



Graphic/ Arthur



## Federal Transfer Payments Boost

### Medical Research

Ottawa, on April 2, 1990 Federal Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Pierre Blais announced payments totalling \$25 million to the provinces and territories to promote medical research and development.

This is the third set of payments called for under amendments made to the Patent Act in 1987. The fourth and final transfer will take place in 1991.

"We amended the Patent Act, in part, to enhance Canadian-based medical research and make the results of that research available to Canadians at affordable prices," said Mr. Blais. "We have been successful in both areas."

Information provided by the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board for 1988 indicates that the pharmaceutical industry is no

target in terms of fulfilling its commitment to increase its research and development to sales ratio to 10 percent by 1996. In 1988, the industry increased this ratio from 4.9 percent to 6.1 percent. On the consumer increases in drug prices fell to 1.7 percent below the change in the Consumer Price Index.

Minister Blais also commented that he was encouraged by the use to which these funds have been put such as the establishment of the Medical Innovation Program in Alberta and of the Health Research Foundation in Newfoundland. "These examples speak well for continued improvements in health care for Canadians based on work done here at home in labs, clinics, hospitals and universities across the country," said Mr. Blais.

"Sex isn't right or wrong; it just is," say the members of Boy With Arms Akimbo. The San Francisco-based anti-censorship group is spreading that message across the U.S. with graphic images of fucking, masturbation and nudity on posters, t-shirts and, most recently, a documentary film.

This underground band of cultural activists came together in response to congressperson Jesse Helms' recent attempts to prohibit federal funding to art he thinks

"obscene or indecent," particularly the homoerotic photographs of the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

Boy With Arms Akimbo's "Just Sex/Sex Is" poster campaign forces the public to examine a broader view of sexuality than the repressive Reagan-Bush era deems acceptable.

The campaign is also an outlet for the group's brand of rebellious creativity. One of their first actions was to cover the San Francisco Federal Building with explicit posters. "[The action] looked so cool, with all [our] arms moving up and down together," says one Boy. "It was like synchronized swimming."

The group's name comes from its logo, a picture in a 1940s schoolboy dictionary. It signifies no uniformity of gender or sexual preference, they say — "It was just a groovy graphic."

Their approach is "intellectual subversion, seizing and manipulating the processes of advertising and mass media — all with the assumption of no budget, with an emphasis on individual and local autonomy and with plenty of

hooligan energy." (S.M. Thompson, *In These Times* January 10, 1990)

Last October, one professor objected so much to Boy With Arms Akimbo posters displayed at a Yale gay and lesbian scholars' conference that he called the cops. One poster showed a woman masturbating, another showed two women embracing, and a third showed two naked men's pelvises.

What followed was a frenzy of gay-bashing and AIDS taunts by New Haven city police. Nine conference participants were arrested, leading to protests by 200 others. It took weeks before all charges were dropped, and the police refused to comment until local gay activists forced repentance through almost-daily rallies.

Yale campus police now undergo obligatory AIDS education and sensitivity training, and the new mayor, John Daniels, has promised to support a similar program for New Haven police.

(Paul Bass, *The Progressive* February 1990)

