

Seeking permission from the authorities is futile. Replace their information with ours.
Those in power do not act as if we face a crisis.

LOVE + JUSTICE

I'm a parent. I have three children and a granddaughter. Part of what I'm doing is to protect my own family and to protect and assist people that have no advocates. They are the lost people in a community that is totally devastated by the high transmission of the virus. The state isn't doing enough for them. In an epidemic of malaria, officials will drain the swamp, but in the case of AIDS, the state is doing nothing...

I was on the street as an example of being drug-free, knowing the misery and suffering first hand. I was there with compassion and love.

Harry Leno, July, 1992

I think in a very few years we'll look back at outcomes like this as anachronistic, idiotic, and pathetic. We've got to get a handle on AIDS or it'll get a handle on us.

Robert Ingalls, July 3, 1992

INSIDE ATTITUDE!

PILOT PROGRAM 3

STREET STORIES 4



**AIDS CZAR
OR COURT
JESTER?**

6

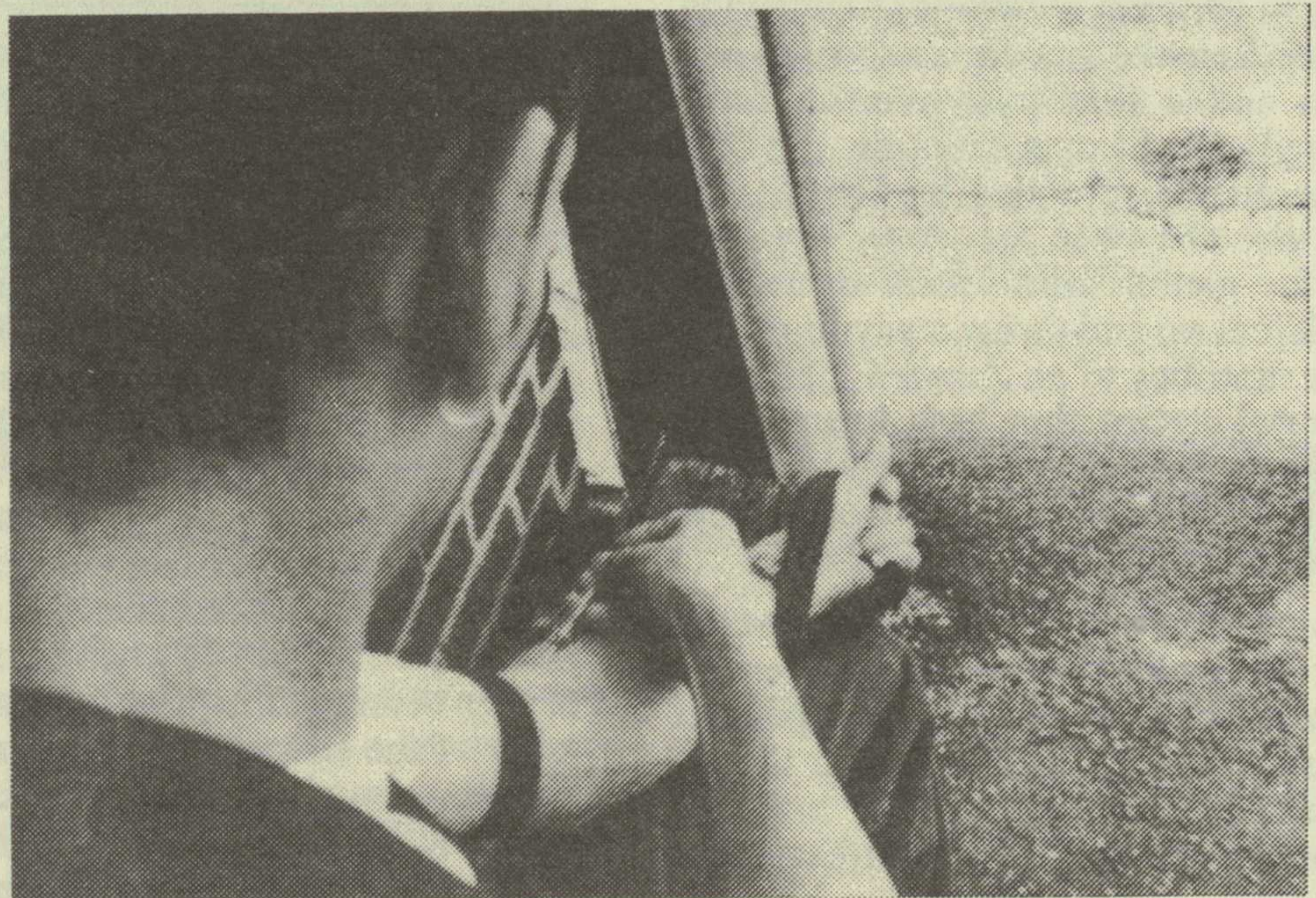


PHOTO BY BENJAMIN INCERTI, REPRINTED FROM ATTITUDE! NO.12, DEC., 1991

AIDS PREVENTION

SJC UPHOLDS NEEDLE EXCHANGE CONVICTIONS

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), on July 15, 1993, upheld the convictions of Harry Leno and Bob Ingalls charged with underground clean needle exchange. Judge Abrams, who wrote the SJC decision, pointed out that in 1991, 31% of the new AIDS cases in Massachusetts were intravenous drugs users and that 50% of Massachusetts women with AIDS contracted the disease through intravenous drug use. Essex County DA Margaret Perry, who prosecuted Harry and Bob, went so far as to say to the press, I am very sympathetic to these two men.

In another paradoxical twist to the case, SJC Justice Liacos wrote a concurrent opinion: The overwhelming and uncontroverted expert evidence presented at trial describing the effectiveness of needle exchange programs in curbing the spread of AIDS will, I hope, indicate to the Legislature the importance of joining the vast majority of jurisdictions that have decriminalized possession and distribution of hypodermic syringes. Whether by recommendation or mere coincidence, just eight days later, the Massachusetts Legislature approved a pilot clean needle exchange program.

Despite their written support for needle exchange, the SJC failed to follow the lead of courts in other states--for example, New York and California--which accepted the "necessity defense" in stopping the spread of AIDS as reason for overturning similar convictions.

Harry Leno and Bob Ingalls were arrested in Lynn on June 19, 1991. Both were charged with over 50 counts of illegal possession of hypodermic needles and with dispensing drug paraphernalia. Once a week for over a year, they had been exchanging clean needles for dirty ones in Lynn, along with providing bleach kits, condoms, treatment information, and a large dose of love and support to hundreds of injection drug users. Fearing infection, the officers neither counted nor charged the two men with possession of two containers full of dirty needles. *Continued on page 2...*