



# No Needles

And the ban played on

July 1, 1998

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**Elizabeth Taylor:** “While it’s gratifying to know that, after many months, Shalala validated the science, a scientific determination is an empty gesture that can be meaningful only when the administration puts its money where its mouth is.”

**Jim Graham, Whitman-Walker Clinic, DC:** “On the morning of the decision, Clinton stated that politics wouldn’t interfere with public health in terms of tobacco. That very afternoon he let politics interfere with public health.”

**Tom Henderson, President’s AIDS Advisory Council (PACHA) member:** “For the administration to say there’s an effective lifesaving intervention, and in the same breath say they won’t fund it is morally indefensible. Gen. McCaffrey’s got a war-on-drugs mentality. It’s not a warm, fuzzy feeling to give needles to junkies, but neither is contracting HIV from drug use.”

**Derek Gordon, SFAIDS Foundation:** “Women and people of color are disproportionately infected by sharing dirty needles. These are human beings. Now I have to look at them and say, ‘You’ve been declared disposable by our government.’”

**Drew Kramer, Lower East Side Needle Exchange, NYC:** “The other day I remembered ACT UP chants from the ’80s—‘History will recall, George Bush did nothing at all!’—and I realized that across the board, nothing has changed for injection drug-users. Now’s the time to chain ourselves to the fence.”

**Congresswoman Maxine waters (D-CA), Congressional Black Caucus:** “We absolutely see no contradiction between supporting needle exchange and working to rid drugs from our communities.” She called McCaffrey “contradictory, dictatorial and limited in his understanding of this problem.”

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