



THE AIDS CRISIS
HAS JUST BEGUN

We are fighting for your lives too.

- Ann Northrop

**Wisdom
of being
UNITED IN ANGER**

***Irreverence can't
come from consensus.***

- Anna Blume

What are you afraid of? That maybe ordinary citizens are going to see what our government is doing?

- An ACT UPer yelling at a police officer

When we went to the FDA in 1988 one of the slogans I came up with was, "Health Care is a Human Right." I thought the more we could press that as a moral cause, something we could align ourselves with people outside of the gay world and the AIDS world, with the idea that universal healthcare was the goal.

- Jim Eigo

***All across the country, no
damn healthcare at all.***

- Ortez Alderson

At a time when people were just hovering around a certain kind of "I think we are doing ok in the gay community, I think they like us," ACT UP said, "so what?" Why do we even need to be liked? We need certain things as human being, and the reason we are not getting those things is because they don't like us that much.

- Maria Maggenti

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It was about magnifying the voice of a small number of people holding a minority opinion who did not have access to the means of production.

- Steve Quester

We didn't always have to go to clubs or bars. We could go to an ACT UP meeting

- Karl Soehnlein

The great feat of ACT UP was the ability to bring all those people together and impue all these people with knowledge. Empower them—if you want to use that word—and these folks went out to do other work.

- Robert Vazquez-Pacheco

I was looking at a peace demonstration the other day. All those typefaces are influenced by ACT UP.

- Patrick Moore

The best result of ACT UP was it put it in your face and made every person see the devastation of the disease.

- Moises Agosto

It was a combination of serious politics and joyful living that was so great at ACT UP. That combination is what you need to continue. You need...some life.

- Maxine Wolfe

We have to break down the cult of experts in every area of this society. People with AIDS are the experts with this disease.

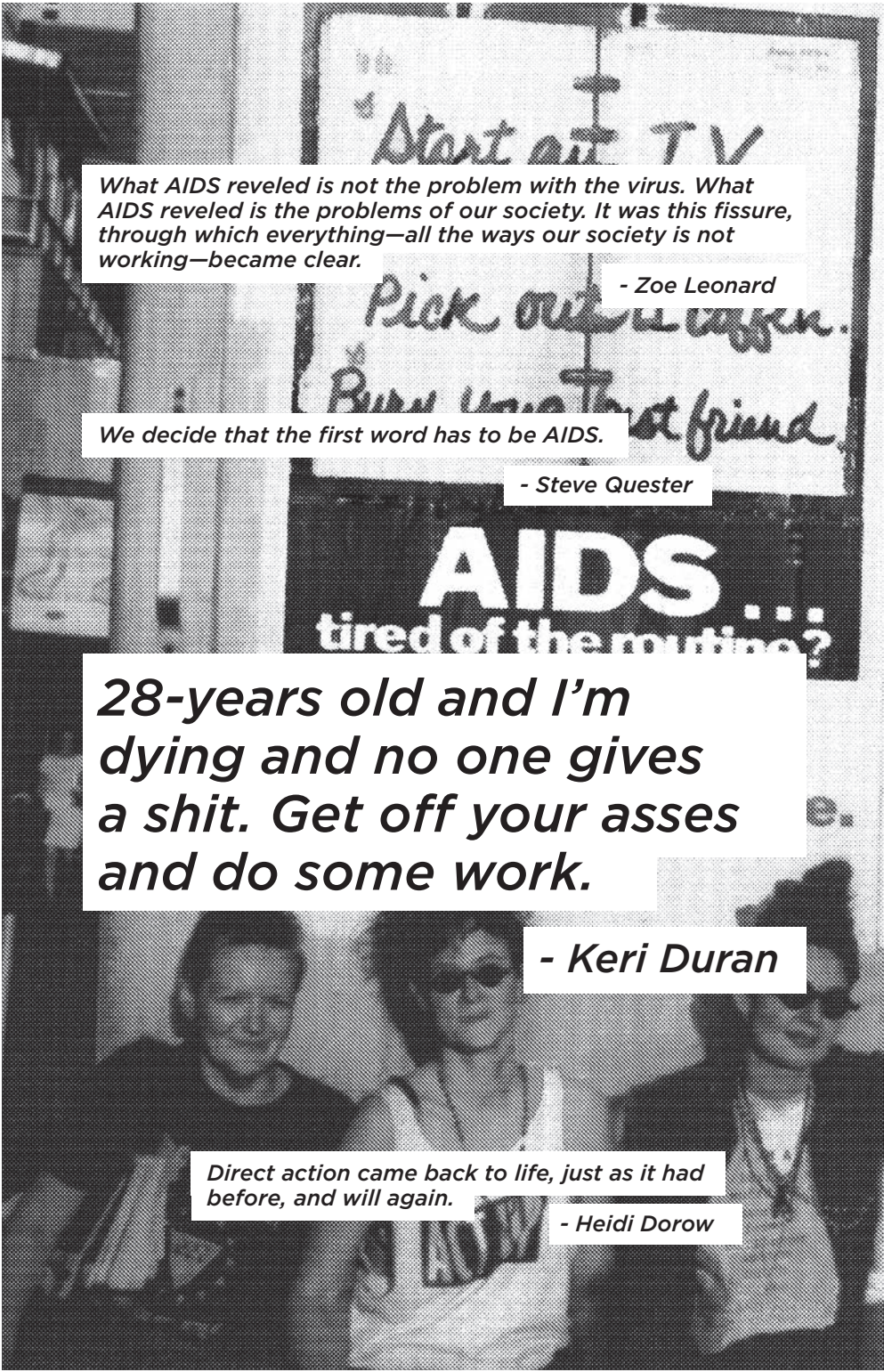
- Mark Harrington

The opportunity in ACT UP was for social change. What I saw we might be able to—using AIDS as this nexus of problems that happen in society—is address some of the stuff and work towards changing society.

- Robert Vazquez-Pacheco

There is a reason why the “drugs into bodies” position is inadequate. Because it simply doesn't account for the historical oppression of either gay people, or people of color, or women.”

- Ray Navarro



What AIDS reveled is not the problem with the virus. What AIDS reveled is the problems of our society. It was this fissure, through which everything—all the ways our society is not working—became clear.

- Zoe Leonard

We decide that the first word has to be AIDS.

- Steve Quester

28-years old and I'm dying and no one gives a shit. Get off your asses and do some work.

- Keri Duran

Direct action came back to life, just as it had before, and will again.

- Heidi Dorow



*New York.
This is your problem.*

- DJ hyping an ACT UP protest

When we get arrested we usually are aiming to get a meeting set up or deliver a set of demands. Incrementally you know you are making some change.

- Lei Chou

I may not be able to fight the virus. I may not be able to fight the disease. But I can fight the system.

- Rodger Pettyjohn

The whole atmosphere of ACT UP was a bubbling cauldron of tremendous political energy and ideas and action and flirting and cruising.

- Bill Dobbs



(AIDS) will do one of two things: It will either kill us or it will politicalize us

- Phil Reed

I hope that by doing what I am doing, by coming out, I encourage other women to make yourself visible...Letting them feel comfortable in saying that its okay to have AIDS.

- Carmen Royster

The church is a political institution.

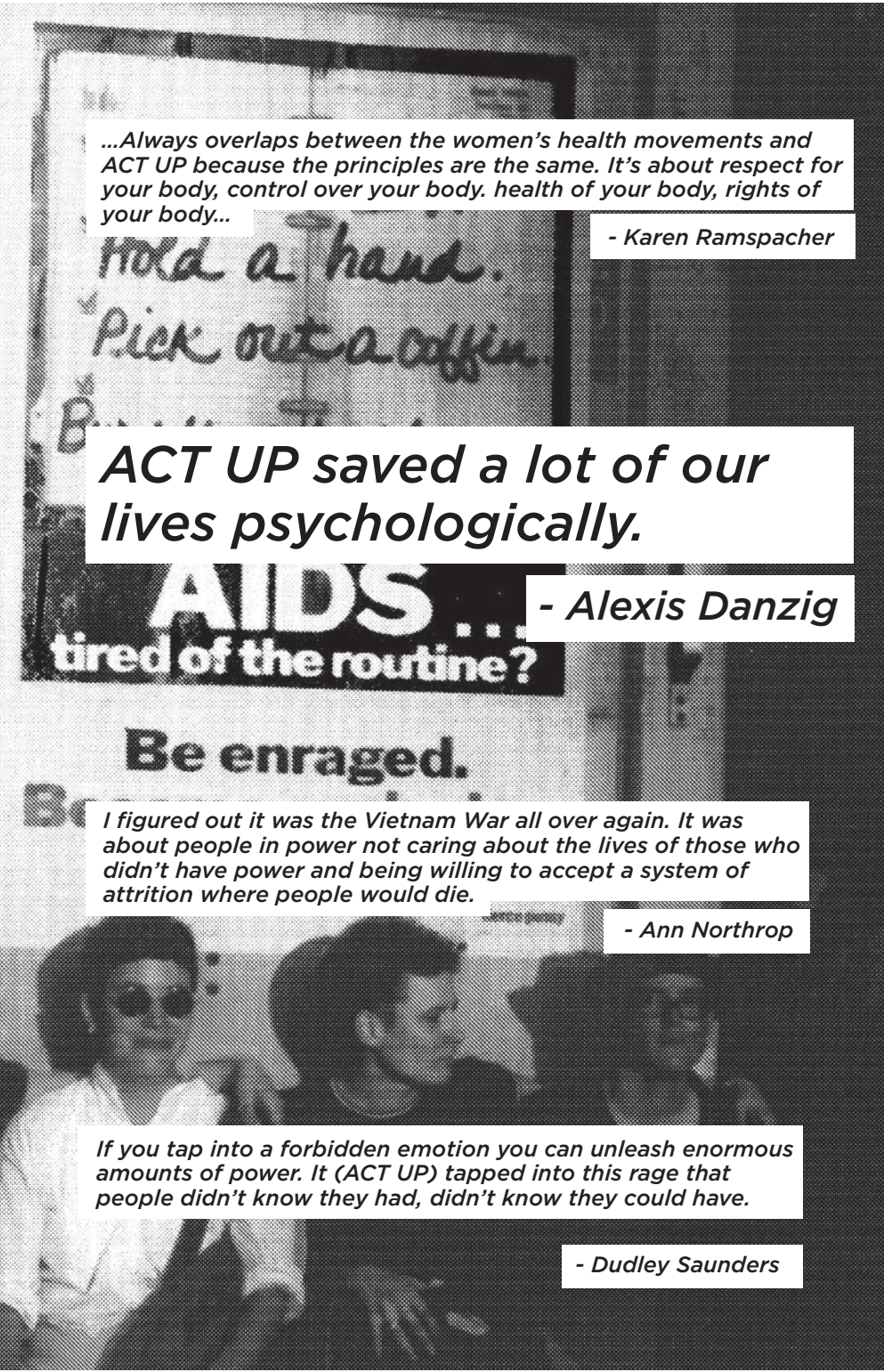
- Maxine Wolfe

We thought of the cameras as an extension of ourselves. I remember all the people from DIVA TV having our cameras on our backpacks all the time, the way people carry laptops now.

- Catherine Gund

For civil disobedience I think it is absolutely critical to do an affinity group structure for safety.

- Amy Bauer



...Always overlaps between the women's health movements and ACT UP because the principles are the same. It's about respect for your body, control over your body. health of your body, rights of your body...

- Karen Ramspacher

ACT UP saved a lot of our lives psychologically.

- Alexis Danzig

I figured out it was the Vietnam War all over again. It was about people in power not caring about the lives of those who didn't have power and being willing to accept a system of attrition where people would die.

- Ann Northrop

If you tap into a forbidden emotion you can unleash enormous amounts of power. It (ACT UP) tapped into this rage that people didn't know they had, didn't know they could have.

- Dudley Saunders

Never Be Silent Again

- ACT UP slogan

I do see it (ACT UP) as a model of what can be done in the best of ways when people draw on their strengths, their different strengths, and do things they don't know they can do.

- Anna Blume

It was really great. I liked the idea that people got up and they said what they thought, and people got up and had an idea, and it seemed like if you had an idea, you could do it.

- Maxine Wolfe

It was like a religious experience in the sense that it was so overwhelming, coming from not having people to talk to, to a bunch of fired up people, fighting for their lives, literally.

- Moises Agosto

I look at the fact that I am HIV+ today and I would not be alive today if I didn't get arrested 20 years ago.

- Matt Ebert

One thing we've found historically in the gay movement, and in particular in the fight against AIDS, is when we were activists, when we really ACT UP, we have a big impact, and we get what we are demanding, and when we are silent, we don't.

- Unknown

It gave young gay kids something to fight for.

- Matt Ebert

People living with HIV should be involved in every level of decision making concerning research for treatment and a cure for our disease.

- Gregg Bordowitz

We are at war. We are absolutely at war.

- Vivian Shapiro

ACT UP was one of the initial places where people actually decided to take the tools of communication in their own hands and document their history. We decided we were going to control the images. We were not going to just be represented by mainstream media.

- Robyn Hutt