GAY PRIDE SPEECH
KERI DURAN
13 JUN 92

I don't have to proceed this with statistics - we can measure the devastation AIDS has had in precious human lives - our lives - AIDS is a Gay Pride issue. I am a person with AIDS, I am a member of the gay community.

Wouldn't it be wonderful on this day, this day of celebration and Pride, not to be overshadowed by the spectre of AIDS? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were restored to health and if all of our sick friends were restored to health and if all of those whom we have lost were returned to us? That's a fantasy and maybe it's a bit much to fantasize about BUT - Should living past the ripe old age of 25 or 30 or 40 be a fantasy? Should access to life saving medication or access to ALL clinical trials regardless of one's sex be a fantasy? Isn't it a basic human right, not a privilege, to have access to health care?

America, land of the free and home of the brave, give me your rich, your white, your straight, your HIV negative. America, home of the greedy money grubbing scumbags who have the audacity to charge $58.00 per day for life and sight saving medication (the drug is Foscarnet and the scumbags in this particular case are Astra Pharmaceuticals).
This is no longer about red ribbons and sad songs. Its about anger and its about ACTION! Coalitions are fine to build but we need to build alliances. We need to come to the collective realization that we are dying and that our lives don't seem to matter! We need to send a message to our enemies, yes our enemies - the people who want us dead, but not right away, not while we still have health insurance. The minute we lose it or have to rely on public assistance go somewhere and die.

I love my lesbian sisters and we are at risk. I love my gay brothers. I am proud of my community. I am proud of what we have become. I am proud of what we can become.

Think about our future. Think about the state of things. Think about ACTION!

AIDS is a national emergency!

Bush is a national embarrassment! Demand leadership in the war against AIDS!

Ban ignorance not immigrants!
LEGALIZE AIDS prevention!
STOP AIDS VIOLENCE!

Universal Health Care NOW!
The AIDS crisis is not over. Join us NOW!
Someday AIDS, Sexism, Racism, Homophobia will end.
Imagine it - Believe it - Aspire to achieve it!

Act up!