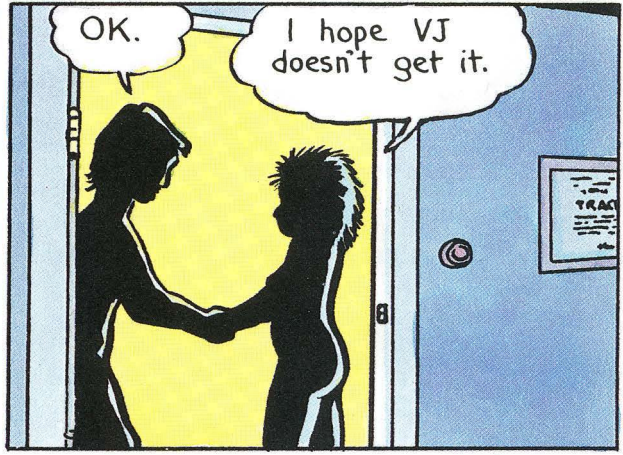
Don't try to make me feel guilty. I **am** worried.

I can only do sex when I know it's safe.



I don't want to fight about it anymore.

Then don't call me "paranoid" for caring about our health.

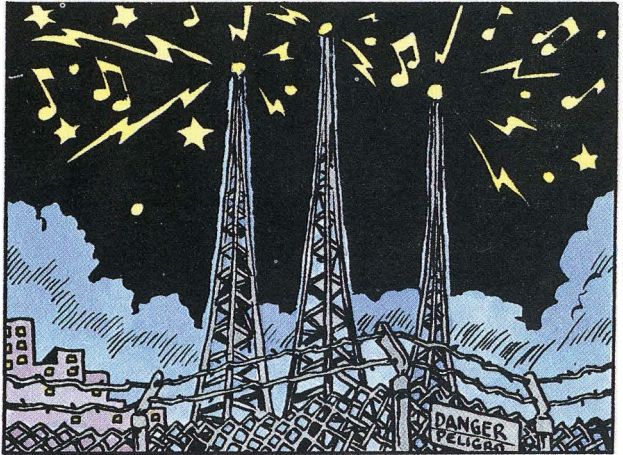


OK.

I hope VJ doesn't get it.



I'm Mort A. Credit, your late night main man, playing side two of the album of the night.

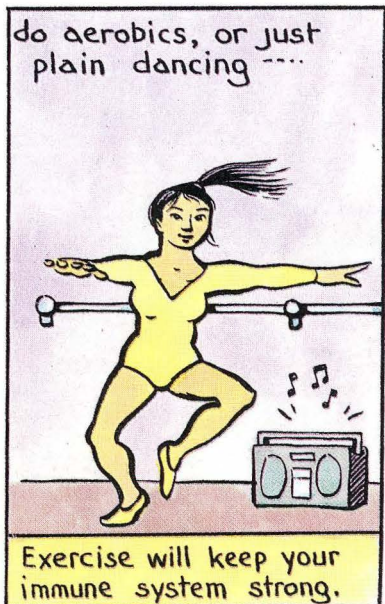
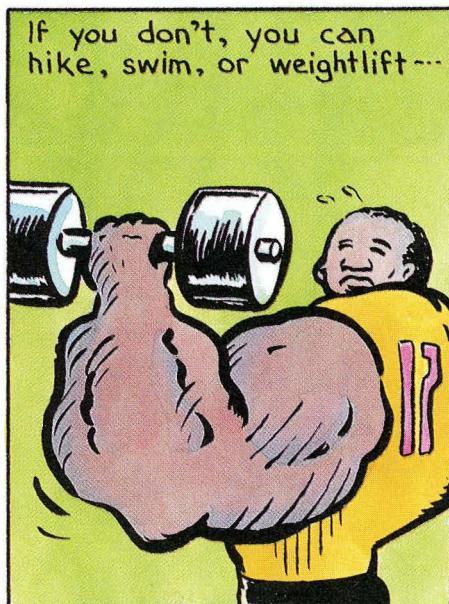
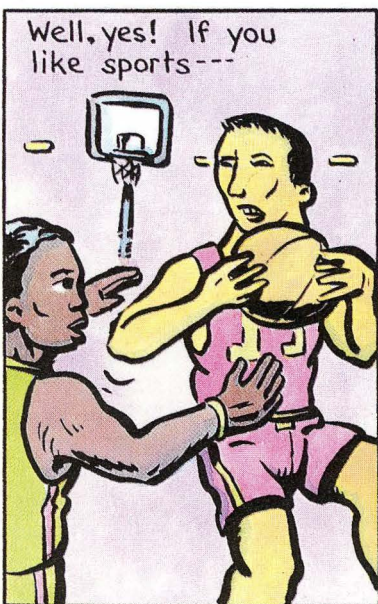
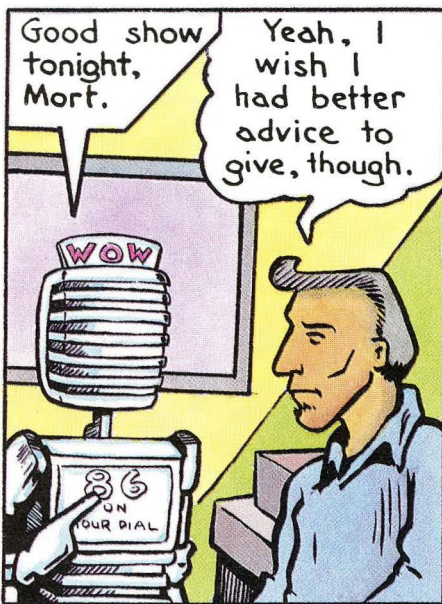


At Mort's studio...

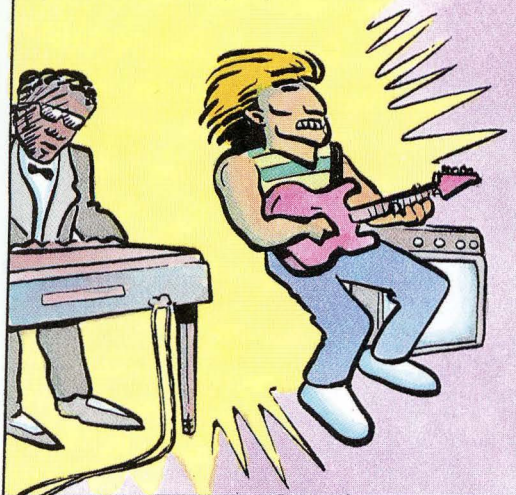
ON THE AIR

WOW FM

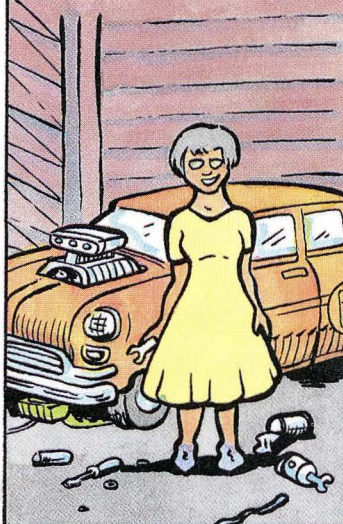
M!



In your spare time, you could learn to play guitar! Start a band with friends!



Or build up an old car!



Or teach your cat to catch a frisbee™!



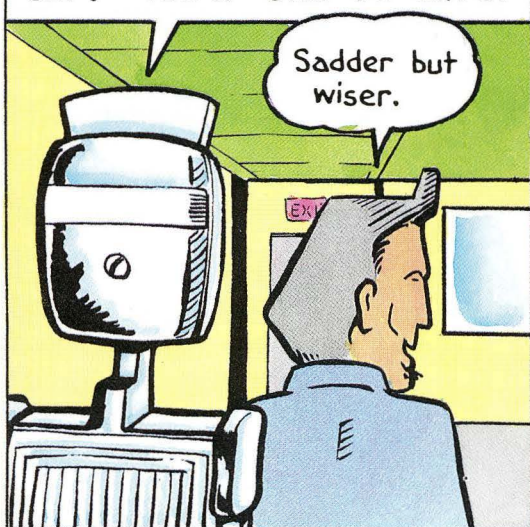
--- You don't have to run off to the bedroom to have a good time---



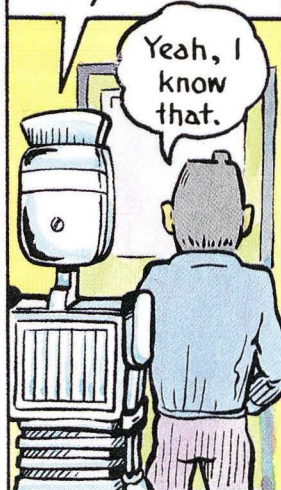
Well, you can have a long romance--- Spend time getting to know each other--- Your happiness will live longer---



--- And if it doesn't work out? You'll still be alive.



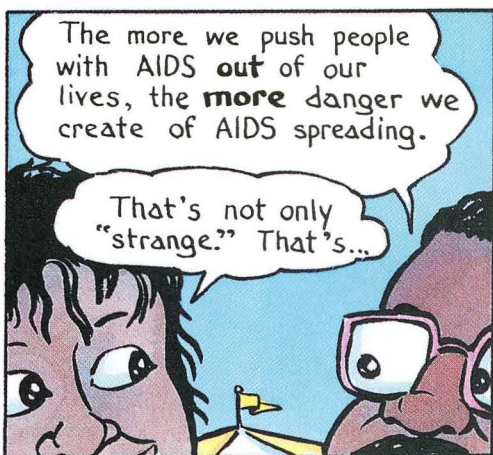
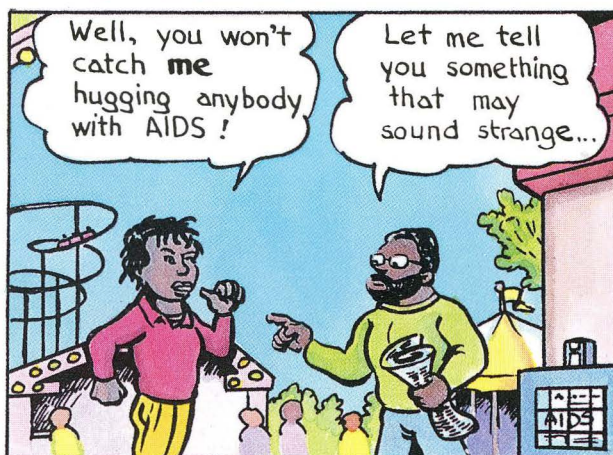
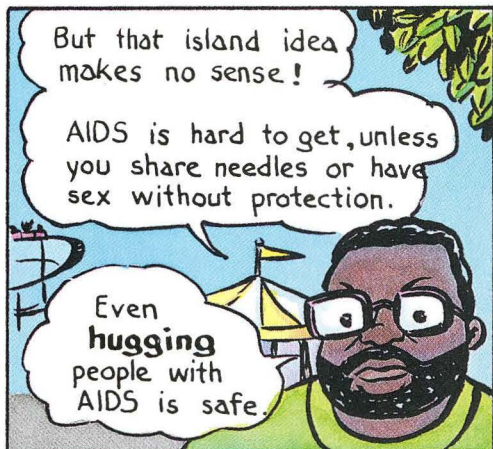
Well, life is not always easy or fun.

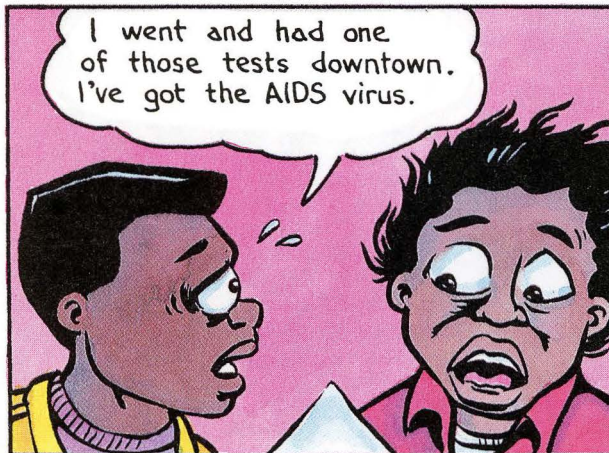
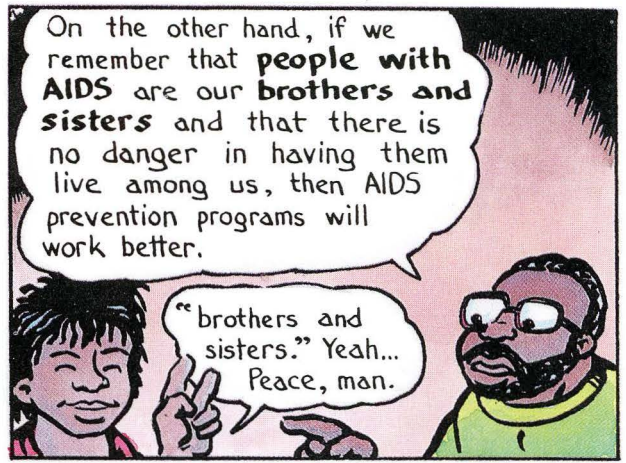


But you know, I think you humans will beat this disease-

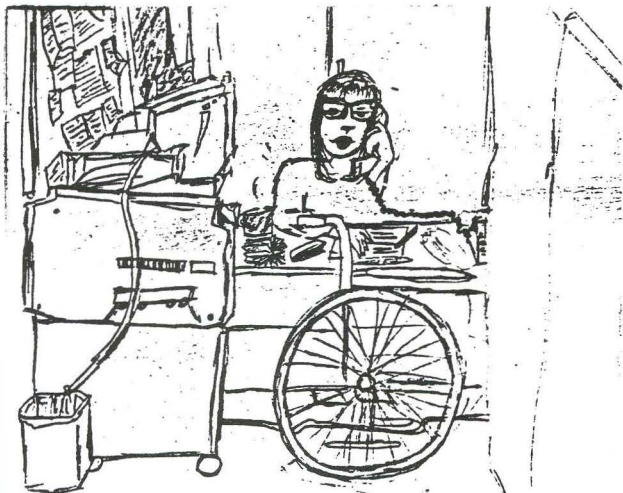








**for more information
call...**



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Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 329-6963 *

* TTY/V

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**GAY AND LESBIAN TEEN DISCUSSION
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Bellevue, WA 98008
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REMEMBER:

You **can** get the AIDS virus by:

- Having unprotected sex (without a latex condom) with someone who has the virus.
- Sharing needles to shoot drugs.

The virus can also be passed by a mother who's infected to her unborn child.

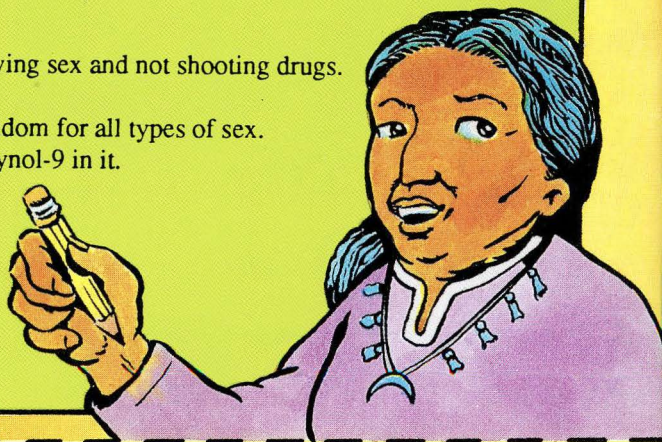
You can have the virus and not have symptoms (signs of the disease). There is no special kind of person who gets AIDS. If you have unprotected sex, multiple sex partners, and / or share needles, you could be at risk for AIDS.

AIDS is **not** casually transmitted:

- You **cannot** get AIDS from sitting on a toilet seat.
- You **cannot** get AIDS from eating food prepared by someone who has AIDS.
- You **cannot** get AIDS from holding, hugging, or touching a person with AIDS.

You can be safer:

- The best protection from AIDS is not having sex and not shooting drugs.
- If you are sexually active, use a latex condom for all types of sex. Also use foam, cream or jelly with nonoxynol-9 in it.
- Don't share needles.



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