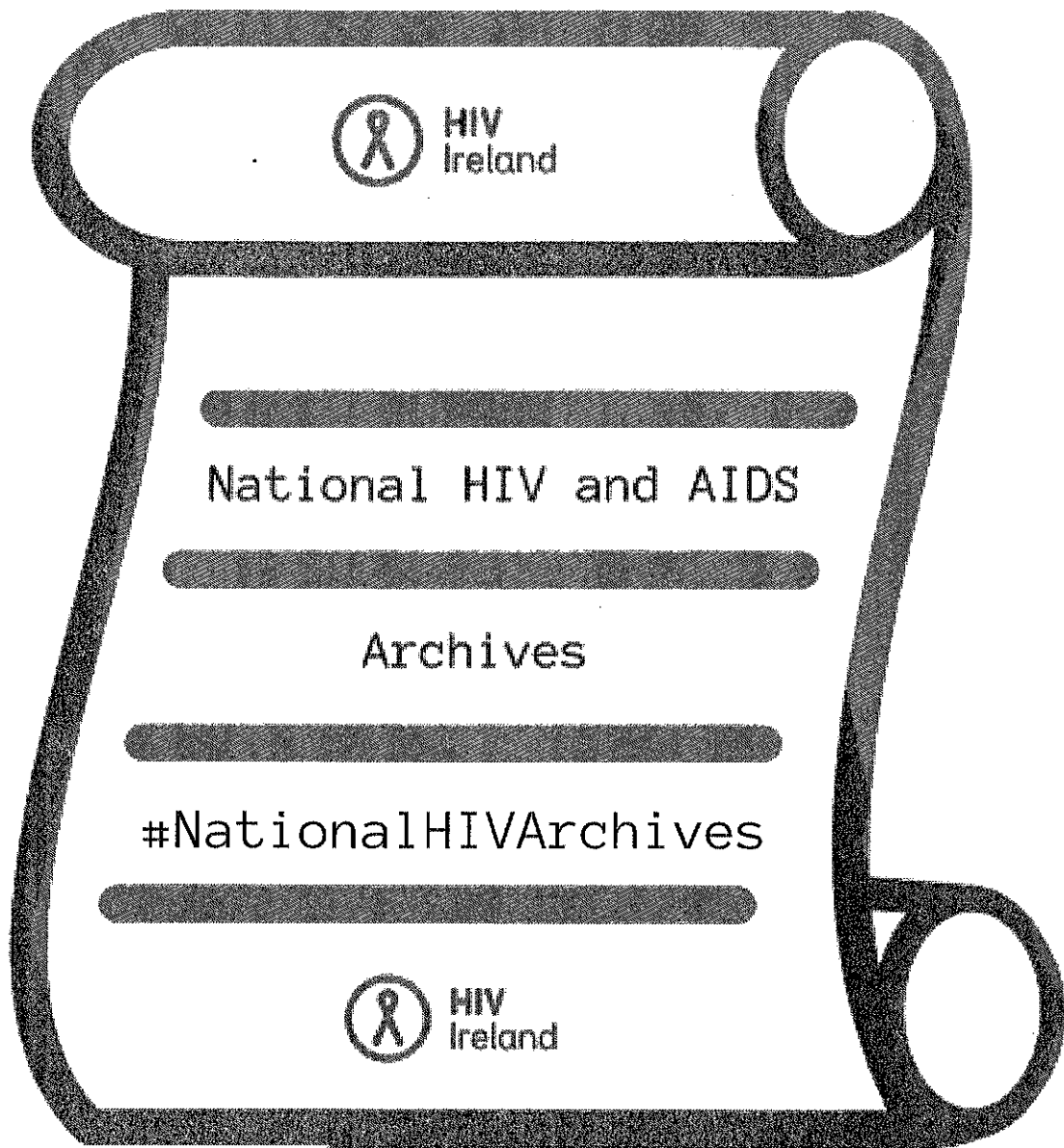


Print Media



1st to 5th February 1987

A DUBLIN HEROIN addict infected with AIDS antibodies is working in a Dublin massage parlour. There may be others like her. The danger of contracting AIDS from regular streetwalkers and at least one escort agency working hotels. Some of the women in Dublin's sex trade are intravenous drug users, one of the highest risk groups for AIDS.

'I'm numb to it all now'

SOME AIDS carriers in Dublin who are heroin addicts may have turned to prostitution to support their habit. THE SUNDAY PRESS has learned.

One young addict who has worked in massage parlours for almost ten years was interviewed. She said she had the AIDS virus antibodies in her blood. She then told me she has continued to work in a Dublin massage parlour after having times with clients, sometimes without the use of protective condoms.

The woman, who is now 28-years-old and has been using intravenous drugs for over five years, said she had shared needles with other girls working as prostitutes on the streets of Dublin and in city-centre massage parlours.

A leading medical expert on the AIDS virus and sexually transmissible diseases says that the risk of infection to people who share needles in massage parlours could be enormous. "If what this woman is saying is true then she has an opportunity to prevent the disease to a large number of people."

Dr. Derek Freedman, who is a Genito-urinary Physician in St. James's Hospital and Chairman of the Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ireland, warns that while condoms could provide protection, it was not a 100% guarantee.

The woman claims that many visitors to the massage parlours request sex without condoms. On occasions she had complied when no condoms were available. She needed the extra money for her daily fix.

"I am numb to it all now," she said. "I do it to support my habit."

Since she found out she had the AIDS antibodies she claims she confined the number of people she has full sex with to a small number of regulars. She also performs other sexual acts for customers.

"Safe Sex" guidelines issued by the Government and gay health organisations in Britain and Ireland specifically cite the acts she described as high risk. They urged people against such practices.

At 28 Jill's eyes are dull, she eats vegetarian and looks after herself as well as she can.

JILL is a pale, slight woman of 28. With long, straight brown hair tied back in a bun, she looks tired. Her eyes have a dullness. She says her otherwise youthful appearance is due to her heroin addiction.

She was 17 when she and a friend were persuaded by a woman to join a night club to audition in a 'health centre'.

"Please don't please the customer," Jill says. "I was there for three days for a topless massage and \$10 for a full strip. The two girls, fresh from school, leaving cert, went along for the girls."

The first day they both went topless for the customer and they both earned \$10.

After long they were doing it every night. In a week they earned £100 — a lot of money for a 17-year-old girl who up to then had been earning £35 a week as a secretary.

"We quit after three weeks when one of the customers followed my friend home one night," she says.

Three years after she answered an advertisement in an evening newspaper, Jill was in a new 'health centre'.

"It was the only way I knew of making a lot of money, fast."

I had a small habit. I was always smoking and getting stoned and I wanted to make money so I thought I could save the fare in the massage parlours."

Before long she was working full-time in the parlours, sometimes earning hundreds a week having full sex with customers and injecting whatever whim or sexual fantasy they sought — at a price.

She never managed to save the fare to get home. She began injecting the drug intravenously.

In the past six years she has been through 15 detoxification programmes. None of them were successful. Last year she spent a period of eight weeks in the Coolmine community but left without managing to shed her addiction.

At her time as a drug addict she has heroin addicts who are injecting themselves with needles and other drugs. She has lived and supported.

She says that among addicted girls on the scene, some of them she knows also work in massage parlours as streetwalkers, cruising such areas as Burlington Road, Fitzwilliam Square and the area around the Pepper Canister church in Mount Street.

She claims to have shared needles with a few of these women.

Although there is more money to be earned in the streets she has avoided that aspect of the work. She has worked two days when she stood out in Fitzwilliam Square before being threatened by a knife-wielding, six-foot-tall, lesbian prostitute who purportedly 'controls the square'.

"Jill draws a distinction between herself and those street prostitutes who are 'pimples', calling them 'real scum' and the 'pimples'.

Most of the heroin addicts are on the streets, she claims although she says many girls are also working from their own flats, advertising in magazines as 'massage parlours'.

At this stage in her life, she has cut down on cigarettes. She eats a vegetarian food regularly and generally looks after herself as well as she can.

A boom in Dublin's brothels

PROSTITUTION in its various forms is booming in Dublin City. Some of the larger, inner city Garda districts do maintain vice squads but regular groups of women work certain areas, and at least one high class streetwalker is supplying 'one night tricks' through buds and guest houses.

In one Dublin magazine last week there were 15 advertisements for massage parlours. The young lady was offering 'relaxation, young and unburied massage in comfort and privacy' through an international newspaper on sale in Dublin.

Official figures relating to the number of prostitutes in the city or in the larger, inner city Garda districts do not exist.

Some of the larger, inner city Garda districts do maintain vice squads but regular groups of women work certain areas, and at least one high class streetwalker is supplying 'one night tricks' through buds and guest houses.

The Drug Squad spokesman said some drugs had been found in massage parlours in the past but not in significant amounts.

The young woman interviewed by The Sunday Press claimed that drug abuse and addiction were widespread among prostitutes known to her. Although not all those women working in massage parlours use drugs, those who do are regarded as prostitutes in order to support the cost of their heroin addiction.

REPORT BY DERMOT HAYES

AIDS For Sale

AIDS patients should be on ordinary wards, says new sex doctor

by ANNE MARIE HOURIHANE

AIDS patients in hospital should not be isolated in separate wards, according to Fiona Mulcahy, who has recently been appointed Ireland's first ever consultant specialist in sexually-transmitted diseases.

"There is no reason why an AIDS patient cannot be treated in an ordinary ward. The only reason why such wards were opened in two UK hospitals was that they had many AIDS patients who were more easily cared for if they were grouped together. As far as we can tell, there is no reason to believe that we will have to deal with so many cases in the foreseeable future."

Contrary to recent newspaper reports, she says there are no plans to set up a separate unit in Ireland for AIDS patients.

Dr Mulcahy is a specialist in genito-urinary medicine. She took up her post at St James' Hospital in Dublin just a fortnight ago. She has already set up appointment-only clinics at St James' which will deal with patients who need more time and attention than they would receive under the ordinary out-patient system. These patients will include AIDS-related cases but Dr

Mulcahy does not anticipate that AIDS will comprise the majority of her work.

At present, for every ten men who attend the Dublin clinics for other sexually-transmitted disease, just one woman presents herself for treatment. That's just one of the alarming statistics Dr Mulcahy brings to her new job.

She is worried about the missing female patients who are probably not being treated at all. (Women often show no obvious symptoms of sexually-transmitted diseases and therefore suffer some of the long-term effects of going without treatment, such as infertility). She is about to start a 'tracing' system at St James' hospital.

A health visitor will be employed to find the partners of infected patients. The health visitor — who will be trained in Britain — will also help advise patients on such difficult problems as how to tell an innocent spouse that a visit to the clinic is recommended.

"It is very important that the taboos surrounding this area of medicine are removed. We don't just deal with sexually-transmitted disease, we deal with all types of genito-urinary disorders," she says.



EMMON FARRELL

• DR FIONA MULCAHY: important that taboos are removed

Sunday Tribune
1st February 1987

You can't catch AIDS by post - official!

A PHIAL of blood from a suspected Aids carrier being sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory at UCD was broken open accidentally in the Central Sorting Office at Sherriff Street last Thursday. It was the second such incident in a year despite strict new guidelines issued to doctors sending blood samples.

"We've notified everybody not to send samples by post," said Professor Irene Hillary of

UCD who runs the special Aids testing unit at Belfield.

But Professor Hillary, who described the incident as "innocuous", said there was no danger of infection to post office workers. "The sample proved negative — there was no Aids virus present."

"There was no need for panic. I've never come across anybody who got Aids through an accident like that," she said.

5

DOES GOD CAUSE AIDS?

Why do innocents suffer and swindlers often succeed?

AIDS, disasters, suffering children, cot deaths. Just some of the problems you are asking me to write about. It's the age old problem of suffering.

Let me say right away that there is only one way to understand suffering and that is to suffer. There is only one way out of it and that is through it.

To rescue!

NIGHT OF THE STARS: are the following wonderful people — Foster and Allen, Brian Colt, T.R. Dallas and his band, The Gamblers, Maise McDaniels, Michael O'Brien, Hugo Duncan, Charlie McGettigan and Eddie Fitzsimons. I really am looking forward to a great night among so many wonderful friends. Be sure to come along if you are within an ass's roar of Leitrim. Taking part free of charge

They say that the difference between Christianity and many other religions is that Christianity makes sense of suffering; the others try to tell you, you won't have any. Which is useless advice; whether we like it or not suffering is part of life. So what about suffering? Cancer, earthquakes, hotel fires, the whole jagged edge of human suffering? Where is this loving God we like to shout about? Where can we see the good God in a deformed child, a drunken driver mowing down an innocent traveller, innocent people blown to bits by evil terrorists? And most of all why should tiny infants suffer or die?

To get anywhere our own personal image of God is vital. So many of us are still tainted with a bit-for-tat God. If you do good, you'll be rewarded. If you don't you'll have to suffer. That may have been the image of the God before Jesus. But why do we still hold onto a God who is a deadly ambusher. Life is a landmine. Step out of line and you're snuffed out. A gonna-get-you-at-all-costs God.

If that were true, why do innocents suffer and scoundrels often succeed?

When Jesus was on earth he gave out hell to the apostles for daring to think like that. Whose sin caused a man's blindness, he was asked. Sin had nothing to do with it said Jesus. In fact the true face of God will be shown by the removal of suffering, he adds.

The best way to know about God and suffering is to watch Jesus. Did he ever inflict blindness, lameness, leprosy or insanity or death or any AIDS like illness on anyone for anything?

Killed

What did he say to those who killed him? I never heard of any of them getting their comeuppance. Jesus left a trail of unused stretchers and crutches behind him. He healed suffering. He hated it. That's God's answer.

But surely if you look at the world you must admit that God is happy with suffering? Surely those who say AIDS is a punishment from Him must be right? Especially when they say they are speaking

on behalf of God.

To which I say: BULL! God does not will suffering. He did not will that Jesus should suffer, even though so much good came from it. He is not appressed by suffering as such. God wanted Jesus to be what he wants us to be, whole, honest, loving, human beings. But the price of being a just and loving person, trying to overcome sin, in an unjust and imperfect world turned out to be suffering and death.

It was the lifestyle of Jesus which inevitably led to his death. Humans put him to death, not the will of

of tragedy.

No. Suffering is man's problem and God is always there to heal and care for us and even in the midst of the evil of suffering is able, if He is allowed, to get great goodness from evil. Yet in a sense, because of the way of creation, evil is not under God's control, if He allows us to be free to do good. Rabbi Kushner in "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People" has a story of a funeral he attended. A little boy was killed in a road accident. The

rejoice that he had died young and innocent. They felt angry with God. They were rightly confused. And here was God's representative telling them they should rejoice.

We do God many injustices. We make Him as simplistic and as vicious as ourselves.

There is great mystery in suffering but basically it is obvious that much misery is caused by human choice — not necessarily the choice of the actual suffering person.

For example, how can we blame cancer on God when more is spent on war in a single day than in a lifetime on cancer research for care of patients.

Respects

God respects our freedom; He doesn't make us choose good. He doesn't stop us choosing evil. He could have struck Hitler dead, but mankind must take responsibility for our actions. God does not control our choosing between good and evil. He is close to us in suffering, upset that it happens, but He is not a puppeteer pulling us about on strings.

The evil comes through humans and so does the healing. Doctors, scientists, nurses, saltns, religious orders. Healing and helping is co-creating with God, the kind of whole world God wants.

For the suffering a few

lips that might help. I'm now, maybe when you are more willing to open your mouth.

Jesus said that even the hairs on our heads are counted so there is no need to be afraid. He's there with us helping us through and will take good out of the evil of suffering.

Don't try to outsmart God. The most natural question in the world is "Why, Mr. Lord?" You're likely to get an answer to that though. We don't know everything about God but His plans. Only God wants us to be happy and well and will ensure that we allow Him. Jesus will rise from the dead after a while though for a time seemed as if all was lost.

Don't be guilty. Nothing you did caused your child to die. You are not a bad parent because a child dies. If your own actions cause your own sufferings, they are not likely to be angry with God. But do remember that He forgives you your wrong, even if you don't forgive yourself.

God doesn't give us an abstract answer to suffering. He gave us a lived answer. A breathing living model to follow in Jesus.

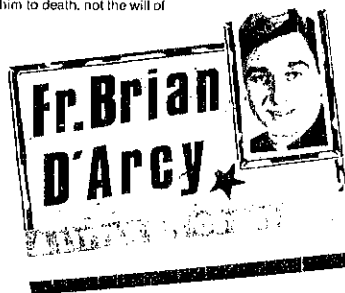
He didn't seek suffering. He didn't want it. He even prayed hard that He wouldn't have to go through with it. He sweated blood and pleaded: "If it be possible let all this suffering pass me by."

But God couldn't do much about it if He was to allow men to be free.

The price of being a loving person in an imperfect world is suffering. Standing side by side with the poor and downtrodden meant certain death for Jesus. And Jesus was willing, then, to endure it. "Not my will but yours be done."

That's what brought Him peace in the midst of the confusion and heartbreak and suffering and the pain and the tiffity of it all. He was able to say: "Into your hands I give you everything. I have. Into your hands I commend my spirit."

In short we should work like anything to take away suffering and to help those who suffer. But pat answers are not part of that work. Allowing God to see us through, to walk with us, is the only way to peace. And success



preacher told the parents it should be a day of rejoicing because their child had gone to a happier place.

Kushner says: "I felt so bad for the parents. Not only had they suddenly lost a loved child, but they were told by a representative of their faith that they should

God. God does not will evil on any human being.

Leonardo Boff, who got into so much trouble with the Vatican has a lovely quote which made sense to his South American people on this very point.

He said: "God wills life in all its fullness. That is why the death of Jesus is the greatest sin in the history of the world. God's son was required to follow God's plan to bring about life in all its fullness even if death was a consequence of his fidelity."

God does not will suffering. The most you can say is that He allows suffering and even that is a phrase which needs to be understood correctly.

Nor does God inflict suffering to test us. He is with us in suffering and He will lead us through it and often good comes out of it, as for example good health from an operation, or a more healed human spirit after a tragedy.

But God doesn't devise sufferings to punish us. I can't really believe in a God who doles out brain tumours to children so that the child can be happier in heaven or so that parents can be happier as a result

Sw

Boy, 10, dies from AIDS

A 10-year-old boy suffering from haemophilia has died from AIDS. Stephen Quirk, from Tynygroes near Colwyn Bay, North Wales, received an infected blood product — Factor 8 — from America.

He died at Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, shortly before Christmas — the youngest ever haemophiliac sufferer in Britain to fall victim to AIDS.

Haemophilia is an inherited disease which prevents the blood from clotting. Any wound, however small, can cause fatal bleeding. Factor 8 is the life saving product that restores the clotting agent.

His grieving mother Mrs. Eileen Quirk today described how she watched Stephen being destroyed by AIDS.

She said that her son was taken to hospital with a urinary infection. Tests showed that he might have AIDS and five days later the incurable disease was confirmed.

From then on his condition worsened. His fingers began to go blue, he wheezed "like an old run-down washing machine" and he could neither eat nor drink.

Eleven days before Christmas he slipped into a coma and his veins collapsed. On December 19 he died.

Mrs. Quirk said the doctors, nurses and ambulancemen attended the cremation. Only six weeks before he had been a bright, healthy lad.

For the last 15 months all donated blood products have been screened for the AIDS virus.

A spokesman for the Gwynedd Hospital confirmed that Stephen died of AIDS last December. "It is a very sad story," he said.

5

Evening Press
2nd February 1987

AIRLINE IN AIDS SCARE STAFF BAN

DAN AIR refused to recruit male cabin staff because of the fear of spreading AIDS, it was disclosed today.

Dan Air claimed up to 30% of men attracted to work as airline stewards were homosexual — and alleged that cabin staff generally were "sexually promiscuous, the Equal Opportunities Commission said in Britain today.

But the claims were dismissed by the Commission, who found the airline guilty of sex discrimination after a 15 month inquiry. On October 15 last year it issued a notice ordering Dan Air to change its recruitment policy.

The Commission said that during the inquiry Dan Air and its parent company Davies

Newman Holdings PLC, stated they would not change their policy of excluding male cabin staff because of the AIDS risk.

Counsel for the company had pointed out that AIDS mainly affects homosexuals and a large proportion of men — up to 30% — attracted to cabin staff work were homosexual.

SV

Archbishop warns on spread of AIDS

By Patrick Comerford

SELF-CONTROL, fidelity within marriage and chastity outside marriage seem to be "the only sure way" of limiting the spread of AIDS, according to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Donal Caird.

Writing in this month's issue of the Dublin and Glendalough diocesan magazine, *Church Review*, Dr Caird says that the spread of AIDS could be a catastrophe.

"We must encourage the health authorities in our country to pursue every means of limiting the spread of this disease, but particularly to appeal to those who are exposed to a misuse of sex or drugs to consider carefully the terrible cost to themselves and to society, and to abandon those practices," Dr Caird says.

"At present, self-control, fidelity within marriage, and chastity outside marriage would seem to be the only sure way of limiting



Dr Caird

the spread of the disease, and avoiding what could be a catastrophe. As Christians, we have

the responsibility to help in every way we can."

The archbishop identifies four groups in society most at risk from the spread of AIDS — "promiscuous homosexual males; drug abusers who share hypodermic syringe needles; haemophiliacs who depend upon blood transfusions which may include infected blood; and generally those who indulge in promiscuous sexual activity, male and female."

Dr Caird says Christians must show compassion "to the unfortunate sufferers," and says a censorious attitude should not be adopted "towards those who are in the midst of suffering." However, he adds: "We must reserve the right to censure those false prophets who misled untold numbers of young people into believing that there is no moral limit to human freedom."

"Many of these young people are now tragic victims of this terrible disease; but they are no less the tragic victims of the cult leaders who have misled them in the direction which has exposed them to this dread disease."

Late last year, the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland advised parish clergy to wipe the chalice during Holy Communion service. In his comment in the *Church Review*, Archbishop Caird says some Church members "have asked whether there is any risk of contracting the disease through the use of the common chalice at the celebration of Holy Communion. The best medical authorities assure us that the common chalice is not likely to be even a remote source of infection."

Dr Caird's comments in the *Church Review* were distributed in parishes throughout Dublin, Co Wicklow and parts of Co Kildare yesterday morning. However, the archbishop was not available for comment. The archbishop and other Irish bishops are taking part in an Anglican ecumenical consultation in London and Geneva.

AIDS AND THE BISHOPS

Sir, — You fail to do justice to the Catholic Church in your editorial of January 14th. You applaud the Hierarchy's approach as both "Christian and responsible." On closer inspection of the bishops' statement, it seems to me that their insistence that this tragic disease has its "roots in moral disorder" is nothing short of moralistic hysteria. Their further statement saying that to reduce the discussion concerning AIDS to a debate about free needles and easy availability of condoms "would be an evasion of the issues" is disingenuous to say the least. For it is precisely these factions which constitute the core of the issue as far as the Catholic Church is concerned.

You comment that the Catholic Church's advocacy of chastity as the only reliable alternative may be "somewhat naive." On the contrary, there is nothing "naive" about the Church's response. The same Church has never baulked at calling a spade a spade and neither should we. In recent years, the Church's correctly perceived threat to Catholic social teaching in this country has led it time and again to mobilise its considerable forces for a determined fightback on these issues, hence its involvement in the anti-amendment campaign, divorce campaign, etc.

As regards the efficacy of monogamy as a means of preventing the spread of the disease — it is rather the forms of contact which dictate whether or not the disease is spread. A monogamous relationship with someone who has already contacted the virus is no safeguard. On the other hand "safe sex" with different partners is a very effective method of preventing an individual contracting or spreading the disease.

It is indicative of the Catholic Church's attitude that it fails to sanction (and indeed warns against) one of the few scientifically proven methods of helping to stem this disease, i.e. safe sex. So much for "caring and compassion." Apparently the Catholic Church considers the preservation of its own brand of morality more precious than the health of its flock. Finally, you were quite right to highlight the slowness of our own authorities in responding to the dangers of AIDS. With a general election close at hand, it is essential to put pressure on our public representatives to redress the situation. — Yours, etc.,

BERNADETTE
BARRINGTON,

218 Le Fanu Road,
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10.

F

A
ut
at

Irish Times
2nd February 1987

AIDS

Sir, — The AIDS epidemic has brought the enemies of the people out of the woodwork again, suggesting that we treat AIDS as a problem of public health. AIDS is nothing other than a problem of *public morality*. These people are seeking to undermine our society by advocating the distribution of sterile needles to drug addicts, condoms to perverts and even the legalisation of prostitution under the shabby guise of halting the march of a disease for which there is no cure. These same evil people are those who have tried, in two recent referendums, to destroy the moral values of the Irish nation.

We in Ireland have already solved the problems of abortion and divorce, and we can, in the same Christian spirit, tackle AIDS together. Let us hold an AIDS referendum; after all, it worked before — didn't it. — Yours, etc.,

R.M. CONROY,

22 Ovoca Road,
SCR Portobello,
Dublin 8.

5.1 /

SV

Fateful Decisions on Treating AIDS

New drugs and future vaccines confront doctors with tough choices

You're the doctor, and the patient is dying from AIDS. A new drug called azidothymidine (AZT) might temporarily suppress the virus and prolong his life. But you hesitate: AZT may do nothing for his manifestation of the disease. It could even hasten death. And prescribing the drug could bring malpractice suits, since AZT has so far worked only on AIDS sufferers with symptoms different from this patient's.

North Carolina firm that developed the drug, to call off the trial and immediately begin giving AZT to all the test patients. Many doctors hailed the decision, including Charles Schable, chief of the AIDS Diagnostic Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. "I don't see how you can have a placebo group," he said, "because if you're pretty sure it's going to work, why should you not give it to people?"

drug has been proven safe and effective."

Even more distressing is the certainty that AZT will be in short supply, at least for a while. Arthur Caplan, a medical ethicist at the Hastings Center at Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., calls the shortage a "classic triage" situation. "Who *do* you give it to?" he says. "You're not going to throw the drug away on someone who is so desperately ill that he will die anyway." He is also inclined to withhold it from drug abusers, who, along with homosexuals, are the principal AIDS sufferers and might waste the treatment by re-infecting themselves. Nor does he feel anyone but medical professionals should decide. "Desperately ill patients are not in a position to make that choice," he says.

Richard Dunne, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in Manhattan, takes issue with Caplan. "I don't think researchers understand at a feeling level the predicament of a dying person who hears of something promising," he says. "Human beings have a right to make their own choices."

Doctors and researchers are also struggling with the ethics of testing potential AIDS vaccines now under development in the U.S. and France. The problem: vaccines for any disease must eventually be tested on healthy humans. What if volunteers accept the vaccine, then risk exposure and come down with the disease? That would prove the vaccine ineffective but, in the case of AIDS, could prove fatal. Says Dr. Michael Cairns of the Duke Medical Center in Durham, N.C.: "You can't arbitrarily expose a group of people to a virus to see if the vaccine is protective." Moreover, the behavior of the AIDS virus is so complex and unpredictable that a vaccine based on a derivative of the virus could itself be dangerous.

Last year, nonetheless, a French team under Dr. Daniel Zagury apparently tried, without prior tests, on animals, a vaccine on African prostitutes. Many of his colleagues were fearful that he might be experimenting with Third World subjects who had little understanding of the risks involved. Zagury retorted that his critics have "no competence" to judge his methods, but so far has not released or published his results.

As physicians ponder the issues raised by AIDS drug and vaccine testing, Dr. Jean Bernard, 79, chairman on medical ethics of France's Consultative Committee for Life Sciences and Health, urges them to take the long view. He reminds colleagues of the tremendous pressures 30 years ago to cut corners to get a polio vaccine. But, he notes, thousands of lives were saved when researchers took the time to get it right. "The point is," he sums up, "that you have to avoid passion. You must follow normal procedures." —By Ezra Bowen. Reported by B.J. Phillips/Paris; with other bureaus



Do you let him go? Or do you risk everything on the chance of helping him?

These questions took on new urgency last week when the Anti-Infective Drugs Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration recommended by a 10-1 vote that the FDA approve AZT as the first commercially available treatment for AIDS. The news generated heavy demand from America's 13,000 AIDS victims. For among potential AIDS drugs being tested, only AZT seems to prolong life, specifically for people with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP). The prospect of public release intensified ethical concerns surrounding not only drugs for AIDS treatment but also vaccines to prevent it.

Indeed, an ethical concern prompted researchers last year to cut short clinical experiments on PCP patients. In six months only one of 145 AIDS patients given AZT died; many of the others grew stronger and regained some sense of well-being. (Since then, eight more have died.) In a like-size control group given only medically inactive substances, or placebos, 16 perished. These dramatic results prompted Burroughs Wellcome, the

But halting the test robbed researchers of the chance to judge, under controlled conditions, any long-range effects of AZT, which might be as dangerous as the untreated disease. In fact, some people taking AZT have developed anemia and suffered bone-marrow degeneration. "AZT may be a genie that we are letting out of the bottle," says Dr. Itzhak Brook, chairman of the FDA advisory committee and the only dissenter in the vote. Dr. Maxime Seligmann, a French immunologist who has experimented with AZT at the Hôpital St.-Louis in Paris, agrees: "There simply isn't enough knowledge about the benefits of the drug compared to the toxic effects and long-term risks."

Another troubling consequence of releasing the drug is its likely restriction to AIDS patients who have had PCP (about 60% of all victims). Without further tests, doctors cannot tell what the effects will be on those with other variations of the disease. Says Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: "There is an ethical dilemma of doctors using AZT beyond the categories where the

It's a nebulous term though and doesn't really reveal much about the enormous network of these groups and their supporters which have become highly vocal and who allied their conservative colours to the last in the two most recent elections.

It's a nebulous term though and doesn't really reveal much about the enormous network of these groups and their supporters which have become highly vocal and who allied their conservative colours to the last in the two most recent elections.

Anyone who witnessed their awesome mobilisation of forces can be in no doubt that they exist, that they are extremely powerful and that to dismiss them as merely the lunar fringe" is both misleading and inaccurate.

There are dozens of other, more innocuous or less inflammatory other than those in this profile, elsewhere in this page which come under the Moral Majority umbrella. Some can boast thousands of members, and some are willing to do anything to get their message across. They are organized to sway public opinion against issues such as divorce, abortion, and education and censorship. Others can be impetuous, and some are downright hostile toward anyone who contacts them. But all are equally unimportant.

"The Moral Majority," says the Alice Glenn, "are the ordinary people of this country who won a two-to-one majority in the 1964 election over the liberals, and they are now being used by the media to frighten and speed up the process of change."

Who, they are, why

Mna na h-Eireann
ED in 1978 by Uas Mhic
inde that we let all sorts in."


The Responsible Society

THE Responsible Society was founded in Britain in 1971 and the Irish branch set up in 1980. Chairwomen, Bernadette Bower says the society is "dedicated to getting information and absolute facts and

organization the first 200,000 copies. Giving them to the members.

The Responsible Society, which is closely linked to the National Campaign for the Family in Britain, were actively involved in the recent constitutional amendments and are currently opposing the Health Education Bureau's sex education programme.

MUNA BEAN
OF CHURCHILL
President of



"We are against a sex education programme which teaches children to have sex for pleasure," said the Rev. Dr. Basil, who prescribes that everybody be promiscuous and that there be no high school or university entrance examinations. He is the high finance Planning Association, named after the zone and now we need to go to Canada living the traditional."

She says here have finished with the divorce and abortion laws now and are going to have a referendum through the East. Anything which will offend the Catholic Church will be abolished."

They are opposed to the Catholicism in the United States. They are not Catholics. They are Catholics who have copied about here, eight or nine children at least, abortion, the abolition of the family, the abolition of marriage and the abolition of the family."

Mean no believe that Catholic, but...

[illegible]

Who, they are, why

Mna na h-Eireann
ED in 1978 by Uas Mhic
inde that we let all sorts in."

The Responsible Society


THE Responsible Society was founded in Britain in 1971 and the Irish branch was set up in 1980. Chairwomen, Bernadette Dwyer and Mary O'Connell, say the society is "dedicated to getting information and absolute facts and figures on the issues of the day."

According to Mary O'Connell, the society has members and branches all over the country, including thousands of women belonging to it. "We have

organization the first 200,000 copies. Giving them to the members.

The Responsible Society, which is closely linked to the National Campaign for the Family in Britain, were actively involved in the recent constitutional amendments and are currently opposing the Health Education Bureau's sex education programme.

MUNA BEAN
OF CHURCHILL
President of

[illegible]

[illegible]

group announced back in 1980 in a radio interview that when a woman avails

they were founded, what

Family Solidarity

SET in three years ago by Ft. Lauderdale's National Association of PCAC "to help families deal discreetly with children's sexual abuse and incest." They have groups all over the country.

SPUC


A VOLUNTARY organization set up in 1984, the Southern Parents' Union for Children in Britain, has been active there for 28 years this year. They

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**BERNARD
DETTE
BONNAR:**
Chairwoman

started in Ireland "to defend the interests of the unborn and their mothers" and since they won the abortion referendum have been busy with their case in the High Court which culminated recently in the outlawing of abortion referral services.

"Originally our aims were threefold."

[illegible]

and are now focusing their energies on
venomously against abortion and divorce
have the wellbeing of the unborn in
mind, we'll wait and see."

understand: Christian values will be the HEE sex education programme, as well as any AIDS campaign which recommends the use of condoms.

Family Solidarity
SET up their own group by Fr. Leonard J. McQuinn, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, to help families and disaffected Catholic marriages.

SPUC
A VOLUNTARY organization set up in this country is the Spanish Speaking Children in Baltimore, which has been active there for 24 years this year. They were

ANN
KIDNAPING? "They join by invitation," explains the spokeswoman. "It's not joining a 'sell club'."

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[illegible][illegible]

and are now focusing their energies on vehemently against abortion and divorce
and the wellbeing of the unborn in
are the promotion of personal and group
production and distribution
abortion literature.



FAMILIAR FACES: Alice Glenn (above), a tireless campaigner for tradition, and (right) Patsy Buckley, a leading figure in SPUC during the 1980s abortion retrenchment.

lawyers to give information to the FBI for the purpose of identifying persons who may be classified next. Since the so-called Moral Majority started their campaigns, we've been regressing. In this '60s there was an increasing awareness on the rights of minorities, but by the '80s they had

[illegible]

verments for additional services might yet be banned? Perhaps by the time they're prob-

How to achieve

ASAC maintain a fraternal Order of Catholic leadership. They are reluctant about they observe these aims, but they have been highly influential during the two amendment campaigns.

KENNEDY: "They join by invitation only," explains Peter Durkin. "It's just like joining a golf club."

Spokes- woman for

LIFE is a PLAC offshoot which was founded in England and set up here in 1981, although PEO Anna Kennedy says they are now a completely independent group, are non-denominational and non-political.

They offer a counseling service to their 800 members. "We have a lot of people who are very concerned about their spiritual and physical well-being," says Anne Kennedy, "We have a lot of people who are very concerned about their spiritual and physical well-being," says Anne Kennedy, "We have a lot of people who are very concerned about their spiritual and physical well-being," says Anne Kennedy.

method of practical research and group problem and group production and distribution of abortion literature.



Knight of Columbus

JAMES CANON O'NEILL, president of the American Legion in 1915 in Belfast, Ireland, was transferred to Dublin in 1922. He is now the Supreme Secretary, and the members have a number of members, "but we don't like to be specific about it."

police, and to



Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1987, Vol. 95, No. 28, Price 35c.

AXE FOR AIDS ADS

THE Government has scrapped an explicit anti-AIDS campaign because of its over-emphasis on the dangers of casual sex.

The £500,000 campaign was drawn up by a top Dublin advertising agency and concentrated heavily on sexual dangers and the use of condoms.

The anti-AIDS drive — under the central theme of "Casual Sex Spreads Aids" — was to have taken the form of a three-month advertising blitz in newspapers, radio, television, cinema, billboards and poster slips.

But today the sample ads were rejected by the Government.

A Fine Gael spokesman said today: "When the sample advertisements were examined it was felt that there was an insufficient emphasis on the threat from the abuse of drugs".

He pointed out that the majority of people who have contracted the deadly disease in this country had been drug abusers.

The spokesman stressed that while the campaign had been scrapped, the Government was still in favour of a drive against AIDS.

The AIDS issue has now been drawn into the centre of an election wrangle.

Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey said today that his Party would have no problem about mentioning condoms in a public information campaign if that was the advice of the medical profession.

However, he pointed out, some developments in the United States indicated that the emphasis

Govt. drops its shock campaign



JOHN BOLAND

on condoms was not effective and not very beneficial.

He told a news conference to launch the

Party's Youth policy that we were facing something of epidemic proportions through the spread of AIDS.

He himself believed that there should be special isolated treatment centres for those suffering from the disease and said that not enough action had been taken on the treatment facilities yet in Ireland.

The Government's proposed campaign was running into difficulties even before this afternoon's announcement.

RTE's Pat Kenny, who had been pencilled in to act as link-man on tele-

TO PAGE TWO



PAT KENNY—he won't act as front-man for the campaign.

AIDS campaign now in shambles

FROM PAGE ONE

vision and radio ads, pulled out.

Today he said: "It is out of the question. It would interfere with my job as a journalist."

Doherty's Advertising Agency — which won the lucrative contract to sell the vital message to the public — suggested the pin-up bachelor

The "Today at Five" and "Today Tonight" presenter made a demo tape for the agency but he is banned from making public advertisements without permission from the RTE Authority.

"It is part of my contract that I don't do ads without first getting clearance from RTE", he explained.

He said he was angry that the advertising agency made public his involvement in the demo commercial. "It was a private matter between the agency and me", he declared.

Other names which have been mentioned for a possible role in the campaign are Bob Geldof, Kevin Sharkey, Twink and "Megamix" presenter, Flo MacSweeney.

The Government also came under fire for an earlier decision not to run any campaign on AIDS until after polling day.

The Labour Party charged that the Fine Gael government was putting lives at risk by postponing the campaign until after polling day.

Minister for Health John Boland, who has been organising the anti-AIDS campaign, decided in consultation with the Taoiseach, Dr. FitzGerald, that it would be better to postpone it until after the election because they did not want it to become an issue in the election campaign.

Mr. Fergus Finlay, former Assistant Director of the Government Information Services and now spokesman for the Labour Party, pointed out that the campaign was originally scheduled to commence in January.

"The fact that it has now been delayed is absolutely disgraceful," he declared.

Sw

Solving the riddle of how best to project the horror of AIDS

By JOHN WALSH

FINE CAEL and, in particular, its Health Minister, John Bolland, are undoubtedly nervous over the forthcoming AIDS campaign.

The twin message on the dangers of casual sex and the need for condoms, which were accepted by former Minister Barry Desmond, are likely to lead to a storm of controversy.

But Mr. Desmond won't be Minister to take the flak from the Churches and many other "pro family" groups.

And if there is a Flannan Hall Minister for Health, when the campaign is up and running, he or she can blame the outgoing Fine Gael administration for the row.

But it was always likely that the message would be public. This was the advice from the professionals—the Department of Health and the Health Education Bureau. And the need for explicitness was borne out in discussions with advertising agencies.

Three prominent advertising agencies were invited to give presentations to the Department and the HEB.

When they saw the presentations the officials made up their minds. It was not a matter of which agency to choose but rather which message to use. The better presentation—the others were not even in the running, according to one source.

Doherty argued that AIDS was not a subject suited to advertising catchphrases. . . . Though those catchphrases properly thought through would certainly have gone to a great deal of trouble to avoid the "one of those" phrase of his confinement.

NEWS ANALYSIS EXTRA

The agency said that the Church is seen to maintain that AIDS is a moral question requiring a moral response. . . . Others would treat the matter as a medical problem. The latter view was the one which the HEB adopted. The main project, a message of fear, launched on the back of a campaign designed around explicit anatomical detail.

The agency concluded that a simple moral response was not sufficient. No "One thing seems certain. No matter the budget . . . and, almost cer-

tainty, no matter the length of an anti-AIDS campaign, there is absolutely no way in which that campaign, per se, can even in years—rather than hours in an anti-AIDS campaign—move in on the AIDS epidemic.

It argued that such alterations, if they come, will almost certainly be the result of the appalling effects of the epidemic. . . . The agency worried about and, sadly, expected a wide range of human relationships. In other words, they may come too late.

The forthcoming campaign is then based on the assumption that while it

will recommend life-long relationships with one partner, not everybody will follow that advice. For instance, one of the newspaper ads gives pointers on how to avoid AIDS:

- Stay with one, faithful partner;
- Remain faithful to that partner;
- If in doubt, ask your doctor, clinic or chemist about protection through the use of strong condoms with a condom pocket both partners wear;
- Avoid sexual practices which may break the skin or draw blood, and
- Avoid sex during menstruation.

The Doherty presentation to the Department of Health gives a fascinating insight into the way advertising agencies plan their campaign. . . . It discusses the question of whether or not the ads on radio and television.

However, in coming down against the idea of using a personality, the agency has been influenced by a number of considerations.

● Famous people in Ireland seem to be for the most part, male. AIDS is a "Two can Tango" business. . . . and if we were to recommend Bono or Shamrock to be the face of the campaign, we would need to balance him with an Irish Tina Turner. It just doesn't seem to be a feasible proposition.

● For the foreseeable future, we believe regular AIDS campaigns will be the responsibility of the HEB. . . . There is to be flexibility in approach we believe the HEB should start as it may continue. With good ideas, good artists, scripts, so-called concepts, good actors and good producers. . . . However, if it takes the initial campaign to exciting personalities continually would be impossible.

It recommends Pat Kenny as the "voice over" artist saying that he is a "friendly" presence. . . . While the agency has reservations about engaging stars for the advertising campaign it strongly recommends that people like Bob Geldof, Kevin Spacey, John or Pto Kennedy should be asked to contribute to public information films for free television on RTE 1 and 2 television.

Apart from the advertising as such the agency also recommends that—as in the UK [radio] programme of RTE 1 and 2 should be asked to vary against the dangers of promiscuity and unprotected sex—and how it can (and cannot) be transmitted.

The campaign comes at a time of disturbing news from the States that as many as seven out of ten who get AIDS are

AIDS ad drive is aimed to shock

By JOHN WALSHE

THE £500,000 anti-AIDS campaign being considered by the Government is extremely explicit about the dangers of casual sex and stresses the need for the use of condoms. The starting date has been put back until after polling day mainly because the Government does not want the campaign to become an election issue.

The public information campaign will take the form of an initial three-month advertising blitz in newspapers, radio, television, cinema, billboards and poster sites.

It will be backed up by a freephone service, probably run by the health boards, and by the provision of special treatment facilities for AIDS sufferers.

The contract for the campaign has been won by Doherty Advertising Ltd, which is preparing some very graphic ads under the general theme of "Casual Sex Spreads AIDS".

The headlines for the newspaper ads are likely to lead to a storm of controversy. They include:

- Bang-Bang, you're dead. Casual Sex is Russian Roulette.
- AIDS—Don't Bring It Home.
- Sometimes, It's Not Who You Wake Up With, It's What You Wake Up With That Matters.
- The Condom—You Can Think Of It As A Contraceptive Or As A Life-Saver.
- Government Warning—Casual Sex Can Damage Your Health, and
- AIDS—Shows No Mercy To The Innocent.

Each ad will have different wording. For instance, the wording planned for one of them is as follows: "Just one act of intercourse with a person who is an AIDS carrier may be enough to give you AIDS"; "The main way in which the AIDS virus is transmitted is by sexual intercourse, and every sexually active person is, potentially, at

AIDS can be ¹⁷ form of sin _{3/2/87} —Moderator ⁹

THE Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Dr John Thompson, has said the Church cannot condone homosexuality and must pronounce AIDS as a form of sin if it results from any activity which transgresses the moral code.

Dr Thompson said that the teaching of the New Testament shows that homosexual relationships are not the will of God and because of this cannot be accepted. "The Gospel tells us quite clearly that man and woman were made for one another and we must abide by that."

He said the "terrible plague of AIDS" was influencing people to change their lifestyles and to reflect on the Church's teaching that there should be chastity before marriage and fidelity within it. "Sexuality is part of God's gift of creation but must only be expressed within responsible personal relationships. Its abuse leads to evil consequences which affect the innocent as well as the guilty."

In a statement, which he described as a personal reflection on the problem, Dr Thompson said the loss of Christian faith among many people and its non-existence among others had meant a serious decline in Christian standards and created a permissive society which had brought with it a deterioration in lifestyles and morals.



Dr Thompson

Turning to the origins of AIDS, Dr Thompson said it first appeared in African society and in the gay community in America and then rapidly spread to Western Europe through illicit sexual relationships and drug abuse. But the virus which has already caused 30 deaths in the North and left 30 people carrying positive anti-bodies, has now infected entirely innocent victims, he said.

Outlining what he thought the Presbyterian Church should do, Dr Thompson said Christians have to set standards. They should point to the consequences of the failure to live by them and exercise a pastoral role by giving the example of the proper use of God's gift of sexuality and indicate the damage its abuse can cause to the body and soul and to society.

The Moderator welcomed the British Government's publicity campaign to heighten public awareness about the disease but he said this did not imply the Presbyterian Church's agreement with the underlying assumption that illicit sex is morally permissible so long as it is safe.

He said the medical profession stands in a unique position to help and educate the community. "Everyone must work to contain, reduce and overcome AIDS and encourage the acceptance of moral standards that promote right relationships between human beings in these most intimate areas of life. The present situation could be used as a warning signal to society generally and also to bring the response of a more wholesome and better life."

Se

Times
3rd February 1987

Aids and cancer funds equation

From Mr Albert Singer

Sir, Your Wednesday Page correspondent (January 21) gave many reasons justifying the Government's substantive input of funds for Aids publicity in comparison to that given to cervical cancer and other "less fashionable diseases". She argued that it was proper "to have Government money spent on those health areas where one's personal failure can hurt others". The problem is that every one of her reasons could be applied to cervical cancer.

We are facing an epidemic rise in cervical pre-cancer and cancer which shows no signs of abating. This being so, many of us find it difficult to understand Government priorities in respect of Aids and cervical cancer. The former is incurable, the latter is curable, being the only cancer that can be prevented by the easy destruction of its pre-cancerous stages. Aids has killed 300 persons so far, yet 2,000 women this year alone will die needlessly of cervical cancer.

Although each cervical cancer death is a tragedy, especially with so many young women now contracting the disease, it is the anguish of the living that concerns us. In this district general hospital clinic we have about 700 women with abnormal smears waiting for a first clinic appointment, sometimes eight to nine months hence. A further 600 already diagnosed with pre-cancer are awaiting treatment. Every day, between 60 and

85 telephone calls are received in this unit from anxious, distressed and disillusioned women.

We who run the services are powerless to act. In Islington, a deprived inner-city district, we have many worthy claims from other services for our limited and truncated funds. It is only central government who can help. Indeed, the recently announced two-year waiting list handout is a short-term expedient; how can it work if the epidemic, as still seems likely, is still running at full steam in 1989?

Certainly, one has to commend the Government on its publicity for Aids. One has compassion for those with the disease. However, many of us feel that the emphasis on the heterosexual spread and risks with Aids is probably excessive, especially as only seven women have died of Aids from proven heterosexual contact and many experts are unsure as to the true risk of heterosexual sex.

Should not a review now take place in respect of the priorities of both these sexually transmitted diseases? Certainly the realities of what diseases are curable and incurable should be considered.

Yours sincerely,

A. SINGER

(Consultant gynaecologist,
Whittington and Royal Northern
Hospitals),
Islington District Colposcopy
Clinic,
Royal Northern Hospital,
Holloway Road, N7.
January 26.

Liberace very ill



FANS began gathering outside Liberace's desert home in Palm Springs, California, yesterday, as word came that the flamboyant showman was clinging to life "moment to moment."

"There's not much time," his publicist, Denise Collier, said. She said he was being attended at bedside by his family and close friends.

Collier described Liberace (67) as semi-conscious, suffering from pernicious anemia, complicated by advanced emphysema and heart disease.

She said he was being kept alive, "just moment to moment."

A crowd of fans kept a vigil in a parking lot across the street from the entertainer's home.

The *Las Vegas Sun*, quoting informed sources, reported last month that Liberace was terminally ill with AIDS.

Asked on Monday to comment on the reports, the entertainer's Las Vegas physician, Dr. Elias Ghanem, said, "he lived a private life and deserves to die that way."

EEC helps in anti-AIDS fight

From ROSE MOERS in Brussels

THE EEC are planning to step up assistance to African countries, in their struggle against the disease, AIDS.

A promise to provide more financial and technical help was made by EEC Commissioner Lorenzo Arusha (Tanzania) yesterday, where European parliamentarians are meeting with their counterparts in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, associated with the EEC under a trade and aid agreement.

It is understood that the Commission intends to vote 60 to 70 million Irish pounds to its anti-AIDS campaign for African countries. Concrete proposals

are to be submitted shortly to EEC governments. EEC action would concentrate on stepping up controls and checks on blood banks and medical supplies (syringes, etc) in African countries. Co-operation between African and European laboratories and research institutions would also be intensified.

Meanwhile, the Arusha meeting came under severe criticism from British Labour MEP John Tomlinson, who in Brussels yesterday called for an inquiry into the trip to Africa by 66 MEPs accompanied by 127 officials. The cost of the trip is estimated at £420,000.

5

Desmond hits out at AIDS campaign leak

By EVELYN RING

FORMER Health Minister Barry Desmond yesterday condemned the leakage of confidential information on the Government's anti-AIDS advertising campaign.

"I absolutely deplore the leaking of an official document and would fur-

ther deplore the making of a party political issue of this serious health problem," said Mr. Desmond.

He was referring to a Dublin newspaper report which claimed that Fine Gael had put off the starting date of the campaign until after the election because of fears

that it would result in a tug-of-war between the Government and the Catholic Church.

This would lose them valuable votes at the polls on February 17.

Mr. Desmond said that he had not seen the document referred to by the newspaper and could not comment, therefore,

on the accuracy of the report.

The Health Education Bureau stated yesterday that the information on the campaign was confidential and had obviously been deliberately leaked in a "totally irresponsible manner" without regard to the consequences.

The Bureau pointed out that the original proposals had been revised and the campaign was currently being redesigned. They would now be forced, at this "delicate stage" in the development of the campaign to make further amendments.

The Bureau went on to say that any subsequent resulting delay in the launching of the campaign, which was of crucial importance for public health, was regrettable.

The Minister for Health, John Boland, said that the Government had decided on January 20 to have the campaign redesigned.

Daily Mail, Wednesday, February 4, 1987

Classroom warning over AIDS

By ROGER SCOTT

SCHOOLS and colleges in Scotland have been advised to tighten up on hygiene to prevent the possible spread of AIDS.

A booklet issued to head teachers and college principals says blood must no longer be taken from pupils for use in science studies.

Students playing brass instruments during music lessons should always use their own mouthpiece.

The 13-page booklet also renews warnings against do-it-yourself ear piercing and tattoos and mingling blood to form playground bonds.

Scottish Education Minister John MacKay said: 'In the ordinary classroom situation, there is absolutely no danger of contracting AIDS from a fellow pupil.'

SW

Daily Mail, Wednesday, February 4, 1987

BBC and ITV plan joint campaign

Stars set for week-long TV blitz on AIDS

By CORINNA HONAN

THE BBC and ITV are joining forces to launch a week of daily programmes about AIDS.

International rock stars and comedians — including American Eddie Murphy, former Wham! singer George Michael and David Bowie — have been asked to start the week with a 90-minute ITV special.

Due for peak-time screening on Friday, February 27, the show will feature jokes, sketches and songs aimed at making an expected audience of 17- to 24-year-olds more aware of the dangers.

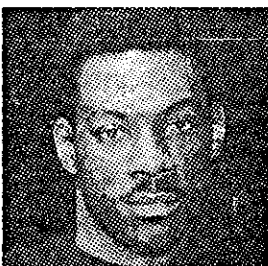
Programme-makers are still deliberating over whether to include an AIDS victim in the format.

A series of five 15-minute information programmes will be shown each night after the News at Ten in most regions, with Granada, Central and Scottish TV making their own local variations.

BBC plans for the week are being kept under wraps, but are due to include several hours of feature programmes.

The project is one of the few occasions, outside sport, when both the BBC and ITV have agreed to suspend the ratings war by deliberately scheduling programmes so none overlap.

'We wanted to make sure there was maximum exposure to information about AIDS by showing our programmes in the same week and not scheduling directly against



Campaign star: Eddie Murphy

each other,' said BBC daytime head and AIDS week co-ordinator, Roger Lawton.

Battle

ITV co-ordinator, Yorkshire TV's director of programmes John Fairley, said: 'It's quite a unique co-operation. I can't recall any agreement of this kind in the past — it's a measure of how seriously everyone takes the AIDS problem.'

'We shall be making a major effort to reach people and laying on phone-in help lines. We regard this as the first phase of the battle against AIDS and are now thinking in terms of a five-year plan for ITV



Campaign star: David Bowie



Campaign star: George Michael

which will involve short information films.

'We also plan to co-ordinate our ITV medical shows, like *Where There's Life*, so there's a regular pattern to keep abreast of changes on the AIDS front.'

The move is bound to delight the Government, who have already spent £20 million on a leaflet and advertising campaign which had a mixed reception.

The TV initiative emerged from talks between executives attending DHSS briefings on AIDS before the commercials were even thought of. But Government involvement in the AIDS week has been limited to an advisory role.

54

Evening Press
4th February 1987

Liberace slips into a coma

Liberace slipped into a coma last night after a priest had administered the last rites to the dying entertainer, his lawyer said.

"There is little hope he can last much longer," the lawyer, Joel Strode, said after fans held a candlelight vigil outside the Liberace mansion, Casa de Liberace, in Palm Springs, California.

The fans, many of them middle-aged women, stood outside the mansion for up to six hours.

His manager for 36 years, Seymour Heller, bitterly denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the entertainer has AIDS.

But medical sources have confirmed that Liberace has AIDS. One doctor admitted: "If it was not for AIDS we could treat him for the conditions he is suffering from."

SV

Evening Press
4th February 1987

Condoms in church

A minister says he plans to distribute condoms at services on Sunday to help make people more aware of AIDS. Rev. Carl F. Titchener, heads the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst in Buffalo, New York.

Evening Press
4th February 1987

Begin AIDS campaign — POA

The Prison Officers' Association today demanded that the Government immediately begin the public information campaign on AIDS.

"There is no justification for the delay in providing, after many months, the available information on an ongoing basis to the general public on AIDS. A public health and safety issue must come before political party consideration," they said in a statement.

AIDS was a killer disease. The delay in informing the public of the full facts on what was medically described in Ireland as an epidemic was totally unacceptable and would lead to the continued spread of the virus.

5 ✓

Independent
4th February 1987

FG denies AIDS drive changed over 'church fear'

By JOHN WALSHE

FINE GAEL last night dismissed as "rubbish" claims that the AIDS campaign was being delayed for fear of upsetting the Catholic Church before polling day.

A party spokesman said the forthcoming public information campaign was being revised to place more emphasis on the danger of drug users contracting AIDS. It would be introduced as soon as possible and it would stress the dangers of contracting AIDS

through drug abuse and through casual sex.

But the Labour Party said it was "disgraceful" that the campaign was being delayed until after polling day, while a Fianna Fail frontbencher claimed it was because the Government was afraid of upsetting the Catholic Church.

Dr. Sean McCarthy, who first called for an AIDS campaign in 1981, said that the Government wanted to stress condoms in the campaign, but was afraid this would upset the Catholic Church before the election.

But the 'condom campaign' had failed in the US and the Government should spell out the message that promiscuity caused AIDS, which in turn caused death — there should be no shilly-shallying in spelling out that clear message.

Party leader Charles Haughey said that he would have no problems about mentioning condoms in a public information campaign, if that was the advice of the medical profession. However, developments in the US indicated that the emphasis on condoms was not effective and not very beneficial.

Mr. Haughey said that we were facing something of epidemic proportions through the spread of AIDS. He believed there should be special treatment units for those suffering from the disease and said that not enough action had been taken yet on treatment facilities in Ireland.

CONTRACT

Meanwhile, talks are due to be held today between RTE and Doherty Advertising Ltd, the agency which has won the contract for the campaign.

The agency has recommended presenter Pat Kenny as a link man for radio and television advertisements. He has already done a demonstration tape for the agency but would need permission from the Authority to get involved in the campaign.

In a statement last night the Health Education Bureau said that the publication in the Irish Independent of the original proposals for the campaign at this delicate stage necessitated further amendments to the content.

● The EEC has offered a helping hand to Third World countries to help isolate AIDS. The European Commission announced yesterday that it proposed to spend £78m. on public information and preventive measures in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Irish Press
4th February 1987

Drug slogan in revised Aids drive

By CHRIS DOOLEY

THE Government's anti-Aids campaign is being revised by the Health Education Bureau because the Department of Health felt it did not place enough emphasis on the threat to drug abusers.

But the £500,000 campaign is still expected to include explicit warnings about the dangers of casual sex, when it finally gets underway after the election.

The Minister for Health, Mr. Boland, is believed to have postponed the campaign, because he did not want it to become an election issue.

But this became inevitable yesterday when details of the original campaign proposals were made public, the slogans being considered by the Government included explicit warnings such as: "Bang-Bang, You're Dead. Casual Sex is Russian Roulette".

But the Health Education Bureau said yesterday that the publication of aspects of the campaign would result in further amendments and could set it back even further.

"Any subsequent delay in the launch of a campaign which is of crucial importance for public health in Ireland is altogether regrettable," said a HEB statement.



Mr. Boland . . .
second thoughts

The previous Minister, Mr. Desmond, had planned to get the campaign underway by the end of last month.

Mr. Haughey said yesterday his party would have no problems mentioning condoms in a public information campaign, if that was the advice of the medical profession.

Labour Party spokesman Fergus Finlay yesterday criticised the decision to postpone the campaign.

Irish Times
4th February 1987

AIDS AND THE BISHOPS

Sir, — It was with distress that I read in my copy of *El Pais* on January 14th that the Irish bishops have entered into the debate on AIDS on the side of the disease. To condemn the use of condoms as morally reprehensible and conducive to the spread of AIDS is irresponsible, given the gravity of the present situation.

Intolerance masquerading as theology is hardly new, but cynicism of this kind has an inquisitorial logic. Diseases are useful if tendentious metaphors. In earlier times the Church saw the leper rotting at the gates of the medieval city as a sign from Heaven. A metaphor of the fall and simultaneously of the eternal bounty of God, for the leper would go straight to Paradise. There are those today who would see the AIDS sufferer as a sign of the failure of the sexual revolution of the sixties and seventies. Condoms, it would seem, cannot be permitted to unbalance the argument. People have to die.

The unfinished project of a more humane society is everywhere under attack. The fight against AIDS is also the fight against intolerance, ignorance and bigotry. The Church is not afraid to show its colours and neither should we be. — Yours, etc.

JOHN GRAY

Calle Arzobispo Melo, 7-10,
Valencia 46005,
Spain.

SV

Irish Times
4th February 1987

EEC plan for AIDS

From Colm Boland,
in Brussels

THE EEC plans to give financial help to African and other developing countries in their efforts to combat the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

The initial EEC funding may amount to about £80 million, but officials here said the proposal had yet to be formalised before being put to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The mutual benefits of the plan were stressed by the EEC Commissioner for Overseas Development Policy, Mr Lorenzo Natali, speaking to an assembly of delegates from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries as well as members of the European Parliament at Arusha in Tanzania.

As well as providing medical supplies and expertise it is hoped to bring about much greater collaboration between research institutions in Europe and Africa in order to bring forward the day when a solution would be found to this major threat which concerned all mankind, he said.

● Indian authorities yesterday deported a Swiss national suspected to be suffering from AIDS, a Swiss consulate official said in Bombay. The man confessed in hospital to being a drug addict, the official said. Medical tests showed that he could also be suffering from AIDS. — (AFP).

Advice on use of condoms 'no problem' to FF

A FIANNA FAIL government would not have any problems about advocating the use of condoms in a campaign to fight AIDS, the party's leader, Mr Haughey said in Dublin yesterday.

"We are dealing with an epidemic," Mr Haughey said at a press conference to launch Fianna Fail's document on youth, "Programme for Young People".

There was some evidence from the US that condoms were not all that successful in the fight against the disease — but Fianna Fail would rely on the advice of medical experts. "If they say condoms are part of the answer, then we've no problem with it."

The document, launched by Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Fianna Fail's spokesman on youth policy, says a Fianna Fail government would create 10,000 jobs by concentrating on high-quality pure food products, with 20,000 downstream jobs in this area.

Another 24,000 jobs would be created by developing fisheries, fish farming, mariculture, inland fisheries and exploitation of ocean resources. These jobs, Mr

Haughey said, would be created through investment from the private sector using the Industrial Development Authority and Bord Iascaigh Mhara as "pump primers".

The document outlines the party's policy on the problems of drugs and alcohol, saying Fianna Fail would consider introducing more stringent laws on the supply of alcohol to persons under 18 both on licensed premises and in supermarkets.

Fianna Fail also promise a campaign to provide cheaper motor insurance and affordable homes for young people — including agreement in principle to a tax incentive for those taking out mortgages — and the development of the youth work service. This would be done within the resources available, with an extension of the co-ordinating role of the National Youth Council among youth organisations.

Last night Mr Alan Graham, president of the National Youth Council, expressed disappointment with the document.

AIDS campaign won't start until after election

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By Dr David Nowlan,
Medical Correspondent

THE Department of Health confirmed yesterday that, as reported in this newspaper on January 22nd, the Government's publicity campaign against AIDS has been postponed. It will not start until after the general election.

When first proposed before Christmas, the campaign was scheduled to start in mid-January. Then the starting date was put back to the end of January and the Coalition Cabinet was expected to consider the campaign details (already approved by the then Minister for Health, Mr Desmond) at its meeting on January 20th.

That was the meeting at which the Labour Party ministers resigned from the Coalition. The following day a decision was taken — presumably by the new Minister for Health, Mr Boland, and the Taoiseach — that the campaign should be postponed until after the general election.

Yesterday, the Department of Health issued a statement from Mr Boland saying that the Health Education Bureau and the Department were discussing a "re-design" of the campaign and that, when the new design was

completed it would be re-submitted to the Government for approval.

Mr Boland's statement said that no contracts would be formally signed with any advertising agencies until the re-designed campaign had been approved by the Government.

This means that the details, revealed in a morning newspaper yesterday, of a campaign designed by Doherty Advertising Ltd (the campaign approved in principle by Mr Desmond) are now subject to alteration. It is probable that the outline will still involve a three-month media advertising programme with the general slogan that "casual sex spreads AIDS" echoed on billboards and in cinemas throughout the country. It is probable that a series of printed advertisements and short films for television and cinema will be made with messages such as "AIDS — Don't Bring It Home" and "Sometimes It's Not a Matter of Who You Wake Up With. It's What You Wake Up With That Matters" and "The Condom — You Can Think Of It As A Contraceptive Or As Life-Saver".

But there should now be an additional component aimed at those who abuse drugs and use

needles to do so. And one unconfirmed report suggests that the condom message may be toned down as a result of some reservations expressed by a member of the Cabinet. The main thrust of the campaign will be on the importance of faithfully monogamous sexual relationships.

A proposal that the health boards might run a free-phone information service might be difficult to implement in a hurry since the personnel answering the phones would have to be very thoroughly briefed on the subject of AIDS.

Whatever the ultimate outcome, it now seems impossible to get the campaign moving before polling day. And that means that its eventual launching will become the responsibility of the incoming Government. That might lead to further demands for a re-design and further procrastination.

Meanwhile, there are many people in Ireland at risk of contracting the virus who need urgently to be told how to avoid AIDS. Over 520 are known to be carrying the virus and more are likely to have been exposed, and the number of cases of AIDS diagnosed rose this week to 16. It is a number that will continue to rise.

SW

Ethical Dilemma

Asking AIDS Victims To Name Past Partners Stirs Debate on Privacy But Failure to Trace Liaisons Could Expand Epidemic In Heterosexual Circles

Is San Francisco Plan Fascist?

By MARILYN CHASE
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal
NEW YORK—Most future AIDS victims will catch the virus from people who today have no idea they are infected. Little is being done to warn them.
Whether something should be done has become a matter of debate in many countries.

In the U.S., there may be more than 1.5 million people who had sexual relations unwittingly with AIDS carriers and now carry the virus themselves. Doctors say these people need to be identified, tested and warned to change their sexual habits before they spread the epidemic further. But civil-rights and homosexual groups fear that tracking them down could threaten their privacy, job security and insurance claims of those already dying of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. And as this opposition grows, "contact tracing" efforts, the disease continues to spread, claiming many more heterosexual victims than doctors had earlier predicted.

The ethical debate over AIDS tracing is wasting precious time, says Robert Redfield, a top U.S. AIDS researcher. AIDS is "the public health threat of the century," adds Jerome Groopman of New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston. "We can't allow political sensitivities to prevent public-health policy."

Secret Lifestyles
But many AIDS victims can't shake their fears about tracing. Some don't want employers or relatives to know they have the fatal disease. Others simply want to keep their homosexuality secret.
Dr. Groopman tells of an AIDS patient, very religious and now divorced, who has secretly bisexual. "During his marriage, he had regular intercourse with his wife," the doctor says. "She is now married and contemplating pregnancy. I don't know she was potentially exposed. I say he's got a responsibility to (warn) her. He says it's too devastating because it will compromise his secret."

Another bisexual patient refuses to use a condom with his girlfriend, Dr. Groopman says, "because it will tip her off that something has changed about him." (The doctor says he doesn't know the identities of the first patient's ex-wife or the second's girlfriend, so he is powerless to help them.)

Ethical Dilemma: Proposals to Trace Sexual Partners Of AIDS Victims in U.S. Stir Civil-Liberties Debate

Continued From First Page

tested if they want to be tested," says Nan Hunter of the ACLU. But she adds, more serious efforts to educate people about the hazards of AIDS and the need for safe sex could limit the spread of the disease without violating civil liberties.

In Illinois, the ACLU helped kill a bill that would require AIDS testing prior to issuance of a marriage license. Ms. Hunter says. Similar bills died in other states. Some states have passed legislation making testing and tracing nearly impossible. New York health agencies don't do AIDS contact tracing because, an official says, it is "antithetical to confidentiality."

Meredith, a San Francisco AIDS patient who got the disease from a former boyfriend, says public-health departments have no business meddling in her past affairs. If her previous lovers need to be informed, "I'd rather take that responsibility myself," she says.

Jeffrey Levi, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, worries that "once the state starts gathering names, there's a tremendous danger" of quarantines or other draconian measures. Other tracing opponents doubt that the process would locate most victims, or, in many cases, would persuade those identified to change their sexual behavior.

Some homosexual AIDS victims have had so many anonymous partners, that tracing programs that exist focus on heterosexual AIDS cases. Though heterosexual AIDS is now thought to account for just 4% of the 29,000 cases of the disease in the U.S., the caseload in heterosexuals doubles every six months, while the doubling time for the total AIDS caseload in the U.S. has slowed to 13 months.

A Frightening Forecast

Despite initial skepticism, few doctors now question that the virus can spread between women and men—possibly with just a single sexual encounter. Of the 270,000 cases of active AIDS forecast by health officials for 1991, 10% are expected to involve heterosexuals—a number nearly equal to the total current AIDS caseload.

AIDS is a global phenomenon—with heterosexual clusters in Sweden, Belgium and among the drug-users of Edinburgh. In Sweden, some efforts have been made to trace AIDS contacts among heterosexuals. And in Belgium, medical researchers have called for mandatory monitoring of the heterosexual population.

Health officials look with most alarm to Africa, probable cradle of AIDS, where the disease is widespread, and shared equally by men and women. Though it isn't clear what role primitive hygiene, dirty medical needles, and customs that call for the mutilation of women's genitals may play in Africa, AIDS is also thought to be spread by regular heterosexual intercourse.

"It's too easy to label AIDS a gay plague," says Meredith, the patient in San

Francisco. She settles at the stereotypes that pursue her: "Dumb broad! Street girl!" she says. "We've all had our encounters, and I wasn't Miss Prude USA, but I resent it when people say, 'What did you do to get this disease?'"

Such heterosexual AIDS carriers would be the easiest to trace. Of the women infected and tracked in a study by the University of California at Berkeley, many appeared far from promiscuous. "Some have only had one or two partners in their entire lives," says Linda Marquis, one of the study's authors. "These women are housewives, physicians, lawyers, high-powered Silicon Valley executives. They're not flower children."

Carol, a 41-year-old professional, says she contracted the virus from her fiancé in what had seemed an idyllic middle-aged love affair. "We planned to get married and buy a two-story house to accommodate all our children," she recalls. But her fiancé got AIDS, probably through drug abuse and died in 1985. Though she remains healthy, Carol says she is chaste these days and favors contact tracing.

No Names, Secret Numbers

San Francisco's tracing program is housed discreetly in a building apart from the Public Health Department. There, Christine Geoghegan asks AIDS patients to recall whom they might have exposed to the virus. Then she calls contacts and offers testing. If they accept, she assigns them a secret number assuring anonymity. Her call is often a traumatic intrusion into their lives, she says. "They hear the word AIDS, and sometimes, that's all they hear. You have to follow their lead. Some are in a state of shock. Some cry."

Ms. Geoghegan suggests safer sexual practices, including the use of condoms and warns against shared needles. Even if they don't have the virus, she says, "we give them the same counseling, because you're only as negative as your next sexual encounter."

Her program's results so far indicate the difficulties of AIDS tracing. Many of the 110 AIDS patients interviewed refused to cooperate or didn't know the whereabouts of past lovers, and many of those named couldn't be located. Ms. Geoghegan's group found and tested 27 contacts, of whom seven are infected with the AIDS virus.

Beth Dillon, manager of Colorado's AIDS program, says tracing is inherently voluntary. "There's no way I can force anyone to share (the names of) sexual contacts, though I try to be convincing."

Some states protect privacy with legislation. In Wisconsin, which plans to begin tracing by next summer, anyone leading test results faces a \$10,000 fine and nine months in prison. Minnesota passed a law protecting medical records from court subpoena.

Perhaps due to such protections, and the fact that tracing programs hinge on voluntary disclosure, the ACLU and other groups have yet to report any breaches of confidence.

ality involving tracing. And some doctors say that tracing programs might actually preserve confidentiality for AIDS patients by sparing them the task of informing their own partners. (Most health officials tell contacts that they were exposed to the virus, but don't reveal by whom.)
If tracing begins in earnest, doctors expect to find that the virus is spreading unchecked into regions remote from the hot spots in New York and California. Keith Henry, director of the AIDS unit of the St. Paul, Minn., Division of Public Health, tested two local "swingers' clubs," and found two women had AIDS antibodies but were not yet sick. After their initial disbelief, Dr. Henry says, "Their attitude changed from it can't happen to us, to 'are we part of the problem?'"

The clubs disbanded, and Dr. Henry has since taken his warnings to swingers' conventions nationwide. Still, denial dies hard. Half the conventioners, he says, pass him by and move on to the sexual AIDS booth.

Minnesota also saw the "duty to warn" move from a moral debate to a legal one. Last July, in a case in Ramsey County District Court identified only as C.A.U. vs. R.L., a woman sued her fiancé for allegedly failing to warn her that he had AIDS. Now infected with the virus, she has claimed unspecified damages in excess of \$50,000.

EC-Africa AIDS Campaign

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Community Commission said it plans to set up a joint anti-AIDS campaign with African countries hit by the disease.

Lorenzo Natali, EC commissioner in charge of development, said in a speech to a trade and aid conference of European parliamentarians and African diplomats in Arusha, Tanzania, that collaboration was essential on research and preventive action against the incurable virus.

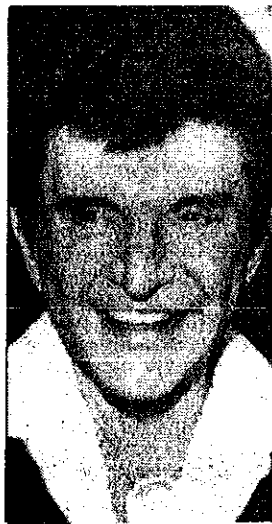
"Our human sentiment and sense of solidarity obliges us to provide those responsible for health care in these (African) countries with the technical means, the money and the medical assistance they require to cope with this emergency," he said.

The joint program would be based on tightening control at blood banks in certain African states, providing medical equipment such as syringes, and setting up links between European and African laboratories, a commission spokesman said.

No figures were available on the cost of such a program, or whether funding would come from EC money already earmarked for Third World development projects or from additional funding from member states of the 12-nation community.

Mr. Natali was expected to outline the proposed plan, which would need approval by EC ministers, upon his return to Brussels next week, the spokesman said.

Liberace dead aged 67



*Piano virtuoso
Liberace, who died last
night.*

LIBERACE, the flamboyant pianist showman who combined classical training with an outlandish wardrobe and an extravagant stage act, died in Palm Springs, California, yesterday, at age 67, his publicist said.

"He was pronounced dead at 2.05 Pacific time," (22.05 GMT) said spokesman Denise Collier. "Cause of death: cardiac arrest brought on by subacute encephalopathy."

The pianist, known as "Mr. Showmanship" for his spectacular

Obituary, page 9.

shows, had slipped into a coma.

He had been reported close to death for the last week and his publicist had said he was suffering from pernicious anemia - a sometimes fatal form of the blood disease - complicated by advanced emphysema, which causes breathing problems, and a heart disease.

As he lay in his lavishly furnished house, known as "Casa Liberace", admirers, many of them middle-aged women, held a candlelight vigil outside.

Dariny La Rue, a friend for more than 25 years, said: "He was an enormously generous and kind man, with great warmth and affection for humanity, Liberace was a legend."

He added: "His professionalism was beyond reproach. Lee was one of the world's great talents and had such a magnetic charisma and presence both on and off stage.

"He was a star in every sense of the word and although his death is a great tragedy, he has left behind a marvellous legacy to his outstanding talents through his records and TV appearances and many memories. We will never replace him".

12/78

Cork Examiner
5th February 1987

Boland denies AIDS charges

HEALTH Minister John Boland said yesterday the decision to submit again a draft anti-AIDS advertising project to the design consultants had been taken by the Cabinet before he took over as Health Minister.

He said the Cabinet wanted greater emphasis on drug-related aspects of the disease, and denied that Fine Gael wanted the changes to avoid a row during the election campaign about the use of condoms.

Earlier yesterday the 1,600-strong Prison Officers' Association condemned the Government for its failure to begin the proposed public information programme on AIDS.

Mr. Tom Hoare, POA spokesman said there was no justification for the delay in providing all available information to the general public on the disease, adding that a public health and safety issue should come before political party considerations.

He said AIDS was a killer disease and the delay in informing the public of the full facts, on what had been medically described in Ireland as an epidemic, was totally unacceptable, and could lead to the spread of the virus.

He added that the failure to begin the public education programme had left prison staff isolated and vulnerable because of the ignorance in the wider community, and that ignorance could only be overcome by a public education campaign.

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Liberace in characteristic pose.

Liberace: the sequined stylist

LIBERACE, the ever-smiling performer, who billed himself only by his surname, began as a child prodigy at classical piano. He changed his repertoire to semi-classical and popular music in the 1950s and became one of the world's most durable entertainers.

At one time, Liberace was the highest paid performer in Las Vegas, earning 50,000 dollars a week by the mid-1950s — a sum that would more than quadruple in later years. He also appeared on television with his own show and in motion pictures.

The dimpled performer, known for his bespangled white tuxedo and trademark flickering candelabra atop a white piano, built up a following of females as faithful as the frenetic fans of The Beatles.

Slow-paced and sometimes nearly inaudible, he ushered his audience from one song to the next with small-boy charm and self-effacing humour, winning acclaim with his bouncy personality and exaggerated flourishes on the keyboard. He also sometimes sang and danced.

Known as "Lee" to his friends, the performer was born Wladziu Valentino Liberace on May 16, 1919, in the Milwaukee suburb of West Allis, Wis. His mother was born in Poland and his father in Italy.

He was four years old when he began playing the piano and his boyhood career began as a music hall accompanist, billed as "Walter Buserkeys." At age 15 he appeared as a soloist in concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

After a few years of additional classical work in the Midwest, he travelled east, adopted a Tin Pan Alley style and became an established night club and hotel performer.

His first television exposure came in 1951 on a local programme in Los Angeles, followed by a 15-minute NBC Network summer series in 1952. He then starred in his own widely seen syndicated musical variety series, "The Liberace Show," in 1953-'55.

In 1958-'59, he starred in a daytime version of that series for ABC and in 1969 he was the star of "The Liberace Show" for CBS that originated in London and featured a variety of comedy skits and music.

He also appeared in several films, including *South Sea Sinner* (1950), *Footlight Varieties* (1951), *Sincerely Yours* (1955), *When The Boys Meet The Girls* (1965) and *The Loved One*, a 1965 adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's satiric novel in which he played a casket salesman.

Liberace owned houses in Las Vegas, California, and an apartment in New York City.

Despite his success, the entertainer had his troubles with the press. Critics often took a dim view of his keyboard antics. But in recent years his qualities as a pianist seemed less important than his ability to entertain. His followers packed concerts at such arenas as New York's Radio City Music Hall, where he set attendance records with a lavish stage show in the spring of 1985.

His last public appearance was on the Oprah Winfrey Christmas Show, taped in mid-November. Asked once about a magazine article that commented unfavourably on his musical talents, Liberace said: "I cry all the way to the bank."

More recently, he settled for 35,000 dollars (£80,000) what remained of a multi-million dollar "palimony" suit by Scott Thorson, a former dancer who claimed he was promised a salary for life by Liberace in exchange for being the entertainer's travel secretary, chauffeur, animal trainer and lover.

His health deteriorated and he was treated in January for acute anaemia — a blood ailment that started, his agent said, when he was on a watermelon diet to lose weight.

Heart disease and advanced emphysema from a life of chain-smoking brought further complications, but his agent vehemently denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the star had AIDS.

SW

Hospitals may do a secret AIDS test

PLANS to test hospital patients secretly for AIDS are being considered by Ministers.

But those found to have the killer virus would not be told.

The Government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, revealed last night that Mrs Thatcher's 'AIDS Cabinet' is seriously considering the idea.

Anyone going into hospital for any treatment, and having a blood test, would also be screened for AIDS.

The patient would not be told the result, and medical staff doing the screening would not know who the samples came from.

Results from the test would be used to get a general picture of the disease and draw up emergency plans to combat it, said Sir Donald.

He told the Social Services Committee of MPs that such testing is already done to gather information about other infectious diseases, such as measles.

But questioned by Tory Nicholas Winterton, he admitted there are ethical and legal difficulties about the idea.

Until these are sorted out, nothing will be done.

Telecom hope

HOPES were rising last night of an end to the 11-day strike by 110,000 British Telecom engineers. Both sides met for full talks, and Communications union leader Mr John Golding said: 'We are nearer a settlement.'

SL

Independent
5th February 1987

AIDS couple commit suicide

An Italian couple committed suicide in a motel room in northern Italy, leaving notes saying they were suffering from AIDS and asking that their two-year-old son be looked after, police said yesterday.

Police said the man had first shot his wife then turned the gun on himself.

54



CHECKS: Sir Donald

Hospital patients facing secret Aids tests

by PHILIP JOHNSTON

SECRET Aids tests may be carried out on hospital patients, it was revealed last night.

Blood taken from accident victims and others would be checked without their knowledge, said the government's chief health officer Sir Donald Acheson.

Hospital staff would not be told whose blood they were testing — and victims would NOT be told if they had the killer disease.

The idea behind the screening would be to discover the real extent of the Aids epidemic, Sir Donald told the all-party Commons health committee.

But the proposal, which is being considered by ministers, prompted an immediate outcry from MPs.

Alliance spokesman Charles Kennedy declared: "This must be a non-starter."

Ethical

And Tory Nicholas Winter-ton questioned whether the checks would be ethical.

Sir Donald admitted the scheme had "limitations."

Although it would provide greater information on the spread of the virus, experts would be unable to discover how the new victims they found had contracted the disease.

"It would be impossible to tell which of them were male homosexuals, drug abusers or heterosexuals," Sir Donald conceded.

But the "blind" testing could resolve arguments between doctors over the scale of the Aids menace.

Officially, there are now 600 cases in this country and there have been 300 deaths.

It is estimated that 4,000 will die by the end of 1989 — but some experts put the figure much higher.



● Liberace's mother... a life-long devotion from her virtuoso son.

Liberace—camp, candelabra and classics

THE flamboyant Liberace, who died today aged 67, put sparkle into the classics and seduced audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile, rippling keyboard style and outlandish wardrobe.

The man born Wladziu Valentini Liberace, in West Allis, Wisconsin and known to his friends as Lee introduced millions to Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin through his easy-listening medleys.

He prided himself on being able to play and sing. But it was his virtuosity on the glass pianos, the sequins and can-

delastra and the touch of camp which endeared him to a multitude of undemanding music-lovers.

Audiences went not only to hear his music but also to see him outdo himself with his costumes — furs, feathers, diamond rings shaped like grand pianos and gold lamé suits so heavy that he could hardly carry the weight.

Critics lambasted him for trivialising the classics, calling his act the highest form of camp. But middle-aged and older women loved him. And as for the critics, he once rejoined:

"I cried all the way to the bank."

The nightclub act, the concert tours and the recordings earned him an average of five million dollars (£3.5 million) a year over the last three decades.

But life was not all sequins and roses for the man known as "Mr. Showmanship," who once drove on stage in a Rolls-Royce.

He tried to keep his own life to himself in his mansions and apartments in Las Vegas, New York, Hollywood, Palm Springs, Malibu and Lake

Tahoe, but was forced publicly to deny allegations that he might be homosexual.

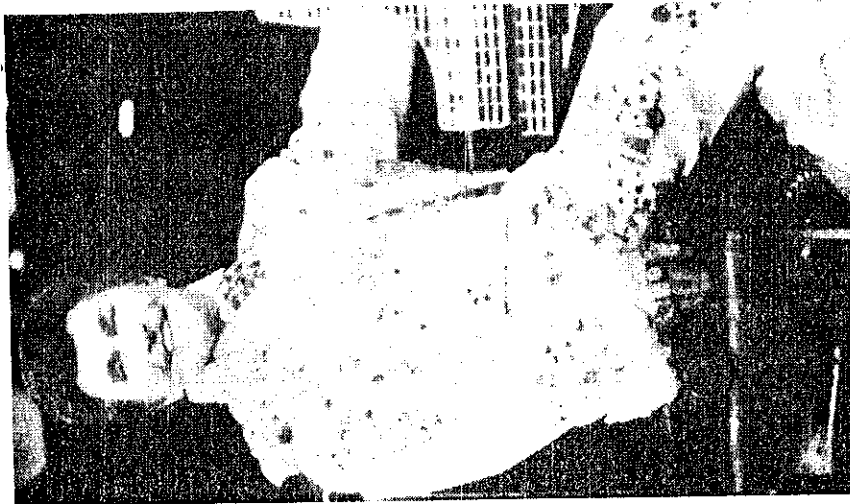
Heart disease and advanced emphysema from a life of chain-smoking brought further complications, to his anemia, for which he received treatment in January, but his agent vehemently denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the star had AIDS.

Born on May 16, 1919, to an Italian who played the French horn and a dotting Polish mother, he began playing the piano at four, showing early promise as a classical pianist.

He maintained a life-long devotion to his mother, frequently bringing her on tour.

He had his own television show in the 1950s, gave Royal Command Performances in London and played for presidents and kings.

He last appeared on stage last October at New York's Radio City Music Hall, where during a sold-out engagement, the New York Times reported that he flew across the stage like a puffed-up Peter Pan in 100 pounds of purple and white feathers.



● Liberace, whose flashy, sard and gente wit made him a concert favourite for 40 years.

Radioac

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The Irish Press, Thursday, February 5, 1987

Aids — ads delay

The Minister for Health, Mr. Boland, denied that he was responsible for the delay in launching the £500,000 Aids advertising campaign, being organised by the Health Education Bureau.

He told a press conference yesterday that the decision was taken by Cabinet, when his predecessor, Mr. Desmond, was in power.

"The decision in relation to redesigning the draft campaign, and that's all it was, was taken at Cabinet level before I became Minister for Health," he said. He added that he was not in a position to say when the campaign

would be ready to be launched.

The advertising agency were told to place greater emphasis on the drug abuse aspect of Aids related diseases and was told to come up with a campaign that was acceptable and to do so with a degree of urgency.

He denied that the "draft campaign" had too much emphasis on condoms and that Fine Gael members of the Cabinet thought this would be offensive to the Catholic hierarchy.

The Prison Officers Association yesterday demanded that the Government immediately

begin the public information campaign on Aids.

There was no justification for the delay in providing the available information to the general public on Aids. A public health and safety issue must come before political party consideration, the statement said.

"Aids is a killer disease. The delay in informing the public of the full facts on what is medically described in Ireland as an epidemic is unacceptable totally and will lead to the continued spread of the virus."

Sw

FF to be pragmatic on AIDS

FIANNA FAIL Limerick East candidates, who include a family doctor, yesterday attacked the Government's decision to halt the £500,000 public information campaign on AIDS.

Deputy Willie O'Dea said: "This Government is hung up on sex matters. As far as Fianna Fail is concerned, we will adopt a pragmatic approach to the problem."

He said AIDS was a truly frightening phenomenon and should be taken seriously by the Government. But, he added, it had not been proved that condoms were the answer.

Dr Richard O'Flaherty said AIDS had created such a scare, and so much human misery, that it was time to tackle the problem before it got a grip in this country.

Morally, he said, he would be against the use of condoms. But he could see no reason why this method could not be tried, if it was thought to help combat the disease.

Both Deputy O'Dea and Mr Michael Parkes, the third Fianna Fail candidate in what was their first Fianna Fail press conference in Limerick, supported the recent stand by the Taoiseach, Dr Fitz-Gerald, in relation to maintaining Shannon as the first trans-Atlantic port of entry.

Reminded of what Pdraig Flynn had said in favour of building Knock Airport to admit American pilgrims, Deputy O'Dea said: "He is quite well able to look after Mayo. We will look after this region."

News Letter
5th February 1987

Liberace dies

Liberace died yesterday surrounded by friends and family at his Palm Springs home. He had been gravely ill with anaemia, emphysema and heart disease.

Liberace's physician, Dr Elias Ghanem of Las Vegas, said he flew to Palm Springs on Monday and was surprised the star "has held on this long."

Liberace's manager, Seymour Heller, has denied a report that he has AIDS, saying a watermelon diet left him tired.

But Dr Ghanem said Liberace went on the watermelon diet more than a year ago, lost weight, then gained it back after he took him off it.

"The watermelon diet did not play a role in his being ill now," the doctor said.

He refused to discuss AIDS saying Liberace "has always lived a very private life. I hope the world will remember him as Mr Showmanship".

Liberace slipped into a coma after a priest administered the last rites.

Fans held a candlelight vigil outside his mansion, Casa de Liberace, in Palm Springs.

The fans, many of them middle-aged women, stood outside the mansion for up to six hours.

"I have seen 30 of Liberace's performances and I can't believe I will never see him again in his lovely stage clothes playing his grand piano," said fan Elsie Macmillan.

The entertainer, a workaholic who has averaged earnings of more than five million dollars a year for the past 30 years, had said he intended to take this year off.

"Too many people wait and then it is too late," he said in Chicago recently.

Flamboyant Liberace put sparkle into the classics and

seduced audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile and outlandish wardrobe.

Born Wladziu Valentin Liberace in Wisconsin, he introduced millions to Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin through his easy-listening medleys.

He prided himself on being able to play any song requested. But it was the glass pianos, the sequins and canelabra and the touch of camp which endeared him to a multitude of undemanding music-lovers.

He blazed the trail for many young performers, with Elton John, Elvis Presley and David Bowie just three of dozens of artistes who admitted being inspired by his outrageous wardrobe.



Liberace: died after going into coma.

5