



# Below the Radar

The media's 10 most-unwanted stories

May 1, 2004 By Anne-christine d'Adesky

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## **Anal Microbicides**

Labs are testing jellies and jams to protect ladies from vaginal exposure to HIV. But gay men (and women!) could use back-door protection, too.

## **The Blues**

Facing a lifetime of harsh meds and side effects, HIVers battle depression and worse. They deserve mental-health care and better R&D—not just more pills and support groups.

## **The Travel Ban**

Blatantly discriminatory, the U.S. ban on immigration and HIV positive visitors also bars would-be parents from adopting foreign orphans with HIV.

## **Where It Hurts**

As millions of Africans await HAART, many die at home or in hospices without morphine. Blame government opiate restrictions—not just poverty.

## **The Race Card**

More than half of newly diagnosed U.S. HIVers are African Americans. The press needs to spill some ink on racism when covering cutbacks in HIV prevention, ADAP and Medicare.

## **Tweakers**

Beyond urban circuit queens, crystal meth is numbing gay circles nationwide. The drug fuels sexual bingeing—which largely eludes drug rehab (and media coverage)—and rising HIV rates in young gay men.

## **The Latino “Down Low”**

Bi married men account for a sizeable cohort of Latino HIV cases, so unwitting spouses are getting it, too. Homophobia and machismo don't help.

## **Special Victims Unit**

Sexual violence—marital rape, forced sex, domestic abuse and assault—brings the epidemic to women, girls, orphans and street children globally. Why aren't women's magazines on it?

### **Lock 'Em Up**

The CDC is aiming prevention campaigns at HIVers—but it may be a slippery slope from advocates who urge positives to protect others to policies that criminalize HIV transmission.

### **Teen Spirit**

When was the last time you read about the sex lives of HIV positive adolescents? Meet a generation that's mastered med side effects but struggles with high school, dating and the prom.

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