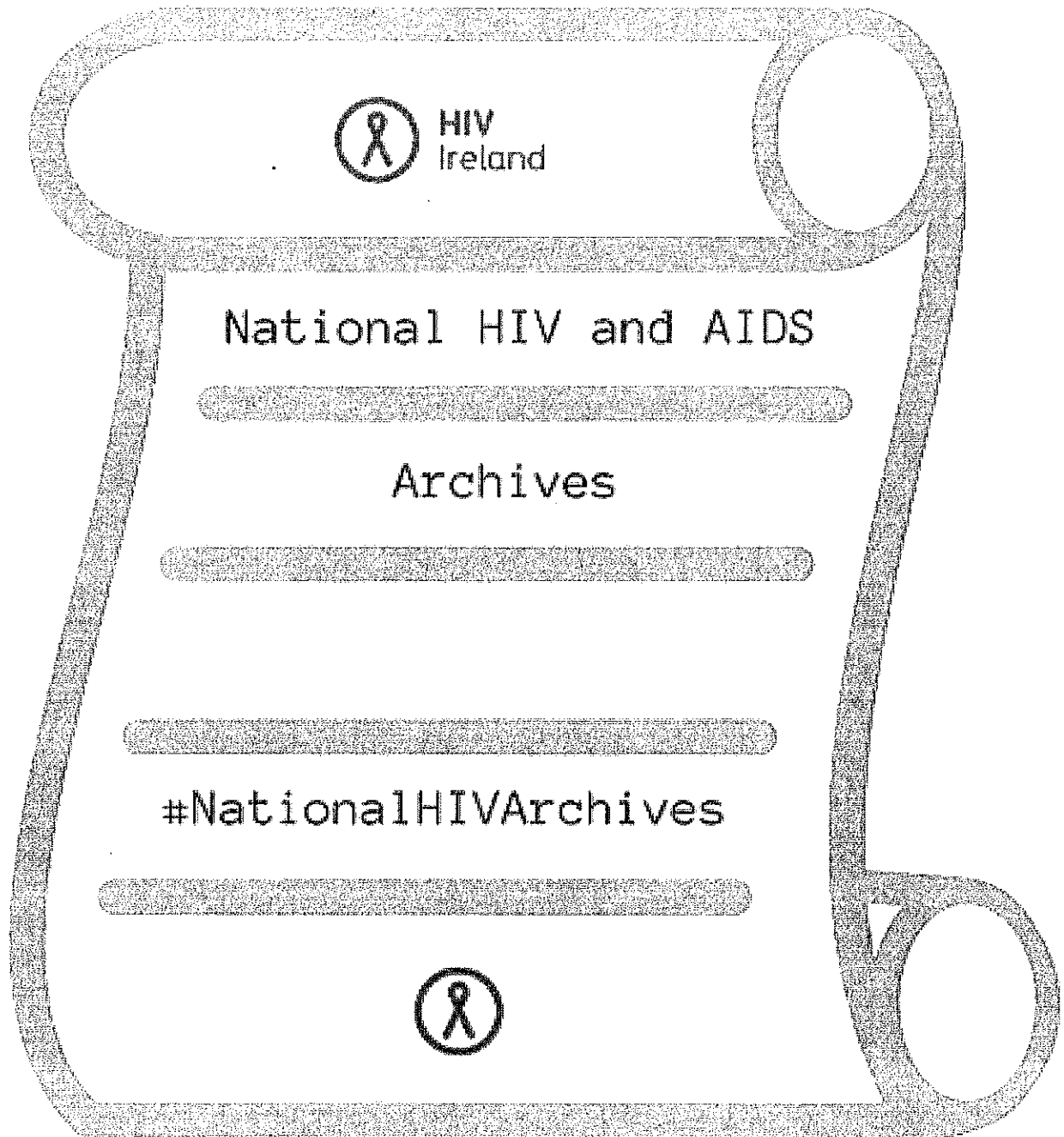


# Print Media



26th to 31st May 1987

Evening Herald  
26<sup>th</sup> May 1987

# Aids cure near

A MAJOR obstacle to the development of an effective Aids vaccine is close to being overcome by scientists, according to Prof. Luc Montagnier, of the Institut Pasteur in Paris, who discovered both types of human Aids virus.

One French team has already inoculated volunteers with an Aids vaccine, to measure the way

the body's immune system responds.

But there is at present no satisfactory way to see if the vaccine provides protection because no one wants to be deliberately infected with the virus responsible for Aids.

Prof. Montagnier said he was "pretty confident" a method to test vaccines on animals would be developed, perhaps within the year.

Evening Press  
26<sup>th</sup> May 1987

EVENING PRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987



## Liz hits "stars" silence on AIDS

Actress Elizabeth Taylor has condemned fellow stars who refuse to speak out against AIDS.

"There are so many that could raise their voices but they remain silent," she said.

"Everybody can see we are moving towards a catastrophe, but where are the voices of those who can be heard by the masses?"

She attacked the "scandalous reporting" of her friend Rock Hudson's death.

Many treat the disease as "nothing but a dirty joke", she told Woman's Own magazine.

No one is safe from AIDS, the actress warned.

She said: "When I think of how many transfusions I've had in the last 10 years... it makes me realise how susceptible we all are".

Liz's message is: "The days of being promiscuous are over."

"The disease is out there — and when you catch it you die. You die horribly, and so many die alone".

The Irish Press, Tuesday, May 26, 1987

# Priest's Aids fear rapped

BY BRIAN DOWLING  
MUNSTER MEP, T. J. Maher found himself at the centre of a furious row last night with a Dingle priest who warned that ratifying the Single European Act would result in homosexuality becoming legal in Ireland.

In a strong attack on Fr. Dick O'Connor, Mr. Maher said such claims were "a typical example of deliberate misinformation coming from people promoting a 'No' vote, who should have more respect for the truth."

However, Fr. O'Connor remained defiant last night and said he was "amazed Mr. Maher could not see the facts staring him in the face."

"I have concern for the future morals of the Irish people and I have

concern for their health so they will not get Aids. The recent European judgment makes it almost certain homosexuality will be legalised here and this intrinsically evil practice is furthering the spread of Aids," Fr. O'Connor said.

Fr. O'Connor said there was no question of him putting out misinformation or unfounded allegations and he accused Mr. Maher and other politicians who wanted a 'Yes' vote of evading the serious moral and political issues involved in the SEA.

Asked if he was urging his parishioners to vote no, he replied: "I am voting no. I have spelt out the clear moral dangers of this Act for them. I am giving them a free choice

which is more than the politicians are."

Mr. Maher made the attack on the priest after Fr. O'Connor spoke on RTE's Live Line yesterday. Irresponsible statements and unfounded claims made by people defending our moral values could affect the respect and influence they may enjoy in the future, he said.

In a sermon on Sunday last, the Dingle curate accused the Government of lying about the SEA. If the government had their way, people have known nothing about the Act until they saw "American troops and missile bases around the place. It would have been sneaked through long ago behind your backs."



T. J. Maher  
'deliberate  
misinformation'

**Irish Times**  
**26<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

## Norris replies to bishop on AIDS

SENATOR David Norris yesterday attacked the Church of Ireland for what he called its "shameful record of discrimination in employment" against gay people in a number of dioceses. He recalled a recent case in which the Archdiocese of Dublin had dismissed and evicted from his home "a young suburban curate purely on the basis that he was involved in a long-term monogamous relationship with another man."

Senator Norris was replying to a speech made at last week's Church of Ireland Synod in which the Bishop of Down, Dr Gordon McMullan, said 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."

Senator Norris said: "This attempt to create a two-tier system of patients — the immoral on the one hand and the innocent victim on the other — will be deplored by anyone who is seriously committed to the central message of Christianity."

Irish Times  
26<sup>th</sup> May 1987

# Taylor attacks Reagan for advice on AIDS

STARS who keep silent on the danger of AIDS for fear of damaging their careers are attacked by Elizabeth Taylor in an interview published today in *Woman's Own* magazine.

"There are so many that could have raised their voices but they remained silent," she said. "Everybody could see we were moving towards a catastrophe but where were the voices of those who could have been heard by the masses?"

She warned that no one is safe from AIDS. "When I think of how many transfusions I've had in the last 10 years . . . it makes you realise how susceptible we all are."

Miss Taylor condemned President Reagan, calling his attitude "just amazing." She said: "He has been poorly advised. I am sure he has been told to stay away from the subject."

In his last State of the Union address, President Reagan advised American youth to abstain from sex to protect themselves. "His advice is not very practical," Miss Taylor said.

After her close friend Rock Hudson died from the disease, Miss Taylor became national president of the American Foundation for Aids Research.

"The sensational treatment, the scandalous reporting of Rock's death disturbed me deeply. The attitude of many people just sickened me. They didn't speak out openly about AIDS, but dealt with it as if it was nothing but a dirty joke."

In contrast to President Reagan's advice, her message, however, was: "The days of being promiscuous are over. Casual hopping from bed to bed, going to a bar to pick up or be picked up is inviting danger."

"If you're going to have sex, use a condom or a spermicide. The disease is out there and anyone who practices unsafe behaviour can catch it. And when you catch it, then you die. You die horribly and so many die alone."

The World Health Organisation has drawn up a questionnaire to be filled out by countries that impose AIDS tests, the organisation's chief AIDS researcher, Dr.

Jonathan Mann, said in Geneva yesterday.

Ill-defined screening tests against the disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, could be "indiscreet, expensive and inefficient," and even "violate fundamental human rights," Dr. Mann explained.

The questionnaire covers "logistical, technical, economic, legal, ethical and social" aspects of AIDS tests. It will be presented at the third international conference on AIDS in Washington next week, from June 1st to 5th.

National health officials in countries imposing the AIDS test will have to detail the reasons and methods of the testing campaign, the size of the population being tested, and the social impact of the campaign, among other questions.

Japanese scientists have found that in laboratory experiments a pine cone extract, used in Japan to treat stomach tumours and leukaemia, inhibits the spread of the AIDS virus. — (PA, AFP, AP)

**Irish Press**  
**27<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

## **The AIDS campaign**

IT IS being suggested that the use of condoms to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus is legitimate, and that the use can be condoned by the Church. The intention is not contraceptive, the argument runs, and so the use is not covered by the Church's condemnation of contraception.

But a prior question needs to be faced. Is the use of the condom a direct sterilisation of the act of sexual intercourse? If it is, then the use is morally unacceptable regardless of the intention inspiring it.

I find it impossible to see how wearing a condom can be other than an act of direct sterilisation. The intention may be to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus, but the deed sterilises directly the act of intercourse.

The sterilisation may not be what is directly desired, but it is so directly caused that it cannot be put outside the intention. In short, I do not see how the principle of double effect can be applied here, and so the use of the condom does fall under the Church's general prohibition and can not be condoned.

MICHAEL C. MCGUCKIAN  
S.J.

Della Strada,  
Dooradoyle Road,  
Limerick.

## Warning issued on condom machines

By Andy Pollak

"DON'T buy your condoms in nightclubs" was the message yesterday from politicians, chemists and contraceptive importers — all of whom asked not to be quoted — when questioned about the installation of contraceptive vending machines in four late-night discos and clubs in Leeson Street, Dublin.

The Minister of State at the Department of Health, Mr Terry Leyden, declined to comment further on his earlier insistence that condoms could only be bought legally through chemist shops and health board clinics. He said that any change in the law to allow contraceptive vending machines in pubs and nightclubs as part of the campaign against AIDS would be a decision for the Minister, Dr O'Hanlon. Dr O'Hanlon was not available for comment.

A number of chemists in central Dublin pointed out that they sold packets of 12 condoms for prices ranging from £3 to £3.25, whereas the machines in the nightclubs were vending them at £6 for packets of six.

One pharmacist, who asked not to be named, said it sounded like "an expensive way to cap an expensive night."

On RTE radio a spokesman for the company installing the condom machines, who declined to give either his name or the name of his company, insisted that he was not interested in making large profits. Asked about the high price of his condoms, he said: "We feel that's a fair price, especially for Leeson Street, because we feel that many people who go to Leeson Street have got a lot of money."

He added that the nightclub owners had promised that 50 per cent of the proceeds from the machines would go to the anti-AIDS campaign.

The manager of a Leeson Street night club, who asked to remain anonymous, said when questioned about his machines illegality: "If

the Government force the point we will have no choice but to put the 'out of order' sign on machines. We'd have to take them away and give in to the general hypocrisy in the country."

A spokesman for the main importers of Durex, Welfare Hygiene Ltd, who asked that his name should not be used, said public contraceptive vending machines of any kind were against the law. He did not know who was behind the nightclub condom machine company. "There's no way Durex would be associated with these people," he said.

The elusive installers of the condom machines were contactable only through Leeson Street nightclub managers, who themselves were unavailable for comment up to 10 o'clock last night.

The exception, and the only man in the whole saga who did not mind being quoted, was Freddy, the manager of Fanny Hill's night club, who said that a man called Dermot had installed the machine on Sunday night, and gave *The Irish Times* a telephone number. There was no reply. "If anyone objects to the machines we'll just have to throw it out," he said. "But it's a pity — we feel we're helping the AIDS campaign. It's better to spend a few pounds on a condom than millions on dealing with the disease."



# Time for Routine Testing for AIDS

By WILLIAM J. BENNETT

The AIDS epidemic may be the most serious health threat of this century. How best to deal with it has been the subject of a vigorous debate in America. And out of this debate is emerging a growing and welcome consensus on a number of issues.

We can all agree, for example, on the need to care for those afflicted with AIDS, by helping to ensure that families, states, localities, hospitals and others have the resources to provide adequate medical care for those suffering from this disease. We can all agree that we must prevent violations of the civil rights of those who are carriers of the AIDS virus. And we can all agree on the need to educate all of our citizens about how the AIDS virus is transmitted and how to guard against it. Moreover, there is now nearly universal agreement on a further point: the need for more widespread AIDS testing.

## The Reasons Why

America needs more testing for several reasons:

- Testing provides important epidemiological information, allowing us to determine just how widespread the virus is.
- Testing informs individuals if they have contracted AIDS so they can seek proper medical treatment.
- If an individual tests positive, he will know that he must refrain from activities that would endanger the life of another person.
- If an individual tests positive, he or the public health authorities can alert others who may be at risk.

While there is general agreement on the need for more widespread AIDS testing, some balk at going about this in the most effective way. They call for more testing, but only voluntary testing. They reject out of hand proposals for routine testing of individuals upon certain occasions: For example, for some or all of those admitted to hospitals, for those being treated at

clinics serving "high-risk" populations, for couples seeking marriage licenses, and for prison inmates. Some individuals are so concerned about guaranteeing privacy that they will not allow even the confidential notification of other individuals possibly infected, or at risk of being infected, by someone found to be an AIDS carrier.

What has emerged, then, is a troubling paradox: Confronted with this grave public health threat, with a disease that is expected to claim more American lives by 1991 than did the Vietnam and Korean wars combined, America has failed to employ routine testing and contact notification — commonly accepted public health measures for other similarly transmitted diseases.

## *Making testing routine, dealing with it just as with similar communicable diseases, will go a long way toward lessening the stigma that now surrounds AIDS tests.*

An extraordinary gap has developed, between the recognition of the magnitude of the threat of AIDS and the failure to adopt eminently reasonable and useful public health measures to respond to it, measures for which there is long precedent. Opponents of routine testing offer several arguments against it. None is convincing.

One argument is that routine testing would drive the principal classes of AIDS victims (homosexuals and intravenous drug users) "underground," because some individuals would be so fearful of discrimination as a result of testing positive.

First of all, even if a few individuals did go "underground," the U.S. would have to balance this fact with the crucial information more widespread routine testing would produce for individuals, and for society. This information would save lives.

Second, the possibility that some individuals may avoid testing can be minimized by

The American Medical Association's Principles of Medical Ethics recognize that a physician may reveal otherwise confidential information if this is necessary to protect the welfare of another individual or the community. There has long been recognition of the need in some instances to balance a patient's right to confidentiality and a physician's obligation to protect lives. In the case of AIDS, confidentiality would be superseded only in certain circumstances, such as to inform health officials or to inform a wife that her husband has AIDS.

A third argument made against routine testing is that the AIDS test is costly and unreliable.

In fact, experience at the Department of Defense shows that testing can be done for less than \$5 a person. The additional cost of counseling those who test positive is well worth the money.

## Saving Lives

The AIDS tests are reliable and have been used successfully. Moreover, a proper testing program includes provisions for double-checking positive test results.

There is no denying that a program of routine testing and contact notification presents some challenges. Few decisions on AIDS are easy. But the difficulty of the task cannot discourage. For what is the alternative? To go on as we have been? We cannot do that.

By now, the facts are clear: Business as usual is not enough. If the U.S. is to contain the spread of this deadly epidemic, routine testing must play a part. The real question we face is whether we will adopt aggressive public health measures now when the spread of the virus can be curbed. Objectives noted, cautions observed, civil liberties protected: We must now do what is essential to save lives.

Mr. Bennett is U.S. secretary of education.

## Sex book ban wrong: Senator

THE USE of the Censorship of Publications Acts to ban books containing information on sexually transmitted diseases could have disastrous consequences, Trinitysenator David Norris has warned.

And with the spread of Aids, it is vital that any information that affects people's health should not be withheld from the public, he declared.

"It is crucial that the citizen should have information on sexually transmitted diseases," Senator Norris told a meeting on Censorship organised by the Library Association of Ireland.

'And in two or three-years time people will not be talking about morality because of the Aids epidemic as hospitals will not be able to cope with

the projected number of terminally ill patients suffering from the disease.

Senator Norris said that in a recent article in the Evening Herald a civil servant explained that the controversial book "The Joy of Sex" had been banned because it was "offensive to the moral majority."

"I thought this was a very sinister statement," said Senator Norris. "I have seen the so-called moral majority in the United States burning books and when people start burning books they won't stop until they start burning people."

Senator Norris said it was very dangerous to prevent access to ideas and he could not understand how a book called "Common Sense About Sex" had been banned recently.

# AIDS White House poll issue

EVENING PRESS, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1987

IN a concession to mounting public anxiety, U.S. presidential candidates are adding AIDS to their issues list.

"It is an issue that makes politicians cringe" an aide to one 1988 White House hopeful says privately, "because it brings together homosexuality, sexual disease and death, three items which we wish to actively remain unenlightened".

Nearly 21,000 Americans have died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which kills by destroying the body's immune system. Experts say the toll could reach 200,000 by 1991. Some 1.5 million are estimated to be carrying the virus. Opinion polls puts AIDS near the top of the list of American public concerns. Public anxiety is forcing those who aspire to succeed President Reagan by way of the 1988 election to take positions on AIDS.

Seven Democrats and seven Republicans are candidates for their parties' nomination or soon will be, and they face pressure to balance the protection of public health through quarantines, testing or education with preservation of privacy and civil rights.

"I think most men and women of good will want to make sure you protect the privacy of citizens", Republican presidential candidate, Jack Kemp, said in a recent interview. "But they also think there should be some public health protection the questions are going to be how far and how do you protect privacy?"

The candidates are generally seeking a safe middle ground with vague proposals for more research and education, a tactic that lessens chances AIDS will become a bitter partisan issue. Several have endorsed legislation that would create a national AIDS study commission.

But there is potential for conflict between those with extreme opposing views on the safety versus rights issues, as was illustrated by an indirect exchange between Republican Pat Robertson, a television evangelist, and Democrat Richard Gephardt, a congressman from Missouri.

Mr. Robertson, who has predicted that some states will eventually decide to quarantine AIDS patients, has repeatedly denounced homosexuality as a perverted lifestyle and says the civil rights of homosexuals must yield to public health needs. Mr. Gephardt has accused Mr. Robertson of "sexual terrorism".

As to substantive proposals on AIDS, the most specific to garner support among presidential candidates is mandatory testing of couples seeking marriage licences.

Such test have the backing of Mr. Kemp and Vice President, George Bush, on the Republican side, and ex-Arizona Governor, Bruce Babbitt, among Democrats.

Testing is an especially tough issue for Democrats. It is opposed fiercely by homosexual right activists, an important Democratic voting bloc, who see it as indirect harassment. That is a two-edged sword politically because many party leaders fret about public perceptions that they are beholden to fringe interest groups.

Candidates also must deal with conflict between those who say the government should promote the use of condoms and those who say sexual abstinence is the moral way to good health.

Mr. Babbitt said adolescents should be encouraged to abstain from sex, "but we recognise human nature and if you don't choose to take that ethical and moral advice, here are the facts". That middle-road posture is not so easy for Republicans in the conservative era ushered in by President Reagan.

The hazards for a Republican taking a moderate stance on this issue were illustrated recently by former Delaware Governor Pierre du Pont, a 1988 nomination contender, who was booed by a conservative group when he described AIDS as "a medical problem, not a moral problem".

# Censorship 'revival' alarms Norris

By Niall Kiely

THE apparent revival of the Censorship of Publications Board, as manifested in the recent banning of "The Joy of Sex," was very alarming, Senator David Norris told a library Association of Ireland meeting in Dublin last night.

"It appeared to have collapsed at one point under the weight of the paperback boom," the TCD lecturer told the public meeting organised by the LAI's university and special libraries section. "And it was even more alarming when a civil servant involved in the 'Joy of Sex' banning told a reporter that material should be banned which 'could be construed as being offensive to the moral majority.' That remark alone should have led to the dissolution of the board."

The Independent senator referred to the six Acts providing

the basis for such censorship, from the first in 1842 up to the 1929 legislation. Citing a 1926 pamphlet issued by the Catholic Truth Society, entitled "The Problem of Undesirable Printed Matter," he said that the CTS was obviously a very influential pressure group since even the pamphlet's very language had later been replicated in the 1929 Act.

James Joyce had been a target, and the pamphlet referred to "Ulysses," then banned in Canada, as having been submitted for an opinion to the Irish Attorney-General in 1917, although this was strange since "Ulysses" had not been published until 1922.

It was probable, added Senator Norris, who is a Joycean scholar, that the pamphlet was actually alluding to "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," which had

been published before 1917, and "Ulysses" had in fact never been banned in Ireland since it could be excluded at the port of entry using the 1876 Customs Consolidation Act.

The 1929 Act had defined "indecent" as "construed as including suggestive of, or inciting to sexual immorality or unnatural vices or likely in any other similar way to corrupt or deprave." That was very broad and was couched in language which would be regarded as loaded in today's terms.

He cited Section 17 of the Act, which continued in force the Indecent Advertising Act 1889, and specifically outlawed anything which related to sexually transmitted diseases or to sexual intercourse; it was obviously there to inhibit publication of information which might, in fact, help to

prevent transmission of disease or effect a cure.

When the 1946 Act was passed, continuing in force its 1929 predecessor, Section 8 had referred to the "class of reader" that might peruse offending material, an example of implicit paternalism akin to the counsel's query in the famous "Lady Chatterley" case when he asked the judge if he would allow his wife or servant to read the book.

"Given this attitude, I would ask who is to protect the members of our Censorship of Publications Board, who by their own definition are constantly adrift on a sea of filth," asked Senator Norris. "More seriously, how can they be capable of operating under the criteria anyway, since they do not include in their number a single literary figure, not one historian, not one scientist."

**Irish Times**  
**28<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

# ICTU issues guidelines to protect gay workers

THE IRISH Congress of Trade Unions has issued a set of guidelines to combat discrimination in the workplace against gay workers. According to the ICTU, such discrimination occurs in relation to hiring, firing, training, promotion, harassment, discipline and conditions of employment.

Congress recommends that equality clauses in union agreements be amended to include opposition to discrimination on the grounds of sexuality. There is widespread prejudice against gay men and women in society, it says, and this prejudice affects their rights in the workplace.

Congress is also urging its affiliated unions to negotiate procedures for handling complaints of discrimination on grounds of sexuality. Collective agreements and conditions of employment should be examined for direct or indirect discrimination in relation to pensions, access to leave or other fringe benefits, it says.

Gay workers are often harassed by management or fellow-workers, the guidelines state. This can be verbal, such as unwanted personal questions and remarks, offensive jokes, innuendo and malicious gossip. In extreme cases, a person could be physically attacked.

At work, gay people were often afraid of the opinions of their colleagues, the document goes on. They are afraid that if their sexuality becomes known they will lose any chance of promotion and above all, they are afraid of losing their jobs.

Congress says that unions should recognise that this discrimination is a trade union issue affecting thousands of workers and requiring a serious anti-discrimination policy and programme. Gay workers should be able to raise any complaint with their union representative and expect it to be dealt with in a positive and supportive manner.

## AIDS MONITOR

### Scientists uncertain about new drug



RESEARCHERS in Europe and the US have expressed severe doubts about a new treatment for AIDS which is about to begin trials in Sweden. Doctors at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm intend to treat 18 patients with a substance called peptide T. Yet scientists elsewhere in Europe and the US say that they have been unable to repeat the basic experiments to confirm that peptide T can indeed prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from infecting white blood cells.

A peptide is a short chain of amino acids, the building blocks that make up proteins. Peptide T is a chain of eight amino acids. Five of these amino acids have names beginning with T, hence the name peptide T. The same sequence of amino acids also occurs in the viral protein known as gp 120. Gp 120 is attached to the virus's envelope, and is involved in binding to the white blood cells called T4 lymphocytes.

Peptide T was discovered last year by Candace Pert and her colleagues at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. They say that it can block the receptor on the T4 lymphocyte to which HIV binds, preventing the virus from infecting these cells. In their paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in the US, they say that their discovery should help in the development of vaccines. "Perhaps even more important, peptide T, or a derivative, might be useful clinically to halt or attenuate the spread of the virus in infected individuals."

Yet, at a meeting last month, organised by the University of California, Los Angeles, in Keystone, Colorado, many researchers told Pert that they had been unable to reproduce her results. Hans Wigzell, professor of immunology at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, was one of them. He says that several groups at the Keystone meeting believed that there was a desperate need for independent groups to confirm the data on peptide T. Wigzell added: "The whole basis for [the Swedish] trial needs confirmation."

Wigzell said that researchers in his laboratory had tried to answer two questions. The first was whether the addition of peptide T interferes with the binding of the envelope protein gp 120 to the receptor molecule, known as CD4, on the T4 cell. "In our hands, it has not done a thing." Secondly, can peptide T influence viral replication in the laboratory? "Again, our results are negative."

At Keystone, Pert told Wigzell that it was necessary to take special technical precautions in order to reproduce her work. Wigzell said: "It was difficult to understand the logic [of these precautions]." He said that Pert refused to supply him with samples of radiolabelled peptide T from her

laboratory so that he could try again to repeat her results.

Angus Dalgleish, consultant oncologist at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow, also said that he could not repeat Pert's work. "It is unusual for somebody to start a clinical trial based on somewhat surprising results from one laboratory that have not been confirmed by other groups." For one thing, the substance may be harmful, he added. For another, there are other drugs,

his work in a scholarly journal.

Michael Ruff, who works closely with Pert at the National Institute of Mental Health, said: "We stand by our work." The team would be organising a workshop for other researchers, and also presenting additional information at a meeting in Washington at the beginning of next month. He added: "None of these people has bothered to call us up. This strikes us as being more in the political realm than in the scientific realm." He wanted to know when those making the criticisms were going to go on the record about it.

Ruff agreed that several people had spoken to Pert and himself at the meeting in Keystone. But he said that from what he had heard, these researchers had not followed the techniques closely enough. "If someone says they can't repeat our work, I would want to know line by line what they did." This kind of information had not been forthcoming, he said.

Lennart Wetterberg, of the department of psychiatry at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, said that the trial of peptide T should begin this week. Thirty-six patients will be involved for one month, half taking peptide T and half taking a placebo. Neither doctors nor patients will know which group is which. After the month of the trial there will follow three months of observations on those taking part.

Wetterberg and his colleagues, including Pert, have already reported giving peptide T to four patients with AIDS (*The Lancet*, vol 1, p 159). They said that the numbers of lymphocytes in these patients increased; none of the patients lost any weight.

The report says: "By mimicking the action of peptides, viral proteins could exert hormonal effects throughout the body, including the central nervous system, and thus may have a role in the aetiology [cause] of the progressive dementia of AIDS patients."

Wetterberg said that he had heard that various researchers had been unable to reproduce Pert's work. "Pert was one of the first to report about opiate receptors in 1973. At that time, many laboratories found it difficult to repeat that work, although within one year, four laboratories confirmed that work. That is now textbook knowledge." In this case, he said, only five months have passed since Pert's report and so far, none of the laboratories that say they have negative results has published its data.

By the time that a year has gone by, Wetterberg concluded, the question of whether Pert's work is right will have been resolved. "I am sceptical of all new findings. I am also sceptical of those who cannot confirm new findings. We feel obliged to continue and see in a clinical trial whether [peptide T] does work." □



Each new drug raises hopes for people suffering from AIDS. But are they false ones?

proved to be effective, that could keep patients with AIDS alive until better treatments come along.

Steven McDougal, chief of immunology at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said that workers in his laboratory were unable to show that a peptide with a comparable sequence inhibited binding to T cells. "I wouldn't want to take it myself if I had the disease. I don't think there's enough experimental support or independent verification that it does what they say it does." He added: "It should not be difficult to reproduce this work. It should be real easy for us."

Another American immunologist who has worked on interactions between HIV and the CD4 receptor said: "If you accept the simple premise that their observations are indeed correct, that this synthetic peptide corresponds to a portion of the HIV envelope protein and that it interferes with the CD4 receptor and that it prevents infection, then it ought to be a generalisable, readily reproducible phenomenon. That does not appear to be the case in the hands of different investigators that I have talked to." He knew of no laboratory data to justify using peptide T in patients.

According to some reports, several other laboratories have also failed to confirm Pert's work, including one in the Netherlands. Bill Haseltine, of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, said: "We will be coming out in print about this. Scientific disputes are best handled through the scientific press and not through the popular press."

Samuel Broder, of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, also said that he would not want to comment at this time in case he prejudiced publication of

Evening Press  
29<sup>th</sup> May 1987

# AIDS fear spurs big business

**THOMAS CAMPBELL** rests his hands atop a gleaming desk inside the landscaped, red-brick warren of offices across from the shopping mall.

"Hey, if all we were interested in was money, we could offer AIDS testing for \$69.95," he said. "I'd open up a stand in New York and retire in eight months."

When Campbell and his five partners opened their Peace of Mind Club in the mint-fresh suburbs of West Bloomfield, northwest of Detroit, several months ago, sure, they had the feeling they were digging into the mother lode. But they also felt a responsibility. "because we're talking about a disease that kills people," he said.

"There are going to be a lot of folks trying to make money out of this AIDS panic. Some of them will do it ethically, and some will do it unethically."

And while Peace of Mind may have been the first to enter this brave new world, today Campbell is just one of a growing number of AIDS entrepreneurs — Private-sector American marketeers responding to a new clamouring for a sense of security in the AIDS-worried heterosexual community.

There's Ampersand in New York, a state-of-the-art dating service with an Uper East Side address that's open only to those testing negative for AIDS, much like Judy Yorio's compatibles in South Burlington, Vermont. And there's the American AIDS-Free Association in Chicago's posh northwest suburbs, a social club similar to Campbell's. And an outfit called Scare in Plantation, Florida, and Adults in Distress (AIDS, et it?) in suburban Dallas.

"There's got to be 40 of 'em out there, easy," Campbell said. "They're opening up all over the place, almost a new one every day."

The National Voluntary Immune Registry in Tacoma, Washington, will ship a "specimen mailer" to anyone who sends \$30. The idea is that a sample of blood can be sent back to Tacoma and tested for the presence of the HTLV-III antibody, the so-called AIDS virus. If the test is negative, the person's name will be entered on the "national registry" and he or she will be sent a laminated card with "AIDS Safe" emblazoned across it — along with the person's name, "specimen date" and "validation number."

But who does the testing? How private are the results? Does a negative result really make you AIDS Safe? What's to stop someone from sending in someone's else's "specimen", or simply printing up a batch of phony cards?

"Quite clearly there's a lot

of things unethical that could be done to exploit this current situation," Campbell said. "For instance, anybody who hands out a card that says the person is AIDS-free is unethical, because there's no such guarantee. You know what that would mean? People walking around thinking, 'Oh, gosh. I'm safe now.' You're just promoting the disease."

That's the concern of many researchers and activists in the fight against AIDS, though the community is still split on how to react to this slick, private sector thrust into what has been an underfunded, public sector initiative.

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**Irish Times**  
**29<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

## AIDS man's sentence suspended

A COOLOCK man, who has become an AIDS victim since his addiction to heroin which cost him £200 a day, appeared at Dun Laoghaire Court yesterday on three charges of housebreaking.

Christopher Hill (21) Belcamp Grove, pleaded guilty to breaking into two houses at St Helen's Road, Booterstown, on March 2nd, and a third home at Mount Merrion Avenue on March 23rd, and stealing property to a total value of £2,105.

Defending solicitor, Mr Gerry Lambe, said his client was a severe heroin addict at the time and his sole reason for taking the property was to feed this habit which was costing him £200 per day.

He said that Hill has since discovered that he is an AIDS antibodies carrier and is presently serving a six-month sentence in Mountjoy Prison isolation wing having been convicted on a malicious damage charge.

Mr Lambe said his client had written to Anawim Community Trust, in Donegal, to avail of treatment for his drug problem prior to his imprisonment.

District Justice Hubert Wine describing the case as "very sad", said that Anawim is an ideal institution for sufferers like the defendant and he imposed a 12-month suspended sentence on condition that Hill enter a bond to apply for placement there on his release from prison.



# TV evangelist denies homosexual claim

THE US television evangelist, Mr Jim Bakker, yesterday rejected claims by a rival preacher that he had "homosexual problems". He also denied any financial impropriety.

Mr Bakker, who had been in semi-seclusion for several months with his wife, Tammy Faye, at their home in Palm Springs, California, said that the other preacher, Mr Jerry Falwell, had spread statements about "homosexual problems" dating back to 1956 as part of a plot to keep the "PTL Club" television ministry for himself.

In the latest salvo in television evangelism's "Holy War", Mr Bakker said he wanted to return to the ministry. "I would come back today to save the ministry that we spent a lifetime building," he said.

Mr Falwell, who took over the organisation in March after Mr

Bakker admitted having a sexual encounter with a former church secretary, Jessica Hahn, on Wednesday barred Mr Bakker from ever returning, in part because of the homosexuality claims.

"There's no substance to these charges," Mr Bakker said on a US television network programme. "I would again say if anyone has these charges against me, I want them to come forward publicly with the proof."

He accused Mr Falwell of tricking him into turning over control of the ministry by inventing a story that another television preacher, Jimmy Swaggart, was plotting a hostile takeover.

For the first time since the sex scandal arose in March, Mr Bakker said he would like to return to the leadership of the PTL, which stands for Praise the Lord, or People That Love. "I

believe in miracles, and I would like to have my ministry back if the people want us back," he said.

Mr Bakker had stated on Tuesday night on ABC television's "Nightline" programme that Mr Falwell reneged on a promise to manage his PTL television ministry only until Mr Bakker was "restored" from the sex scandal.

Mr Falwell responded on Wednesday at a televised press conference, saying he changed his mind after receiving further information of Mr Bakker's misconduct.

"But, Jim, since that time I have learned that not only did you have sex with Jessica Hahn, so did your associate John Wesley Fletcher," Mr Falwell said he told Mr Bakker. "And a third person — a member of your team went in with the intention of

having sex with her and she was prostrate and on the floor and unable to respond and could not accommodate him."

Mr Bakker denied any participation with others during the 1980 sexual encounter. "I had no part of anybody else's relationship with Jessica Hahn," he said. "I just had nothing to do with that."

Mr Falwell, saying that Mr Bakker had engaged in homosexual activity, went on: "I have sat across the table from people who have told me of their — of your — homosexual advances."

Mr Bakker dismissed that statement yesterday, claiming that one man had unjustly accused him of giving that man a "homosexual look" and that another had accused him of receiving a "rubdown in a locker room where there was naked men." Mr Bakker said that there was

nothing unusual about naked men in a locker room.

Mrs Bakker supported his denials, saying: "He's not homosexual or bisexual."

Mr Bakker denied also any financial impropriety while he was head of the organisation and said his salary, which he estimated at \$1.1 million last year, was determined by the organisation's board in secret votes while he was not present. But he admitted failing to keep close watch on the finances of the organisation, now more than \$60 million in debt.

He repeated an earlier charge that a rival TV evangelist, Jimmy Swaggart, conspired with Mr Falwell to steal the PTL ministry from him.

"It's an unbelievable, unbelievable scenario," he said. "I've been told by dear friends that if this were fiction, nobody would buy it. It's too bizarre." — (AFP, Reuter)

THE IRISH TIMES, Saturday, May 30, 1987

## Bishop critical of AIDS funding

THE BISHOP of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev S G Poyntz, yesterday questioned the low-key presentation of condoms as a method for preventing AIDS, in the Health Education Bureau's booklet on the disease.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Victoria Hospital, Cork, he said that one could be critical of the £400,000 allocated to fund the education programme concerning AIDS, but what about adequate staffing of hospitals designated to deal with the virus?

Earlier, referring to the Victoria hospital, one of those so designated, Dr Poyntz said that there had to be a limit to the cutbacks in small hospitals.

He said that the Victoria hospital had agreed some years ago that partnership with its neighbour, the South Infirmary, would be in the best interests of the community. A link had been

planned and building was to begin in August. It was incomprehensible that this should now be temporarily shelved, because it would have enabled a pooling of resources and a saving of considerable amounts of money.

"Most of us realise that there must be considerable changes in the Health Service, but I would plead for an orderly and strategic rethink affecting all those who in different ways service hospitals, from consultants right through to kitchen staff — even health boards. It always seems incredible to me, that while many hospital boards can be serviced by people who can give their services for nothing, other boards require considerable travelling expenses. In the totality of expenses, that may not amount to a percentage of any significance, but it would be indicative of a commitment," said Dr Poyntz.

**Irish Times**  
**30<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

## **Man to be charged on AIDS food scare**

A MAN is due to appear in court in Belfast today in connection with an AIDS food contamination scare. The RUC said a man had been arrested and charged with an offence, and would appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court this morning.

An RUC spokesman said: "On Tuesday, May 26th, Marks and Spencer received an anonymous letter demanding a sum of money in return for information about foods which the writer claimed had been contaminated. The alleged contamination was in three London stores.

"The RUC, in co-operation with officers from New Scotland Yard, carried out inquiries which resulted in one person being arrested and charged with an offence. The arrested person is

due to appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court this morning.

"Police are satisfied that no stock was tampered with or contaminated, and that there was no danger to health at any time. It is not believed there was any political association or involvement."

It is understood the writer claimed he was suffering from AIDS and that he had injected small amounts of his blood into three chicken pies. All products under threat were immediately removed from display. It is understood the man comes from Belfast.

The amount of money demanded is understood to have been about £350,000. The man, who lived in Belfast, was arrested in the city on Thursday night. Detectives were satisfied that the man did not have AIDS.

SV

**Irish Times**  
**30<sup>th</sup> May 1987**

# **AIDS threat at M&S —four charged**

THREE men and a girl were accused yesterday of a plot to extort £350,000 from Marks and Spencer's food stores in Belfast and London in an AIDS food contamination scare.

But at a remand hearing in Belfast police said the four had no intention of carrying out a threat to contaminate chicken pies with AIDS infected blood.

Kieren Thomas King, 27, of Laburnham Green, Twinbrook, Dennis Gerard Colly, 22, and John Patrick Heaney, 26, both of Summerhill Park, Twinbrook, Belfast, were remanded in custody until next Wednesday.

Marina Gawley, 19, of Doagh Road, Newton Abbey, Belfast, was freed on £50 bail after being asked to put up a surety of £500 and ordered to report to police.

The four are charged with making a demand with menaces for £350,000 to Marks and Spencers, London and Belfast, between May 22 and May 28 this year.

Mr. Patrick McGory for Heaney — who appeared after being flown from London to Belfast earlier today — told the magistrates: "This man thought he was taking part in some sort of jape and was not aware of the contents of the letter sent out which dealt with the possibility of contamination with AIDS."

SV

Irish Times  
30<sup>th</sup> May 1987

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1987

# AIDS pie scare —man is charged

A MAN was appearing in a Belfast court later today charged with blackmailing London stores with the threat of injecting their chicken pies with AIDS-infected blood.

The RUC say a second Belfastman may be charged in connection with a demand sent to Marks and Spencer.

In a joint RUC-Scotland Yard operation detectives arrested a man in Belfast last night after he allegedly warned store bosses he was suffering from AIDS and only had months to live.

He said he had injected some of his blood into pies at three Marks and Spencer stores in London.

It is alleged that he warned that

the contaminated pies had been hidden at the bottom of freezer cabinets in the stores.

In a letter to store chiefs, it is alleged, he said he wanted money for his two young children and demanded £350,000 in used notes to be handed over at a rendezvous in Belfast.

The alleged message sparked a major alert in Britain and Marks and Spencers checked pies in the three stores and removed products which showed signs of being tampered with.

Police and British Government health officials were called in. Medical experts assured company bosses that there was no health risk because the AIDS virus cannot survive if it is injected into a food product.

A spokesman for the store chain

said: "The writer stated that he was suffering from AIDS and had injected small samples of his blood into certain foods.

"No public statement was made as there was no health hazard and to do so would only have alarmed the public unnecessarily.

"We also felt that any such publicity serves only to encourage other potential threats. It is now understood from the police that no contamination took place and that the whole episode was an elaborate hoax."

It is understood that the man was due to appear in Belfast Magistrates Court is not homosexual nor does he have AIDS.

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Top youth jail staff given Aids-free toilet

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, MAY 31, 1987

who actually come into contact with AIDS-infected prisoners, do not have access to the "Aids-free" toilet.

The special toilet was used by all members of staff in the prison up to approximately six months ago, restricted to a number of top administrators of the prison in Dublin.

Governor Vincent McMahon said the toilet was first closed down and then access restricted when the AIDS scare became prevalent and a number of AIDS antibodies carriers were identified in the jail.

No prison officer has been certified as an AIDS carrier but they are often in contact with prisoners who are often in contact with prisoners.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Justice said they had no comment to make on the issue, and added there were appropriate channels through which staff can air grievances.

A shrapnel revised information booklet issued earlier this year to all prison officers states that a prisoner who is found to be an AIDS antibodies carrier should be subject to a number of restrictions.

These include the use of their own disposable razor — strict control over the disposal of all body waste and strict adherence to regulations dealing with the procedure for cleaning all blood spillages.

No work which involves blood spillage or risk should be undertaken by the prisoner.

In addition, the prisoner should be aware of how the risk of transmitting the virus is spread.

A continuing programme of education should be provided to all prisoners to prevent such contact.

single cell

By TOM REDDY  
Security Correspondent

Prison have been given the use of an  
exclusive "AIDS-free" toilet because of  
fears that they might catch the disease  
of Irish prisons. However, ordinary prison officers

[illegible]

closed down and then access restricted to the AIDS ward because prevalent and a number of AIDS antibodies positive prisoners were identified as an AIDS carrier but they have been offered in contact with prisoners who are a carrier for the disease, and Justice said they had no comment to make on the issue, and added there were appropriate channels through which staff can air grievances.

A change revised information booklet issued earlier this year to all prison officers states that a prisoner who is found to be subject to a number of restrictions should be treated as a high risk prisoner. These — including the use of their own utensils — including a toothbrush and disposal of all foodstuffs under strict supervision — are to be subject to a procedure for cleaning all blood spillages.

No work which involved a reasonable risk of blood spillage or games with the same risk should be undertaken by the prisoner. In addition, the prisoner should be aware of how the disease is passed on "and in undertaking to take every precaution to prevent such communication".

A confirmed AIDS sufferer who is ill should be transferred to a hospital. Pending transfer he should be held in isolation in a single cell.

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE, 31 MAY 1987

# Executives queue up for confidential Aids tests

by **NANCY CONNOLLY**

EVERY week approximately 30 people are tested for Aids on a confidential basis in the private Blackrock Clinic. The results of the test are available in two days and the test, at £15, is cheaper than the £30 test available through GPs from the publicly funded Virus Reference Centre at UCD. The only free test available is from the sexually transmitted disease clinics or tests for high risk groups such as drug addicts attending Jervis Street Hospital.

According to John Gibbons, the pathology manager at the Blackrock Clinic: "Many of our clients require the test for visas. Many embassies now look for confirmation that a person is HIV negative before they will grant a visa. Most of our clients are people going to the Middle East where they are

extremely strict about Aids and Aids carriers."

In the year that the Aids test has been carried out in the clinic there have been no HIV positive results. Confidentiality, the big attraction to those being tested there, is guaranteed for all Aids tests.

There are several types of Aids tests being carried out in clinics and medical centres around the country but all positive results from them must be confirmed at the Virus Reference Centre at Belfield, Dublin.

According to Professor Irene Hillery of the reference centre: "The only details we require are initials and dates of birth for identification. We also ask whether the person requiring the test is in the high risk category for statistical purposes. We never report names to the department and we contact

the tested person through his or her doctor," she said. Confidentiality is safeguarded here too, therefore.

People being tested for Aids at the STD clinics must obviously attend the public clinic, although they do not have to give their names. Those being tested by GPs simply give blood which is sent on to the Virus Reference Centre or the Blackrock Clinic.

The private clinic in Blackrock has also begun testing women for cervical cancer. Because they have their own laboratory the results of the tests are available within two to three days in contrast to three to six months at other centres which have to send the samples to St Luke's Hospital where there is a backlog. The test for cervical cancer at Blackrock Clinic costs £10 per person.

**Sunday Tribune**  
**31<sup>st</sup> May 1987**

## **Aids insensitivity**

SIR — I think it very relevant that Tom Widger focused his radio column (17 May) on Gay Byrne's interview with Ann, an Aids victim, but I feel it is a pity that his only comment was in objection to the choice of ad which was chosen to follow the programme, as what really stood out to me was the concern of the woman caller from Stillorgan who felt the whole interview to be unnecessary and harmful to society. Her handbag, she claimed, had been stolen by such people

as Ann. She obviously had not heard that to feed her habit Ann sold her personal belongings — basic things such as clothes and furniture and also borrowed money. She was never involved in crime to feed her addiction.

This caller's self interest and insensitivity is so upsetting and amazing that RTE's ad faded into insignificance.

Elizabeth Kelly,  
47 Connaught Street,  
Phibsboro,  
Dublin 7.



Sunday  
Tribune  
31<sup>st</sup> May  
1987

"The fact of his homosexuality was never a big deal to him"

# Joycean Senator

**T**HE YEAR was 1982. The place was Dublin's Supreme Court. Aidan O'Hanlon, senior counsel for the state, stood to cross-examine David Norris, lecturer in English in Trinity College, Joycean scholar, conservationist and an aggressive and effective campaigner for the rights of homosexuals. Mr Norris was in court seeking to have the law outlawing homosexual acts declared unconstitutional, his case having already been lost in the High Court.

Did Mr Norris know, asked the barrister, that the Roman emperor Constantine had once outlawed acts of homosexuality? Yes indeed, he did know, replied David Norris; the emperor, he recalled, had acted upon the advice of his soothsayers who had told him that there was a direct link between acts of homosexuality and earthquakes. But happily, continued Mr Norris, advances in our knowledge are now such that causal links between homosexuality and 'act of climatic contortion' have been ruled out.

The exchange was typically Norris — sharp, erudite and humorous. It brought the house down but cut little ice with the judges who dismissed his appeal, essentially because the people of Ireland weren't quite ready for the decriminalisation of certain private sexual acts. David Norris simply shrugged and brought his gripe to Europe.

Last week, after almost a decade of tortuous legal toing and froing, the European Commission on Human Rights decided, in a preliminary judgment, that Irish legislation against homosexuality constitutes interference with a person's private life and is therefore in breach of the European Human Rights Convention. The case has now been brought to the European Court of Human Rights for final judgment by mid-1988. The judgment will be binding on this country.

The breakthrough drew a slightly ambivalent response from Norris, who earlier this year became a senator for the first time. A sense of triumph was masked by a sense of regret that, just as his voice was beginning to be heard on matters other than homosexual rights, his name would once again be linked to that single issue.

Throughout his Senate campaign, Norris appeared to go out of his way to play down his commitment to, and role in, the gay rights campaign — a campaign in which he has been active since 1971, when, at a civil liberties meeting in Trinity College, he publicly declared his own homosexuality, the first person ever to do so in Ireland, say other activists.

Since then his name has been synonymous with gay rights in Ireland. He has become the movement's "acceptable face", largely due to the ease with which he moves within every area of Dublin's social, cultural and political life, from the Senate

## PROFILE

**DAVID  
NORRIS**

by  
**EMILY  
O'REILLY**

chamber to opening nights at the Gate and the Abbey, to regular appearances on TV and radio.

**B**UT DURING his campaign Norris was taking no chances. A brief reference to his support for homosexual law reform in his 1982 campaign leaflet brought a stream of abusive letters decrying 'all the filth'. This time the leaflet contained, instead, a rather vague reference to 'sexual orientation' and Norris and his campaign team went out of their way to promote their man as a 'multiple issue' candidate.

"I wasn't going to sacrifice my chance of winning for anybody," he says. "If I even open my mouth about gay rights it's all over the papers — though one journalist last time around told me that I'd have got much more coverage if I'd 'exploited' my homosexuality."

But with his seat now secured, Norris is less reluctant to proclaim his stance on gay rights and in particular on the government's Aids campaign. His very first act in the Senate was to state his intention to put down a motion on the issue. It will be debated in the near future.

### • Aids crisis

It is the gay community, he says, thanks to an intense, uninhibited campaign by the Gay Health Action group, which has acted most responsibly in the face of the Aids crisis. The Irish figures for homosexuals who have contracted the virus are as a result far lower than those in other countries, he says.

David Norris was born in Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo, now Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1944. His English father, John Norris, who was later knighted by the king of Belgium, was chief engineer of the Lever Brothers company. His mother, Aida Fitzpatrick, a native of Mountbatten in Co Laois, was an amateur zoologist, who frequently wandered off into the jungle in search of exotic animals. She actually did discover a brand new species — a cross between a cat and a squirrel, called a Herman's Potto — one of which she presented to London Zoo.

When David was a year old, he came to live in Ireland with his mother and older brother John (now a long distance lorry driver living in Portmarnock). His father, who remained in Zaire, died when David was six years old.



PAT O'BRIEN

After his father's death David was sent as a boarder to St Andrew's school in Dublin, which he loathed. He says he was often beaten and frequently ran away. In the end his mother sent him to the High School in Harcourt Street, an enlightened place with no corporal punishment.

**F**ROM SCHOOL, Norris went straight to Trinity College, where he studied pure English. A particularly brilliant paper in his finals, on American literature, won him a part-time lectureship which began on the day after his graduation. Some time later he was appointed staff lecturer, a position he still holds.

The fact of his homosexuality was never a big deal to him. It was realised only gradually, a feeling and instinct as natural to him as breathing. It was he who was the astonished one when he discovered that other boys preferred girls.

In 1979 Norris founded the National Gay Federation and was president until 1981. He also helped to set up, and is still a director of, the Hirschfeld Centre in Dublin, a meeting place for gay men and women with a cinema, library and disco.

Despite his muted Senate campaign, David Norris has lost none of the passion and anger he feels about the treatment of gays in this country. It is the state and the church, he believes, who actually promote promiscuity among homosexuals, with all its attendant dangers. "Gays are only 'enough'," he says, "when they enter into steady, monogamous relationships. That's when people notice,

when they can see you doing ordinary things like shopping together or whatever. No one notices the one night stand." He tells a story, a true one, to illustrate the point.

Some years ago, a Church of Ireland curate in Dublin was discovered by his superiors to have been living with another man. The relationship, steady and faithful, had been going on for a long number of years.

The curate was given a choice: leave the man or lose the job and the house. The curate chose the man and duly lost his job and house. The fall from grace put strains on the relationship and the couple drifted apart. The curate went to the US where he now heads an Aids charity. His former lover went to Britain where he formed a relationship with a prison chaplain. The chaplain contracted Aids. His lover nursed him till he died. "Then," says David, "he died too — of Aids. What I ask is, who acted immorally in that case? Was it the homosexuals or was it the people who destroyed the stable relationship?"

Last year David Norris's own long-standing relationship with an Israeli, Ezra, came to an end. It had lasted for 11 years. The break-up with Ezra, says David, "nearly killed me". It was the kindness and the love of friends that helped him get through.

**D**AVID Norris has now thrust himself into his Senate work with huge enthusiasm and vigour. He recently engaged the help of an army of equally learned friends to help him to bone up on the SEA. He has also contributed to the debate on the new Companies Bill and

says he is itching to deal with other issues close to his heart, in particular inner city development and youth unemployment.

His interest in the inner city arises from the fact of his residence, right in the middle of that area, in North Great Georges Street. His Georgian home, extensively, expensively and lovingly restored to its one-time grandeur, boasts a grand piano and marvellous ornate Victorian furnishings. He is an active member of the Residents Association and passionate about the preservation of the street.

### • Few critics

His critics are few: one senator grumbled that he wasn't quite sure what Norris's politics actually are. (Norris refers to himself as a "liberal radical" guided by a principle drummed into him by his mother of *noblesse oblige*.) The critical senator pointed out, correctly, that Norris vacillated over his stance on the SEA during the Senate's day-long debate. While voting yes initially, Norris later expressed reservations about the extent to which the SEA guarantees Irish neutrality.

"He promises to be a very good senator," says one Senate colleague. "He made a very good contribution to the Companies Bill debate and he doesn't go over the top when he speaks. He is not out to shock. The more he chooses not to be a single issue candidate, the more effective he's going to be. He's had to put up with a lot of prejudice but he's certainly broken a taboo by getting in here."