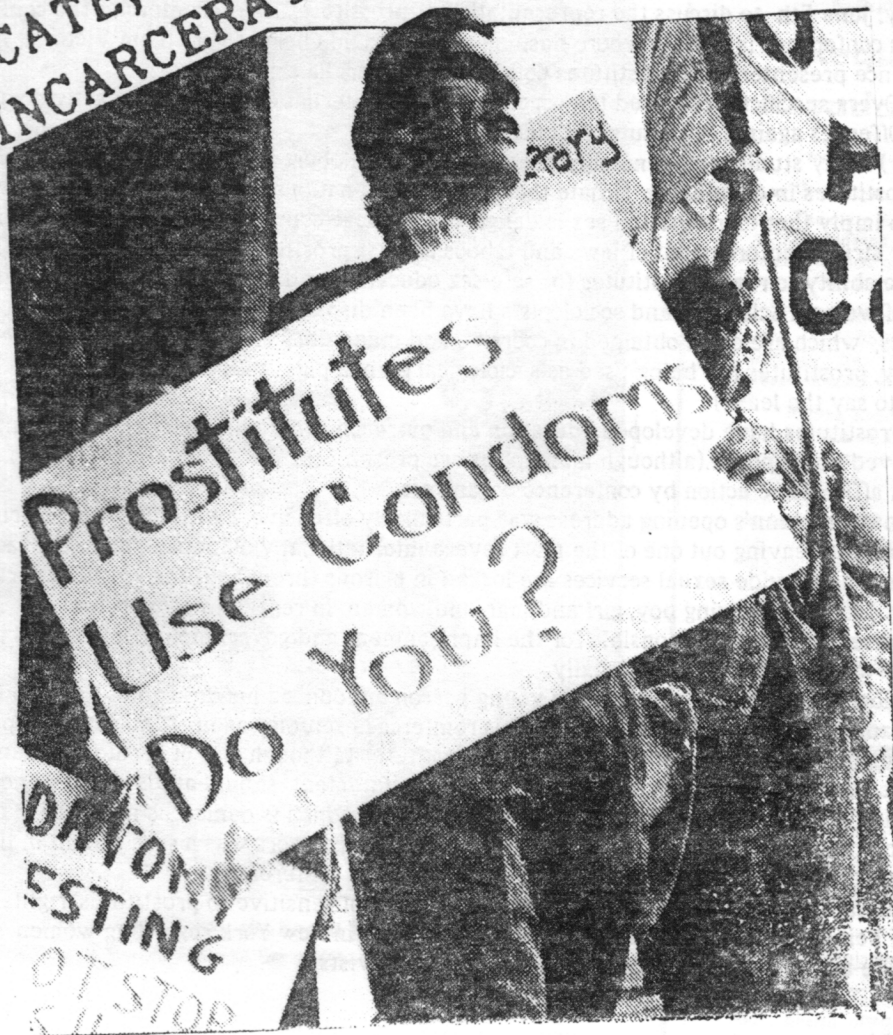


# Further Violations of Our Rights: A JOURNAL OF ISSUES

EDUCATE,  
DON'T INCARCERATE



Special Edition for

V<sup>e</sup> Conférence  
internationale sur le

V International  
Conference on

1989 Montreal, Canada

Le défi  
scientifique  
et social

SIDA  AIDS

The Scientific  
and Social  
Challenge

EDITED AND DESIGNED BY CAROL LEIGH

## PROSTITUTES PROTEST SCAPEGOATING AT MONTREAL CONFERENCE

June 6, 1989  
Carol Leigh, USA

Prostitutes from Sidney & Victoria, Australia, California, USA, and Toronto, Ontario met on Monday, June 5th to discuss the representation of prostitutes by presenters at the conference.

"This conference is one big whore bashing session", said Cheryl Overs from Victoria, Australia (a conference presenter with Prostitutes Collective of Australia.)

Ms Overs succinctly captured the reaction of other international prostitute activists present this week. Offenses against prostitutes include:

1) Many studies (most notably one presented by Robert W. Ryder (MA035) simply indicated that prostitutes in developing (I hate that euphemism) nations are testing positive. These studies seem to imply that extramarital sex is dangerous in these countries (no kidding) and they pave the way for stricter enforcement of laws and taboos against prostitutes in these countries. These stigmas curb the ability to reach prostitutes for safe sex education and result in numerous violations of the rights of women. Scientists and sociologists have been dispassionate in their presentations of statistics, which are often obtained in coercive and mandatory situations with registered prostitutes. Basically, prostitutes are being used as sociological guinea pigs, with a de-emphasis on their human rights (to say the least.)

2) Prostitutes have developed education and outreach programs. An abstract submitted by one of us received no response. (although many of us are presenters) We must be included on a wider basis through affirmative action by conference organizers.

3) Jonathan Mann's opening address was particularly offensive, mentioning human rights violations, but leaving out one of the most severe international violations, that is, the fact that women and men who provide sexual services are locked in prisons throughout the world. A certain comment made by him about saving boy, girl and man and woman in regard to prostitution was infused with moral biases which are responsible for the imprisonment and government control (and government pimping) of prostitutes internationally.

In addition, in the context of a video, a young person announced his desire not to make love for money, and that sex should be for love. This reinforces prejudice against the sexual expert and professional, and increases prejudice against prostitutes (although it is of great importance in countries where most prostitution is forced.) Such a statement should at least be balanced by a recognition of the right of women to work as prostitutes which is denied us in violation of our right to control our bodies. This insensitivity on the part of the organizers was a sore thumb in light of the way prostitutes have been used by the presenters at this conference.

4) Activists sensitive to other populations are often not sensitive to prostitutes' rights. Prostitutes spoke of being offended by a video portraying an action in New York regarding women, AIDS and stigma. We urge affirmative communication among activists.

### SUMMARY

Prostitutes' rights and violations of our rights on an international basis in regard to testing and legislation must be prioritized by scientists, sociologists and activists to end the hypocrisy inherent in the present approach to the scientific and sociological study of AIDS.

EDITED AND DESIGNED BY CAROL LEIGH

## Anti-Brown rebels pass AIDS tests for hookers

(Brown orchestrated the drafting of the second bill, this one by Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan, D-Fresno, and it was quickly passed by the 65-8 vote. Some members of the Gang of Five still claimed victory because they said their efforts had brought about the new bill.)



Prostitutes rights activist Carol Leigh, aka Scarlet Harlot, confronts Assembly Speaker Willie Brown in the corridors of the statehouse.

*Prostitutes on the Chopping Block*

### Sacramento Demonstration Seeks to Halt Progress of Mandatory Testing Bills

#### Condoms Required in Nevada Brothels

1/88

*United Press International*

Las Vegas, Nev.

The state Board of Health yesterday adopted a regulation that makes the use of condoms compulsory in Nevada's 35 legal brothels.

The rule, intended to slow the spread of AIDS, was approved unanimously by the eight-member board. It takes effect immediately.

Russell Reade, operator of the Chicken Ranch Brothel in Pahrump and president of the Nevada Brothel Association, said brothel employees will enforce the rule. "We are already doing it on a voluntary basis. We are 100 percent in support of the requirement," he said.

The state has given the AIDS antibody test to brothel prostitutes and applicants for brothel jobs since May 1986. State Health Administrator Larry Mathias told the board that no legally employed prostitute has been found to be carrying AIDS antibodies. Nine applicants were eliminated during pre-employment screenings, he said.

Another provision of the new regulation affects suspected prostitutes arrested in areas where prostitution is illegal, such as Las Vegas and Reno.

This regulation requires that such suspects be given the AIDS test. If a suspect has the AIDS antibody, health officials must notify the arresting law enforcement agency, which in turn must notify the defendant.

If a suspect who knowingly has the AIDS virus is arrested a second time for prostitution, felony charges could be filed, carrying a maximum 20-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine.



# NO MANDATORY TESTING

ON THE ISSUES THE JOURNAL

## A Feminist Speaks



Carol Leigh is a writer, satirist, feminist and social activist—and self-described prostitute. Her alter-ego, "Scarlet Harlot", has performed in comedy clubs throughout the country.

by Carol Leigh

As a prostitute and activist, I am deeply disturbed by the current and proposed legislation establishing mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes. Although gay activists have been diligently supportive of us, the prostitutes' rights movement must secure a broader base of active support from other feminist rights activists. The urgency of our situation is escalating as various states and cities plan and pass legislation which violates our rights to privacy and begins to establish a quarantine for prostitutes who have been exposed to HIV. Hopefully, a look at the present situation, an outline of current legislation, as well as an explanation of our objections to such legislation, will help mobilize the active support we currently require to avoid the quarantine of the most politically vulnerable class of women.

In Fresno, California, a woman who was allegedly HIV positive was arrested on prostitution charges. During her hearing, the judge cleared the courtroom and forced the woman to wear a mask to prevent transmission of AIDS.

When challenged by a *Sacramento Bee* reporter regarding the necessity of this practice, Judge John J. Gallagher replied "You've got to be kidding.

Have you seen my calendar? I don't have time to do that kind of research." He was too busy to research the conditions for HIV transmission!

In Columbia, South Carolina, a woman, "Jane Doe" (the records were sealed with the help of the ACLU) who was allegedly HIV positive was quarantined by the local health department. This woman had been admitted to a mental health facility earlier that year, during which time she was tested

for HIV. When arrested for prostitution, her HIV status was revealed to the judge. The ACLU became involved in the case early on and found that the court insisted that the woman had "voluntarily" re-entered a mental health facility. When she applied for release, the judge proceeded to quarantine her to her home. Meanwhile, her electricity had been disconnected, as she had been unable to pay her electric bill. She therefore was forced to leave her place of quarantine. She then was picked up by the police for violating the conditions of quarantine. Due to the work of the ACLU in Columbia, after a series of detentions the woman was released and provided with job training, drug rehabilitation and disability income.

Mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes is in effect in at least two states (Illinois and Nevada) and two cities in New Jersey (Patterson and Newark).

**ILLINOIS** - Legislation establishing mandatory HIV testing for convicted prostitutes is included in a bill which covers those convicted of various sex and drug-related offenses. The legislation does not stipulate felony charges to be applied to those who are convicted, then test positive, then continue to engage in the activities. Confidentiality is supposedly preserved as sealed results of tests are submitted to judges who, upon a second conviction, apply these results to sentencing as they see fit.

**NEVADA** - Law includes mandatory testing of suspected prostitutes who are arrested in counties where prostitution is illegal (approximately one-third of the counties including Las Vegas). Felony charges (up to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine) will apply to those who test positive and are then again arrested and convicted of prostitution. The legalized system of prostitution requires that all prostitutes work for third parties in a brothel system. Prostitutes are tested for HIV before they are licensed to work, and they must be tested every six months thereafter, as long as they are employed. In addition, the use of condoms is compulsory in all of Nevada's 35 brothels.

**NEW JERSEY** - The state of New Jersey has no current mandatory HIV testing legislation for prostitutes. However, Patterson and Newark have passed city ordinances establishing such testing.

According to recent reports, Patterson has not yet used this legislation, though it is on the books. Newark's legislation was passed in January 1988, and went into effect in mid-February. This law established mandatory HIV testing of those convicted of engaging in or soliciting prostitution at the time of conviction and again in six months. If the convicted person does not comply with the mandatory testing, she/he is subject to a fine of \$1000 or 90 days in jail. The law also stipulates that when clients are convicted along with prostitutes, clients will pay for the HIV testing fees for both parties. In addition, those arrested will have their automobiles impounded.

**FLORIDA** - In July, legislation signed by Florida Gov. Bob Martinez makes it a crime for

HIV infected people to have sexual intercourse without informing the partner. Failure to do so can mean up to one year in jail and a \$1000 fine. The Florida Department of Health and Reformation Services will be able to quarantine those who knowingly spread the virus through "prostitution behavior" [read "prostitutes] for up to 11 days.

### PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The following is an example of proposed legislation regarding HIV testing for prostitutes which has been proposed in many states.

**CALIFORNIA** - California activists were alarmed when the assembly passed legislation establishing mandatory HIV testing for prostitutes and stipulating felony charges for those who have tested positive for HIV and continue to engage in prostitution. The above legislation passed during a complicated political power struggle. As a vulnerable issue for Progressive Democrats, prostitutes were targeted by conservatives to upset the balance of power in the legislature.

### LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES

Legislators must be forced to confront prostitution issues. We must object to the shelving of our concerns in the interests of preserving the power of a particular politician, or of sacrificing our goals of "larger" causes.

Although prostitutes' rights activists are consistently assured that we are being protected by sympathetic representatives, we are also consistently reminded that we must not expect public statements on our behalf. We are constantly reminded that we must not allow representatives to compromise our rights to political extent for the sake of political expedience.

Our legislative vulnerability creates a need (particularly during the AIDS crisis) for support we previously have been denied. We must demand a change in strategy by those who promise

support our cause with compassionate rhetoric but hesitate to publicly support prostitutes' rights.

The above scenario creates a situation in which our rights can be used as a volley ball in power struggles. The passage of mandatory HIV testing laws in various states is taking place in a climate where our rights must not be traded for political power. We can not afford to be put off in the face of these crises. As other states consider mandatory HIV testing legislation, California must take the lead in a strong movement to impede such legislation.

### CHALLENGING SEXUAL TABOOS

Because of the repressive sexuality (particularly regarding women) and stigmatized nature of prostitution in our culture, there is much misinformation about prostitutes and the sex business. Even the most open minded among us base our opinions on sex work on Judeo-Christian values which are a range of sexual activities with sin and corruption. These values instill a self-hatred within us which we function in sexual contexts. As a result, act and prostitutes are discouraged from identifying themselves in a struggle for our rights.

### SOLIDARITY

In order to fight the legislation which scapegoats prostitutes, we must accrue a momentum of support among women. Communication between feminists regarding issues of sexual experience and lifestyles must be included in our feminist agenda. As a prostitute, I have been at

the stigma which forces my association with isolation. Again and again feminist participation in the sex business to that they are not presently able to secure prostitutes' rights for fear of being "politically correct" circles.

In addition, after witnessing three years of organizations (WHISPER, US PROS) in bitter competition with each other, I am convinced that this "in-fighting" only increases our extreme vulnerability, a fight of self-determination fed to us by the media. I urge feminists to examine the power of our extreme vulnerability, a fight of self-determination fed to us by the media. I urge feminists to examine the power of our extreme vulnerability, a fight of self-determination fed to us by the media. I urge feminists to examine the power of our extreme vulnerability, a fight of self-determination fed to us by the media.

Issues of choice, coercion and control in prostitution must be more sensitive to survival and forced prostitution. We must all fight against the sexual holocaust. Issues of choice, coercion and control in prostitution must be more sensitive to survival and forced prostitution. We must all fight against the sexual holocaust. Issues of choice, coercion and control in prostitution must be more sensitive to survival and forced prostitution. We must all fight against the sexual holocaust.

time, sex workers and advocates are not always sensitive to the sensitivity and anger of women who are excluded from equal participation with men. A chasm has been created between women based on our differences of, and reaction to, the sexual abuse in our culture.

We must open up these channels of communication, prioritizing the welfare of sex workers at the same time prioritizing our fight against and coercive prostitution and the sexualization of women. In order to fight effectively, we must end the division of the movement into opposing camps.

Dismantling the complicated "male" sexual oppression which both forces women

and punishes women for, prostitution is a task for the feminist movement. New strategies consist of outreach and affirmative action for sex workers and survivors of sexual abuse. Consciousness-raising can lift the veil of the "whore stigma" and help sex workers to come out of their closets. The



## A Feminist Prostitute Speaks Out

of the stigma which forces my associates into severe isolation. Again and again feminists confess their participation in the sex business to me, indicating that they are not presently able to stand up for prostitutes' rights for fear of being ostracized in "politically correct" circles.

In addition, after witnessing three strong prostitutes' organizations (WHISPER, COYOTE, and US PROS) in bitter competition with each other, I am convinced that this "in-fighting" is a result of our extreme vulnerability, a fight for the crumbs of self-determination fed to us by the Patriarchy. I urge feminists to examine the prejudices which divide us and exercise greater patience when confronting various attitudes towards prostitution. All women must learn to respect the prostitute's pride in her identity as she insists that she has "chosen" her life and that she is better off than those who work 9-5 jobs. At the same time, career prostitutes and those concerned with rights to sexual expression must be more sensitive to survivors of incest and forced prostitution. We must all prioritize the fight against the sexual holocaust.

Issues of choice, coercion and force are the gradation of women's sexual experience. I am frustrated that the debate dividing us is preoccupied with strictly categorizing various activities i.e.: WHISPER attacks the myth of prostitution as a choice, while COYOTE defends it. Though forced and coerced sex is a tactic used to control women and many of us live in conditions resembling the cruelest slavery, many other women are much less affected by the tactics of sexual control (based on childhood experience, psychosexuality, etc.) Some women do find great satisfaction and reward in their career as sexual facilitators, and often those who have suffered most in the face of rape, force and incest are offended by this phenomena. At the same time, sex workers and advocates are threatened by the sensitivity and anger of women who resist sexual participation with men. A chasm has been created between women based on our experience of, and reaction to, the sexual abuse in our culture.

We must open up these channels of communication, prioritizing the welfare of sex workers, while at the same time prioritizing our fight against forced and coercive prostitution and the sexual exploitation of women. In order to fight effectively on either front, we must end the division of our movement into opposing camps.

Dismantling the complicated "machinery" of sexual oppression which both forces women into, and punishes women for, prostitution will be a new task for the feminist movement. New strategies consist of outreach and affirmative action for sex workers and survivors of sexual abuse. Old style consciousness-raising can lift the veil of secrecy created by the "whore stigma" and allow sex-workers to come out of their closets. The antipathy

of both camps of feminists may be tempered by personal contact with other women and a presiding commitment to a unified movement. Hopefully, the difficult task of saying "no" to rape and "yes" to sexual expression will provide an answer in the personal lives of many women with diverse experiences and raise the feminist struggle to a level of relevancy which we haven't achieved for quite some time.

### THE FACTS ABOUT PROSTITUTES AND AIDS

Although mandatory HIV testing legislation ostensibly covers both prostitutes and their clients, in reality, customers are infrequently arrested for prostitution, so felony charges (based on a second arrest) would not apply to customers of prostitutes. In addition, customers almost always plead guilty to reduced charges (such as loitering) so that the rate of conviction of clients on prostitution charges is negligible.

According to the Project Aware study of sexually active women, prostitutes do not show a higher rate of seropositivity than other sexually active women. In addition, female to male transmission of HIV is less efficient than male to female transmission. Statistics corroborate a prostitute's negligible role in the transmission of HIV. Legislative targeting of prostitutes amounts to scapegoating prostitutes and women.

Mandatory HIV testing and punitive treatment of those exposed to HIV does not distinguish between risky activity and safe activities such as manual stimulation and no-touch fantasy sex. Some of the above legislation would make hand-jobs into felonies. Charging a prostitute with a felony, particularly in the above circumstances, is clearly a case of scapegoating. We wish to alarm the public to a situation which is, in effect, a quarantine, due to the extended sentences and short life expectancies of women exposed to HIV.

According to the U.S. Department of Health, prior to the AIDS epidemic, prostitutes had been involved in only three to five percent of the venereal disease cases in this country. (Teenagers accounted for 35 percent of transmissions.) In contrast to the fear of contamination from prostitutes, there is a lack of documentation of transmission of AIDS by prostitutes in the United States. Current studies show that most prostitutes practice safe sex with their clients.

Laws against prostitution are enforced in a discriminatory manner against women. Only 10 percent of those arrested are clients. Although less than 50 percent of prostitutes in this country are women of color, 80-90 percent of those sentenced to do jail time are women of color. Forced testing and harsher sentences result in further violation of (and violence against) an extremely vulnerable population during a crisis which requires compas-

**"A chasm has been created between women based on our experience of, and reaction to, the sexual abuse in our culture."**

sion, and creates more dependence on abusive pimps. (Prostitutes have the right to responsible third party management.)

In a study done by A.W.A.R.E. (Association of Women's Research and Education, San Francisco General Hospital, (415) 476-4091), prostitutes showed no higher incidence of seropositive results than other women with more than three sexual partners per year. Seropositivity among prostitutes was confined to I.V. drug users, representing less than 10 percent of prostitutes.

Many women are forced into prostitution by violence and coercion. Mandatory testing and escalated charges are further forms of violence against them.

Legislation already exists to cover the intentional infliction of bodily harm. Quarantining prostitutes by charging them with felonies serves no purpose but to stigmatize them and violate their civil rights.

Drug treatment programs must be designed to meet the needs of I.V. drug-using prostitutes. (In most communities there are long waiting lists for enrollment in methadone programs.) Liveable income and job training alternatives must be provided on a wider basis for all those who wish to stop working in the sex business, with special assistance for those who may have been exposed to the virus.

Solutions such as disability payments to prostitutes who may be infected must be presented to legislators. Preconceptions about the unpopularity of prostitutes should be challenged. Legislators fear the loss of public support based on strict action taken on prostitutes' issues, yet, in reality, such association is rarely compromising to a politician's career.

The legislation for mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes scapegoats us as easy targets, because of our current status as outlaws and our traditional role as symbols of "immoral" sex. Manipulation of our fate for the purpose of warning the general public is, therefore, justified by those who are quite aware of our scant impact on the spread of AIDS.

Prostitute rights advocates, gay activists, and all feminist activists must join together to oppose all mandatory testing and scapegoating of politically vulnerable populations. We urge compassion and diligent attention to the rights of those people who are not in a position to speak for themselves. ☪

# COYOTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CDC BROCHURE SCAPEGOATS PROSTITUTES

Every household in the United States will shortly receive a brochure, "Understanding AIDS," produced and mailed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in Atlanta. In spite of the CDC's own studies, which show that prostitutes, per se, are not a high risk group, that prostitution, per se, is not a high risk activity, and that prostitutes have not been implicated in the transmission of HIV infection to their clients, the brochure scapegoats prostitutes as though the studies had not been done.

The brochure makes a point of saying, "Who you are has nothing to do with whether you are in danger of being infected with the AIDS virus. What matters is what you do," and again, "The following behaviors are risky when performed with an infected person." However, under "Risky Behavior," the brochure lists "Vaginal or oral sex with someone who shoots drugs or engages in anal sex," and "Sex with someone you don't know well (a pickup or prostitute) or with someone you know has several sex partners," which is immediately followed by "Unprotected sex (without a condom) with an infected person." The first two have to do with "risk groups," which they earlier said was not the issue. The third is a rational statement, making the point that the issue is "unprotected" sex, not sex, per se.

The CDC's own studies found that 80 percent of prostitutes used condoms some or all of the time; 16% used them with all clients; and 4% used them with all sex partners, including their lovers. Prostitutes' AIDS education projects underway in several cities, including the CAL-PEP program in San Francisco and

## CDC BROCHURE SCAPEGOATS

### What Behavior Puts You At Risk?

You are at risk of being infected with the AIDS virus if you have sex with someone who is infected, or if you share drug needles and syringes with someone who is infected.

Since you can't be sure who is infected, your chances of coming into contact with the virus increase with the number of sex partners you have. Any exchange of infected blood, semen or vaginal fluids can spread the virus and place you at great risk.

The following behaviors are risky when performed with an infected person. You can't tell by looking if a person is infected.

- RISKY BEHAVIOR
- Sharing drug needles
- Anal sex, with or without a condom
- Vaginal or oral sex with someone who shoots drugs or engages in anal sex
- \* Sex with someone you don't know well (a pickup or prostitute) or with someone you know has several sex partners
- Unprotected sex (without a condom) with an infected person
- SAFF BEHAVIOR
- Not having sex with one mutually faithful partner
- Not shooting drugs

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

### Should You Get An AIDS Test?

You have probably heard about the "AIDS Test." The test doesn't actually tell you if you have AIDS. It shows if you have been infected with the virus. It looks for changes in blood that occur after you have been infected.

The Public Health Service recommends you be confidentially counseled and tested if you have had any sexually transmitted disease or shared needles; if you are a man who has had sex with another man; or if you have had sex with a prostitute, male or female. You should be tested if you have had sex with anyone who has done any of these things.

If you are a woman who has been engaging in risky behavior (see page 3), and you plan to have a baby or are not using birth control, you should be tested.

Your doctor may advise you to be counseled and tested if you are a hemophiliac, or

have received a blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985.

If you test positive, and you have not been infected with the AIDS virus, you should take steps to protect your partner.

People who have always been uninfected (see page 3) do not need to be tested.

There's been a great deal of talk about problems with the test.

If it is done by a good laboratory, the results are checked by a physician.

If you have engaged in risky behavior, speak frankly to a doctor who can help you with your AIDS problem, or to an AIDS counselor.

For more information, contact your local public health agency. They're part of the government section of your phone book. Call your local AIDS hotline. If you don't have a phone, call the number, call 1-800-342-AIDS.

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

### The Problem Of Drugs And AIDS

Today, in some cities, the sharing of drug needles and syringes by those who shoot drugs is the fastest growing way that the AIDS virus is being spread.

No one should shoot drugs. It can result in addiction, poor health, family disruption, emotional disturbances and death. Many drug users are addicted and need to enter a drug treatment program as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, these people must avoid AIDS by not sharing any of the equipment used to prepare and inject illegal drugs.

Sharing drug needles, even once, is an extremely easy way to be infected with the AIDS virus. Blood from an infected person can be trapped in the needle or syringe, and then injected directly into the bloodstream of the next person who uses the needle.

Other kinds of drugs, including alcohol, can also cause problems. Under the influence, your judgment becomes impaired and you could be exposed to the AIDS virus by doing things you wouldn't otherwise do. Teenagers are at an age where they need to understand how serious the drug problem is and how to avoid it.

Drugs are also one of the reasons why prostitutes become infected with AIDS, which prostitutes then share with their clients and other people who do. They then can pass the virus to others.

For information about drug treatment programs, contact your local public health agency or community drug assistance group.

# GOATS PROSTITUTES



## RISKY BEHAVIOR

Sharing drug needles and syringes.  
Anal sex, with or without a condom.  
Vaginal or oral sex with someone who shoots drugs or engages in anal sex.

\* Sex with someone you don't know well (a pickup or prostitute) or with someone you know has several sex partners.  
Unprotected sex (without a condom) with an infected person.

## SAFE BEHAVIOR

Not having sex.  
Sex with one mutually faithful, uninfected partner.  
Not shooting drugs.

WAYS TO AIDS

## An AIDS Test?

have received a blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985.

If you test positive, and find you have been infected with the AIDS virus, you must take steps to protect your partner.

People who have always practiced safe behavior (see page 3) do not need to be tested.

There's been a great deal in the press about problems with the test. It is very reliable if it is done by a good laboratory and the results are checked by a physician or counselor.

If you have engaged in risky behavior, speak frankly to a doctor who understands the AIDS problem, or to an AIDS counselor.

For more information, call your local public health agency. They're listed in the government section of your phone book. Or, call your local AIDS hotline. If you can't find the number, call 1-800-342-AIDS.

WAYS TO AIDS

## Drugs And AIDS

Other kinds of drugs, including alcohol, can also cause problems. Under their influence, your judgment becomes impaired. You could be exposed to the AIDS virus while doing things you wouldn't otherwise do.

Teenagers are at an age when trying different things is especially inviting. They must understand how serious the drug problem is and how to avoid it.

Drugs are also one of the main ways in which prostitutes become infected. They may share needles themselves or have sex with people who do. They then can pass the AIDS virus to others.

For information about drug abuse treatment programs, contact your physician, local public health agency or community AIDS or drug assistance group.

the AORTA Project in Washington, DC, distribute condoms, spermicides, and small bottles of bleach to prostitutes, and work very hard to increase the use of condoms to 100%.

Regarding testing, the brochure says "...if you have had sex with a prostitute, male or female..." or "with anyone who has done any of these things," again perpetuating the unfounded assumption that sex with a female prostitute carries a significant risk of infection.

The primary transactions requested of prostitutes, male and female, are fellatio and manual stimulation of the client (blow jobs and hand jobs, to use the vernacular). Neither activity is considered to be high risk to the client, although it is unclear what the risk to the prostitute is from fellatio. The use of condoms further reduces the risk. Moreover, condoms reduces the risk associated with vaginal and anal intercourse, so long as the condoms are used correctly. Prostitutes, more than any other group of people, know how to use condoms correctly; they know how to prevent breakage; they know how to use a condom without the client being aware of it. Because prostitutes are experts in most or all aspects of human sexuality, they are the most likely to take the issue of safe sex seriously.

The problem has been with clients, not prostitutes. It has been the clients who have resisted the use of condoms, necessitating artifice on the part of the prostitute to enforce safety. By saying "Just Say No," in effect, instead of saying that "Unprotected sex (without a condom) with someone you don't know well (a pickup or prostitute) or with someone you know has several sex partners," the CDC has compounded the problem, not eased it.

Priscilla Alexander



## A Speech Presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Voting on legislation requiring mandatory HIV antibody tests for anyone convicted of prostitution; and other legislation making it a felony for prostitutes knowing they are HIV antibody positive to provide sexual services.

Gentlemen, There must be, I hope, one or two of you who is still sitting on the fence about the mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes. It's rare that prostitutes can speak for themselves on these matters. As a result, you couldn't exactly say we have much representation. I am a prostitute. I provide safe sexual services to men exactly like yourselves. I know that most of you have brothers, cousins, and golf partners who have partaken of the services of prostitutes. I know there are others of you who have used our services. It's common practice to use us and discard us and our rights afterwards—men have the power in this world—so I can only appeal to your sense of justice and chivalry in hopes that you still have some conscience left after devoting your lives to a career that is certainly more hypocritical and corrupt than my career.

As a working prostitute of ten years, having known hundreds of prostitutes, even before the crisis, I know that prostitutes in massage parlors and on the streets use condoms. There was always and is now extreme peer pressure to use condoms. Prostitutes want to use them. Without them, it's incredibly messy and unhealthy, and was so even before AIDS. In addition, most prostitutes I know have gotten tested; counseling and anonymous testing can be a great service to our community. As you know, prostitute activists are eager to protect our health and the health of our clients.

I have encountered disgusting clients who try to bully and insult me into having sex without a condom. These men are surely committing crimes against their wives. Now I hear that you want to punish us for spreading disease. Coercing or bribing a person into not using a condom should be a crime.

Last year Senator Roberti sponsored a bill that makes agreeing to commit prostitution a crime. Obviously this law legalizes entrapment, a shocking violation of our rights. And now we have these bills for mandatory HIV testing, and for making it a felony for HIV antibody positive prostitutes to provide sexual services, even if these practices are completely safe (i.e. manual stimulation). Many of you understand these hypocrisies, yet believe that the punishment of prostitutes in an appropriate

symbol and tactic. It certainly is traditional. Some of you have confided to me that it's very important to ensure a clean group of prostitutes because after all, boys will be boys. The legislative tactics of AB2319 seem designed to ensure that there are clean women to use, at the expense of those who will be quarantined. Naturally, this method of curtailing the spread of AIDS is ineffective. There is not enough money to fund the vice squad to entrap the HIV-positive prostitutes. A COYOTE study indicates that vice cops often have sex with prostitutes in exchange for protection, before and after arrests. This legislation results in greater funding for vice cops, a group of men who express themselves (i.e., power) sexually, by means of relations with prostitutes. Your legislative aides with whom I've discussed these details agree that this is an institutionalized form of rape.

Cheaper than arrests, cheaper than salaries for the rapists with badges, would be education, job training, disability payments, IV drug recovery programs, and a needle exchange program as New York has. I am deeply concerned with the fate of people of color—globally and nationally—who will bear the brunt of this crisis with the gay community. Do you realize that black women, who represent a minority of prostitutes, are the ones who will be affected by this legislation? Already a large majority of the women prison population is black. Poverty and IV drug addiction force poor women into prostitution. And I want to express my alarm at the effects of this legislation on women who have been raped as children, who really have little choice but prostitution, women who are victims of men who prey on their victimization.

Finally, regarding the under-the-table parlaying that resulted in this bill, this crime against women, a bill that is an absurd and inexcusable sell-out by Assemblyman Bronzan, who has privately confessed that he does not like this legislation, but was coerced into constructing it to protect the power of Willie Brown and his particular brand of liberalism which, as we see from his strategies regarding abortion and reproductive rights, places women's issues at a low priority.

Your vote today will influence the tide of the nation about the registry and quarantine of victims of the AIDS crisis. I must implore you on this committee to hesitate before allowing such legislation to sweep the country. I implore you to do what you can to stop a dangerous situation and to act courageously. I hope some of you can understand that the special circumstances of this epidemic—including our knowledge of prevention and the familiarity we should have with the history of genocide—must prevent your passing this bill, which in my book would be a far greater crime than any blow job I've ever given.

**CAROL LEIGH aka SCARLOT HARLOT**

**PROSTITUTES PREVENT AIDS:** A Manual for Health Educators was published to provide information to public health departments, AIDS projects, and community-based agencies that want to develop an AIDS prevention project designed to help prostitutes protect themselves, their intimate sex partners, their children, and their clients from HIV infection.

# PROSTITUTES PREVENT AIDS: A Manual for Health Educators

by Priscilla Alexander  
California Prostitutes Education  
Project (CAL-PEP)



**TABLE OF CONTENTS:** Project Description: goals and objectives, staffing considerations, voluntary participation, demographics of the target populations, and a detailed description of outreach, support groups, and educational workshops. Also includes a copy of a safe-sex quiz/contest, used as a motivational tool, and sample record-keeping documents. Organization of Prostitution in the United States: detailed discussion of the various levels of prostitution in the United States. Prevalence of Infection Among North American Prostitutes: results of studies of female prostitutes and customers of prostitutes in the United States and Canada. What Prostitutes are Doing to Prevent AIDS. Safe Sex Guidelines, high- and low-literacy versions. Education v. Testing and Quarantine to Control the Risk: the consequences of mandatory testing and quarantines, proposals for a less punitive way to control the risk, and a list of some programs that offer services to prostitutes. NTEP Policies on AIDS: AIDS policies adopted by the National Task Force on Prostitution at its annual meetings. Prostitution Laws and their Enforcement: text of California State Penal Code sections used to arrest prostitutes, national prostitution arrest figures for the years 1978-85, and San Francisco Police Department Special Order barring confiscation of condoms and bleach bottles. Prostitution Bibliography: The Voice of the Prostitute, House and Escort Prostitution, Street Prostitution, Juvenile Prostitution, AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Prostitutes and Drugs, Prostitutes and the Law, and Prostitutes and Self Esteem.

**PROSTITUTES PREVENT AIDS: A Manual for Health Educators.** San Francisco: California Prostitutes Education Project (CAL-PEP), 1988, 71 pp., \$25.00 (CA residents add 6 or 6.5% sales tax), plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

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MANOF (07/88)





## AIDS Ads Aim at Hookers

A publicity campaign aimed at instilling prostitutes and their customers with the fear of AIDS was launched Thursday by Los Angeles City Councilman Joel Wachs.

Posters, billboards and bus bench ads would be placed along Sepulveda Boulevard in the **San Fernando Valley** and in other undetermined areas of the city, if the City Council allocates \$12,000 for the program, a Wachs spokesman said.

The signs also would warn of the likelihood of arrest, noting that police in recent months have focused their undercover efforts on customers as well as prostitutes.

"What we have is a buyer-seller relationship," Los Angeles Police Capt. Mark Stevens said. "We try to remove the buyers and sellers, but we also try to destroy that link in their relationship."

One billboard would show a gravestone inscribed with "AIDS" next to the slogan, "The Price of Prostitution Just Went Up." Another would show the back of a handcuffed man with the message, "If You're Into Prostitution, We're Into Handcuffs. . . LAPD Undercover Vice."

LA TIMES 4/2/88

## MANDATORY HIV TESTING

Produced by Leigh  
at ARTIST'S TELEVISION ACCESS \$30

In a 25 minute video documenting the fight in California against mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes.



Still from *Safe Sex Slut*

Music Videos by LEIGH/HARLOT \$30

including: "Pope Don't Preach,  
(I'm Terminating my Pregnancy)"

## BIOGRAPHY

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CAROL LEIGH is a prostitute, activist and artist. Ten chapters of her writing appears in *SEX WORK*, published by CLEIS PRESS. Leigh has appeared on numerous national and local television shows including *THE LATE SHOW*, *GERALDO*, *HOOR MAGAZINE* and on *NIGHTLINE: AIDS TOWN MEETING*. She attended the masters program in creative writing at BOSTON UNIVERSITY. Her one-woman show, *THE ADVENTURES OF SCARLOT HARLOT* was featured at *THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S THEATER*. Currently she produces videos aired in festivals and on *DEEP DISH NATIONAL SATELLITE TELEVISION*. She is an active member of *COYOTE* and *ACT UP*.