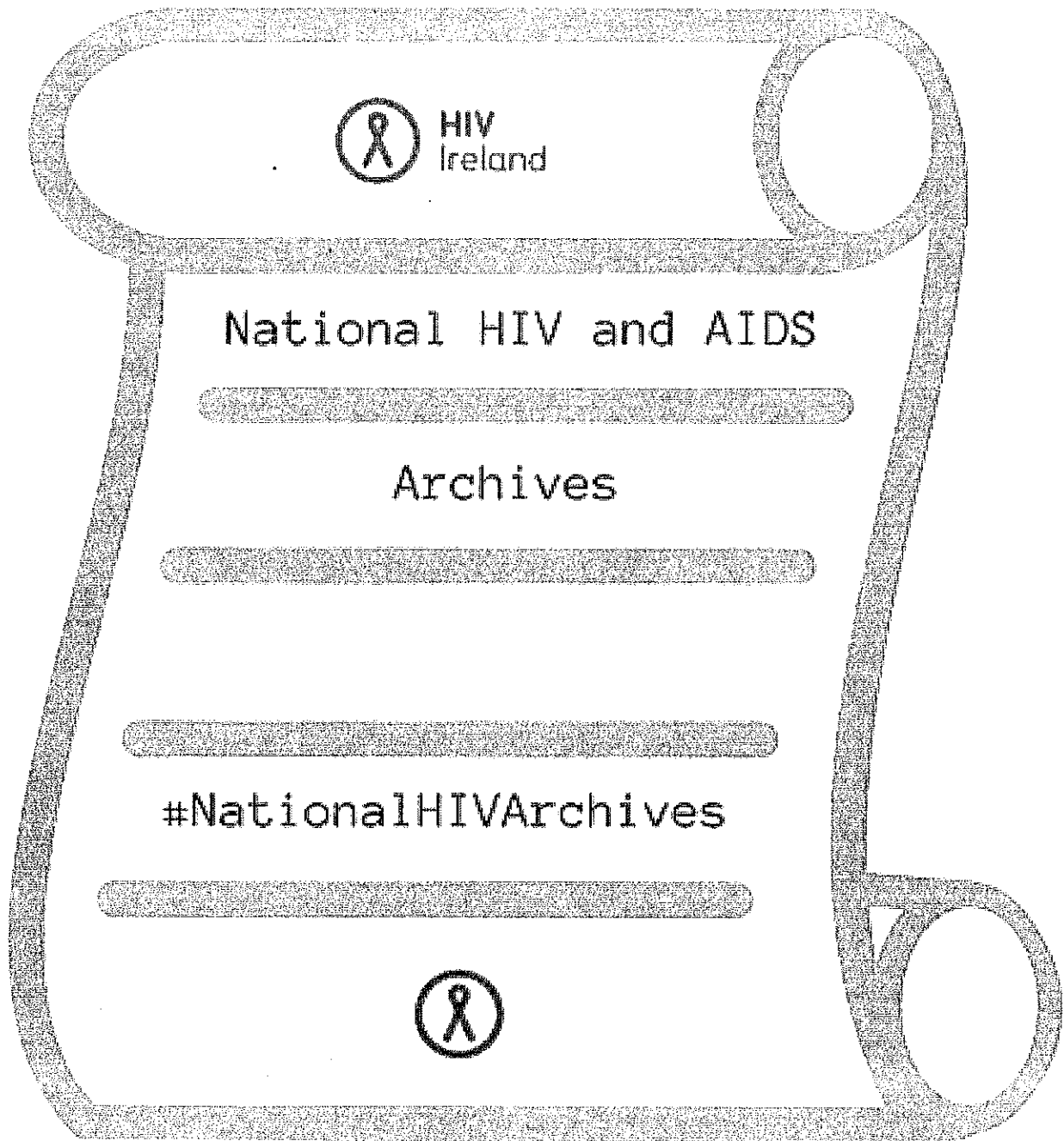
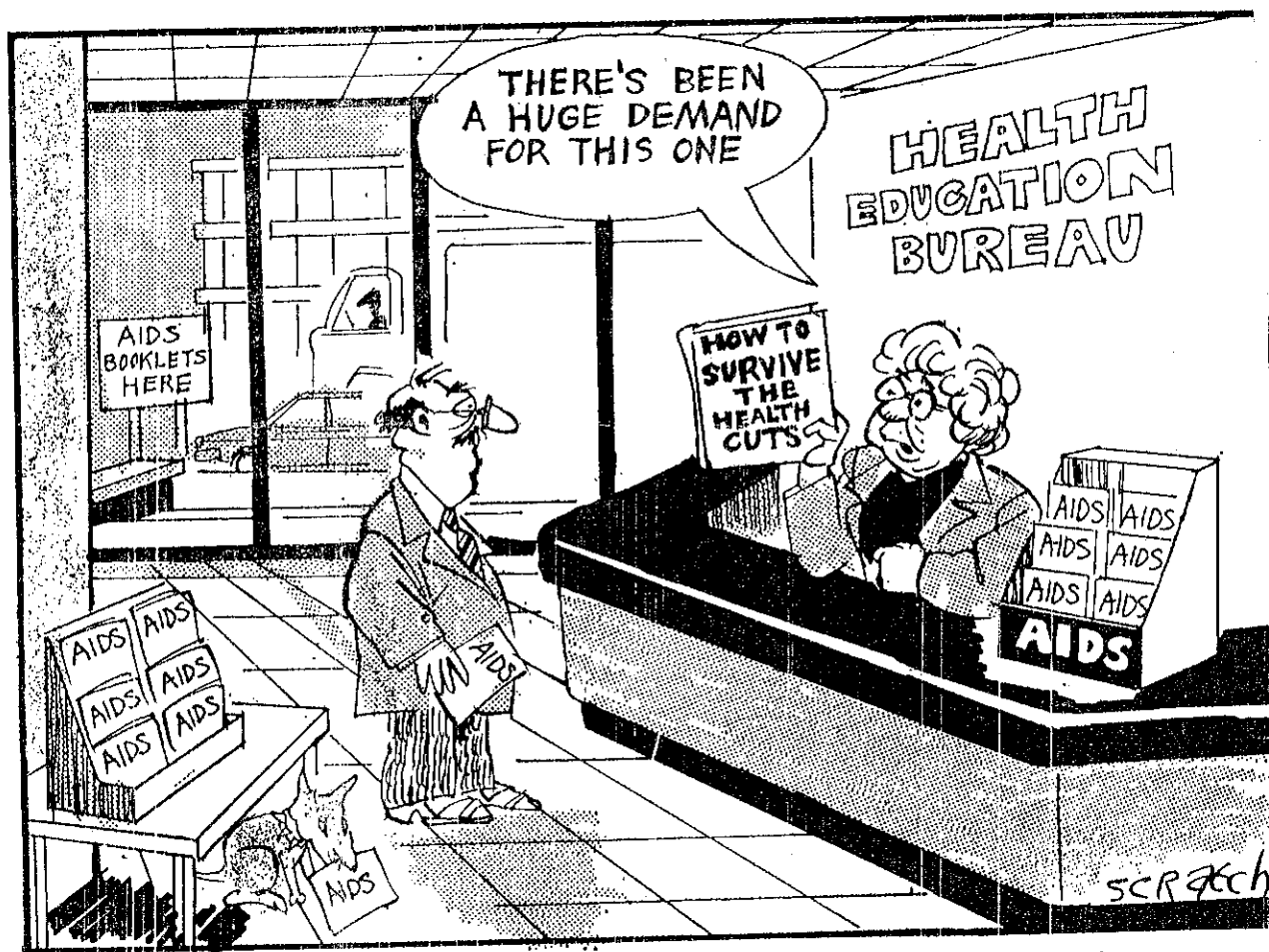


Print Media



21st to 25th May 1987



THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1987

Evening Press
21st May 1987

Blame lax morals for AIDS—Synod

The Church of Ireland General Synod was told today that the AIDS epidemic was "a frightening example" of the way in which certain lifestyles bring havoc, not only to those who indulge in immoral behaviour, but also to innocent victims.

The Bishop of Down and Dromore told delegates that it was important that Christians should have the courage and commitment to say that this "killer disease" was the product of the general decline in sexual morality.

The Right Rev. Gordon McMullan also emphasised that without "spiritual and moral reformation, society will

go on paying a high price for its prodigal lifestyles".

Referring to the "moral dilemma" posed by AIDS, the bishop said it had not gone unnoticed that in Ireland sexual aspects of immorality were capable of "eliciting a form of righteous indignation" that was seldom matched in matters of social or economic immorality.

"I suspect this is because we find it easier to point the judgement finger at the actions and effects of personal sexual immorality than find workable solutions for the corporate problems of social and economic immorality."

The bishop said that may

be an explanation but it could never be a justification.

Turning to the Anglo/Irish Agreement, Dr. McMullan said the Protestant "political position" in N. Ireland had been placed under considerable strain as a consequence of the manner in which the Anglo/Irish Agreement was brought into existence and the deliberate exclusion of the majority community.

"It would be a serious mistake on the part of London, Washington, Dublin and Northern Nationalists to ignore the peaceably expressed views of the majority."

EVENING
PRESS

(Vol. 37) (21st Week) (No. 119)

PRICE 35p

Irish Press
21st May 1987

Women and AIDS

A NEW group, 'Women and AIDS' has just been set up to provide information and advice. There are 12 women in the group which will meet every fortnight. They are offering to speak to women's interest groups about the particular effects of AIDS that women might fear.

Some women in the group are nurses or trained drugs' counsellors while others have been involved in phone-lines or voluntary groups for AIDS information.

According to one member of the group, "we want to get the message across to women that they must insist on the use of condoms. There is a sense that if you use condoms you are fine but many men will not use condoms.

"There seems to be a notion as well that AIDS is a men's disease, but women are more likely to be infected by having sex with a man who has AIDS than a man is from a woman with AIDS."

Women who wish to join the group can contact it through the AIDS Helpline at (01) 307888, on Mondays 7-10p.m. and Saturdays 3-6p.m.

— Mary Jane O'Brien

S

Mystery of delayed trial for AIDS drug

Sharon Kingman

A LARGE international trial of a promising new drug to treat the symptoms of AIDS is about to begin after a lengthy, and so far unexplained, delay. An American company, Praxis Pharmaceuticals, owns all world rights to the drug, which is called AL721. Doctors in seven centres, including London, Tel Aviv and New York, will test it on 300 to 400 patients.

The news of the trial comes at a time when many patients with AIDS, particularly in the US, are becoming increasingly impatient with the medical establishment's failure to speed up investigations into novel treatments. "Kitchen sink" recipes for preparations resembling AL721 have appeared in the gay press in the US. In Britain, London Lighthouse, a charity, is considering ways to make the substance available to patients in this country.

AL721 is a mixture of natural lipids (fats) made from the yolks of hens' eggs. The "AL" stands for active lipid; the "721" represents the ratio of the three different lipids that the drug contains. It is a yellow oily liquid, which patients can take either in orange juice or spread on bread. Scientists do not know exactly how it works. One theory is that AL721 removes cholesterol from the membrane around the virus. This prevents the virus from infecting white blood cells and so damaging the immune system.

The doctors in London who are taking part in the trial are Anthony Pinching and Susie Forster, at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington. A statement from Pinching said that details of the trial would be published in a few weeks. The Department of Health and Social Security originally gave permission for the trial to take place well over a year ago.

Forster said: "We have been waiting for about 18 months for delivery of the drug." She added that a relatively nontoxic drug such as AL721 would be particularly useful to try on patients who for one reason or another are not receiving the drug azidothymidine (AZT).

Nick Partridge, administrator at the Terence Higgins Trust, said that any form of delay other than that required for adequate testing was indefensible.

The reason for the hold-up appears to have been that the American firm that holds the rights for AL721, a small company called Praxis Pharmaceuticals, has had difficulties in manufacturing the drug. According to one source, Praxis has recently moved its manufacturing plant and has had problems in resuming production of AL721. But one doctor in the US said: "I'm not sure what the problem was. They weren't telling us anything."

Brian Whittle Associates, a British pharmaceuticals firm, will probably import and package the drug for the part of the trial based in London. Brian Whittle said that he could not talk about any production difficulties as his contract with Praxis bound

him to secrecy. He referred inquiries to Praxis's chief executive, Jake Jacobsen. But Jacobsen has been repeatedly unavailable for comment.

Scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science near Tel Aviv in Israel discovered AL721 first. They developed the drug because it could remove cholesterol from cell membranes. Cholesterol builds up in cell membranes during old age, reducing the activity of the membrane. Doctors have given AL721 to elderly people in order to improve their immune systems through the drug's effect on cell membranes.

The institute sold the rights to manufacture the drug to Praxis in the early

The doctor in charge decided to use the AL721 to treat AIDS. "This was done without approval from the company, on his own," says. This was the reason why we could do a properly controlled study," says.

The team gave the drug to 16 patients with advanced AIDS. "As far as their appearance went—gaining weight, fighting opportunistic infections—there was considerable improvement in all one, who died." Blood tests on patients showed only a slight improvement in the signs of the disease; however, "There was some contradiction between the biochemical findings and improvement," Shinitzky says.

now trying to get the permission of the company to use the AL721 that was used in my laboratory another trial.

When the multicentre begins, one of the centres will be Tel Aviv. Shinitzky, he does not know why the trial has been delayed. "I'm very upset about it," he says. "On the one hand, [Praxis] have this treasure in their hands; on the other, they don't know what to do with it."

Doctors at St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in New York have also used AL721 to treat patients infected with HIV. Arthur England, Michael Grieco and Michael P. Busch carried out a small trial in June, July and August last

on eight people. All of these people had persistently swollen lymph glands, a condition called persistent generalized lymphadenopathy, as a result of infection with HIV.

England said: "Results were very good but you have to realise that a sample of eight people is not statistically significant. In five out of seven patients, he said, there was a 'dramatic decrease' in the number of HIV found in their blood. In some, there was no evidence of viral activity—as indicated by levels of a viral enzyme—after 10 months on the drug. The patients' immune systems improved as well, he said. In addition, there appeared to be no side effects from the treatment.

England says that he has had difficulty obtaining supplies of AL721. The patients in the trial had come off the drug in September. In all cases, the virus reappeared in their blood. The doctors could not start treating the patients again immediately because AL721 was not available. Ten months ago, however, they obtained fresh supplies and the patients were able to start taking AL721 again.

"Only when we do this major study will we know whether AL721 is as good as we think it is," England emphasises. But the delays are not over yet. He thought the multicentre trial was to have begun in April this year. "I don't know why it didn't. Many people with AIDS would like to know why, too."



AIDS patients in the US opt for "kitchen sink" recipes of drugs as companies slowly perfect the real thing

1980s, when scientists were beginning to realise that AL721 could help to fight viral infections. Meir Shinitzky, a biophysicist at the Weizmann Institute, says that American researchers at the University of Virginia discovered in 1978 that some viruses need large amounts of cholesterol in their membranes in order to infect cells. When the researchers extracted cholesterol from the viral membrane, the virus stopped being infective. If they replaced the cholesterol, the infectivity returned.

Shinitzky says that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, derives its membrane from that of the T4 lymphocyte, the type of white blood cell that the virus infects. The viral membrane contains a high level of cholesterol. The theory is that once the viral membrane has lost its cholesterol, its density changes. Proteins that normally project from the surface of the virus sink into the membrane, which then conceals receptor sites that are important in binding to the T4 lymphocyte.

Shinitzky and his colleagues, Yehuda Skornick and Zvi Bentwich, first recognised that AL721 could be effective against infection with HIV after Praxis had given them permission to use AL721 to treat patients with cancer. "During this trial, there was one AIDS patient with lymphoma [a type of cancer]. AL721 had a remarkable effect on this patient," says Shinitzky.

U.S. to Allow Use of Trial Drugs For AIDS and Other Terminal Ills

By ROBERT PEAR
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 20 — Reagan Administration officials said today that they had completed work on a new rule to make experimental drugs more quickly available to patients with AIDS and other "immediately life-threatening diseases."

S. Jay Plager, counselor to the Under Secretary of Health and Human Services, said the rule would give "desperately ill patients" the opportunity to decide for themselves "whether they would rather take an experimental drug or die of the disease untreated."

The new rule has been under consideration for nearly four years and reflects the Administration's commitment to reduce Federal regulation of American industry. Vice President Bush, who heads a Presidential study group on regulation, was a strong supporter of the new rule.

Publication Planned Soon

Edwin L. Dale Jr., spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget, said the final rule would be sent Thursday to the Federal Register for immediate publication. The budget office routinely reviews rules before they are issued. Federal officials said the drug rule would take effect, with the force of law, 30 days after being published.

The rule, as finally worded, appears to allay concerns expressed by many

medical authorities and former officials of the Food and Drug Administration, who had said that an earlier proposal would have allowed use of quack drugs for which there was no evidence of effectiveness.

Under the rule, Mr. Plager said,

Continued on Page B16, Column 2

U.S. to Allow Wider Use of Experimental Drugs

Continued From Page 1

"There must be some scientific evidence giving a reasonable basis for concluding that the experimental drug may be effective." The new rule applies only to drugs that are under investigation in a controlled clinical trial. Richard M. Cooper, former chief counsel of the Food and Drug Administration, said the new rule appeared to be "a significant improvement" over the original proposal.

The new rule sets forth the standards for use of an experimental drug to treat patients in outside clinical trials, so that the experiments designed to prove the drug's safety and effectiveness. Under the rule, experimental drugs could be made available to patients only if there was "no comparable or satisfactory alternative therapy" for their life-threatening ailments, Mr. Plager said.

Cancers Would Be Included

Qualifying for access to experimental drugs would be patients for whom there is "a reasonable likelihood that death will occur within a matter of months, and those whose premature death is likely without prompt treatment. Officials said the rule would

the drug is being tested.

Mr. Newman declined to name any of the experimental drugs that might be made available to AIDS patients under the rule. The stock market might "go crazy" at the first hint that a particular drug might be effective against AIDS, he said.

The most contentious issue in the new rule was the standard of effectiveness for experimental drugs used to treat an "immediately life-threatening disease." Under the rule, Mr. Plager said, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs would retain the authority to deny a request for the use of an experimental drug outside organized clinical trials. Such a request may be made either by a drug company on behalf of physicians or by a doctor for the benefit of an individual patient. If the Commissioner did not object to the request within 30 days, the doctor could start using the drug in treatment of a patient.

Mr. Plager said that under the rule the Commissioner may deny a request for an experimental drug "if the available scientific evidence taken as a whole fails to provide a reasonable basis for concluding that the drug may be effective for its intended use in its intended patient population. The Commissioner may also deny a request if

the scientific evidence suggests it might expose patients to "an unreasonable and significant additional risk of illness or injury."

Mr. Plager, a former dean of the Indiana University Law School, said the new rule struck a careful balance.

Under Federal law, drugs must be shown to be safe and effective before they can be sold to the public. In the new rule for use of experimental drugs, Mr. Plager said, "We did not want to talk about 'safe and effective' because that is the traditional standard."

In the new rule, he said, "We are trying to articulate a standard that is different from, and less demanding than, the standard for approval of new drugs."

The new rule establishes a separate standard for use of experimental drugs in treating patients with "serious diseases" that do not pose an immediate threat to life. The Commissioner of Food and Drugs may turn down a request for use of such drugs outside clinical trials if he finds there is "insufficient evidence of safety and effectiveness to support such use."

This is lower than the standard for commercial marketing of a drug. But it is more stringent than the standard for use of an experimental drug in treating people with life-threatening diseases.

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Conference plans huge gay rights march

By Trudy Rudnick
Atlanta

Over 70 lesbian and gay activists from around the country gathered here from May 9-10 to continue planning for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on Oct. 11.

People came from as far away as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle as well as from St. Louis, New Orleans, Hartford, Cleveland, Boston, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., New York and more.

There was strong participation by Black, Latin, Native and Asian people, by women, as well as participation by those representing the transgender community, veterans, students, older people and the disabled. Of course, there was a critical and very important and strong representation of people with AIDS.

The meeting was truly representative of the broad spectrum of the work-

ing class lesbian and gay community. Pat Norman, a Black lesbian activist from San Francisco, was one of the co-chairs of the meeting.

There are some very significant highlights of this meeting, which focused on building the demonstration. A lot of work has been done to ensure the participation of people with AIDS, including adding David Allmand, a person with AIDS from Atlanta, to the executive committee of the march. Some cities have already gotten the transportation companies, such as Amtrak and Eastern Airlines, to provide one free ticket to a person with AIDS for every 20 or 40 tickets sold.

It was unanimously agreed that 50% of all money raised for transportation to the march would go to help subsidize Black, Latino, Native and Asian people who could not afford to get to the march. It was also unanimously approved that, due to the boycott of TWA, no one organizing could use

TWA. In fact, the march will not support any item on the AFL-CIO boycott list.

There was a good deal of discussion about the civil disobedience to target the Supreme Court on the Tuesday after the march. The lesbian and gay community's anger at this institution has not subsided in the least in the months since the Hardwick decision (upholding Georgia's sodomy laws). Many lesbians and gay men are excited about this first-time event for the gay community.

Wide outreach planned

And there was important discussion on the need to outreach to the other movements fighting for equality and justice — the labor movement, civil rights movement, anti-war movement, peace and solidarity movements and the women's movement.

It was reported that the San Francisco Labor Council has endorsed the march. In addition, there are several

national organizations on the steering committee such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay Men, People's Anti-War Mobilization, National AIDS Network, Mobilization for Survival, National Black and White Men Together and others.

With 175,000 brochures ready for distribution, 10,000 buttons ready for sale, and posters and tee-shirts on the way, the march organizing is in full swing! This demonstration is one of the most, if not the most important demonstration ever to occur for the lesbian and gay community. It is important because of a six-year crisis that has dealt a serious blow to the lesbian and gay community. This crisis threatens to intensify with the Reagan administration's threats of mandatory HIV testing, which can only lead to increased discrimination and repression.

What the lesbian and gay community needs is both to build a strong, militant, multinational fightback movement and, just as importantly, it needs the kind of solidarity that the workers and oppressed in this country can give it.

Spiritual reformation to combat AIDS

WESTERN society will digal lifestyle unless go on paying a high price there is a spiritual and through Aids for its pro-moral reformation, a

Bishop warned the Church of Ireland Synod yesterday.

Bishop of Down and Dromore, Right Rev. Dr. Gordon McMullan, said in Ireland sexual aspects of immorality seemed capable of arousing a level of righteous indignation that was seldom matched in matters of social or economic immorality.

At the same time, we found it more difficult to come up with workable solutions for the corpo-

rate problems of social and economic injustices.

Aids was a frightening example of how certain lifestyles had wrought havoc that affected those who indulged in immoral behaviour and those who, through no actions of their own, had become victims also, the Bishop added.

Bishop McMullan was referring to the report of the Role of the Church Committee which stressed that promiscuity, whether homosexual or heterosexual, should be firmly rejected.

"We must be realistic

and face up to the situation that there will always be those who will not change their permissive sexual habits, thereby endangering not only themselves, but also innocent people," the report claimed.

In such cases, if the risk of death and illness could be reduced by the use of a condom, then there was something to be said in favour of this precaution.

In the committee's view, it was "a counsel of despair" to say that the disease could be eradicated by condoms.

EVENING PRESS, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1987

Chinese warning to Irish tourists

By CLODAGH SHEEHY
THE CHINESE Embassy in Dublin today warned all Irish tourists to China that they would face deportation if they

were found to carry the AIDS virus.

The warning follows the expulsion of a 29-year-old Dublinman, John Mordaunt, who was sent home because the Chinese authorities claimed he had the virus.

A spokesman for the embassy in Dublin said today that any foreign visitor found to have AIDS would be immediately sent home. "AIDS is so new that China does not have the medical facilities to treat it," he added.

Mr. Mordaunt suffered a back injury in an accident in China, and was taken for treatment to a clinic where it was discovered that he had the AIDS virus.

His father John, of Hastings Street, Ringsend, said today: "It's an awful pity they had to send him home. It was the holiday of a lifetime for him. It cost him £2,000 and he was going to spend 18 days travelling around China. "He got the money after an accident he had some years ago. He always had an interest in China right from childhood. I was a seaman when I was younger and I often told him about it".

Mr. Mordaunt was today staying with a friend in London and attending a doctor for his back injury before returning to Dublin.

Mr. Mordaunt's family confirmed that he had a long history of drug abuse, and had

been informed by a Dublin hospital that he carried the AIDS virus, seven months after treatment in the hospital for a drug related condition.

His condition had been diagnosed as AIDS related complex — a less severe condition but symptomatic of a weakened immune system.

He was deported to London on Thursday morning where he was met by Irish Embassy officials.

Mr. Mordaunt decided to stay in London to seek treatment for the back injury before returning to Dublin.

His family today was waiting for him to contact them. "We want to know what exactly happened", said his father.

Condoms—a far cry from the bishop and the nightie

Irish Independent
22nd May 1987



IT IS NOT often that a whole people senses a shift in its collective consciousness and knows the instant milestone in the relationship of the national psyche.

Normally, we have to wait for history and hindsight to identify such shifts, but no one could have doubted at the end of last week's "Late Show" that a broad strip had been torn out of the mask of innocence we have worn so resolutely and so long.

It was drawing close to midnight. The show had run well over time. Gay Byrne was trying to pull together the themes that had run through the series of AIDS programmes shown on RTE over the course of the week. Current affairs left the

weight and stature of its authority Henry, in that meticulous way of his, is- sciented on the AIDS scourge for "Today Tonight".

Aengus McAnally had thirty questions at 30 minutes. He asked a special edition of "borderline" — a title that might have been invented for the occasion. Towards the end of that programme, a woman hunched together her fingers and the man beside her fired a condom over them to show how to do it properly.

And then came the rum of "Late Show" — a show conceived 25 years ago as a summer filler and condom.

Tom O'Dea

Not long ago, when the matter of contraception was being aired in Leinster House, many deputies were unable or unwilling to give their "condoms" so they resorted to a handy euphemism — "devices".

Barry Desmond contributed something to our growing up when he came to make sense of the legislation Mr. Haughey left on the statute books, put it in the strident black and white of the "Irish Times" and suddenly shattered our ancient in-

nocence and wiped the smirking euphemisms off our lips. It is one thing to watch "pagan England" teaching its citizens, yet themselves how to use condoms, but when Gay Byrne — now grey-haired and a father-figure to the nation — gives the most explicit bedroom instruction to our citizens, we sit up and take notice.

Even when Aengus McAnally goes more or less the same routine with his 30 guests, we can attempt to shrug it off and say, "Well, it's all young and a bit mad, all right, but it's not half the things they pretend to do."

But when Gay Byrne — the "Christian Brothers" boy, the man who chats up housewives in funny voices

five days of the week — takes it upon himself to teach the country how to fit a condom, we know for sure that something has profoundly changed and that our innocence has been finally shattered.

The comments that came into RTE, after last week's "Late Show" run three-to-one in favour of what had been done. So, it seems, we are growing up, but the process must be painful for many of our people.

And it is happening so quickly. We have been sheltered for so long, by official acts of censorship and by a culturally induced myopia, that we feel in horror as the forced growth that we are now going through.

The Derrymun in the "Late Show" audience, for many Irish citizens, was the first time they had been "prised and pritty-shed" at what he had seen. He felt like walking out, he said, but he didn't want to embarrass Gay Byrne. In those words of his come together our native Irish innocence and our native Irish courtesy — both of which are being severely tested nowadays by all the AIDS publicity.

One day, our festsized Conserch/ Board bans a book by Dr. Alex Comfort — a book that citizens might have used in the privacy of their own houses, if they felt they needed instruction in the art of love. And then, soon afterwards, we come upon that com- sative, grey-haired man, Gay Byrne, with the aid of animated film, showing us how to fit a condom.

All Mr. Byrne is doing, of course, is his duty as a public service broadcaster. Because the Government campaign against AIDS is so nambly-pamby, it is just as well that public service broadcasting is there to educate our citizens in the dangers of the plague that has visited us.

'Maybe AIDS will bring us sexual maturity'

Read Mary Kenny's view tomorrow

Irish Times
22nd May 1987

Must AIDS testing ?

PRESIDENT REAGAN is leaning towards the idea that couples applying for a marriage licence and prospective immigrants into the United States should be tested for the disease AIDS, his spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said yesterday.

The President's domestic policy council is looking into what government action should be taken to combat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which Mr. Reagan has called America's Number One public health enemy. Recent figures have shown that 35,000 cases of AIDS have been reported to U.S. authorities.

Irish Times
22nd May 1987

Free needles for drug abusers call

Free needles should be given to drug abusers to prevent the spread of AIDS, Canon James Hartin, head of the Church of Ireland Theological College at Rathgar, told the Synod yesterday.

Thousands of young people could die prematurely of AIDS in Ireland in the next 10 years, he said. Condoms should also be made freely available to those indulging in promiscuous or casual sex. Those suffering from AIDS were not victims of God's judgment and should not be regarded as social lepers, he said.

The Bishop of Down and Dromore, Dr McMullan, said it was important that they expressed caring in every way possible, but it was equally important that they had the courage and commitment to say that this killer disease, certainly in the west, was the product of a general decline in sexual morality. Without spiritual and moral reformation, society would go on paying a high price for its prodigal lifestyles, he said.

Doctors face action if they do not treat Aids patients

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Doctors who refuse to treat Aids patients are being warned that they could be charged with serious professional misconduct.

The General Medical Council said yesterday that it was "seriously concerned" that some doctors have refused to provide care for sufferers of the disease or patients who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Only a small number of cases have been noted by the GMC, but the council is concerned that the problem may increase. Similar concern has been expressed by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, the British Medical Association, and organizations such as the Terence Higgins Trust, which provides advice to people with the infection.

The Royal College of Nursing said this year that nurses would be disciplined for failing to treat Aids patients.

A GMC committee report says it is unethical for a doctor to withhold treatment for any patient merely on the grounds

that the doctor disapproves of the patient's lifestyle.

The plight of babies born to mothers with Aids infection has been studied in research published in *The Lancet* today.

The study of 71 babies in Britain, West Germany and Italy, included 20 born in Edinburgh to mothers infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Most of the women became infected through intravenous drug abuse and almost all the babies also suffered drug-related problems, including

neurological disorders. Many infants were also born into social deprivation.

Symptoms of Aids or Aids-related complex (ARC) developed in five babies, three of whom died. Another 11 were infected. Of the total, 62 were clinically well when the study was completed.

The study suggests that the risks are higher in babies born to mothers who have symptoms of Aids in pregnancy.

and quotes one case in which a family doctor removed such a patient from his list after learning of his condition.

Mr Gillon, senior fellow at the Centre for Medical Law and Ethics at King's College London, said: "If the facts of the case were as hypothesized, it is difficult to see how any such doctor could justly escape being found guilty of serious professional misconduct".

A survey this year of almost 1,000 health professionals, published in *The Lancet*, showed that between 20 and 30 per cent of clinicians believed that patients should undergo Aids tests before

surgery, and that those found positive should be treated by someone else.

The findings dismayed Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA's ethics committee, who said that doctors were less at risks from Aids than they had been in the past from other infections. The BMA said yesterday: "Doctors need more information about Aids. Nobody should discriminate against Aids patients."

● A warning that the "Aids-related legal bandwagon" which has "started to roll" in the United States will soon hit courts in this country has come from two City lawyers who handle litigation for drugs companies (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Health authorities, doctors and employers could all be vulnerable to a variety of damages claims from people who contract Aids, Mr David McIntosh and Mr Simon Pearl, of the City firm, Davies Arnold and Cooper say.

Doctors could face legal proceedings if they fail to disclose that a patient has Aids, the lawyers say in an article in the current issue of *Product Liability International*.

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Evening Press
23rd May 1987

EVENING PRESS, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

No Aids visit for Pope

Church officials have cancelled plans for Pope John Paul II to visit an Aids hospice during his trip to California this September. The announcement followed a letter sent to the Pope this week by a group of gay rights activists and religious leaders calling the visit to the Coming Home Hospice a "public relations ploy" and advising the Pontiff to stay away.

Evening Press
23rd May 1987

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

AIDS TEST

President Reagan is leaning toward the idea that couples applying for a marriage licence and prospective immigrants into the United States should be tested for AIDS, his spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. Recent figures have shown that 35,000 cases of AIDS have been reported to the U.S. authorities.

Independent WEEKENDER

LIFESTYLES

WHEN I learned that the Late Late Show had given a demonstration of the ways and means of putting on a condom, I thought "how old-fashioned!"

After all, I was the first person ever to mention, let alone show, a condom on Irish television, and that was back in 1970. No wonder I had a sense of déjà vu.

In 1970, it will be remembered, a group of Dublin feminists went to Bellast and purchased contraceptives with a view to re-importing them deliberately to the 26 Counties. This was to be known subsequently as The Great Contraceptive Train.

After the fracas at Connolly Station where the items were declared with girlish hilarity, I was invited to display the wares on the Late Late Show. This was no trouble to me at the time and a gap of shock-horror ripped through the nation.

As every teenager knows, and as some continue to experience, not being capable of developing beyond the teenage stage, shocking people is fun.

Actually, with the wisdom of retrospect, I now see how cleverly my naive exhibitionism was used by the Late Late Show, and by the cunning marketing genius of Gay Byrne, so ably assisted in those times by Pat Collins.

We, as feminists, thought we were ever so clever in not only making a bold gesture of freedom and equality for women, but in using the TV media so skillfully. Little did I understand at the time that the medium was using us. Look at it this way: without so much as paying a penny place in research, without so much as offering to stand on the train fare, the Late Late Show got a free programme from viewers all too willing to do their stuff and no other consideration but a minute's free air. A lot of television mileage for £20!

I, too, was used by the marketing genius of Gay Byrne

Gay's abiding passion, as a television producer, is to roll back the clock, to shock people — naturally — and to tear down the household gods. That is what an iconoclast does: he breaks the icons. Ireland, the principal icon of worship and respect, has traditionally been the Catholic Church, and anything which outraged or broke, and anything which outraged or broke the traditional Irish Catholic Church is what gives Gay his buzz.

Now, I am not saying that Gay Byrne is not a devout Catholic in his private life; indeed, he is very likely to be, because there is another side to his personality besides being that of the iconoclast. There is a pious, platonic, all-

Gaybo's condom show is just too Late

MARY KENNY finds it old hat to show condoms on the box



who have actually had a very repressed personality — that their mid-life character.

And the trouble, I must warn, about trying to shock is that, like heroin, you have to try harder and harder to get less and less of a buzz. Epater les bourgeois — shock the middle-class — has ever been the cry of the terror-lust, but the bourgeoisie gets more and more difficult to epater, and like all other addictions is subject to the law of diminishing returns.

To shock, you have to try harder and harder for effect

The first time Gay Byrne outraged the entire country was over the episode in the Bishop and the Nightie. I do not know if it was the first time Gay's autobiography, but as I recall it, the matter of a wedding bride admitting she had slept in the nude, and not in a nightie and Bishop saw such admissions on television as The End of Civilisation. As we know it, and indeed they were technically right. Get people talking about sex in the nude today and tomorrow they will be displaying French lingerie.

Gay Byrne: Still addicted to shocking people.



found not a single case. Africa, where it is becoming endemic, is a different matter.

Let's face it, the excuse for showing a condom on the Late Late Show is that it is fun to shock. The programme, it is amusing to shock, embarrass, and getting outraged viewers to ring up and protest is gleefully called "audience response."

Although you will never again produce the tremors registered by the Nightie and the Bishop, you can always get somebody a bit shocked.

I find it curiously old-fashioned, though, not merely because my memories on matters of showing condoms go back to 1970, but also because the programme, with condoms as a preoccupation, is distinctly Victorian. The Victorians were obsessed with VD and used condoms as a protection; by the 1914-18 War, the French and British armies were being officially issued with condoms for the purpose of soldierly visitations to brothels.

The condom's long association with disease was indeed precisely what made it unacceptable as a contraceptive, for so long, to respectable couples. Using a condom, to be tantamount to saying: "Excuse me, but I think you might have syphilis." If the condom is linked with AIDS — it will become indelibly linked with the disease.

This is all the more curious in that some of those who wish to draw attention to the condom really wish to advertise it as a contraceptive, while advertising to show concern for public health. Aubrey Waugh, who said that any man who has to be shown how to use a condom is genetically unfit to reproduce anyway, on grounds of stupidity.

I have an idea that Gay thinks it is frightfully "brave" to show a condom on telly, but as there is no real risk involved, I don't see where courage comes into it. You don't lose your job, you don't risk your life by displaying condoms. A few Holy Joes may criticise you, but the infinitely more powerful and articulate liberals support you, so in fact it is all easy, satisfying and non-risky.

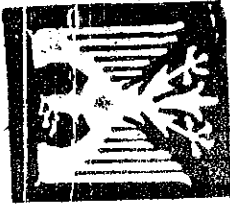
What is brave is criticising an unfair employer or a corrupt trade union, because these you risk losing your job.

It's not brave to show a condom on the telly in these times

What is brave is standing up and saying what the majority of people think, but are intimidated into silence, that terrorism and crime are harmful, and that the police are to be feared. It is a letter bomb or your family might be threatened.

Moral bravery is examining painful and wounding truths which may hurt you, but are necessary to the good of the community. Moral bravery is very rare and I do not possess it myself any more than Gay Byrne does.

I don't condemn the Late Late Show for the condom show, but I don't admire the motive behind it either. Under the hypocritical guise of public education, it is a bid to shock and amuse and stir up the same old, same old, same old at about the same level of reflective development as Adrian Mole.



THE IRISH PRESS

PRICE 45p

The Truth in the News

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

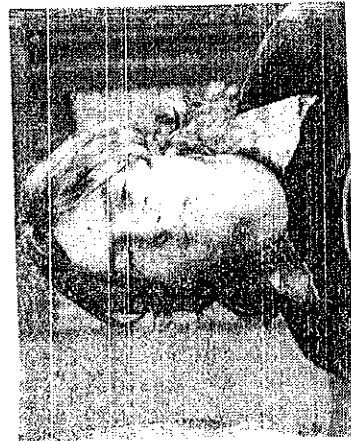
China expels Irish Aids tourist

By DERMOT HAYES

A YOUNG Irishman who appeared on an RTE Aids programme last week has been deported from China because the authorities there claim he has the Aids virus.

John Mordaunt, 29, who appeared on RTE's Borderline programme last week and declared he had Aids Related Complex (ARC) was expelled from China after doctors discovered he was carrying the Aids virus.

Mr. Mordaunt is believed to have suffered an accident in China on Monday, one day after he arrived in the country. He was then taken to a Chinese clinic where he was tested for the Aids virus.



AIDS VICTIM . . . John Mordaunt

The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed last night that it had been called to assist an Irishman, but they refused to identify him. A member of Mr. Mordaunt's family confirmed to The Irish Press that it was he who was involved.

A Hong Kong press agency claimed the man was deported after he refused to leave the country voluntarily. Mr. Mordaunt was on a tour of China from Beijing (Peking), the Chinese capital, on Tuesday, and is believed to have arrived in London sometime yesterday where he was met by Irish embassy staff.

Last night his family confirmed

that it was their son who was involved in the incident. His father said he had left for China on a package tour last Sunday. His mother, Carmel Mordaunt, said she has been living for this trip. She said he had packed for the trip with the proceeds of a settlement he received recently from a motor bike accident claim.

John Mordaunt has had a long history of serious drug abuse, his family confirmed. Last week, on RTE's Borderline programme, he claimed he had not been informed of his condition until seven months after an Irish hospital had tested him for the Aids virus in 1985 and discovered he had the antibodies.

Last year he lodged a complaint with the Department of Health about the long delay in informing him of his condition, and a formal internal inquiry was initiated in the Department. The Department is believed to have confirmed to Mr. Mordaunt that tests had been carried out on him as much as seven months before it was officially confirmed to him that he carried the Aids virus. Since then his condition has been diagnosed as Aids Related Complex — a less severe condition but symptomatic of a weakened immune system.

Secret Aids test: Page 4.

Irish Times
23rd May 1987

China deports Irish AIDS victim

By GENE McKENNA

AN Irish tourist has been deported from China after it was discovered that he was a carrier of AIDS.

The 29-year-old man was said to have refused to leave voluntarily, but was then thrown out by the Chinese authorities, who are extremely sensitive about the killer virus.

He was reported last night to be John Mor-daunt, who appeared on RTE's *Borderline* last week and said he had AIDS Related Complex.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said last night it had provided consular assistance to the person concerned through the Irish Embassy in Peking.

A spokesman for the Department said concern has also been expressed to the Chinese authorities about the handling of the case.

The Public Health Department in Peking would only say that a foreign tourist had been deported but would give no further details.

The man is believed to have injured himself while visiting one of China's greatest tourist attractions, the Great Wall.

He was taken to a doctor who discovered Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and informed the health authorities in Peking.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, MAY 24, 1987.

'Come home' mum's plea to Aids man

THE MOTHER of an Irishman deported from China because he was a carrier of the AIDS virus, has appealed to her son to come home.

Mrs. Carmel Mordaunt last night appealed to her son John to come home because she loves him and wants to look after him. ...

Mrs. Mordaunt, of Ringsend, Dublin, said she will be maintaining a vigil by her phone until she gets more news of her oldest son who was deported from China last Wednesday when it was discovered he was a carrier of the Aids virus.

"He rang me at noon today. I was going out of my mind," said Mrs. Mordaunt. "He told me that

By MARESE McDONAGH

he was in London and that he was ill but he wouldn't give me an address or a number. He knows I would go straight over and he said he had caused me enough trouble," she said.

Mrs. Mordaunt said her son was shocked when he heard that the story of his deportation had broken here. "He was actually deported on Wednesday but didn't think we knew about it. The first we heard of it was when my sister heard it on Friday's 6 p.m. news. I still don't know exactly what happened.

"From what I have read in the papers and heard on news bulletins it seems that he was climbing the

steps at the Great Wall of China when he fell. I was afraid of what he would do because I know he must be terribly dejected."

Fighting to keep back her tears Mrs. Mordaunt said that she and her husband were aware of John's drug problem since he was 21. "We have tried everything. It is a long harrowing story. John's youngest son, 12-year-old Niall, is a spina bifida.

An Irish Embassy official, Mr. Breifne O'Reilly, said Mr. Mordaunt was escorted by armed Chinese troops to Beijing airport in an embassy car.

The Irish officials in China gave Mr. Mordaunt one hundred American dollars because he had no money.

At the sharp end of morality

PROFILE

William Roche

FATHER PAUL LAVELLE has become well known for his appearance on the *Late Late Show* panel for the controversial AIDS discussion. Letters and phone calls have flooded in, both "for" and "against" him. But Fr. Lavelle has never been one to do things the orthodox way.

FR. PAUL LAVELLE is no stranger to sudden changes in his life. His career has seen him swap the comforts of Dublin 4 for inner city deprivation; switch from cinema manager to seminary student, move from parish curate to confidante of heroin addicts; and now to tackle the moral and ethical dilemmas of AIDS.

At 47, this only son from a well-to-do Dublin family, who at 25 had turned his back on the good life to work among the drug addicts and criminals here and abroad, knows at first hand the full extent of the horror facing society today.

And he now fully comprehends the emotive issues of a priest, however well intentioned, appearing on the *Late Late Show* where the subject of how to use a condom properly to avoid AIDS was discussed. The letters and phone calls have been flooding in since.

The response from members of the clergy, priests and nuns, was very encouraging. On the other hand all the letters and phone calls from members of the laity were critical of me. One man said he couldn't understand how a priest could take part in such a programme. Those people seemed to have found the programme very disturbing.

But then Paul Lavelle has never been one to do things the orthodox way. When he arrived in Clonliffe College in his Morris Oxford determined to be a priest and work among the underprivileged he was, at 25, the elder statesman among the other 18-year-olds. "Hmmm, I think we can make something of you," said the then president, now Bishop Carroll. "You're bloody lucky to get me," replied Paul Lavelle — under his breath, of course.

He was born on a tree-lined Ailesbury Road in Dublin's Ballsbridge, a world apart from the inner city Sean McDermott Street where he was to spend

surgeon Edward Lavelle. His mother was the daughter of famed tenor Walter McNally, who grew up in the shadow of the great John McCormack but who was good enough to sing at La Scala in Milan and in New York.

Educated in Castleknock College the young Paul Lavelle worked for five years in O'Keeffe's Advertising, then left to go into promoting the big cinema sensation of the time — Cinerama. He was always involved in youth work with

As a young priest in the late 60s he spent his vacations working with the deprived youth — mainly blacks and Puerto Ricans — on Staten Island and in Harlem. It gave him valuable experience of the rising drug problem and earned him a few shillings. He put that experience to good use during the following five years in Sean McDermott Street.

Later he took off for Notre Dame University near Chicago. This time he got himself into parishes where



'One man told me he couldn't understand how a priest could take part in such a programme.'

Castleknock pupils and ran a youth club in Benburb Street, then one of the toughest of Dublin areas.

The impact of his first night in Benburb Street has stayed with him over the years. "I had known only the good life and was completely unprepared for the poverty that existed. But at least in those days the only drug the poor had was drink, and maybe a bit of sex and a cup of tea afterwards. It's different today."

He laughingly says that one of the reasons he became a priest was because he couldn't find a decent girl. But his assertion that a vocation comes from the people one meets

priests were showing outstanding leadership qualities. When he came home the late Archbishop Ryan — "I've always got tremendous support from the archbishops" — put him back into Sean McDermott Street.

He was one of a breed of young priests who, in the late 70s, were reacting positively to the growing problems of unemployment, violence and drugs. Peter Lennass, Michael Casey, Peter McVerry and Frank Brady to the forefront. "We had a great feeling for what the other was doing, even if we didn't always agree with each other."

By 1982 he had done all he could in the northside

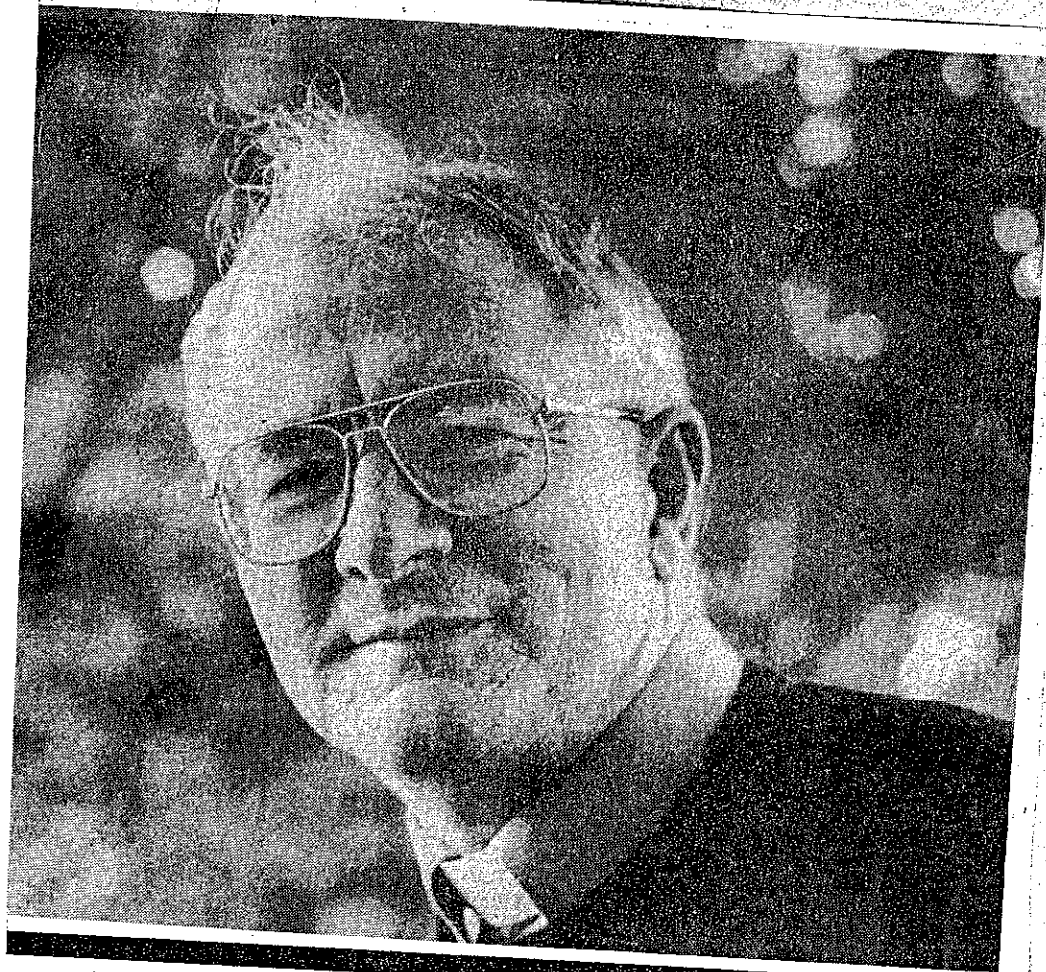
on the more sedate Haddington Road in Dublin where soon he was released from parish work to do research for the Department of Health into the drugs problem — again in the north inner city. In '84 the late Archbishop McNamara got him and Fr. Brian Power of Rialto to head the Drugs Preventative Programme in the archdiocese.

His induction into the AIDS problem here was dramatic. A year ago he was at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting when Peter, aged 25, came up to him. "Father," he said, "I've got AIDS and I'm dying. I wouldn't mind if I was gay and on drugs, but I'm not." The young man produced documentation from clinics in Chicago and London to back up his statement.

Enter the thorny problem — for a committed priest like Paul Lavelle — of whether he would go against his religious principles and back the use of condoms as a safety measure against AIDS. When I first approached him about this interview earlier in the week his immediate response was: "If you're asking me to discuss the condoms issue I'm not interested. I've said all there is to say on that."

Now over coffee in the Red House I put it to him that as co-ordinator of the Task Force on AIDS he would back the use of condoms as a preventative measure, but that as a priest he cannot condone it on religious grounds. His smiling response: "No further comment. If you like you can say I'm backing off the issue."

Whether that will cut any ice with some of Fr. Lavelle's Task Force, particularly the Gay Health Action group who are represented on it, is open to question. While welcoming the Task Force they see it only as the response from the Catholic Church and not, as they wish, a Government-backed campaign run on a national basis.



caught in the dilemma of the condom and the non-conformist attitudes of others.

Asked about his brush some months ago with another Task Force member, Coolmine Therapeutic Community director Jim Cumberton, when he allegedly advocated heroin addicts to be supplied with their own needles and syringes, Paul Lavelle grimaces.

"What I actually said was that that option should be considered. RTE changed one word of what I said and altered what I said completely. The question of giving addicts their own needles and syringes to prevent infection is being tried in other countries and the question must be considered here."

In recent times that episode and his appointment to the Task Force on AIDS have brought American TV, Canadian TV, the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV knocking on his door. You had better believe him when he says: "I'm not going down the road of the condom again!"

What he is emphatic about is that, while he doesn't see all his Task Force members in accord all of the time what is not at issue is that "all of us are agreed that people suffering from AIDS must be helped."

Right now he is barnstorming around the country, at the request of local bishops, filling in the clergy and lay social workers on the battle against drugs and

the AIDS virus. In Dublin he has already addressed hundreds of priests on the issues. "I always bring a doctor along because it is really a medical problem."

When it's pointed out that the Church of Ireland at their General Synod last week saw the AIDS horror as a general decline in sexual morality Fr. Lavelle shows his rugby prowess (he played for Lansdowne but didn't quite make the first team) by neatly sidestepping and agreeing "yes, it is basically a moral problem, with distinct medical problems too".

He shortly takes off for Washington to represent the Task Force at an international conference on AIDS and drugs and he'll also take the opportunity to

do his own research in New York and San Francisco. Very little will come out of the very tight Task Force budget of £20,000, he assures me. "I work a lot on sponsorship," he says.

Away from AIDS and drugs he keeps body and soul in a healthy state by refereeing two rugby games a week, having a few jars with the lads, and paying weekly visits to a southside health centre.

Despite the laity reaction to Paul Lavelle's presence on the Late Late Show last week it's hard, in retrospect, to fault Bishop Carroll's judgement over 20 years ago when he took on the 25-year-old Cinerama worker and reckoned he could make a star out of him.

The Sunday Press

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RECEIVED

City nightclubs selling condoms

By JOHN GIBBONS

TRAVELLERS. AT some Dublin nightclubs have found that new vending machines have been installed dispensing packets of condoms. The Dublin firm that owns the machines hopes to begin installing them in pubs this week.

The vending machines are similar to the more familiar cigarette machines and also take four 50p pieces. But instead of 20 cigarettes, the machine dispenses 20 condom packets.

"Our motto is 'it'll be alright on the night' and we feel that the ready availability of condoms will go a long way towards offering people protection from AIDS," the director said.

Each machine holds 19 packets of condoms. The Vendors and Vend Agents will be assisting the clubs later today to review the first night sales and to offer top-up supplies where needed. Among the pioneering nightclubs are - Club Tropica at Lessor St., Samanahs, Fanny in Lessor St., Samanahs, Hills and Suzezy Street, "Night Club" bosses in some cases have already been supplying condoms on an ad hoc basis to customers, added the Vend Agent spokesman. "But now people will be

The Department of Health said this weekend that there were "some question marks" over the use of condom vending machines but these largely relate under the 1985 Family Planning Act to ensuring that access to condoms is restricted to people over 18 years of age.

"By definition night club goers are well over the legal age limit

so we anticipate no difficulties with the law," added the Vendo Aid spokesman. "The threat of AIDS which has received widespread attention in recent months has boosted the sale of condoms considerably. Now with wider access to the public, in situations of highest risk," Vendo Aid expert sales to soar even higher. "There is no absolute safeguard against AIDS but we feel we are certainly improving the odds in the battle," he explained last night.

Sunday Press
24th May 1987

The Sunday Press, May 24, 1987

3 GO TO AIDS MEET

IRELAND is to have three representatives at a major international conference on AIDS which begins in Washington on June 1.

Dr. James Walsh, of the Department of Health, Professor Irene Hillary, of the National Virus Reference Laboratory, and Fr. Paul Lavelle will travel from Ireland.

Aids campaign not reaching high risk drug abusers

by GERRY BYRNE

THE current Aids campaign is not reaching drug abusers, the largest single group at risk in the community, the Department of Health has admitted. And there are no immediate plans to fund an intensive counselling campaign aimed at drug addicts, which the department wants organisations currently fighting drug abuse to launch.

As it is, existing organisations for drug abusers are under threat of closure. One of those

organisations is the Coolmine Community which currently has 117 drug addicts engaged on drug rehabilitation programmes. This weekend Coolmine's director Jim Comberton declined to comment further on a decision to close its Dun Laoghaire 'outreach' or day centre because of a shortage of funding.

A £20,000 grant to another drug rehabilitation organisation, the Anna Liffey Project which provides some 400 consultations monthly, fell a victim of this year's budget health cuts. 'We fold up and

close our doors at the end of July unless we get some more money,' says director Frank Brady.

The week before last both Mr Brady and Mr Comberton were among drug workers invited to a meeting with senior officials in the Department of Health who said they were seeking new directions in the fight against Aids. They were told the department was anxious to see an increase in the number of 'one-to-one' consultations with addicts as a means of getting the Aids avoidance message across. But no funds

were offered.

'In five years' time Aids will become largely a heterosexual problem and drug addicts are the bridge between the at-risk groups and the heterosexual community,' said Brady. 'If they want to save lives they have got to provide cash for the people who are doing the work.'

'Intravenous drug abusers are still our biggest problem,' admitted Dr James Walsh, the Department of Health's chief medical officer who is directing the government's programme on Aids. 'The present campaign is not reaching them adequately. We will need to train counsellors who can reach them on an eyeball to eyeball basis with the Aids message.'

'We admit that we are not reaching drug addicts with the present media campaign,' said a spokesman for the Minister for Health. 'We've now started a dialogue with specialist drug abuse organisations to examine the question of expanding one-to-one counselling.' No money has been set aside for this programme, he conceded. 'If we identify a need for additional funds we'll have to examine it again.'

Deported AIDS man missing

THE mother of the young Irishman who was deported from China after an Aids test said yesterday that she was 'very concerned' about her son's whereabouts.

Mrs Carmel Mordaunt of Ringsend in Dublin said that she had been shocked to hear on RTE on Friday that 29-year-old John Mordaunt had been sent home from holiday in Beijing (Peking) after hospital tests there had shown him to have Aids-Related Complex (ARC). She had not heard from her

son since he left Ireland last Sunday.

"I haven't had a night's sleep," she said at her home yesterday. "We were officially told by Foreign Affairs last night. According to the embassy he arrived at Gatwick — he is somewhere in London," she added.

John Mordaunt, who has a history of serious drug abuse, had appeared on RTE's *Borderline* programme last week to claim that he had only been informed by an Irish

hospital by an Irish hospital that he carried the HIV virus seven months after tests here. His condition is less severe than full-blown Aids but the tests indicate a weakened immune system. "We are an ordinary family. We look after him here," his mother said yesterday.

Mr Mordaunt had gone to China for a package holiday on the proceeds of a motor insurance settlement. He is believed to have undergone tests there following an accident.

Sunday World
24th May 1987

Biased AIDS show

Ms. P. B.,
Glasnevin,
Dublin 9.

I WOULD like to comment on the TV discussion on AIDS hosted by RTE by Aenghus McAnally.

I found the attitude of the ex-junkie with the AIDS virus who sat on the panel to be arrogant and quite disgusting.

He blamed doctors, the State and the Church in the most vehement terms — but never once acknowledged that he might have been to blame in the first place by going on heroin.

He was obviously an intelligent young man. He must have known that there were consequences of using heroin and of sharing needles. True, he acted re-

sponsibly by alerting his lovers after being told he had the virus. But maybe he should grow up and stop blaming other people so much?

There was not a single person in the audience with the moral courage to stand

up and challenge him to take the blame for his own situation.

While the programme was useful in propagating the use of condoms as an important part of safe sex, I feel the programme was very biased.

Irish Times
25th May 1987



● John Mordaunt . . .
deported from China.

AIDS deportee now in London

THE IRISH tourist found to be an AIDS carrier while in China was yesterday in a London hospital as Irish government officials protested to Peking over his deportation.

John Mordaunt (29), of Ringsend, Dublin, arrived in London on Saturday after being put on a flight from China by government authorities.

He was understood to be receiving treatment today for his condition and for a back injury sustained when he fell last week on the Great Wall of China.

Chinese doctors discovered Mr. Mordaunt was carrying the AIDS virus when examining him after his fall.

Mr. Mordaunt, said to have had a serious drugs problem since the age of 21, appeared on an RTE television programme about AIDS earlier this month.

He left Ireland a week ago for a holiday in China on the proceeds of a road accident insurance settlement.

His fall came two days after the start of the holiday. The Chinese authorities ordered his deportation and he is understood to have been escorted to Peking airport by armed soldiers.

Mr. Mordaunt's mother Carmel said at her home in Dublin yesterday: "John has telephoned to say he is in London and ill, but he has not given me his address or telephone number."

Condoms in clubs illegal — Minister

By LIAM RYAN

DUBLIN nightclub owners were warned by Junior Health Minister Terry Leyden last night that they would be breaking the law by allowing the sale of condoms on their premises.

Mr. Leyden issued the caution following a report that condom-dispensing machines had been installed in at least four clubs along the Leeson Street "strip".

And a vending machine firm at the centre of the controversy said that the machines will be operating in public houses from this week as a result of a "huge demand for this service" as a protection against AIDS.

But Mr. Leyden told the *Irish Independent*: "Condoms can only be sold through chemist shops and Health Board outlets."

He said selling condoms in nightclubs and public houses would be "contrary to the Act, and the terms

of the Act must be complied with."

Mr. Tadhg O'Sullivan, president of the Vintners' Federation of Ireland, said he did not think the authorities would give permission for the installation of the condom machines in public houses.

"As far as I am concerned, the sale of condoms is confined to chemist shops and family planning centres," added Mr. O'Sullivan.

A spokesman for the vending machine company said they had been inundated with requests for the machines from nightclub owners and they also hoped to start installing them in pubs "in the next few days."

He argued that they felt that the ready availability of condoms would "go a long way towards offering people protection from AIDS."

He said that normally nightclub patrons were over the legal age limit of 18 years and because of this the company did not expect any legal difficulties.

Irish Press
25th May 1987

'No' to China's refund offer

By DERMOTT HAYES

THE Irishman deported from China last week with an AIDS condition had refused an offer of compensation from the Chinese tourist authorities, as "inadequate".

The Chinese Internal Tourist Service has offered to refund £530, the cost of internal accommodation in China, to John Mordaunt.

Mr Mordaunt has refused the offer, which came through the office of the P & O travel organisation, and is seeking a full refund of his £2,000 ticket. He spent two days of his 18-day visit in China, before he was deported when Chinese medical officials discovered he is carrying the AIDS virus.

John Mordaunt (29), has AIDS-Related Complex and is currently receiving treatment in a North London hospital for an injury he received to his back when he had a fall on the Great Wall of China.

Mr. Mordaunt told THE IRISH PRESS yesterday that the offer of £530 was made to him last Friday by an official from the P & O travel company, after reporters from a Fleet Street newspaper had made approaches to the company on his behalf.

He refused to speak about his treatment in the Republic of China before his deportation, apart from saying it was



John Mordaunt

his trip, and he said he intended to make a claim for full compensation. He added that he felt the P & O travel company ought to have offered the full refund.

Attempts to contact officials of the P & O for comment were unsuccessful.



● American homosexuals and lesbians on the march: less popular than ever

MONDAY evening, as we travelled from Western New England to New York City, my wife and I listened to the nastiest radio chat show either of us had ever heard.

It is by listening on the car radio to the local stations that the driver along the American motorways gets to know something about the culture of the region he is going through. Through the car window, the service areas repeat the same features: here's Howard Johnson again, Dunkin' Donuts over and over ad nauseum, and everywhere the same old gas stations over 3,000 miles and more.

But the sounds coming in over the radio in different regions, are widely different. A blind passenger, with the radio on, would find out more about the region he was travelling through than would a driver watching the road.

The driver watching the road would see in Nashville, Tennessee, for example, hardly anything to distinguish it from 100 other American middle-sized towns.

But the blind passenger, unable to reach anything on his radio except preschool and country music, would know he was somewhere near the Buckle. (Nashville is known, to admirers and begrudgers alike, as the Buckle of the Bible Belt).

We weren't anywhere near the Bible Belt this week. But we did experience cultural shock last Monday as our car moved out of radio range of the New England stations and into the cultural

The New England stations we are used to are in the habit of starting the day with a broadcast of recorded New England birdsong. After that the fars go as much Brahms and Vivaldi as they can eat. Then we hear the unmistakable and unforgettable tones of New England's Public Service Radio anchorman, the celebrated Robert J. Lutzimer.

Robert I. sounds like a Trappist monk who is being forced by some unseen torturer to violate his vows. The pauses between sentences and sometimes between words are long enough to make the unaccustomed listener is apt to wonder whether it is the broadcaster who has died or the station which has been ousted.

Yet New England seems to appreciate Robert J. Lutzimer perhaps because he is so obviously the opposite to anything to which the word "tallit" could be applied.

On Monday night, as we got into Southern Connecticut, the culture of New England began to be drowned by that of New York. I know that some broadcasting in Manhattan is at least as upmarket and sedate as the New England stations we had been listening to. But New York obviously has vastly more of

**Conor
Cruise
O'Brien** 

other kind of broadcasting than New England has, and it was one of the other kinds that hit as we drove on Maine my wife, will give you her impression of that chat show.

"As public radio began to fade, I pressed the radio's 'seek' button and was at first delighted with the station we hit. The comic and his 'straight man' who was, in fact, a young woman, were exploiting what seemed to me a very witty gimmick.

"They were commenting on a self-designated Lesbian Rock Band which I have every reason to believe, actually exists, and they pointed out that if you opened any newspaper at random, anywhere from the front page to the classifieds, and set the first passage that caught your eye, to the kind of 'heavy' rock the lesbians favoured, you had a ready-made 'lyric' of the kind the group favoured too."

"They gave examples and the examples were funny, but they went on too long. Then we realised they went on too long by design; the whole show was a carefully orchestrated attack on 'queers.' It shifted from lesbians to gays, still with the same unfunny repetitive, bullying hostility and the subliminal message was scary.

"It reminded me of the anti-Jewish joke in *Der Stürmer* in Austria before the Anschluss. Both Conor and I were sickened and turned off the radio. Later we got the station again; this time they were sneering at middle-aged, unmarried, working women; we turned them off again."

One of the themes of that show was that the Gay press has claimed that the jokes against Gays had helped to encourage the recent (AIDS-connected) wave of assaults on Gays. Verbally, the comic affected to condemn such assaults, but his manner said the opposite. The listener would get the message that beating up gays was good sport.

salient aspect of this varied and complex culture. That comic represented the political streak that has given us, in the political sphere, Col. Oliver North and the Contras in Nicaragua.

As a matter of fact, our journey to New York had a connection with the Contras. I went to accept on Tuesday, at the Sheraton Centre, in Manhattan a Sidney Hillman Journalism Award for a piece of mine in the Atlantic called "God and Man in Nicaragua".

Sidney Hillman, founder of the

Amalgamated Clothing Workers, was a pillar of the New Deal — Roosevelt's "Clear it with Sidney" was famous in its day.

Hillman, from the '20s to the '40s, was a prime target for the kind of red-baiters who are now gung-ho for the Contras. In accepting my award, I wanted to make that connection and to deliver a clear anti-Contra message.

The word "clear" is important. A great deal of anti-Contra comment gets published in the U.S. media these days, but all the same, no clear message comes across. The reason for that is that all the commentators want to do two things, not just one, and the two things cancel one another out.

The commentators, while condemning the Contras, invariably take care to condemn the Sandinistas as well. By the time, the commentators are through with all that, the reader, listener or viewer doesn't know what to make of it all and is in any case thoroughly bored by the whole business.

So I wanted to speak against the Contras without knocking the Sandinistas. And I wanted, if I could, to get my audience — mainly the representatives of one of the most powerful American trade unions — to identify themselves as definitely as possible, with that position.

So I thought that, at the end of my brief acceptance speech, I would call on the audience to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of Benjamin Linder.

Benjamin Linder was the young American working on a rural electrification project in Nicaragua who was murdered in cold blood by Contras, on April 28 last. Benjamin's parents, David and Elizabeth Linder, came to Washington last week to testify at a Congressional hearing. There, before the cameras, a Congressman accused the Linders of exploiting their son's death for political purposes.

Elizabeth Linder's stricken face as that vile charge went home, was seen on the television screens of the nation.

I thought that decent people anywhere would want to identify with the Linders as against that Congressional champion of the Contras.

All the same, I began to get cold feet, at the beginning of that lunch as I sat on a chair, with a white carnation in my buttonhole (courtesy of the Sidney Hillman Foundation) and looked at the thousands or so guests in the Imperial Ballroom of the Sheraton Centre.

Calling on people to stand up is a risky business, like summoning spirits from the vastly deep. Suppose that, instead of standing and observing a minute's silence, most of the audience

Just sat there and observed me, standing and observing a minute's silence, that surely, would be among life's breakers.

Also, the political point it would make would be the very reverse of the one intended. My neighbour on the dias was an old friend, a Left wing publisher Andre Schiffrin on Panther Books. Andre was there, complete with white carnation, to accept a Hillman award on behalf of Robert S. McNamara, of all people.

McNamara had been world famous — or infamous — as U.S. Secretary of State for Defence during the Vietnam War but seems recently to have undergone some kind of conversion (his award-winning 1986 book, *Blundering Into Disaster*, published by Pantheon in an attack on the arms race and Reagan's defence policy).

Andre allowed as how the African people are left of centre within the American trade union movement but most of that movement has now got itself so far to the right that the left of it

So calling on them to stand, might be a bit dicey. Safer, perhaps, just to call for a minute's silence and let them just sit there, silently. After all, they could hardly stamp their feet or whistle between their fingers.

Still, as I listened to the proceedings, heard the speeches from the dais and the response of the audience, I began to feel a home in Mark's old town. The atmosphere was quite like an Annual Conference of the Irish Labour Party minus the far Left minority. The Left of the American trade union movement is certainly not wildly radical — nor, of course, am I — but it is well to the Left of most of today's American Liberal commentators. And when that audience was asked to stand, it stood, with only two or three exceptions, among a

All along, most Americans have been against the Contras but they have not been strongly enough against them to bring that bloody enterprise to an end. I

The murder of Benjamin Linder at the hands of those whom Ronald Reagan calls "the moral equivalent of the Founding Fathers" sickened many Americans. And many more are being sickened by the stench of the corruption that accompanies the brutality of the Contra operations, as the Congressional investigation is now revealing.

The kind of American that likes that show, loves the Contras. Most Americans don't like such things, but most Americans need to pay more attention than they have been doing to what is being done in their name. And more of them seems to be paying attention now than at any time since Ronald Reagan first became President in 1980.

IN BRIEF

China exiles Aids tourist

AN EIRE tourist found to be an Aids carrier while being treated for injuries sustained during a fall on the Great Wall of China, was yesterday in a London hospital as Eire government officials protested to Peking over his deportation.

John Mordaunt, 29, of Ringsend, Dublin, who is said to have had a serious drugs problem since the age of 21, appeared on an Eire television programme about Aids earlier this month.

He left Ireland a week ago for a holiday in China on the proceeds of a road accident insurance settlement.

His fall came two days after the start of the holiday. The Chinese authorities ordered his deportation and he is understood to have been escorted to Peking airport by armed soliders.

Mr Mordaunt's mother Carmel said at her home in

Dublin yesterday: "John has telephoned to say he is in London and ill. But he has not given me his address or telephone number because he knows I would be straight over and thinks he has caused enough trouble."

Speaking of her son's drugs problem, Mrs Mordaunt said: "We have tried everything — it is a long, harrowing story."

In a bid to contain the spread of the Aids virus Dublin nightclubs have begun installing condom dispensing machines.

Condom dispensers were banned in Eire until a reform of the country's family planning legislation two years ago made contraceptives available to everyone over the age of 18 years.

In spite of the change, many chemists have refused to stock condoms on religious grounds and the machines have been slow to appear.