

Print Media



National HIV and AIDS

Archives

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11th to 15th July 1987

Irish Press
11th July 1987

Revenge killer had Aids

HOMOSEXUAL killer Michael Lupo, took a horrifying revenge on his gay lovers after discovering he had Aids. The London-based fashion boutique manager first strangled his victims and then viciously mutilated their bodies.

Last night Lupo (34) began four life sentences after pleading guilty at the Old Bailey to murdering four men and attempting to kill two others. However, his counsel, Lord Gifford told the court: "It (the Aids virus) exposes him to the risk that he will contract a fatal disease in prison within the next five years."

While Lupo insisted that he did not know he had Aids until after his arrest in May last year, detectives are convinced the former Italian army commando found he had the Aids virus in autumn 1985, and began to hate the homosexuals in his sex life.

Lupo boasted he had more than 4,000 lovers — sometimes as many as four in one evening, when he went "cruising" in gay pubs and clubs. There he picked up his victims and tried to strangle them in what he called "a cold rage."

Lupo told police he was impotent. Detectives believe that when his victims — all but one picked up for sex — failed to arouse him, he strangled them. Psychiatrists who have examined the four-time killer believe he may even have tried to achieve arousal by murdering his victims.

According to the prosecution, Lupo killed and mutilated because it gratified his kinky sadistic sexual tastes. "In short, he enjoyed it at the time he did it," said Mr. Julian Bevan,

Irish Press
11th July 1987

AIDS risk

IRISH women are more at risk from aids than their counterparts in England. This is the claim of a newly formed information and support group based in Dublin.

'Women and Aids,' is anxious to educate women throughout the country about the dangers of AIDS.

The Women and AIDS group claim that more women per head of population, who have been tested in this country, are AIDS anti-body positive.

Brenda Harvey, spokeswoman for the group, points out that if these women become pregnant, their chances of developing 'full blown AIDS' greatly increases. In addition, 24 babies have already been born here with the anti-body positive. (Two of these returned negative tests later, while two others developed complete AIDS).

The task of educating Irish women to the AIDS danger is made difficult, says Brenda, firstly because there is more funding available in Britain for groups like this. Secondly, AIDS anti-body positive women in other countries are being offered abortions.

"In this country, women do not have that chance to save their own lives," she says.

A first 'Women and AIDS' leaflet will focus on safe sex practices for women. It will also clarify why it is dangerous for women with the anti-bodies to become pregnant, or to breastfeed in the event of having a child.

As is the case with other groups, the dilemma of funding has yet to be sorted out. However, members are available to give talks to women's groups and can be contacted by telephone at (01) 710895 (Brenda), Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alternatively the AIDS helpline at (01) 307888 can put you in touch between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays. The postal address is PO Box 1884, Sheriff Street, Dublin 1.

Women and AIDS will facilitate a special workshop at the forthcoming Women's Studies Congress in Trinity College, Dublin, Friday July 10 at 1.30 p.m.

Clare Farrell

Gay death horror



VICTIM: railway guard James Burns, 37.

HOMOSEXUAL killer Michael Lupu took a horrifying revenge of his gay lovers after discovering he had the Aids virus.

The handsome fashion boutique manager first strangled his victims — then viciously mutilated their bodies.

Last night he began four life sentences after pleading guilty at the Old Bailey to murdering four men and attempting to kill two others.

But that could be cut very short by the potentially deadly virus he is carrying, Lupu's counsel, Lord Gifford, told the court.

Detectives believe that the 34-year-old former Italian army commando found he had the Aids virus in autumn 1985 when friends noticed a marked change in his behaviour.

They believe this developed into a burning hatred for other homosexuals involved in his sex life.

That sex life, according to one of Lupu's former lovers, achieved a level of promiscuity "incredible even by gay standards".

Lupu boasted he had had more than 4,000 lovers — sometimes as many as four in one evening — when he went "cruising" in gay pubs and clubs.

Three of Lupu's four murder victims — James Burns, 37; Anthony Connolly, 26, and Damien McClusky, 22 — were "homosexual pick-ups".

Aids killer mutilated his victims

The fourth was an unnamed tramp the slightly-built killer met casually. All died in a period of just eight weeks last year.

Lupu, from Chelsea, encountered British Rail worker Mr Burns in a pub. They went to a derelict basement for sex but Lupu lost interest and began shaking and the only thing he wanted to do was to kill Mr Burns.

He strangled him with a scarf, bit off part of his tongue and then tried gouging his eyes out. "My what a jolly bedtime story this is," Lupu told police.

His other victims were also strangled. One was mutilated by Lupu. Another would-be victim, 22-year-old Mark Leyland, was hit with an iron bar and was alone when he came to in a derelict building.

The homosexual encounter which was eventually to lead to Lupu's arrest was with David Cole in his 30s.

Lupu tried to strangle him with a stocking he had in his pocket but Mr

Cole "lived to tell the tale". Detectives praised the bravery of Mr Cole who has since suffered a nervous breakdown.

In May, last year, Cole spotted Lupu in a gay pub and went over to shake his hand with police watching.

"He came back and was literally trembling. He said: 'That's definitely him,'" said an officer who was present.

In court, a picture emerged of his extraordinary Jekyll and Hyde double life. By day an elegant fashion shopworker, handsome and charming to his female clients, who found him attractive, but in his other life he was a gay masseur advertising sado-masochistic services.

And in his business diaries they found more than 700 names — some of them famous — and spent weeks tracking them all down.

They included dress designer Bruce Oldfield — a favourite of the Princess of Wales — TV comedian Kenny Everett, Royal photographer Norman Parkinson, singer Lynsey de Paul and Lady Rendlesham, who runs the Yves St Laurent fashion empire.

Police stressed that the celebrities they saw had no connection with Lupu's crimes but they had no option but to contact them because he consistently refused to discuss the entries in his diaries.

Lupu envisaged a brilliant future if he could set up in the fashion business on his own and recruit them as client

The Sunday Press, July 12, 1987

Transmission of AIDS

Could I comment on the recent Landsdowne Market Research/Sunday Press survey, the findings of which were published in the article "Turnabout on AIDS" (Sunday Press, July 5).

Of particular interest to our organisation, Community Action on Drugs (CAD) is the understanding of how the infection is transmitted. The responses in that survey to this question showed that there is now an increased awareness of how Infected Needles/Syringes (Drug Users) are the avenue of AIDS. A Majority of those surveyed (52% of respondents in the survey) now see it as the main source of transmission of the deadly virus.

The HEB booklet spelt out four proven ways of

transmission including swapping syringes/needles, sexual contact with infected persons and two other clinical conditions. It would be a mistake therefore to treat the AIDS problem as being separate to a solution to the drugs abuse problem. Drug addiction should be viewed as the real root cause out of which the tentacles of many of today's social, physical and other ills including AIDS spring. In working for Education and Prevention in one area CAD automatically erects a barrier to the invasion of the other.

Any future programmes devised which do not see these points in their effects would in fact, as the survey indicates, be treating the symptoms rather than the

disease itself in many cases. A case of putting the 'cart before the horse'. What is needed now from those who steer our resources in the health and social area is a recognition of this.

Our work done to date has managed by the generous efforts of those supportive of the Federation aims given on a voluntary basis to keep it afloat.

This survey indicates the requirement of that work to be given a guarantee on a permanent footing for the good of the community.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. HARMON
THOMAS O'RAFFERTY
P.R.O.

Daily Mail
13th July 1987

'Shop' doctors in secret AIDS tests, nurses are urged

A cuppa?
Sign here,
and here,
and here

THIRSTY Civil Servants who want a cup of tea during conferences face a red tape assault course.

If they can prove their meeting is in an official room and likely to last 'several hours,' they go on to Stage Two, the form-filling.

Then requests for tea must be made on 'a seven-part proforma, signed at Grade 7 level, forwarded to the focal point for each division, then passed to the canteen manager.

Later 'two further sections of the form must be sent to the focal point, who on receipt of the invoice from the canteen manager, must complete another two sections and forward the claim to the accounts division for payment.'

NURSES are being urged by one of their leaders to blow the whistle on doctors who carry out secret AIDS tests on patients.

Mr Richard Wells, AIDS adviser to the Royal College of Nursing, is warning nurses that they could be sued for assault or face professional misconduct charges if they collude in such tests.

Recently the British Medical Association annual meeting narrowly backed a motion for secret tests after delegates claimed they were necessary to safeguard doctors.

Up to 40,000 people are estimated by the Health Department to have been infected by the virus. Some surgeons want all patients AIDS tested before operations.

But a positive test could prevent a patient from obtaining a mortgage, insurance or even a job.

In a report in the Royal College newspaper, *Nursing Standard*, Mr Wells says there is a need to remind nurses of the rules of professional conduct. These state that they 'should always act in the best interests of the patient.'

If nurses follow good clinical practice, he adds, the risk of infection is 'minimal'.

The RCN's view is that all at-risk patients should be advised of the need to be screened and receive appropriate

THE DIY VIRUS KIT THAT'S SELLING FAST

DEMAND for Anti-AIDS kits has soared among Britons heading for exotic holiday spots.

More than 6,000 people, scared by the dangers from infected needles in some foreign countries have paid £9.80 for the custom-made sterile medical packs.

The suppliers WASTA say demand for their kits is enormous.

Last year the Royal Family started taking their own syringes and blood plasma supplies on overseas trips.

pre- and post-test counselling,' he says.

'We should not allow our judgements to be clouded by arguments within other professions.'

The Medical Practitioners Union condemned the BMA decision 'as a breach of moral and ethical standards.'

BMA leaders have also condemned the decision by their own delegates. Dr John Marks, BMA Council leader, has warned that a doctor could be called upon by the General Medical Council to justify a secret test. Personal fear of infection would be an unacceptable defence.

Escorts

A group of doctors has called for prostitutes to be registered and given compulsory health checks.

They saw 50 prostitutes who came to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, West London, and found that one had the AIDS virus. The women claim up to 200 clients a week each.

Of the 50 prostitutes, 18 operated as escorts, 14 picked up clients in the street, ten used a flat and the remaining eight worked in clubs or brothels. All were aged between 19 and 48.

Doctor won't operate on AIDS victims

DR. TERENCE M. Schmahl, a heart surgeon at a New York hospital, and his wife, Karen, an anaesthetist at another hospital in the city, were both concerned about getting AIDS from the people they see every day.

He was at greater risk, they thought, because he was more likely to be exposed to patient's blood. As a result, they decided he would test patients and refuse to operate on anyone who was a carrier of the AIDS virus.

Schmahl, who is chief of St. Luke's Hospital's Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, is one of a very small but visible number of medical practitioners who are

refusing to care for carriers of the AIDS virus.

The medical community is bitterly divided in an ethical debate over whether this kind of response to a major public health problem is in keeping with the ethical responsibilities of the profession.

Medical officials emphasise that many doctors and nurses are responding to the AIDS epidemic with great courage and caring. They say the number of professionals refusing to treat carriers of the virus that causes AIDS or those with AIDS itself is minuscule.

But the numbers are clearly growing, spokesmen for homosexual rights groups, medical groups and unions representing health care workers all agree.

The reason, more than anything else, they say, is a study released in May by the centres for disease control reporting that three health care workers around the nation had been infected with the AIDS virus after brief exposure to blood contaminated with the virus.

It apparently entered the health workers through breaks in the skin. The six earlier reported cases among such workers involved actual injection of or prolonged exposure to contaminated bodily fluids, the agency said.

With the report, the risk of infection hit home for health care workers.

But experts say studies have shown that even workers accidentally stuck with contaminated needles have only a slight risk of infection with the virus, and they note that thousands of health care workers have been treating AIDS patients every day without becoming infected.

The centres for disease control have issued guidelines on precautions for workers to take with AIDS virus carriers, and experts say these offer effective protection

Slapping Down The Mosquito

Can mosquitoes, which carry such diseases as malaria and yellow fever, also transport the deadly AIDS virus? The question arose in 1985, when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta studied an unusually dense clustering of AIDS sufferers in the mosquito-infested area of Belle Glade, Fla. Last week the *Atlanta Constitution* stirred up the mosquito scare anew by

publishing the preliminary findings of a research team sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. Its tentative conclusion: the AIDS virus can indeed ride as a passenger on the blood-sucking mosquito.

To AIDS investigators, the reports of the virus in mosquitoes, bedbugs and even tear drops have been a "distracting sideshow." The pivotal question is not where the virus is hiding or riding, but whether in that form it can cause disease.

Not surprisingly, scientists last week quickly slapped



Revived scare: suspect carrier

down the suggestion that the pesky insects may be infecting humans with the AIDS virus. For one thing, the virus does not reproduce inside mosquitoes, as it does in human blood. Nor is it found in

insect saliva, which generally transports insect-borne infections. Even under perfect laboratory conditions, researchers have been unable to produce an AIDS infection by a mosquito or another biting insect.

Indeed the earlier CDC investigation of Belle Glade failed to find AIDS infections except among members of traditional risk groups and their sex partners. "If mosquitoes are doing it," said a CDC spokeswoman last week, "they are very selective about who they are biting." ■

BY BRETT COLEMAN

AIDS policy under attack

A Munster MEP said yesterday he did not agree with EEC policy that AIDS sufferers should have free movement within the 12 member states, writes Miriam Donohoe.

And former Fianna Fáil minister, Mr. Gene Fitzgerald, said AIDS sufferers or carriers should only be allowed into Ireland under strict medical supervision.

The MEP was commenting following the EEC Commission announcement last week that people suffering from AIDS are free to circulate within the 12 member states.

The Commission strongly condemned measures proposed by the

German Bavarian Region to close Germany's borders to all AIDS patients from abroad.

The Federal Government is currently considering the Bavarian proposals which, the EEC stressed, are contrary to EEC rules on the free

movement of citizens.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he agreed in principle with the Bavarian move.

However, another Munster MEP, Professor Tom Rafferty, told the *Examiner* he didn't think restrictions against AIDS carriers would work.

He said the Bavarian proposal would not be effective in preventing AIDS and pointed out that as the law stands, it would interfere seriously with freedom of movement of citizens.

He stressed it is important that people understand how AIDS is spread, through education.

Evening Press
14th July 1987

Doctors ignore AIDS drill

THE decision of the British Medical Association to approve secret AIDS virus tests has come under further attack as it emerged that many doctors are ignoring safety rules issued by the Department of Health and Social Security

The Medical Practitioners' Union was "appalled" and described the decision as "a breach of moral and ethical standards." A test without consent constituted assault. The National Union of Public Employees, representing 250,000 health workers, criticised the decision as "a panic move which flies in the face of expert advice that secret tests will deter people from seeking treatment and infringe patients' rights."

The Royal College of Nursing issued a pointed warning that nurses could be sued for assault.

Senior nurse and other medical sources say that many doctors are not wearing the gloves and gowns which the DHSS considers essential when treating all patients in order to shield against AIDS and other more infectious viruses in blood and body fluids.

Dr. Laurie Allan, the consultant who told the BMA recently that the power to test patients without consent was necessary for the protection of doctors admitted that she did not always stick to the safety rules when treating her own patients at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow.

"Nobody wants to be seen by a doctor wearing goggles and gloves," she said.

One of the DHSS advisers on nursing AIDS patients, Mr. Robert Pratt, of Charing Cross Hospital, London, said: "Physicians are not following current practice advice which would protect them from HIV."

Mr. Pratt, with 30 other London specialist nurses to the BMA recently to condemn its decision. "We hope physicians will co-operate when the patient demands to know the HIV status of his or her own physician or surgeon," the nurses wrote.

One, Mr. Michael Connolly, of Guy's Hospital, said: "Some doctors prefer to have patients screened against their will rather than take precautions that as professionals they should take."

A senior medical source commented that many doctors outside the major London units are ignoring the safety rules as impractical. Many wear the recommended gowns, gloves, and goggles only when there

was a chance of blood splashing into their eyes.

Yet safety could only be guaranteed if they took these precautions as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson. Testing people without consent would not guarantee doctors' safety, said the source — routine safety precautions would.

The Royal College of Nursing said in a statement: "Hospitals are already using prejudiced and arbitrary criteria to decide on who they will test." Nurses were "bound by a different code of professional conduct to that of doctors which requires nurses always to act in the best interests of the patient."

"If nurses participate in any way in unconsented screening for HIV they may be open to charges of professional misconduct or civil suits for assault and trespass."

"A patient should always be informed when this test is being carried out and receive counselling."

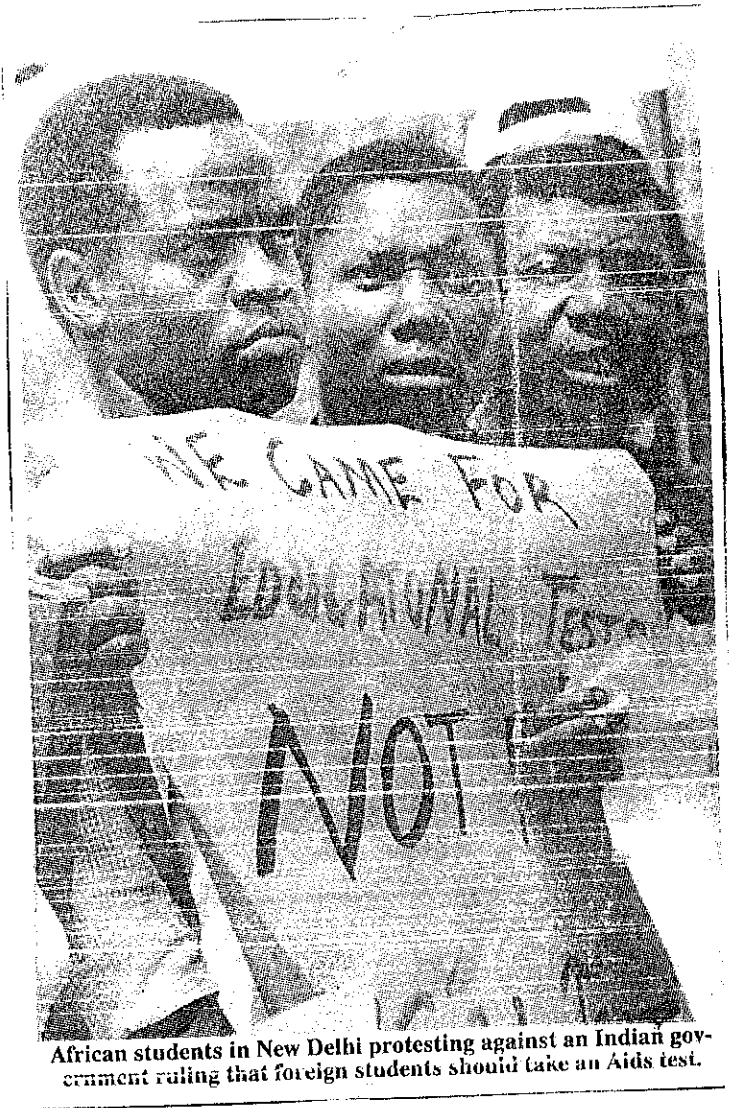
Dr. Allen, consultant anaesthetist at Northwick Park, said she would only test a patient without consent if she had reason to believe the patient was in a risk group for AIDS and if consent was unobtainable — for example if the patient was unconscious after a road accident.

She would not perform a test if a patient expressly refused one but she might then treat one but she might then treat the patient as if he had been infected and take the necessary precautions. "If doctors become infected that is a tragedy because they are likely to pass on the infection to someone else."

Dr. Allen confirmed that many other doctors did not use the recommended safety precautions. "In the theatre we have to wear two pairs of gloves, gowns, and goggles. I don't think that is very practical for every G.P. I would not wish to treat every patient like that. It would be unpleasant for most patients."

Susan Trubitt adds. The Association of Community Health Councils in conference at York condemned the BMA decision as "hysterical" and "disastrous."

Independent
14th July 1987



African students in New Delhi protesting against an Indian government ruling that foreign students should take an Aids test.

SV

The Mosquito AIDS Scare

Can insect bites transmit the virus?

Just when the public seemed about convinced that AIDS isn't an easy disease to catch, an article in *The Atlanta Constitution* last week reported evidence that the AIDS virus can be carried by the common mosquito. The story spread across the nation with the speed of an influenza virus, mostly because it revived a largely discounted theory that mosquitoes can transmit AIDS like so many "flying syringes."

In the study, researchers at Bionetics Research, Inc., a private laboratory in Rockville, Md., fed mosquitoes blood contaminated with the AIDS virus. Two days later they found the virus still present in the stomachs of some of the insects. What gave the *Constitution's* story irresistible impact was the strong implication that Dr. Robert C. Gallo of the National Cancer Institute, one of the leading pioneers in AIDS research, had headed the study. "I am angry that my name has been used like this," Gallo said, adding that he merely supplied samples of AIDS-contaminated blood and provided for the lab work through NCI's ongoing contract with Bionetics. The research was actually initiated by Drs. Mark Whiteside and Caroline MacLeod of the Institute for Tropical Medicine, a privately funded facility in North Miami. The Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach supplied the mosquitoes. "It was a collaborative effort," says MacLeod.

Whiteside and MacLeod have been the main proponents of the mosquito theory of AIDS transmission for years. They base their case largely on Belle Glade, Fla., a farming community of 20,000 that has the highest rate of AIDS in the United States—375 per 100,000. Half of these cases, they contend, don't occur among male homosexuals or other high-risk groups. They suggest that the squalid living conditions in the town, including exposure to mosquitoes and other insects, encourage infection with the AIDS virus or with other organisms



WALLY MCNAMEE—NEWSWEEK
An angry scientific buzz:



ROB NELSON—PICTURE GROUP
Gallo (left), Whiteside



BRUCE COLEMAN INC.

that trigger a dormant AIDS virus.

The vast majority of AIDS observers disagree. They cite the pattern of AIDS spread in Africa. Malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, affects all age groups, old and young alike. But the incidence of AIDS among children and the elderly is quite low there. The cases that have occurred in these age groups are blamed on dirty needles and widespread transfusion of contaminated blood. In Belle Glade investigators from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control have long since concluded that AIDS has primarily come from promiscuous sex and intravenous drug use.

Furthermore, it seems doubtful that the mosquito's physiology permits it to transmit AIDS. In diseases like malaria, for

example, the insect ingests the causative parasite when it feeds on a victim and then introduces it into the next individual through saliva when it feeds several days later. But one expert says bluntly: "It just doesn't happen with AIDS." Studies in various labs fail to show that the AIDS virus reproduces and multiplies inside the mosquito, he notes. "[Whiteside and MacLeod] have no evidence except that a mosquito can take in blood," says Gallo. That won't prevent the Florida scientists from presenting their case anew this week at a conference convened by the federal Office of Technology Assessment on the mosquito-AIDS controversy.

MATT CLARK with DAVID L. GONZALEZ
in Miami and MARY HAGER in Washington

Secret Aids test slated

The British Medical Association's decision to allow secret Aids tests has already caused great damage and could have disastrous consequences, according to specialists.

Professor Michael Adler and Dr. Donal Jeffries of the Middlessex Hospital, London, say: "It would be a disaster if people stopped coming to doctors for advice and treatment because of the fear of possible indiscriminate testing without consent. Any move that drives risk groups underground must be resisted. This is now a real danger."

When doctors say that it is acceptable to test without consent they are likely to destroy the trust of those at risk of infection, according to Professor Adler and Dr. Jeffries. "We have no chance of defeating the Aids epidemic if we do not have that trust."

The debate at the BMA's annual representative meeting was confused, and the decision to allow doctors to test without consent was wrong, they say in a leading article in the association's British Medical Journal. The leader reflects the opposition among the BMA hierarchy to their members' decision.

Professor Adler said: "Great damage has already been done. Doctors not at the meeting will now feel they have carte blanche to test whom they like without consent."

Doctors phoning the BMA for advice on the decision are being told that involuntary tests could land them in serious trouble with the BMA and the General Medical Council, an association spokeswoman said.

The GMC and the BMA are drawing up ethical and legal guidelines, due out in the autumn, which are expected to rule out secret tests except in the most exceptional circumstances.

The leader in the British Medical Journal says: "Doctors must now be seen by their patients as putting themselves before those they should be caring for. This is a poor example for other groups

within the health and social services.

"Testing should not be done simply to protect doctors from the very small chance of becoming infected." Hundreds of thousands of health workers worldwide have treated patients infected with the virus, HIV, yet only nine have been infected.

A way should be found to ameliorate the effects of the BMA decision, they say.

AIDS toll is high among NY artists

THE New York City Opera has lost two dozen of its artistes to AIDS, a symptom of the way the disease is rampaging through the American music world wiping out singers, musicians, conductors and stage directors.

An investigation into the impact of AIDS in the arts has been prompted by the death of Michael Bennett, the choreographer who conceived and directed A Chorus Line and other hit Broadway musicals like Follies and Dream Girls. He died of cancer caused by AIDS.

Opera singer Roberta Peters called the effects "devastating. The arts are losing so many creative talented people." Her piano accompanist Larry Scravaks died in March of AIDS.

Pianist Paul Jacobs is another victim.

So is dancer Charles Ward and actor-director Charles Ludlum, founder of the New York's Theatre of the Ridiculous, make-up and hair designer for Broadway shows.

The In Memoriam list runs into hundreds.

Alan Atkinson, a well-known designer of children's books, is also dead of the disease. He had illustrated 25 books of stories.

The first he wrote as well as illustrated will be published late this year. He succumbed to AIDS two weeks ago.

"Most of the people who are dying are in their 20s and 30s just when they should be taking over the world, when they should be creative forces running the world," said Harvey Fierstein, who wrote and starred in Torch Song Trilogy on Broadway.

His co-star court Miller has died of AIDS.

Artist Ross Bleckner painted a memorial to those who died of AIDS. It was called 8122, the number of victims of the disease as of January 1986.

This year he painted a new work entitled 16301. Mr. Bleckner said, "A lot of young people are dying at the time when their talent is blossoming. I think it permeates the atmosphere in the arts."

In San Francisco, Sean O'Neill, a young ballet dancer is critically ill with AIDS. In New York 10 people out of a

single Broadway show have died of the disease.

Playwright Larry Kramer said: "I am not interested in anything else but AIDS. I have become obsessed with it perhaps to a fault almost. It is just that it is so overwhelming."

In Sydney, guards wearing surgical gloves today escorted an AIDS carrier into court to face a charge of trying to murder policemen by smearing his blood on them during a fight.

Evening Press
15th July 1987

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Guardian
15th July 1987

Children 'need lessons on Aids'

By Sarah Boseley,
Education Correspondent

Children must be taught about the dangers of Aids as part of sex education in schools, a teachers' conference was told in London yesterday.

Ms Doreen Massey, director of the Family Planning Association's education unit, and Ms Hilary Dixon, the manager of Cambridge health authority's Aids education unit insisted that teaching about Aids could not be confined to a one-off lecture about a new health hazard.

Ms Dixon told the conference: "We cannot talk about Aids in schools and let it have any meaning for the children's lives unless we talk about sexuality. Sex education cannot go on within schools if we are going to be fair and honest to young people without reference to Aids."

The Government has found itself in some difficulty over the issue. As a concession to right wing Conservatives, the 1986 Education Act was amended to allow governors to veto sex education in their schools.

The Government has insisted that Aids comes under the mantle of health education. The experts, however, fear that some teachers may be too embarrassed or feel inadequately informed to take on the issue.

Ms Massey suggested yesterday that the issues involved in Aids had overtaken the controversy that sex education used to attract.

She said: "I now think the question should be of how sex education is carried out and not whether it is carried out. Schools can now grasp this and present a firm stance to governors and parents."

Governors would support sound policies for personal, social and health education — including sex education and Aids — she believed. There was overwhelming evidence that parents and pupils wanted schools to teach children about sex.

Ms Dixon warned that children were finding out about Aids through hearsay, television and reading. "A lot of what they are picking up is fear, myths and misunderstandings."

Children needed to discuss what they were being told and how it might affect their lives.

Guardian
15th July 1987

Plea on protection

MIDWIVES want better protection against mothers or babies who suffer from Aids.

At its annual conference in Manchester today, the Royal College of Midwives will be asked to approve improved guidelines on the safe handling of Aids carriers. Midwives also want mothers-to-be to be screened as routine at 30 weeks of

pregnancy and Aids classified an industrial disease.

Not all midwives are in favour of routine screening. Miss Sheila Flemming, Edinburgh's director of midwifery services, said that testing for HIV antibodies was slow and not always reliable. She thought the present guidelines for handling aids were reliable and adequate.

Monitoring agency 'jeopardised' by proposed shake-up

Health authorities 'should pay for blood tests'

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

Ministers are planning to make health authorities pay £30 million a year for processing blood tests, including tests for the Aids virus, according to documents passed to the Guardian.

The move, scheduled for April, involves the biggest ever shake-up of the national disease monitoring agency, the Public Health Laboratory Service.

If the plan goes ahead, more than two-thirds of the agency's £42 million budget will be switched to the NHS and the agency will have to recoup the money by charging individual

health authorities for the work it does. Doctors and scientists fear the changes will jeopardise the agency's ability to monitor epidemics, particularly Aids.

The health service management board, chaired by Mr Tony Newton, has decided that existing cooperative arrangements between the NHS and the PHLs should be ditched from April. Instead, health authorities will have to pay the agency for all tests processed in its 52 laboratories.

The bill, according to the Department of Health, will come to about £30 million next year. To pay for this, almost all the £34 million a year which the

agency now gets directly from the Government to process the tests will be switched to regional health authorities. It will retain little more than £8 million a year to run the central laboratory at Colindale, north London.

The £30 million should pay the first year's bill for tests, but health authorities will have to fund subsequent increases from their own budgets.

Numbers of tests, and hence costs, have been rising by about 5 per cent a year. Demand has risen sharply this year because of Aids.

Doctors and scientists are concerned that hard-pressed health authorities may cut down on tests to save threatened hospital services. If that happens, they warned yesterday, the country's ability to monitor and control diseases would be in jeopardy.

Outline plans were disclosed in a Department of Health document, which was sent to laboratory heads before the general election but has only just come to light. Details were spelt out by the PHLs secretary, Mr Keith Saunders, to leaders of the scientists' and technicians' union Astms this week.

'Teach Aids Risk,' page 4

London Times
15th July 1987

Aids research calls for licensing of prostitutes

A group of doctors has called for the licensing and regular screening of prostitutes to protect them and their clients from the risk of Aids infection (Our Science Correspondent writes).

A year-long survey of 50 prostitutes in London's red-light areas showed that the women had sexual relations with up to 200 clients a week. One of the women was found to be carrying the Aids virus.

More than 90 per cent of the women favoured compulsory medical examinations for all prostitutes, and 80 per cent felt it should be an offence for a prostitute to work while she knew she had a sexually transmitted disease.

A report of the survey is

published in this month's issue of the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*. The doctors, from three London hospitals, said such uncontrolled sexual activity without proper medical surveillance posed a threat to the health of society.

● Advice and information on Aids was a vital part of sex education in schools, a conference sponsored by the Family Planning Association and Research On Sex Education was told yesterday.

"Policies should be based on a planned approach, with sound medical advice and support from outside agencies", Mrs Doreen Massey, director of education at the FPA, said.