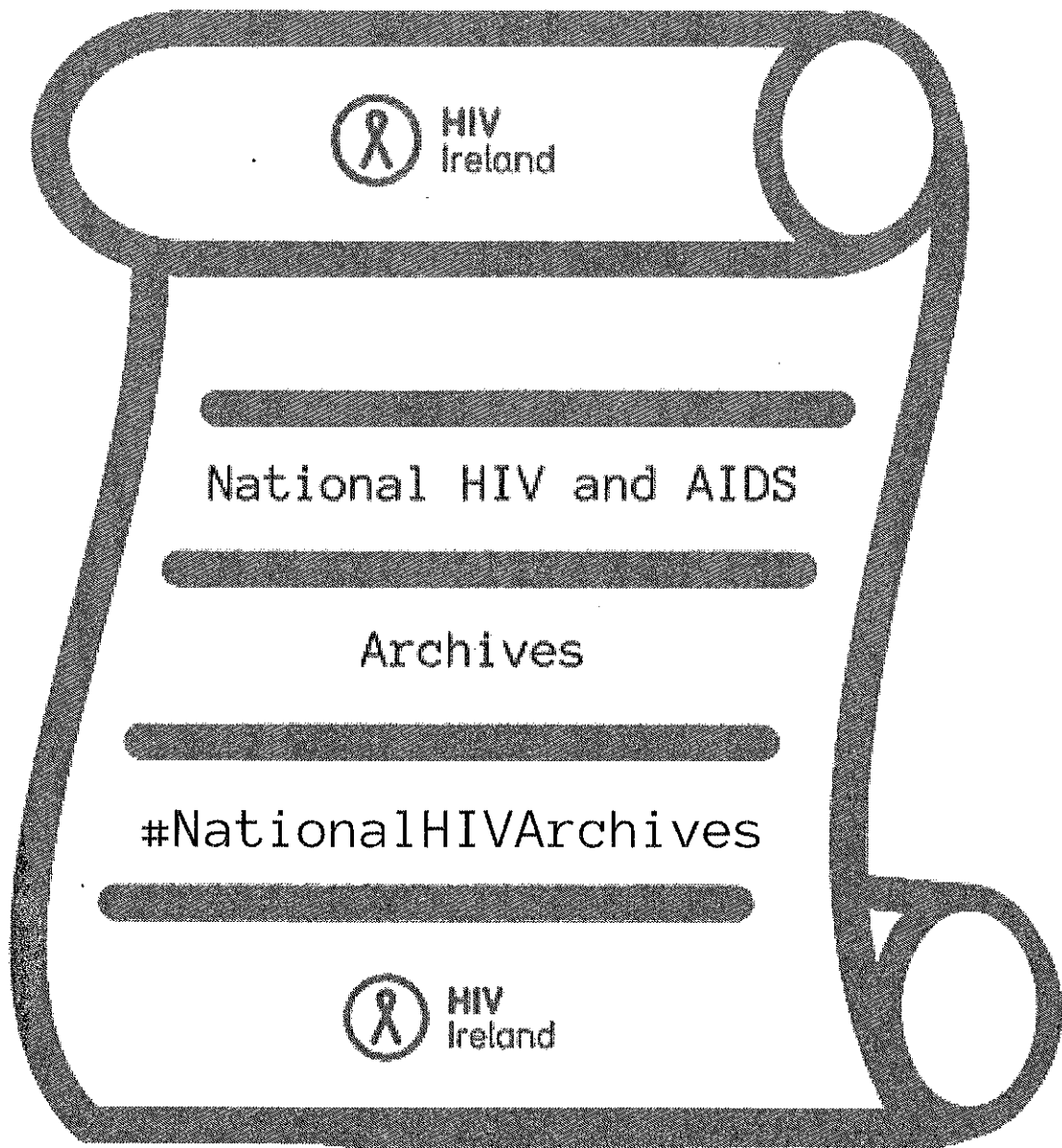


Print Media



16th to 20th February 1987

TODAY

A BLACKOUT

Putting a book under wraps leaves little joy for a shocked, stunned Liz Allen...

I don't think it's too much to ask but would some kind soul lend me a copy of the 'Joys of Sex'?

Pristine, well thumbed! I don't care. I only want it for a few seconds. Just long enough to take a peep at what all the fuss is about.

And I promise I won't take any pleasure from it...

You see, I never heard of this little love making tome before the good Board of Censors saw fit to put it under wraps. And not even brown paper wraps for consenting adults at that. Total wraps. Off the shelves and out of reach.

Nothing creates demand like a good banning and the entire stock was sold out within hours of the edict. Now there's no joy available for love or money.

But why did the board decide to ban what a surprised Dr. Maine Woods of the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital described as "a standard reference book used by sex therapists," and one which was openly on sale for 15 years?

The Board, chaired by Judge Diarmuid Sheridan gave no specific reason. The official notice said it was the Board's opinion that the book was "indecent and obscene".

But what are the guidelines which the Censorship Board, which consists of two teachers, a solicitor, a judge, and a housewife must take into account when examining a book.

1. The literary, artistic, historic merit or importance and the general tenor of the book.
2. The language in which it is written.
3. The nature and extent of the circulation which, in their opinion, it is likely to have.
4. The class of reader which in their opinion, may be expected to read it.
5. Any other matter relating to the book which appears to them to be relevant.

Books are prohibited when the board is of the



CENSORED!

Widely-available sex book banned

A LITERARY reference book, 'The Joys of Sex', has been banned by the Censorship Board. The book, which was widely available for 15 years, was described by the board as 'indecent and obscene'.

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opinion that they are indecent or obscene. And periodicals are prohibited on the grounds that they have usually or frequently been indecent or have devoted an unduly large proportion of space to the publication of matters relating to crime.

While a lot of the material would obviously be insulting to some people (some of it is blatant pornography) many other books are banned merely because they are concerned with what the board might refer to as 'sexual prurience' — lesbianism or homosexuality.

A spokesperson for the board said that: 'The guidelines which the board follows when jud-

ging a book are laid down to protect people who may take offence at what is contained in these books. You could say that the board is protecting the 'moral majority'.

He continued: 'Homosexuality and lesbianism are still illegal acts, so the board may consider it its duty to ban books concerned with these matters also'.

However, TCD lecturer David Norris finds the whole idea of censorship extremely patronising.

'I am extremely concerned at the phrase 'moral majority' and if this board is in existence to protect the 'moral majority' I would like to call for its immediate resignation of the censorship board.

'These people are not entitled to control what I, or anybody else, should read.'

According to the spokesperson for the board, books concerning abortion will shortly be reviewed because of the High Court ruling regarding counselling services, which gave advice to women about abortions.

'Abortion is a very distressing thing but what the censorship board is doing is witch hunting. It's spy mania', says David Norris. Although it can be

argued that one of the main functions of the board is to protect children from lewd materials surely legislation could be introduced to protect children from obscene literature allowing adults the freedom to read anything they choose to.

'The need for a censorship board is past,' says RTE presenter Pat Kenny. People are mature enough to make their own decisions about what they read.

'But it is not wise or proper that young children should have access to obscenity. I don't have a great interest in censorship but I have never had any trouble in trying to obtain literature from my local library.'

Eason's chairman, Harold Clarke feels that 'there is no need for a Censorship Board.'

'I called for the abolition of the board in 1984 because it is completely nonsense. The money should be spent on encouraging creative writing.'

'The good Lord gave us minds so that we could make decisions for



DAVID NORRIS: "These people are not entitled to control what I, or anybody else, wants to read."

ourselves and each of us can decide for ourselves what we will and will not read. The absence of a particular kind of literature may just encourage people to look for it.

'The banning of doctor Alex Comfort's 'JOYS OF SEX' is farcical. I see absolutely nothing wrong with the book. Will I have the moral majority flocking into Easons in the near future?'

The spokesperson for the censorship board says that ideally all books

should be examined before they go on sale in the shops. The spokesperson also said that he is not sure if the members of the board read every book which they are given to examine.

Perhaps Oscar Wilde was right when he said: 'A man who moralises is usually a hypocrite, and a woman who moralises is invariably a pain.'

Oh, by the way, forget what I said about a loan earlier... it would probably be too much for me.



PAT KENNY: "People are mature enough."

'These people are not entitled to say what we should read'

S. Sch...

AIDS: two children back in class

By SENAN MOLONY

TWO Irish children who carry the AIDS virus in their blood are attending normal school classes, it has been learned.

The children are haemophiliacs who picked up the infection through contaminated blood products. A total of 106 Irish people have contracted the virus in this way.

Haemophiliacs can bleed uncontrollably if they sustain a cut or wound, and Mrs. Irene Hilery, professor of

microbiology of UCD said that the two children would obviously have to be careful in the playground environment.

It was not clear if parents of other children attending the school are aware that the haemophiliac children are AIDS carriers.

But Dr. Hilery stressed that there was no danger of the disease being picked up through casual contact, and the children should be treated as normal, healthy youngsters.

And Dr. Brian O'Riordan said that prisoners recently released from Mounjoy prison were presenting themselves to

the Mater Hospital with pneumocystis — a dangerous for many pneumonia common among AIDS sufferers or those with ARC, the related complex.

"They have a very severe cough and their respiration is very fast and shallow. The condition is quite distressing."

He said that the average hospital stay of an AIDS victim was nine months, and cost around £30,000.

There have been 16 full AIDS cases in Ireland since 1982, nine of whom have died. Costs for hospitalisations alone can be reckoned at more than £1m. And the situation is

set to get worse.

Dr. Hilery said that no further haemophilic AIDS infections were likely to occur, because blood products were now heat-treated and none were imported.

But she was pessimistic about the chances of a medical breakthrough in the fight against the disease.

"I asked someone in the United Kingdom who had recently been given £1.5m. to carry out research into AIDS. If they thought a cure could be found. He told me to come back and ask him again in ten years."

Independent
16th February 1987

AIDS victim weds in church

A MAN dying of AIDS was married in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on St. Valentine's Day, with the blessing of Cardinal John O'Connor, who had reversed a decision to refuse him a religious service.

Catholic Church officials had turned down the request of David Hefner (38) for a Church marriage to his wife, Maria (33) — three years after a civil ceremony.

Independent 16th February 1987

A RADICAL change in the way contraceptives are sold is moving across America.

Four of every ten condoms are now purchased by women. About a million of the contraceptives are sold every day, a startling rise since the US Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, recommended that people who are going to have sex should use them.

The stated reasons vary: an effective deterrent to pregnancy, an alternative for women who no longer want to use IUDs or the pill, a preventive against VD and so forth.

But the real reason for the sudden rise in condom sales is that Americans are afraid of AIDS. Sex, they are realising, can kill you.

An astute condom manufacturer is marketing 'Lady Protex', condoms in attractive, understated packages that are sold in the feminine Hygiene sections of drugstores and grocery stores.

"Women polled by a national magazine said their fear of sexually-transmitted diseases was greater than their fear of nuclear war," said Kevin Foley, a spokesman for a condom manufacturer.

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AIDS victim weds in cathedral

From Sean Cronin,
in New York

MR DAVID HEFNER (38), who is dying of AIDS, was married in St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on Saturday — St Valentine's Day — three years after a civil ceremony to his wife Maria (33).

Catholic Church officials had refused their request for a religious service in the cathedral, but Cardinal John O'Connor reversed the decision, attended the wedding and blessed the couple.

"It was very lovely," the Cardinal said. "They must be very devoted to each other. I can only pray that however long they have together they will be very happy indeed."

The groom, who is a hairdresser, describes himself as a former homosexual. His wife is a native of Brazil.

Mr Hefner was diagnosed nine months ago as having AIDS. His wife has stayed with him while he was in hospital. Mrs Hefner is a Catholic, he is not.

AIDS vaccine some time away

THE man whose research team isolated the aids virus in 1983 said in a West German newspaper interview yesterday that it will take some time to find an AIDS vaccine and that all drugs currently being tried are poisonous.

Professor Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris also said in a *Die Welt* interview that he opposed the registration of AIDS victims as impractical.

Dr Montagnier, who discovered a second variety of AIDS virus in Africa last year, said that the more the disease spreads the greater the probability that resistance to it will develop. — (UPI)

London Times
16th February 1987

Can Aids be kids' stuff?

**Young children
need to be taught
that sex can kill –
without putting
them off for life**

The Aids publicity campaign has already had an effect on my five-year-old daughter. She is suddenly fascinated by the subject of volcanoes – presumably it will be icebergs next. So far I have not been asked "Mummy, where does Aids come from?" but no doubt the time is near.

I have already told my two that they should kiss only their parents and grandparents on the lips – the reason, I explained, is that kissing spreads coughs and colds. I see no harm in trying to establish early on that intimate physical contact of any kind should be reserved for special people whom you love dearly.

On the other hand I don't want my children to become afraid of sex. And so far no one really knows what it will do to a generation to grow up with the knowledge that the most pleasurable experience in life may also be deadly.

But at what age should you start talking to children about Aids? The US Surgeon General, Dr Everett Koop, has suggested that children from the age of 10 should be given advice on how to avoid Aids – a suggestion that met with a lot of opposition.

**'It's going to be
difficult for many
parents to talk'**

Alison Hadley, information officer for the Brook Advisory Centres, admits that it is a tricky question. "As with all sex education, you have to take the needs not just of a particular age-group but of a particular child into account. To some extent you have to go on the interest a child shows. You do need to talk very openly about contraceptives and condoms, but it's going to be difficult for many parents."

This point is emphasized by the findings of a major study, *Education In Sex And Personal Relationships*, published last week. Carried out by Isobel Allen, a researcher at the Policy Studies In-

stitute, it showed that many parents clearly have problems talking to children about sex. Virtually all parents thought schools should provide sex education.

Alison Hadley adds: "Our concern is also that it will have a damaging effect on young people's general sense of well being. If sex is associated with death it could produce all sorts of hang-ups."

Dr Prudence Tunnadine, director of the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine, admits that it is very hard to look into the future and predict the psychological impact of Aids.

She says: "My hope is that we may have been able to nip it in the bud in a way they

**'Sex associated
with death could
produce hang-ups'**

haven't been able to in the States. If it puts fear back into sexual relationships it will make a big difference. All that Victorian stuff – anxieties about whether anything so lovely has got to be punished – is in danger of coming back. It shouldn't."

In any case, she doubts whether fear of Aids will act as an effective deterrent on the teenagers of today or tomorrow. "I've never believed in deterrents. They don't work on adolescents. They just make the frightened ones more frightened and the lively ones more likely to go ahead."

Instead she hopes that Aids will have a positive effect on sexual relationships. "We need to say what we should always have been saying – that people have to be choosy, not to have 'holy sex' but 'lost in each other' sex; that sex is a feeling about the person, not the body; that sex gets better as you get older and the best sex is something you've developed."

"We are not farmyard animals, where any partner will do. Sex should be lovely, but the more casually you regard sex the less likely you are to find it lovely."

And if Aids gives the next generation a chance to take this lesson to heart, she argues, it may in the end turn out to have a silver lining after all.

Lee Rodwell

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1987

Wellcome's AIDS Medication AZT Will Be Costliest Drug Ever, Exceeding Forecasts

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

LONDON—Wellcome PLC's drug for treating acquired immune deficiency syndrome will be the most expensive prescription medication known, exceeding even the top analyst forecasts.

Wellcome set a "provisional" wholesale price of \$188 a bottle containing 100 capsules of 100-milligram strength for the drug of its U.S.-based Burroughs-Wellcome & Co. unit. The product is expected to receive swift clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

At the usual dosage level of 200 mg every four hours, one bottle works out to just over a week's supply. Thus, the wholesale price for one year's supply would be about \$8,300, or about \$10,000 retail.

"The maximum retail cost would be about \$10,000 a year," said Kathy Bartlett, a Burroughs-Wellcome spokeswoman in Research Triangle Park, N.C. "But obviously, depending on the individual patient regimen and actual dosages, that cost could be lower," she added.

Higher Than Predicted

"It's a little bit higher than we expected," said Constance Maneaty, a New York-based securities analyst for S.G. Warburg & Sons. "We thought it would command \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year," she added, about the same as Genentech Inc.'s human growth hormone, used to treat dwarfism, or Sandoz Inc.'s cyclosporine-A, used to prevent organ transplant rejection.

The drug, which has a planned brand name of Retrovir, has yet to be cleared by the FDA. There is thought to be some concern about the length of the clinical trials, which were interrupted in September after it was discovered that patients on AZT survived longer than those taking placebos. But it isn't clear whether this concern will slow the regulatory process, in view of the epidemic's urgency.

London's Stock Exchange reacted favorably to the pricing news, sending Wellcome stock to a Friday close of 372 pence (\$5.65), up about 24% from Thursday's close of 300 pence (\$4.56).

Because of the premium price forecast, Warburg's Ms. Maneaty predicted that Wellcome could realize higher-than-expected profits. "We think we'll see analysts' earnings estimates for the company go up," he said.

Warburg, which is Wellcome's invest-

ment banker, has raised its estimate of Wellcome's profit to 14 pence a share in the year ending August 1988. It had forecast 12.7 pence a share. Warburg's forecast for the year ending August 1987 is unchanged at 9.7 pence a share.

Ms. Maneaty and a colleague, analyst Samuel Isaly, said Wellcome could realize annual U.S. sales from Retrovir of \$150 million to \$200 million in the year ending August 1988, assuming an initial estimated market of about 15,000 to 20,000 persons with AIDS and AIDS-related complex.

Depending on how the company resolves manufacturing issues surrounding the scarce drug, the gross profit margins could be 50% to 60%. The company has said it has spent \$80 million to develop and test Retrovir, which is made from thymidine, an extract of herring sperm. The company's annual cost of thymidine may exceed \$60 million, Mr. Isaly estimated.

In September, AZT was shown to prolong the lives of patients with AIDS and its related pneumonia, as well as patients with severe ARC. Last month, an advisory panel to the FDA recommended its clearance for marketing over the objections of some who would like to have seen more data.

FDA Debate

Despite widespread expectations of early approval this year for Retrovir, there reportedly is still disagreement within the FDA about whether to give marketing approval to a drug whose effectiveness has been demonstrated by a single six-month study. The FDA usually requires much more extensive data to settle questions about toxicity and ideal dose levels. AZT, whose toxicity has been compared with certain cancer chemotherapies, causes severe anemias requiring blood transfusions or interruptions in the medication for almost half of those who take the drug.

AZT and a related compound, DDC, recently earmarked for licensing to Hoffman-La Roche Inc. of Nutley, N.J., are called nucleoside analogues. These compounds trick the AIDS virus into "committing suicide" by slipping a dummy molecule into its DNA, scientists have said. Both compounds were synthesized in the 1960s by Jerome Horwitz of the Michigan Cancer Foundation, and their activity against the AIDS virus was discovered at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md.

AIDS, spread by sexual contact, contam-

inated blood and shared needles, already has struck some 30,000 people in the U.S. and killed more than half of them. Federal researchers have estimated that a total of 271,000 cases will have been diagnosed by 1991.

Scientists Devise AIDS Test

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

DAVIS, California—Two groups of researchers at the University of California at Davis said they have devised a faster AIDS antibody test and have isolated a cat virus that may provide a model for animal tests of therapies and vaccines against the disorder.

In a report in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, James R. Carlson and co-workers at the university, the National Institutes of Health and Centocor Inc. of Malvern, Pa., described the new test as more rapid and economical than current antibody tests.

Mr. Carlson, a professor of pathology and medicine at the university, said the new test can be performed in remote areas without laboratory facilities, making it suitable for use in Africa, where the virus is believed to claim large and uncounted numbers of victims. He asserted the test is 99% accurate in diagnosing the AIDS viral infection.

Separately, Niels C. Pedersen of the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine said in a report in the journal *Science* that he and coworkers isolated a virus that is a "dead ringer" for the human AIDS virus.

The new virus, which he named FTLV (or feline T-lymphotropic Lentivirus), is distinct from both the human AIDS virus and from other cat ailments like feline leukemia virus (or FELV). The researchers said they noted that cats infected with FTLV exhibited symptoms strikingly like those of humans with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, including diarrhea, wasting and neurological disorders.

This contrasts with the simian AIDS virus that infects animals but doesn't produce the same disease state as does human AIDS. Thus, the researchers proposed that the new cat virus might serve as a model for animal tests of AIDS therapies or vaccines.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome ravages the human immune system, leaving victims vulnerable to death by a variety of rare infections and cancers.

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Acquired immune deficiency syndrome ravages the human immune system, leaving victims vulnerable to death by a variety of rare infections and cancers.

Church urges AIDS hotline

THE Catholic Church yesterday urged the introduction of a nationwide "hotline" to combat AIDS.

A special task force of the Dublin Archdiocese's Catholic Social Service Conference called for the establishment of a telephone counselling service and said there should be a national co-ordinating committee on the disease controlled by the Department of Health.

A report by the task force says the Catholic Church will have to take a "moral standpoint" if it becomes involved in the telephone hotline but it wants the Government to operate the service.

"We have responded pretty quickly. We immediately set up this task force last year and it has now reported and will be studied by the conference," said task force chairman Bishop Desmond Williams.

There have been nine AIDS deaths in the Republic and 15 confirmed cases. Over 500 Irish people are infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS.

The report said counselling services were urgently needed to cope with the enormous

psychological problems linked with AIDS, while treatment of patients in either the home, hospital or hospice needed further investigation.

The disease, says the task force, is probably the greatest single disease threat to humanity since the "Black Death" which swept Europe in the 14th century.

Education and care were the main areas of importance for the Catholic Church, where it can give information on AIDS to priests, nuns and other members of the Church.

The task force, which was chaired by Dr. Geoffrey Dean, the former director of the Medico-Social Research Board, said the church should also be developing programmes for its members ministering to AIDS victims.

The Dublin Archdiocese is certain to be the nucleus of the church's response to the disease, including as it does such authorities as Fr. Paul Lavelle, who heads the archdiocese's Drug Awareness Committee.

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**The TV series that explodes
myth's about the world's
most talked-about disease**

A family man who got AIDS

By PATRICK HILL

IN A HOSPITAL isolation unit Claire Bloom lovingly cradles Daniel Massey's head to her bosom. The character Massey plays has just a few hours to live and by now is almost unconscious.

This is one of the most poignant scenes from a remarkable new TV series to be shown next month. It deals with the effects of AIDS — not on homosexuals; not on prostitutes — but on married couples from the middle classes.

He contracted AIDS on a business trip to New York, after being picked up in his hotel lobby by a hooker.

The series, *Intimate Contact*, will go out in weekly episodes over four weeks on UTV and HTV, and there are cynics in television already suggesting that AIDS is now being given the Soap treatment.

That would be to denigrate a ground-breaking drama which will undoubtedly make a whole section of society who previously believed that AIDS could not happen to them realise that everyone is vulnerable.

In *Intimate Contact*, Daniel Massey plays a successful £30,000-a-year senior executive with an electronics firm. He appears to have all that life can offer: a loving wife, beautiful children, a stylish detached home and, naturally, membership of an exclusive golf club.

He does not discover that he has caught the disease until long after he returns to England and has almost forgotten his liaison with the call-girl.

It is only when he suddenly collapses and is rushed to hospital that the disease — and the shame that accompanies it — is discovered.

The series charts the way in which first neighbours shun the businessman, called Clive Gregory, how he is expelled from the golf club, the reaction of colleagues and bosses at work who finally have him thrown out of his office by security police, even how his two teenage children are taunted at school.

SECURITY POLICE

It shows how his wife and his son turn against him, the despair he feels at a life wasted by a single moment of temptation, and finally, the moving deathbed scene in hospital with his finally forgiving wife.

The idea for the series came to writer Alma Coulton when she found herself at a business conference surrounded by men just like Clive Gregory. 'I just listened to a whole bunch of so-called intelligent people condemning gays and laughing about how they were killing themselves off with AIDS', she said.

'I just wanted to shout and write something which showed just how ignorant and hypocritical they all were about a subject which concerns everyone.'



THROWN OUT . . . security men force Daniel Massey out of his office in the new TV drama.

They just didn't realise what they were talking about.

'They thought you had to be homosexual before you got AIDS. They wanted to pretend that the disease didn't exist or that it would never affect them or their families.'

'It was through the character of the wife, played by Claire Bloom, that I wanted to show just how bigoted people can be, and show how even nice comfortable middle class people can be hit by this disease.'

'I wanted to sub-title the series AIDS At The Golf Club because the series shows how even these nice 'comfortable' people can call themselves civilised yet turn away when confronted by something like that.'

'Well brought-up middle class women don't find it easy to talk in public about sex. It's the way we are brought up. But



DYING EMBRACE . . . Claire Bloom comforts Daniel Massey in the TV series *Intimate Contact*.

**'They thought
you had to
be homosexual
before you
could get AIDS'**

we are going to have to talk about the subject . . . to get the messages about "safe sex" and prevention of AIDS across to every man, woman and child in the country.

'And we also have to be more understanding to AIDS victims. At the moment we just tend to shun them as if AIDS was still only confined to being "Gay Plague". But it's not. We're all in it together.'

Both Claire Bloom and Daniel Massey have starred in highly prestigious film and television works. But they agree *Intimate Contact* is one of the most important projects they have ever appeared in.

'My role shows the woman as having the inner strength to cope with the world alone, after she finds out that her husband has AIDS and eventually dies.

Claire Bloom says. 'But more importantly it shows a woman, who because of AIDS is plummeted into grim reality from the cushion of her nice comfortable life'.

Her character finds herself increasingly isolated in her middle class environment, but starts to widen her horizons. She begins to challenge attitudes she once accepted without question. *Contact* with other AIDS victims and their loved ones opens her eyes to the narrowness of her previous life.

While Clive battles against his physical decline, she finds the strength and courage to campaign openly for more tolerance and understanding for AIDS victims in society.

Sylvia Syms plays the Gregorys' closest friend who turns her back on the family. 'She is the kind of person who, unfortunately, is too prevalent in society today', said Miss Syms. 'She quite simply does not understand what is happening, but she prejudices everything.'

PHYSICAL DECLINE

'People like her just don't want to know. I suppose I can identify to a great extent because I can't say that I haven't been guilty of prejudice, but I did learn through the series.'

'It brings home the message that if you sleep around when you go on a business trip then you stand a chance of catching this disease which kills. . . but that can also spread to your family and other people.'

'Shortly after I'd completed the part I found myself going home one night and launching into my 21-year-old son by saying: "You should use a condom if you want casual sex" — just as he walked through the door. He just looked at me in amazement, but I realised that I had been frightened by what the series was saying.'

10 Irish Independent, Tuesday, February 17, 1987

Irish Independent

IRELAND'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

AIDS plague

A TASK FORCE set up in the Dublin Archdiocese to identify ways in which the Catholic Church could respond to the AIDS situation sees AIDS as "probably the greatest single disease threat to humanity since the Black Death". This is not the first time that such a comparison has been made. American, British and Continental authorities have also spoken along the same lines.

The bubonic plague struck every section of society and decimated the population of Europe, bringing social changes in its wake which gave history a new impetus. In plague times only the odd city found some weak way of fighting back because no one knew how the disease was being transmitted.

But in contrast to the mystery surrounding the bubonic plague, modern medicine knows what is causing AIDS — without that knowledge being able to produce a cure, so far. The best estimates suggest five years at least before some kind of cure can be found, but there are other experts who predict even a longer span of time. And during the waiting period the numbers being killed by the disease will keep mounting.

Hence the search at the moment for ways first of preventing the disease from spreading and secondly of treating those who have contracted it.

The Task Force wants a Hot Line set up. This would connect with specialists and others to whom AIDS cases or suspected cases could be referred. But it also wants an educational service established which would spread all the facts the public needs to know about the disease.

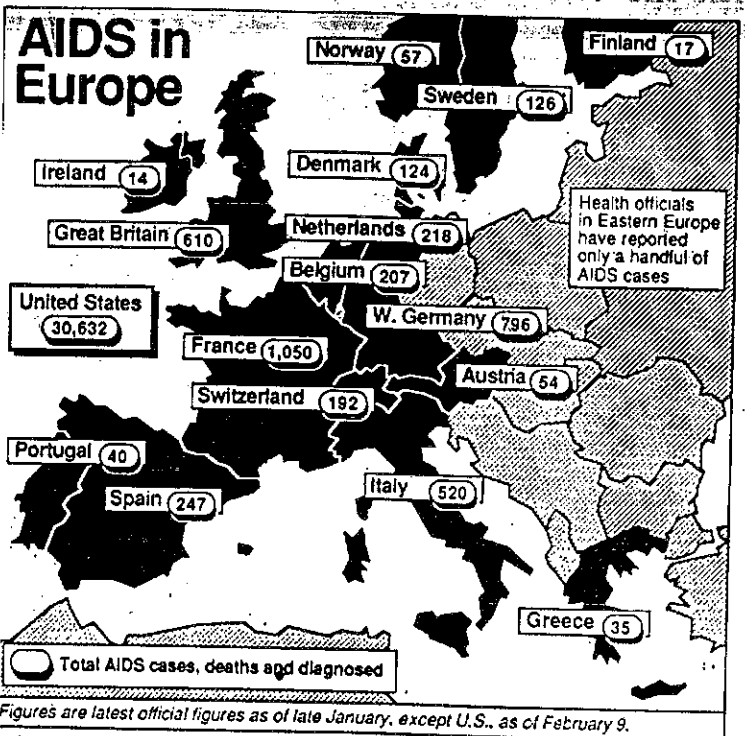
At the moment the bulk of AIDS sufferers in Ireland appear to come from the drug taking people. This could change, of course, over the next few years, but for the moment it suggests that the prime target of everyone concerned with AIDS should be those unfortunate men and women (and boys and girls) who are taking drugs and who now have the threat of AIDS hanging over them.

If numbers of AIDS victims in this country are low compared with other countries perhaps we have a start on others in trying to come to grips with the disease.

It should not be a hidden disease. It should be a notifiable one which the authorities should get to hear of as soon as a doctor knows of it. Certainly the situation should never arise here of an AIDS victim having his or her death attributed to another disease, as appears to have happened in the case of Liberace. It may seem to be compassionate not to smear an individual's reputation, but that line of thinking leaves the rest of the population at risk.

The Task Force has identified ways of coping. But that is all a country can do — cope, until science unlocks the mystery of this frightful disease.

GRIM TRAIL OF A KILLER DISEASE . . .



Church task force call for AIDS hotline

By WILLIAM DILLON

AIDS is probably the greatest single disease threat to humanity since the Black Death swept Europe in the 14th century, a Catholic Church task force on the growing menace warned yesterday.

An AIDS hot line, linked to an information centre staffed by professionals, should be established in a bid to educate the public about the disease and to offer help to victims, the task force recommended.

Such a facility would also act as a referral agency to appropriate services which could include one sponsored by the Church "for people for whom such form of referral would be indicated."

The task force, set up in the Dublin Archdiocese last summer to identify ways in which the Catholic Church could respond to the spread of the disease, said that education and care were the main areas in which they could help.

The Church could provide priests, religious, seminarians, community and church workers with information about the medical, psych-social and pastoral issues related to AIDS, as well as

developing programmes for those who minister to victims of the disease.

The task force report, issued yesterday, said the hot line would be independent of any particular service, but it stressed the necessity of liaison with the Department of Health, which it said had already been established.

The report follows months of discussions by the group, which held its first meet last October under the chairmanship of Dr. Geoffrey Dean, former Director of the Medical Social Research Board.

The force's findings have been passed on to the Catholic Social Service Conference, a caring agency of the Archdiocese under the chairmanship of Auxiliary Bishop Desmond Williams. He said the Catholic Church had responded quickly to the disease.

Members of the group agreed that the care of AIDS victims and HIV-positive people and their families in the home, the hospital and hospice settings needed a great deal of further thought and

attention. Counselling services would particularly be required.

The report said it had to be remembered that in the Irish situation, as it was developing, a relatively small number of people would have AIDS, while hundreds would be HIV-positive.

There had been a realisation of the urgency to take measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the HIV virus which caused AIDS, and of helping to initiate programmes to care for those directly affected by the virus or the AIDS disease.

The task force was set up after its prime mover, Father Paul Lavella, director of the Dublin Diocesan Drugs Awareness Programme last year, met a 24-year-old man dying of AIDS. The victim had regretted that he was not gay, as at least the gay community supported members of their own group with AIDS-related problems.

At the request of Archbishop Kevin McNamara, task force chairman Dr. Dean and Fr. Lavella have addressed heads of the 16 deaneries in the diocese on the problem. Both have also attended a meeting of the Eastern Health Board AIDS task force.

Sw

Hot-line plan for Aids victims

A NEW initiative by the Catholic Church, to help combat the spread of Aids, is suggested in the report of a task force set up some months ago in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Among its recommendations are the establishment of a hot-line service, linked to an information centre, which would also act as a referral agency for victims of the disease. Full report — Page 4

SW

Irish Press
17th February 1987

Church urges centre to help Aids victims

By SILE YEATS

AN AIDS information centre, including a telephone hotline, should be set up as soon as possible, according to a Catholic Church report published yesterday.

The report, by a special Aids task force set up last summer by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Kevin MacNamara, says education and care are the main areas in which the Catholic Church can respond to the Aids crisis. It says that Aids is "probably the greatest single disease threat to humanity since the 'Black Death', which swept Europe in the 14th century".

Care and counselling of

Aids victims and people who were carriers of the virus, along with their families, needed a great deal more thought and attention, the report says. While, in Ireland, only relatively few people have the disease, it should be remembered that hundreds more would be antibody positive, and these people would need counselling and other services so that they could cope with the enormous psychological problems associated with their condition, according to the report.

There was an urgent necessity to take measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, the report continues. But it makes no mention of condoms.

A hotline should be set up as part of an information centre staffed by professionals, the report recommends. This centre could also act as a referral agency to appropriate services that could include one sponsored by the Church.

Commenting on the report, the chairman of the Catholic Social Service Conference, Bishop Desmond Williams, said yesterday he hoped such an information centre would be set up by the Government, but that, if this did not happen, the Church would establish its own service.

"If we were operating a hotline we would have to give the advice we think is correct," he added. This was that sex was for use within marriage, and that the abuse of drugs and the abuse of sex was wrong.

The most important thing to come out of the report, Bishop Williams added, was that it recommended the immediate education of the general population about the whole question of Aids, and the care and compassion for those who were now the victims of the disease.

Father Paul Lavelle, who was the prime mover in establishing the Aids task force, said last night that the Church was already educating its workers about Aids, so that they could help victims.

SW

TELEVISION: Brendan Glacken watched a number of commercials as well as "Diverse Reports" (Channel Four) and "Saturday Live" (RTE 1)

Countering the ADS Plague

UP UNTIL last week it seemed from the AIDS advertisements that those most at risk of catching the disease were pneumatic drill operators. The latest phase of the TV campaign however suggests that travellers on cruise liners are equally vulnerable, particularly if they bump into icebergs. Are we to surmise that the "Titanic" passengers may have escaped a fate worse than drowning?

Don't die of ignorance, the punchline warns, while these downright silly advertisements continue to shroud the subject in mystery and terror. All these UK-made commercials are received in Irish homes via UTV and Channel Four, but at least all UK homes are receiving the back-up literature which is an integral part of the campaign.

The advertisements recommend condoms, which can't be advertised on British or Irish TV. So one doesn't envy the Irish advertising agency currently devising AIDS commercials for screening on RTE. At the moment, confused Irish viewers of the UK advertisements seem much more

likely to die of ignorance than of AIDS. Meanwhile, there are other equally objectionable commercials popping up everywhere, though the remote control yoke is handy for zapping. One of them is for that brief palindrome of a gravy cube, and it features a father actually cooking — much to the horror of his two offspring. So he drops this magic cube into the stodgy mess that he normally produces. The little horrors' eyes then light up with ill-faked joy as they taste it.

Enter mother, a virago if ever there was one. Noting the offsprings' enthusiasm for the dinner, she smiles thinly and announces that she will now have every Saturday off. Dad smiles much more thinly. Presumably it would not occur to him to forget the gravy cube next time, and reassert his traditional rights to TV snooker / rugby / soccer on Saturdays.

On the other hand the Levi 501 ads are great stylish fun — a potent mix of lust and nostalgia. That cherubic-looking girl in the '50s dress riveting her eyes to the

Levi-clad rear end of the young man, as he slips his steel comb back into his hip pocket, is the clear successor to the "way she might look at you" Sally O'Brien.

* * *

"EAMONN is a committed socialist and perhaps more sympathetic to Libya than most Western journalists..." So you know what to expect. A programme that is unlikely to be sold to the ABC or NBC networks. "An attempt to see Libya and events in the Middle East from their" (the Libyans') point of view.

That's how "Diverse Reports" introduced Eamonn McCann's report (Channel Four, Wednesday). It opened with video film of the aftermath of the bombing of Gadafy's house. "Thatcher," said Gadafy, "is a murderer." There followed a potted history of Libya's sufferings over the years, from the days of the Ottoman empire to Mussolini's ravages. Nowadays, Eamonn told us, Libya's fortunes have picked up... health and education are free,

homes are provided by law for all families.

The presentation was odd at times: English sub-titles for Gadafy's Arabic, and then an English translation by a Gadafy aide. Gadafy's outlook didn't exactly seem subtle: "Europe... is known to be somewhat wise and rational... but America is known to be childish, crazy and irrational... the mentality of the cowboy and the criminal dominate US policy."

As for P.C. Fletcher, the unfortunate policewoman killed by a shot from the Libyan People's Bureau in London three years ago — "she would not have been a target." But Gadafy wasn't pressed for any further explanation of this atrocious murder.

Unashamedly one-sided, as an effort to counteract Reagan's naive efforts to blame Libya's "Mad Dog" for just about every act of international terrorism, this was thought-provoking, if a little bit heavyhanded.

"HE'S an Aries," said Thelma Mansfield of husband Johnnie Morris (Saturday Live, RTE 1)



Eamonn McCann: sympathetic to Libya.

"but firm too... I'm a Leo... I need some firmness..." What a lot of Taurus-dung. Kathleen Watkins' guests were however generally entertaining (including Thelma) and the presenter herself didn't look any too nervous. Gerry Daly of course is all soil, and Margaret "the Park is marvellous" Hecker might have been drawn out a bit more. Audience participation was nil. But the biggest disappointment was not hearing Maire Mac an tSaoi expand a little more, recite a few of her poems and tell us if the Da McEntee really was the tyrant she clearly hinted he was.

Sc

AIDS 'hotline' urged by Church committee

By Joe Carroll

A CATHOLIC Church committee has urged the Government to set up an AIDS "hotline" linked to an information centre staffed by professionals. The centre could provide accurate information to callers about the disease as well as acting as a referral agency to various services.

One of the services could be sponsored by the Church for people requiring spiritual, moral and psychological help as well as medical help, according to the Rev Paul Lavelle who helped to set up the Dublin diocesan task force which has now reported to the Catholic Social Service Conference (CSSC).

Father Lavelle, director of the

drugs awareness programme of the CSSC, told *The Irish Times* that the Government was considering setting up the hotline service but he was not sure what stage they had reached. If the Government did not set up the service, the CSSC would have to do it, he said.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Dr Desmond Williams, chairman of the CSSC, said yesterday he hoped there would be a quick response from the Government on the proposal. If the CSSC had to set up the service it would, as a Catholic Church Agency, have to take a "moral position" in dealing with requests for information and advice about AIDS.

The AIDS task force, which

was headed by the Rev Geoffrey Dean, former director of the Medico-Social Research Board, says that in the Dublin diocese the most suitable agency for an AIDS committee might be the CSSC. There was also a need for a national co-ordinating committee which would come under the Department of Health and would also be independent of the CSSC.

In the area of education, the report says that the Church could provide priests, religious, seminarians, community and Church workers with accurate information about the medical, psycho-social and pastoral issues related to AIDS and HIV virus infection. The Church could also develop programmes for those

who minister to those affected by AIDS or the HTV virus.

Helen Shaw adds:

In comparison with the Republic, the AIDS problem in Northern Ireland is still relatively small with only four cases to date. But while the health campaign against AIDS in the South has yet to begin, in the North the public has been bombarded with explicit anti-AIDS adverts for the last three months.

Of the four northern cases all involved homosexual men. Two of these have died, and the remaining two have since left Ireland. But while no one else has been diagnosed as an AIDS sufferer, at least 31 people, all

male, have the AIDS virus. Of these, just under half are haemophiliacs who contracted the virus through contaminated blood. According to current medical research, between 10 and 30 per cent of all those carrying the virus may develop AIDS.

● AIDS is soon to go on a list of diseases used by port medical officers to restrict entry into Britain, the Home Office said last night. Although not policy, in practice visitors may already be refused entry if the immigration authorities suspect them of having AIDS.

Recently an American airline cabin steward was detained at Gatwick Airport overnight and then returned to the USA because of his condition.

Irish Times
17th February 1987

AIDS

Sir,—I must apologise to your correspondents who seem to have taken me seriously when I suggested (letters, February 2nd) that an AIDS referendum would solve the AIDS problem. In fact, I suggested that a referendum would do *as much* to solve the problem as it had done to solve the problems of marital breakdown and abortion — that is, nothing at all except the conferral of legal and statistical invisibility.

I have just returned from France, where AIDS deaths are of the order of two people a week. Furthermore, according to the latest report published in the *Nouvel Observateur*, AIDS in France has "jumped the gap" between high-risk groups, like homosexuals and drug abusers, and the general public. We in Ireland are well behind countries like France and the United States in terms of the prevalence and incidence of AIDS. But, and this is the important point, *we are following along the very road travelled by these countries*. Unless we take serious public health action now, we may expect the worst.

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Today
17th February 1987

12 years for rapist as judge warns of Aids peril

by ANNE CARR

A JUDGE called for a crackdown on rapists yesterday after warning of the new terror that haunts victims — the fear of Aids.

Judge Thomas Pigot jailed a rapist for 12 years and said: "The law can only reflect this rapidly-escalating fear by passing heavy sentences."

He added: "The growing awareness and knowledge that the pernicious disease can be transmitted by sexual intercourse means that any young woman attacked must be anxious — if not terrified — as to whether or not she has contracted the disease.

"It may lay dormant for years and might eventually cause death."

Fears

Judge Pigot told the Old Bailey that a victim could pass on Aids to her unborn children.

"The law must realise and understand the fears of the victims," he said.

He sentenced Leslie Malcolm for a double attack on a 16-year-old schoolgirl.

Malcolm, 22 carried out the attack after watching rape scenes on television a day after being freed from jail.

Mr Simon Evans, prosecuting, said Malcolm watched the police series *The Bill* and a French film, which both included sex attacks.

"The rape scenes got me all worked up," Malcolm told detectives.

"I don't know what got into me.

"I knew what I was doing was wrong but I could not stop myself.

"I dragged the schoolgirl off the streets at knife-point."

The victim was walking to a London minicab office with another girl in the early hours of the morning when she was attacked.

Pushed

Malcolm pushed the friend aside and forced the girl to go to his Brixton flat at knife-point.

The other girl called police from a petrol station — after the cab office refused to let her use the phone.

Malcolm raped the schoolgirl twice after threatening to stab her if she did not stop yelling.

"Be quiet or you'll be sorry," he warned.

The girl eventually escaped into the arms of a policeman after promising Malcolm that she would not tell on him.

Judge Pigot told the court: "I am quite sure she was terrified, expecting the worst — even death — when confronted with the knife."

Malcolm, who had been released from prison after a 25-month sentence for handling stolen goods, admitted rape and false imprisonment.

ICN Takes Its Story of Possible AIDS Cure To the Public, but Approach Draws Fire

By EILEEN WHITE and MICHAEL WALDHOLZ
Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The ICN Pharmaceuticals Inc. promotional film describes a study of the company's Virazole drug in men with the virus that causes acquired immune-deficiency syndrome. As the film closes, a grateful patient looks beseechingly at the camera.

"My hope is that it is approved quickly," he says. "I hope the analysis of the data doesn't take six months, because I don't know if I have six months."

The film's none-too-subtle message seems clearly meant to prod the U.S. Food and Drug Administration into quick approval of the drug, which ICN says can forestall AIDS in people who carry the virus but haven't developed the disease. But the recent actions of ICN suggest that its main founder and chairman, Milan Panic, has more on his mind than the plight of AIDS victims.

While FDA staffers say more data must be provided before the drug can be sanctioned—and outside scientists say the company hasn't supplied data they need to evaluate the study—ICN has talked as though FDA approval were imminent. Since early 1986, Mr. Panic (pronounced PAHN-ish) has been promoting the Virazole-against-AIDS story with "sneak preview" presentations to securities analysts, a series of positive news releases and, last month, a highly visible Washington, D.C., news conference announcing the company's claims about its AIDS study.

Since ICN began making claims about Virazole's use against AIDS a year and a half ago, its stock price has more than doubled. Shares of ICN's 46%-owned Viratek unit, which holds the rights to Virazole, have jumped more than 200% in that period.

Yesterday in Amsterdam, Reuters reported, Mr. Panic declined to discuss Virazole, saying, "the time has come for us to stop talking about AIDS." He called publicity given to its study unwarranted. Initially, ICN had planned to brief Dutch journalists on results of its Virazole test on AIDS patients.

The soaring prices have helped ICN raise \$436 million through stock sales and increasingly attractive convertible-debt offerings. The company is small as drug companies go—it earned \$13 million on sales of \$103 million in fiscal 1986—but the stock surge makes plausible Mr. Panic's stated plan to raise more than \$800 million by year-end to take over a large drug company.

SEC Investigation

About six months ago, the stock movement prompted the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to open an investigation of possible stock manipulation and insider trading in ICN securities. An official of ICN says the agency is investigating the company's investment bankers, PaineWebber Inc.

"enthusiasm with exaggeration." He points out that respected Eastman Kodak Co. financed ICN's AIDS studies and is financing a \$45 million, eight-year joint research venture with ICN into new drugs. Kodak holds 8% of the Viratek unit's common stock and 3% of ICN.

Whoever is right, this isn't the first time that ICN has drawn criticism and regulatory rebuke for its promotional campaigns. Since Mr. Panic, a 1956 immigrant from Yugoslavia, founded ICN in 1960, the record shows he frequently has used brash tactics to promote both its drugs and its stock. Over the years, he has tangled with regulators, shareholders, auditors and scientists.

"Milan can be crazy; it's just his way," says Lawrence Panitz, ICN's New York-based chief administrative officer. "You can't have a cohesive conversation with him . . . He just never thinks he's wrong." But Mr. Panitz insists his boss never says anything he doesn't believe.

John C. Hancock, a former ICN general counsel and now an outside legal adviser, adds: "I was always conscious of the need to make sure Mr. Panic understood the need not to overstate the prospects of the company."

Outside ICN, Mr. Panic has sought out well-placed political contacts and often held Democratic fund-raisers at his 42-room mansion in Pasadena, Calif. Among the prominent directors and advisers he attracted to ICN at various times were two men who headed the SEC and a former secretary of health, education and welfare.

Inside the company, Mr. Panic, who controls about 3.7% of the stock, "is one of those executives who are basically treating the company as their own fiefdom," says Charles Bush, a former ICN chief financial officer. As part of a settlement of a shareholder suit in 1979, an audit committee of the board found that Mr. Panic owed the company \$123,000 for personal medical and political expenses and for personal use of the company's 98-seat jet and a Lake Tahoe, Nev., vacation house. He paid it, but sympathetic directors awarded him \$81,000 in back pay, despite the \$7 million net loss ICN had posted the previous year.

In late December of 1986, Mr. Panic sold 282,500 shares of an ICN subsidiary shortly after the parent's directors had decided to buy back 500,000 of the unit's shares. His sales began the day after the company announced the buyback. It appears that Mr. Panic's net gain on the transactions was about \$7.9 million. Asked about his stock trades, Mr. Panic says, "I think this is an unintelligent question."

In 1977, the SEC accused ICN and Mr. Panic of having issued misleading financial projections in 1972. In several press accounts, the ICN chairman had given 1972 earnings projections that turned out to be about six times the actual figure. ICN and Mr. Panic signed a consent decree with the SEC, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing. When ICN's auditors insisted on qualifying fiscal 1973 results because the company previously had capitalized research and acquisition costs, he dismissed them.

study was one of two that ICN submitted to the FDA.

But Dr. Knight's financial ties to ICN have raised eyebrows in the scientific community. Perhaps the most striking tie involves options he was granted—many of them contingent upon the FDA's approving some use of Virazole—to buy 37,500 shares of Viratek at prices of about \$7 and \$13 a share. The stock is now selling at \$60.50 a share. He also serves as a Viratek director, receives \$25,000 a year as a consultant and gets royalties for sales of the misting device.

When Dr. Knight and his Baylor team published their Virazole research, they disclosed that Viratek financed the studies. They didn't mention his financial interest, although this is disclosed in SEC documents filed by ICN. The contingent options were granted after Dr. Knight had finished the last of his Virazole studies that were published, and no one questions his integrity.

Steven Mostow, a University of Colorado physician and virologist who was persuaded by Dr. Knight's studies to research Virazole himself, says of the financial tie: "It's the first I've heard of this. It's crazy. The money can't be worth the damage it could do his credibility."

The FDA, which also wasn't informed of Dr. Knight's stake in ICN, doesn't have any rules against such links, an agency official says. But, the official adds, "there's a sense here that results from a scientist with a financial interest in a company might skew results."

Dr. Knight acknowledges that some might see a conflict of interest. But he stresses that his relationship to Viratek has been approved by the head of Baylor's school of medicine and that his research was checked by Baylor colleagues. He adds that ICN "has an intemperate board chairman whose principles I don't always agree with."

Slow Progress in Lab Work

Although Virazole has shown remarkable promise in the test tube against a variety of viruses, ICN has baffled many researchers by its slowness to study the drug in clinical, or human, trials. The drug suffered an early setback in 1975, after American Cyanamid Inc.'s Lederle Laboratories ended a 20-month joint Virazole research venture with ICN; it is understood the company was concerned about side effects.

ICN then began its own research. But scientists who have worked with the company say that, over the years, ICN-financed studies of the oral form of the drug on human beings often were poorly designed, underfinanced and sometimes even abruptly ended because of budget cuts. In FDA documents, agency staffers said that ICN applications have contained numerous unsupported statements and inadequate data, and that the company has sometimes failed to provide information the agency requested. As a result, the FDA rejected Virazole in oral form for influenza, hepatitis and herpes infections in 1979, citing concerns about toxicity and lack of evidence that it worked.



Milan Panic

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Last week in Basel, Ciba-Geigy AG, the Swiss chemical concern, protested the linking of an ICN issue of 60 million Swiss francs (\$39 million) of convertible bonds to Ciba-Geigy bearer shares. The 10-year bonds are convertible into shares of either ICN or Ciba-Geigy. Ciba-Geigy said it wasn't consulted and feared that ICN's use of its securities could limit Ciba-Geigy's access to capital markets. (See story on Page 10.)

ICN's publicity moves also raise broader questions about how best to release scientific information about drugs that are unproved but possibly useful—as Virazole well may be. Some AIDS patients already are smuggling Virazole from Mexico, where it is sold legally for the equivalent of \$28 for a three-day supply. Doctors worry that if a small drug maker successfully leapfrogged FDA procedures and normal scientific peer review by taking its pitch to the public, big, well-financed companies could be tempted to use similar tactics, perhaps resulting in premature claims about other experimental AIDS therapies.

In the study ICN has been publicizing, 163 men with a pre-AIDS swelling of the lymph nodes were divided into three groups and given either a placebo, a 600-milligram dose of Virazole or an 800-milligram dose. After six months, ICN says, AIDS had developed in 10 of the placebo group and in six of the next group, but in none of those getting the higher Virazole dose. The company and outside researchers who did the study call this strong evidence that the drug is active against the virus.

Two Get Disease Later

Other AIDS researchers find the effect promising but note that, in accordance with scientific practice, it must be confirmed by others; they also say it must last longer than six months to be of much use.

Since the study ended in November, two of the 800-milligram patients, though they continued taking this high dose of Virazole, have developed AIDS.

FDA officials advised ICN simply to keep quiet until the agency had reviewed its data—a review the agency says has top priority. Instead, ICN held its news conference last month. Company officials explain that they had to inform the test subjects of the results anyway and that once they did, word would begin to leak. They say they also made the announcement to quell volatility in the stock, which had been falling on rumors the drug didn't work.

Arnold Relman, the editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, says that "ICN was just plain outright wrong" in announcing its AIDS claims to the press. "That's not the way to release scientific information, and no market concern they give justifies behaving that way," says Dr. Relman. Addressing the possibility of delay, he says that because of the urgency of AIDS, when a report of research on the disease is proposed to his journal, it gets an immediate review for publication.

Mr. Panic says the critics of ICN's promotional efforts are unfair, confusing

In 1970, ICN's promotion of its pending license to market L-dopa, a drug for Parkinson's disease, fueled a rise in the stock price. That enabled Mr. Panic to acquire about 40 companies, largely by exchanging ICN's high-priced shares. But the market for L-dopa eased off after the drug was shown to have serious side effects. The ICN stock price fell enough that Mr. Panic had to compensate some of the previous owners of the acquired concerns because he had guaranteed them a minimum selling price for their ICN shares.

For promotional zeal, Mr. Panic's first major ICN acquisition in 1967 appears classic. He obtained an option to buy for \$6 million a pharmaceutical concern that would triple ICN's annual sales. The option expiration date was approaching when an ICN scientist went to the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association to talk about a new, memory-enhancing drug known as ribaminol, the scientist recalls. When ICN's stock price nearly doubled within about two weeks of the glowing presentation to the psychiatrists, a quick private stock sale at the higher price allowed ICN to raise the money to complete the acquisition. Ribaminol, however, was never even tested on humans. Mr. Panic says he decided not to spend any more money on it because he found out a rival was developing a similar drug.

Advent of Virazole

With ICN mired in losses during most of the 1970s, Mr. Panic grew interested in Virazole. The drug, generically known as ribavirin, was developed in the late 1960s by Roland K. Robins, a biochemist and ICN co-founder. In the test tube, it has effects against a wide range of viruses, perhaps by blocking the action of chemicals they use to reproduce. Mr. Panic dubbed ribavirin "the new penicillin," and ICN has claimed at various times that it works against a list of diseases including influenza, genital herpes infection, measles, chicken pox, hepatitis, tropical fevers—and now AIDS.

But ICN has had limited success in proving the drug both effective and safe. The firm didn't gain FDA approval for any use until December 1985, and then only for hospital treatment in aerosol form against a lung ailment in infants. The story has some unusual aspects.

For one thing, ICN, seeking to capitalize on its small victory, distributed a press kit touting Virazole. But the FDA, in a rare action, ordered the company to recall and correct the publicity material, asserting in a letter that it contained "false and misleading" information that "grossly exaggerated" the drug's effectiveness. For instance, the kit claimed that Virazole was so safe it could be given to premature infants "with no adverse reactions"; in fact, the FDA said, the drug may be "particularly hazardous" to premature babies.

Approval for infant lung disease came after Vernon Knight, a highly respected researcher at Baylor University medical school in Houston, had found that the drug showed promise against flu complications when given in aerosol form. He developed a misting apparatus that averted potential side effects of the drug in pill form. His

Responding to the most recent application (in 1986) to use the drug against the flu, the FDA again asked for more studies, which the company says were begun last month. But ICN officials "have a long way to go before they can say (Virazole) is effective" against the flu, says Gilbert Schiff, a University of Cincinnati physician-researcher who has worked with Virazole. ICN "is fooling itself if it thinks it is close."

Sold in Mexico

In the meantime, Mr. Panic promotes Virazole for AIDS. And longtime critics see history repeating itself in ICN's behavior in the torrid drug-company race for the right to sell a medication to the estimated one million to two million U.S. carriers of the AIDS virus. ICN's U.S. publicity for Virazole enhances its legal sales of the drug in Mexico, where until recently it gave a 60% discount to patients referred by a San Francisco AIDS information group.

After the FDA gave a preliminary approval in September to the Burroughs-Wellcome drug AZT, ICN rushed out a news release on Virazole. The release boasted that the FDA had decided to award Virazole a classification that gave it "top priority" for review as a drug effective against AIDS. But the FDA actually hadn't made any decision; the classification is routinely given to any drug for which a company claims AIDS results, an FDA spokesman says.

Then came Mr. Panic's most controversial publicity stunt to date, the Jan. 9 Washington news conference. Sources close to the company said it was he who insisted on holding it—against the advice of the FDA, of ICN's outside public-relations firm, and of its director of regulatory affairs, a former FDA official.

Mr. Panic dispatched Robert Finch, a former HEW secretary who is a director of ICN and the chairman of Viratek, along with the firm's Washington counsel, former Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh, to press FDA Commissioner Frank Young for agency participation in the news conference. The FDA refused, saying its staff hadn't received enough details about the ICN study to make even a preliminary decision. "We told them we couldn't (participate) and suggested that they postpone it instead," says John Norris, deputy FDA commissioner.

Now, sources close to the FDA say the agency's review of the data isn't as optimistic as the picture the company released to the press. And they say a second ICN study of pre-AIDS patients, which recently ended, will show inconclusive results.

Other AIDS researchers are baffled by ICN's refusal to provide government and independent AIDS researchers around the country with details about its first study. For example, ICN hasn't furnished AIDS researchers with data, such as patients' red-blood-cell counts, considered necessary to evaluate the drug's effectiveness. Says Donald Armstrong, a physician who is the chief of infectious diseases at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: "None of us has been given an opportunity to evaluate what they've got."

Cork Examiner
18th February 1987

The nation (ii)

Caring move

THE enormity of the present AIDS crisis was perhaps never so clearly brought home as in the comment of the task force set up by the Hierarchy, which described it as "the greatest single disease threat to humanity since the Black Death" of the 14th century.

That it has not reached anything like these proportions in this country leaves no room for complacency. The threat remains and evidence to date is that, in common with the experience of other countries, it is growing.

For that reason, the Hierarchy's call to the Government to set up an AIDS hotline must be welcomed, because while such a device will not of itself remove the menace, it will at least help the afflicted, and their relatives, to cope with it.

The task force makes the point that if it has to take such action itself, it will have to take a "moral standpoint", by which it must be presumed that it will have to promulgate Church teaching, which, of course, it has the right and the duty to do.

In this delicate area, the Church has come in for some criticism in that it has pointed to the fact that the only real solution to the AIDS crisis is adherence to those standards of morality which would make the spread of the disease impossible; that while this is true, it presumes an ideal society in which nobody steps out of line.

Equally, it must be pointed out that if the Catholic Church were to take any other view, it would not be true to its traditional teaching, which it cannot abandon even in the face of crisis. Doubtless the criticism will continue, if only because there are those who believe that this stance is negative and does nothing to counter the menace.

But in view of the latest initiative, the Hierarchy cannot at least be accused of being uncaring, in that it openly advocates the sort of counselling which is badly needed and for which, as yet, no provision has been made.

Even allowing for the fact that in the course of time we may have the projected Government campaign - presumably interrupted by the election - there will still be need for counselling for those afflicted and those close to them, because in addition to the physical trauma created by the disease, there are associated and very grave psychological problems to be overcome.

What is happening, is that regardless of what may or may not be undertaken by the State, the Church is seeking to develop programmes for its own members involved in caring for those with the dreaded disease and it is advocating the broadening of this spread of information in a way which is both necessary and wise.

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Freed AIDS mother aims to beat drug dependency

By Terry Connealy

FREED from Mountjoy Jail two days after being sentenced to six months in prison, 21-year-old AIDS virus victim, Lorraine Hickey, went straight to Jervis Street Hospital in Dublin to arrange to take a rehabilitation course to wean her off drugs.

Released on bail by the District Court pending an appeal against severity of sentence for stealing 200 cigarettes from a Dublin store, she refused to meet the press, but relayed a message of hope: "I plan a fresh start when this case is over, and am happy that my baby, Joanne, has been found free of full-blown AIDS, though born 19 months ago with antibodies of the disease."

Her message was given to the media at his home in Sean McDermott Street by Joe Costello, chairman of the Prisoners Rights Organisation. Lorraine was not with him for the press conference. She was angered by the international publicity and said she wanted to have her privacy respected.

Mr Costello said that the £300 bail was granted in the surety of Lorraine's father, Mr Joe Hickey. Lorraine told him that she had been well treated by

the prison staff and doctor, but had appealed for a more sensitive approach to fellow women prisoners with drug-related problems.

He knew of two cases of women inmates in isolation who had seriously injured themselves, and he called on Justice Minister Gerry Collins to provide medical facilities outside the prison environment for people already suffering stress because of their addiction.

Lorraine's case received widespread media coverage on Tuesday after she was sentenced when it became known that her baby had gone into jail with her. Baby Joanne and her brother Karl, aged three, are now being looked after by their grandparents, Joe and Ann Hickey.

Grandfather Joe confirmed that Joanne was free from full-blown AIDS, and though Lorraine was still at risk she and her children could enjoy a normal life if she completed the hospital rehabilitation programme.

Mr Costello said tests on Joanne had proved negative in the AIDS tests, but Lorraine's exact condition was not known. It was possible that she could overcome the disease and live a long and useful life.

SW

Evening Press
18th February 1987

US churches drawn into AIDS crisis

By BRENDAN MALIN

MORE AND MORE, the churches of America are being drawn into the AIDS crisis, adopting roles in the campaign to limit the epidemic or becoming the targets of criticism for inaction in the face of what is now being regularly described as "a plague".

On the same Sunday a leading Catholic social worker criticised the hierarchy for insensitivity towards the malady, while a Unitarian minister in a nearby state was distrib-

uting condoms from the pulpit.

The criticism of the church came in Boston from Mr. Lawrence Kessler, director of the local AIDS Action Committee and an activist for Catholic social causes over a period of 25 years. Urging the church to begin responding compassionately to those suffering from AIDS, Mr. Kessler added: "We as a church have an obligation to remind our leaders that bigotry, racism and homophobia embarrass us all — at times outrage us."

He was responding at Masses in the Paulist Centre to the award to him of a citation honouring an American Catholic active in the field of social justice.

He told the congregations that, despite its long, active history of service for the poor, sick and dying, the Catholic Church had ignored Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"We haven't learned to deal with the fundamental issues of humanity, especially when that involves sexuality outside marriage," he declared. "To respond to AIDS we need to set some of our hangups aside and remove some of the barriers to dialogue."

In Amherst, New York, a Unitarian minister distributed condoms to his congregation in the course of a sermon on the avoidance of sexually transmitted diseases.

Rev. Carl Titchener received a standing ovation from his listeners while outside the church a dozen people picketed in protest. They carried banners reading "Only Chastity Will Stop AIDS" and "Just Say No".

Rev. Titchener was half-way through his sermon on the theme "The Condom Conundrum", when he started distributing the devices. Six church ushers aided the distribution.

"By the turn of the century, there will be 100,000 deaths from AIDS," the minister declared, adding "if we do not get this information out rapidly, this country is facing in the future an epidemic, that will make the bubonic plague and the black plague look pale by comparison. That certainly sounds like a life-and-death situation".

5

Television channels join forces to campaign against the Aids threat

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Britain's independent television companies and the BBC are joining forces in a unique campaign to warn the public about the dangers of Aids.

A week of special programmes about the disease will be broadcast to every region from Friday, February 27.

Details of the campaign were announced yesterday along with the results of an opinion poll which shows that Aids is seen as the most important issue facing Britain after unemployment and disarmament.

Mr Mick Rhodes, head of science feature programmes at BBC Television, yesterday said: "We are convinced that joint action by the broadcasters now can play a real part in minimizing the spread of Aids".

Quoting the theme of the Government's health education campaign, Mr John Fairley, director of programmes at Yorkshire Television, said: "The idea is at least to diminish the number of people who will die of ignorance".

Among the programmes is a show produced by London Weekend Television for the ITV network, Rock musicians including Alison Moyet, Simon Le Bon, and Peter Gabriel will take part along with *Spitting Image* puppets in sketches, songs and film reports showing how Aids is, and is not, spread.

The show, *First Aids*, with a studio audience aged 15 to 25, will be screened on February

27 and repeated twice on ITV and once on Channel 4.

BBC1 and BBC2 programmes will range from documentaries such as *Hazdon* to debates, phone-ins and expert advice slots.

"This is an unprecedented week of public health programmes. But Aids is an unprecedented health problem", Mr Roger Laughton, head of BBC Daytime Television, said yesterday.

"We are trying to avoid preaching. People don't look to television for sermons or propaganda. But they do expect the truth. They need to know the facts about Aids so they can make their own

decisions about their own behaviour."

The joint television project is partly the result of talks between the BBC, the ITV companies and Channel 4 with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who sought their support for the Government's own campaign.

The result is a television spotlight on Aids which far exceeds the efforts made in any other country, including the United States, where casualties are the highest in the developed world.

The Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) poll, commissioned

by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, consisted of interviews with 1,004 adults aged 16 to 54 between December 16 and January 4 in 85 constituency sampling points across Britain. All were interviewed in their homes.

The poll shows that there has been a significant rise in the perceived risk of catching Aids in the past two years, but that there is still substantial ignorance and misinformation about the disease.

As a health hazard, it is now rated equally with alcohol disorders. Specific areas of ignorance in certain age and sex categories emerged. They concerned the efficacy of using

a condom; the fact that people with the Aids virus may appear healthy; that those who develop the disease will eventually die as a result and that the Aids virus can be detected by tests.

Most of those polled said they were not promiscuous. Only 5 per cent said they had two or more sexual partners.

Few people thought that the media's coverage of Aids was excessive: 40 per cent thought it was about right, 50 per cent that there was too little and 10 per cent that there was too much.

Parliament, page 4
Aids in Japan, page 7

Health service braced for epidemic

Health authorities throughout Britain are bracing themselves against an explosion of Aids cases in the coming months and years, according to a survey.

Although 535 of the country's 686 known cases have been recorded in the London area, specialists in the Midlands, north of England, Wales and Scotland also fear epidemics.

Yorkshire has had only seven cases so far, but Dr Martin Schweiger, a community medicine specialist in Leeds, has predicted that 100,000 people in the city alone will be infected by the end of the century.

For every one person infected this year there will be 1,000 in 10 years' time, he said. Universities and polytechnics in the Yorkshire region are organizing Aids

advisory programmes to try to blunt the spread of the disease.

Health officials in the northern region, which includes Northumbria, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, Durham and Cumbria, estimate that they will be paying £20 million a year in Aids prevention and treatment by 1995.

So far 20 people in the region have contracted the disease and 14 have died.

The authority has called on its 16 districts to take urgent action, including the formation of counselling services. Specialist teams are being set up at four hospitals, in Sunderland, Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Carlisle, where Aids victims will be treated as inpatients.

About 300 Liverpool general practitioners have been invited to an Aids seminar at the Royal Liverpool Hospital

next week to discuss the epidemic. Ten people in Merseyside and Cheshire have contracted Aids and all have died. The Mersey Regional Health Authority is the first to appoint an Aids programme co-ordinator.

Information from all over the world which might help slow the epidemic is being gathered in a Birmingham data bank. Eleven people in the West Midlands have died from Aids and four more cases have been reported. Dr Rod Griffiths, Aids co-ordinator in the region, said a plan to issue free condoms to prostitutes was being considered.

In Scotland, where 11 of 16 Aids victims have already died, more than 2,000 drug addicts are believed to be infected. Health boards in Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow are taking part in a pilot

scheme to issue free sterile syringes and needles to addicts. Seven Aids patients have died in Wales and another two have the disease.

No cases have been reported in Northern Ireland, but Professor David Simpson, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, said: "The disease could take a hold through the sexual activities of thousands of people who leave the province on holidays."

The Irish Republic has had 16 cases, including nine deaths but some Irish medical experts believe the country is "sitting on a time-bomb" because of a high rate of infection suspected among intravenous drug abusers. Of 535 known Aids carriers, 366 are drug addicts.

The survey was carried out by regional staff of the Press Association.

SW

Today
18th February 1987

TV channels join forces in Aids war



ALISON MOYET

THE four TV channels yesterday launched a no holds barred war on Aids.

The £1 million package will include programmes giving explicit details about the disease before the 9pm watershed when children are expected to be watching.

But TV bosses say they are prepared to run the gauntlet with viewers who might be offended in "a bid to alleviate the greatest health emergency of the century."

The week-long, 20-programme campaign, which will include documentaries, debates, phone-ins and advice slots, has the backing

by **AVRIL CONNARD**

of Health Minister Norman Fowler.

Mr Fowler will be appearing on the first programme at 7.30pm on February 27, with a host of stars including Simon Le Bon of Duran Duran, Alison Moyet, Bananarama and Peter Gabriel.

Sketches

Called First Aids and made by London Weekend Television, it is aimed at younger people and will show through sketches, songs and film reports, how Aids is spread.

In another programme the BBC has signed up rock star Ian Dury and Radio 1 disc jockey Janice Long for its first show, Aids — The Facts.

The decision by the BBC and the ITV channels to co-operate over programming is unprecedented.

Also during the week, Central TV will broadcast Britain's first Aids drama, Intimate Contact.

It is the story of a businessman who contracts the disease from a New York prostitute.

Mick Rhodes, the BBC's head of science features said: "I am sure we are going to offend some people."

"But we have got to speak clearly."

Mr Geraint Stanley Jones, BBC director of public affairs said: "There is a danger of frightening members of the public but only those who have no sex life can afford not to be frightened."

"There is a substantial ignorance and misinformation about Aids."

● A Spitting Image sketch which will be shown on First Aids shows Mrs Thatcher and the Cabinet mystified by the problem.

John Lloyd, Spitting Image executive producer, said: "In the sketch they are completely unclear about what it is or what to do to prevent it."

"They are even considering whether to privatise it."

Move to give free condoms to prisoners

PRISONERS should be given free condoms to prevent Aids spreading through jails, it was urged last night.

The Prison Reform Trust said it was time the Home Office stopped refusing to acknowledge that homosexuality existed in prison.

"This is unrealistic and unsafe," said trust director Una Padel. "Prisoners terrified of catching Aids have only been given the standard leaflet."

So far only 24 of Britain's 47,000 prisoners are known to have the virus.

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Don't die of ignorance, die of fright

MY seven-year-old son has never been keen on sport, but he loves language. When he doesn't understand a word he asks me to explain it, and later he will try it out on his younger sister, with varying degrees of success.

It is something I encourage. He may not, as his father would wish, grow up to play for Arsenal, but he stands a good chance of being literate and articulate. Only now there is a problem.

"What is Aids," he asked last week after he saw an advertisement that popped up between Treasure House and Debbie Greenwood's kiddies' quiz show on BBC1. It was not easy to answer.

Children of that age don't even know what sex is. And how do you explain promiscuity, homosexuality and condoms to a child who still believes in Santa and the tooth fairy?

After years of carefully vetting children's programmes to suit Mary Whitehouse and the IBA, the government, in its desperation to curb Aids, has blundered through a delicate minefield.

Don't die of Ignorance is the message of the spooky advertisements. They needn't worry — most nine to 13-years-olds are about to die of fright.

Playground talk is, and always will be, ill-informed. Rumour feeds on rumour and the result is our children are having nightmares.

If we have to have them during peak children's viewing time, advertisements should be geared to their needs. That need is for reassurance as well as awareness.

Jasper Carrot, referring to the first advertisement, joked that the only message that came across was "Don't make love on top of a volcano, don't make love with a florist, and if you are using a pneumatic drill then make sure you wear a condom".

The latest ad — and the one chosen to go out for children's viewing — is even more laughable. The director has moved from a quarry to a submarine in the Arctic. When you see the lump of ice you half expect the fox to pop up chewing a glacier mint.

As an explanation of what Aids is, it is woefully inadequate. As a means to scare children it is unfortunately extremely successful.

Cork Examiner
19th February 1987

**AIDS victims
may face
murder charges**

AIDS victims who knowingly infect other people may face murder charges in Bavaria and one person is in custody pending investigations, the West German state justice minister said yesterday.

Minister Mathilde Berghofer-Weichner told the Bavarian parliament that the state authorities were investigating a number of people suffering from AIDS.

Those found to have caused a partner's death by knowingly passing on the disease could be tried for murder, she said.

SV

Today
19th February 1987

TODAY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1987

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Part-time Ann leads fight on Aids



AIDS TEAM: Sir Brian, Miss Burdus, Mr Service and Mr Fowler yesterday

ADVERTISING: supreme Ann Burdus is to spearhead Britain's battle against Aids for two days a week.

She will take charge of a new team announced yesterday by Health Secretary Norman Fowler.

Miss Burdus, a director of Europe's biggest market research agency, takes over responsibility for all advertising and leaflets in the effort to educate the public about the deadly disease.

She becomes joint deputy chairman of a new organisation called the Health Education Authority, which replaces the Health Education Council on April 1.

Miss Burdus, employed by AGB

by CHRIS MIHILL
Medical Correspondent

Research, will be unpaid and part-time.

But Mr Fowler said she would provide an experience and expertise that it would have been impossible to recruit full-time.

Her fellow deputy chairman will be Alastair Service, of the Family Planning Association. The chairman will be HEC chairman Sir Brian Bailey.

The new authority will take over the £12 million still unspent from the government's £20 million Aids public education fund.

Mr Fowler said: "One of the

most profound challenges we face in this country comes from Aids.

"It is a matter of the utmost public importance that the challenge is met."

The government has been accused of scrapping the Health Education Council because it speaks out too loudly against alcohol, tobacco and dairy farming.

The current director of the HEC, Dr David Player, has publicly said he believes he is being sacked for being too outspoken.

But Mr Fowler said: "It is totally, utterly and completely untrue that pressure from the tobacco and alcohol industries led to the closure of the HEC."

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Daily Mail
20th February 1987

Queen's concern over AIDS plague

By Glyn Middleton

THE Queen spoke of her concern about AIDS yesterday when she visited the front line of the battle against the deadly epidemic.

She voiced her fears after being told the disease may claim the lives of 2,000 Britons by the end of the century.

Prince Philip joined the Queen on a visit to the Royal College of Pathologists in London, during which she was briefed on the AIDS scourge.

Professor Jangu Banatvala, the college's registrar, said later that the Queen was 'very concerned' about the disease.

Rampant

'We talked about the progress in the research towards finding a vaccine and whether we were optimistic or pessimistic about it. She asked how long it would be before we had a vaccine which could be useful.'

The Professor said that the Queen was 'very interested in how the virus got into the cells and the clinical features, such as the effect on the brain and the spinal cord.'

The Queen was told of research into the way the virus is spreading beyond the high-risk groups of homosexuals and drug abusers.

Professor Banatvala added: 'We have a large gay community in Lambeth and many West Indians, who are mainly heterosexual, plus Africans who have moved here from areas where the disease is rampant.'

Hygiene

The royal couple spent more than an hour studying information on AIDS and other diseases during their visit, which marked the college's 25th anniversary. Prince Philip was heard to remark: 'There is enough information around, so the message should get across.'

The Professor added that the Queen was interested in the question of screening the public for AIDS and how the disease could cause dementia. The royal visitors were also shown the latest research on cervical and breast cancer.

The National Union of Teachers said yesterday that children with AIDS should go to school as normal and be treated the same as other pupils. In guidelines to its 650 branches, the union said: 'Proper hygiene procedures are all that is necessary to ensure the safety of children and staff.'

A former American soldier is being held in West Germany accused of causing grievous bodily harm by knowingly spreading AIDS. Prosecutors in Nuremberg said the 46-year-old man had sex with a number of partners without telling them he had the disease.

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US sales of condoms are soaring

By BRENDAN MALIN

Once almost unmentionable, and purchased surreptitiously, condoms are becoming one of the biggest sales items in U.S. drug stores. The reason has nothing to do with birth control but rather concerns the growing threat from the incurable disease known as AIDS.

Condom sales are now averaging almost 400 million a year, well over three times the adult population of the U.S. and a recent AIDS warning by the U.S. surgeon general could double the business in the present year. Speaking to a committee of the U.S. Congress, Dr. C. Everett Koop urged that condoms be advertised on national television.

The only more certain ways to avoid AIDS, warned the surgeon general, are celibacy and monogamy and, for intravenous drug users, to avoid sharing dirty needles.

Representative of the disappearance of condom taboos, are campaigns being waged to bring the equipment to the attention of teen-agers.

As examples, there was the action of officials of Greenfield Community College in western Massachusetts, where condoms were distributed to students free and without request. The family planning arm of Action for Boston Community Development, an anti-poverty agency, went even further. It declared a "National Condom Week" in the city when the equipment was distributed freely in 10 clinics. In addition teachers and counsellors in scores of high schools are freely discussing — sometimes advocating — the acquisition of condoms by teen-agers, as part of sex education courses.

Network television executives, however, are still baulking at the idea of running

condom advertising although some regional TV stations are accepting the surgeon general's advice. When Channel 56 in Boston announced, recently, that it planned to run condom ads, the response, by way of letters and phone calls, was 75 to 80 per cent in favour, according to the station's general manager, Mr. Gerald Walsh.

"Being Irish-Catholic and from Boston, it was touchy", said Mr. Walsh in assessing the decision, "but we looked at it not as a moral but a social issue".

Last month, a poll conducted by NBC-TV and the Wall Street Journal showed that 79 per cent of Americans believed it is appropriate to put condom ads, on television.

Newsletter 20th February 1987

AZT, an experimental drug being used to treat AIDS patients around the United States, may be less effective than previously believed, according to Minnesota medical officials.

"Its effects are, at best, short-lived," said Michael Osterholm, Minnesota state epidemiologist. "It isn't the answer. It's a first step. It would be unfortunate if people thought this was the panacea."

But initially, AZT will be the only drug used by the University of Minnesota's Health Sciences Centre and 18 other centres designated by the National Institutes of Health to participate in a national AIDS treatment research programme.

The head of the research team at the University of Minnesota centre concedes AZT has serious drawbacks.

"If we weren't concerned about AZT, we wouldn't be doing research on it," said Dr Hank Balfour Jr, professor of laboratory medicine, pathology and pediatrics, and medical director of the Clinical Virology Programme.

Balfour defended the use of AZT in the research project, noting it is the first drug that offers hope to AIDS patients. Osterholm said that hope may be short-lived, based on results of a major national study that began in February 1986.

The study, designed by the drug's maker in collaboration with medical experts, shows that AIDS patients receiving AZT started to deteriorate toward the end of the study's end.

While patients taking a placebo were in worse condition at the study's end, those taking AZT may have become just as ill in another few months, he said.

Those taking AZT "had an initial improvement and then started going downhill," Osterholm said, adding that details from the study have not been made public.

By the study's end, he said, the immune systems of those taking AZT were the same as at the beginning.

"Also, those with AZT got as many episodes of illness needing hospitalisation as those who got placebos," Osterholm said.

But federal health officials ended the study in September, three months early, and claimed the drug was so effective it should be made more widely available.

While AZT is the first drug that will be used at the university's AIDS research centre, Balfour said, it won't be the only one.

Balfour shared Osterholm's worries about AZT's toxicity and whether its benefits are lasting.

"The problem is it may be licensed in an unprecedented way," Balfour said, referring to how quickly federal officials may have it on the market.

Concern

SOME local doctors estimate half of the Minnesota AIDS patients who have been given the new anti-viral capsule, AZT, which stands for azidothymidine, have been taken off the drug or have had their dosages cut because of the drug's toxicity.

One doctor said AZT contributed in part to the death of a patient with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Of the 11 AIDS patients at Hennepin County and Paul Nicollet - medical centres who started taking AZT in the autumn, seven have been taken off, Dr Scott Strickland, a staff physician at both medical centres, said. One of the seven died.

That patient had been doing well until he took AZT, Strickland said. The patient developed anaemia after taking the drug, was taken off it and then died, he said.

"We consider it a contributing factor in the patient's death," Strickland said of AZT, which works by blocking the ability of the AIDS virus to replicate inside a host cell.

Of the estimated 24 to 36 AIDS patients in Minnesota who have been given AZT, about half have been taken off the drug or have had their dosages adjusted because of toxicity, said Dr Margaret Simpson, one of Strickland's colleagues at Hennepin County Medical Centre and director of the centre's AIDS clinic.

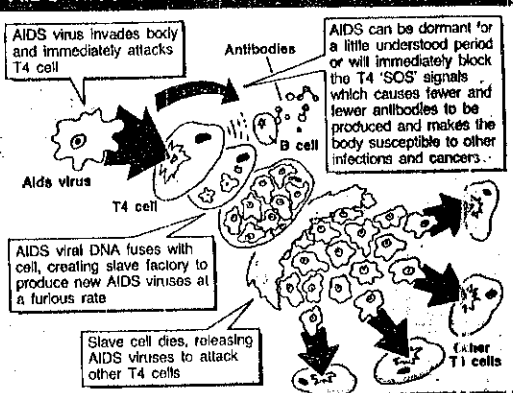
"There are those who improve while taking it," Strickland said of AZT.

"But we've had more people having problems with side effects, such as anaemia, low white blood counts, headaches."

In anaemia patients, blood does not carry enough oxygen to organs. Patients with low white blood counts suffer a weakening of their immune systems and can't fight infections.

"Other centres around the country have had the same experience," Strickland said. "It seems it

AIDS virus attack



'Wonder' AIDS drug disappoints experts

Medical Correspondent SHIRLEY JACKSON looks at AZT, a new drug in the war against AIDS.

benefits a selected few while there's a larger number who seem to get worse from taking it."

Dr Hannan Rosenstein, a local physician in private practice, said three of the seven patients he placed on AZT remain on the drug and are doing well. He took some off for reasons unrelated to the AZT, he said. One suffered a skin rash.

"I'm not seeing a lot of problems with AZT," Rosenstein said. "The worst was the skin rash."

"It's the only thing we have," he said of the drug. "It's a stopgap medication. As soon as newer drugs come out that are less toxic, AZT will go by the wayside."

Other doctors agreed that the hope for the future is not with AZT, but with other drugs.

"In the next one or two years, a less toxic relative of AZT will supersede AZT," Henry said.

In the meantime, research using AZT will proceed at the University of Minnesota and the 18 other AIDS treatment research centres.

The centres, dubbed AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units, are scattered throughout the country. More than US\$100 million has been budgeted for the research nationally.

The first 14 centres have been using AZT in their research and the university plans to use the drug in its research when it starts seeing patients this week, Balfour said.

So far, only two research plans have been approved for the research centres, Balfour said.

One involves trying different dosages of AZT on AIDS patients who have had Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), a rare pneumonia that often strikes AIDS patients.

The other involves giving AZT to a group of AIDS patients with Kaposi's sarcoma, a rapidly growing skin cancer, and giving placebos to another group with the cancer.

But Balfour said some 70 other research plans have been developed by National Institutes of Health officials and members of the designated research centres. The plans involve eight to 10 different drugs, he said.

group include interferon and interleukin-2, he said.

During the four years, the centres will research treatments for patients in various stages of AIDS — from those with the virus but no symptoms to those very ill, Balfour said.

THE original AZT study, which began last February, involved 282 people. Some were AIDS patients who had also suffered their first bout of the rare pneumonia, PCP. Others had AIDS-related complex, meaning although they were infected with the virus, their symptoms were not as severe as those of full-blown AIDS.

By mid-September, there had been 18 deaths among the 137 patients receiving placebos and one among the 145 taking AZT. An independent review board set up by the National Institutes of Health recommended the study be halted and the drug given to the placebo patients.

The drug was made available nationwide to AIDS victims who met certain criteria, including having had PCP.

It is expected to be on the market and more widely available within the next few weeks.

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Today
20th February 1987

TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1987

Close-up of a killer



DEATH CELL: the alien-like tentacles of Aids

Queen and Philip see the deadly Aids virus

by CHRIS MIHILL, Medical Correspondent

THE Queen and Prince Philip got a close-up view of the Aids virus yesterday — and were told it was still safe for Britons to kiss.

The royal couple were shown photographs of the deadly virus like the one above during a tour of the Royal College of Pathologists in Mayfair, London.

Professor Jehanm Banaatvelaz, professor of clinical virology at St Thomas Hospital, warned that Aids cases were likely to increase.

But his research had led him to conclude that kissing was safe. "The virus has been found in saliva but the amounts are very low," he said.

"The virus is very fragile and the digestive enzymes will probably neutralise it."

The professor said kissing was a "low risk even a non-risk".

The Queen's tour marked the college's silver jubilee year.

Victims 'safe in schools'

THERE'S no need for schools to treat young Aids carriers any differently from other pupils, Britain's biggest teaching union says today.

"Proper hygiene procedures are all that is necessary to ensure the safety of children and staff," says the National Union of Teachers.

But schools must have adequate toilets, washing equipment and medical supplies for proper hygiene, the union says in guidelines to its members.

Sex and Salvation Homosexuals' Status In the Catholic Church Is Divisive Issue in U.S.

As the Vatican Gets Tougher
On Activist Parishioners,
Stand Vexes Many Clerics

Dutch Group Sues Cardinal

By DIANNA SOLIS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

HOUSTON—In an austere setting at 3217 Fannin St., a visitor can glimpse one result of the Vatican's campaign against homosexual activity and against church support of homosexual-rights groups. There, Mass is being celebrated in a nondescript office building in a run-down neighborhood—in a place of worship adorned only with a wooden cross and a banner emblazoned "Dignity."

Dignity is the name of a national organization of homosexual Catholics who believe that their expressions of sexuality can be morally good—a posture opposing Vatican doctrine. For such activists, not only in Houston but also in many other U.S. dioceses, the welcome mat has been withdrawn from steeped church property.

At the Mass on Fannin Street, the traditional prayer for the pope and his bishops is followed by a provocative plea: "deliverance for those with closed minds and closed hearts." Later the priest confides that he fears for his collar because the conservative local diocese insists on acceptance of church doctrine.

'Afraid of the Backlash'

"I wish I were braver," he says, explaining his request for anonymity. "I am afraid of the backlash."

Although many other priests, nuns and lay Catholics around the country condemn the Vatican's stand, that stand is justified and moral in the minds of other Catholics. The Bible can be used to defend either side, but its most frequently cited passages on the subject seem to rebuke homosexuality.

"The church isn't a democracy," says the Rev. John G. Woolsey, who runs family-development programs for the New York Archdiocese. "We don't shift teachings according to the latest Gallup Poll."

But now the once taboo subject of homosexuality is erupting throughout the Catholic Church in the U.S., threatening to overtake abortion as the prime issue in sexual-morality debate. And as the church gets tougher, homosexual Catholics have begun marshaling support for confrontation. "There is just a terrible pain out there," says the Rev. Robert Nugent of Maywood, N.J., who leads the 3,500-member Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil Rights. "I just don't see things settling down."

Pope to Visit

The controversy could reach a peak in September, when the pope is scheduled to return to the U.S. eight years after his triumphal first visit. Some organizers vow they will hold demonstrations as chilly as those conducted two years ago by liberal Dutch Catholics protesting the Vatican's tough views on contraception and other issues of sexual morality.

Although the homosexuality issue has remained behind the scenes in most of southern Europe, it has become explosive in the less-traditional North, particularly in the socially liberal Netherlands. Earlier this month, the ultra-conservative head of the Dutch church, Cardinal Adrianus Simonis, sparked heated public criticism when he said in a radio interview that he would respect a landlord who refused a homosexual tenant. Yesterday, a Dutch court heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by a prominent Dutch gay rights group alleging that the cardinal's statement violated Dutch laws against inciting discrimination.

Willemien Ruygrok, a spokeswoman for the Dutch Association for the Integration of Homosexuality, argues that "if Simonis had said he sympathized with people not wanting a black on their property, or a Jew . . . he would be convicted" of discrimination.

But Marjet de Jong, a spokeswoman for the cardinal, says his remarks reflected his religious opinion and that he is charged with "sustaining the faith and beliefs of the church."

And according to the Associated Press, Johannes Wijn, the cardinal's defense counsel, argued in court yesterday, "The right to express religious views implicitly allows people to note differences, in other words, to discriminate." He added, "moreover, in a free-enterprise society, any landlord should be free to refuse any tenants he does not like." A verdict is expected within two weeks.

In the U.S., some demonstrations have escalated into ugly confrontations. In New York City during the 1983 "gay pride" parade along Fifth Avenue, a fist fight erupted between members of Dignity and members of an anti-homosexual Catholic group. In Dayton, Ohio, when the local Dignity chapter held an anniversary Mass this past summer, a group of picketers staged a protest. "Dignity is destroying the church," a placard proclaimed.

The division is especially evident in the ranks of the clergy. Catholic clerics commonly voice public opposition to the practice of homosexuality. Nevertheless, on the issue of whether the church should minister to groups of unrepentant homosexuals or bar them, the split is wide and growing.

"This is a rather sad thing," says the Rev. Laurence Connelly, a parish priest in Sugarland, Texas, who calls the Vatican's stand "anti-Christ and anti-Gospel." He

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Sex and Salvation: Status of Catholic Homosexuals Becoming an Increasingly Divisive Issue in the U.S.

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s. "I am just sick and tired of what is on."

One side of the issue, John Cardinal of Philadelphia and Bishop Leo T. of San Diego forbid Masses to groups of openly gay members. In New York, John O'Connor has successfully fought a fight to preserve the church's right to ordain homosexuals. More recently, the Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil held a series of seminars in the area, one of the region's bishops denied use of church property. And just last month, Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of New York's Brooklyn Diocese, a man long considered sympathetic to groups like Dignity, barred such organizations from using church buildings for meetings or religious

On the other hand, in Seattle, Archbishop of Seattle and Hunthausen sanctioned a Dignity group and even delivered the opening address at the group's national convention; six months ago, however, he stripped him of much of his authority, in part because of his tolerance of the group. Two weeks ago, the Rev. John J. of New York, a self-proclaimed anti-homosexual, was expelled from the order for public dissent from the church's teaching on homosexuality. Father Neill, who for a decade had been ordered from the church to refrain from publicly espousing his views on homosexuality, said in a speech that sexual-issues should be judged by "free-conscience" as well as by church

The most notable move was taken by the church itself in October. With more openly questioning the contemporary—even the morality—of certain passages about homosexuality, the homosexual lay groups gaining momentum as a result, the Vatican felt it to issue a strong pastoral letter. The letter on homosexuality "disordered," condemned homosexual groups for their "deception" and warned bishops supporting any Catholic group that treats homosexuality as be-

The letter added that despite the epidemics of acquired immune-deficiency syndrome, or AIDS, homosexuals are undeterred and refuse to consider the magnitude of the risks involved. "The church has the pastoral letter stirred controversy as in the U.S. To some extent, the church's pronouncement is a sign of dissolving the centuries-old distinction between the 'sinner' and the 'innocent.'" The Catholic Church itself, however, operates special ministries for homosexuals in an estimated 80% of

derer, "and another to be a sinner and think it's an asset."

The church has always accepted worshippers whose sexual urges, if not activities, are directed toward members of their own sex—but only those who express repentance over their past sexual practices. In fact, a church-sanctioned organization called Courage works to counsel such people toward heterosexuality or chaste lives. Yet the October pastoral letter stated that "the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder."

But according to some Catholic homosexual activists, the proportion of homosexually inclined people within the Catholic clergy itself greatly exceeds the 10% generally estimated for the population at large. Kevin Gordon of New York, a former brother of the Christian order, published a book last month estimating that 40% to 60% of the Catholic clergy is homosexual. (He doesn't estimate the number of those that practice homosexuality.) But Mr. Gordon, who runs a Catholic think tank on homosexuality, says that ambition keeps many of these clergymen from challenging the church.

"If you want to get that red cap of the cardinal, you have to do the party line, especially on sexual issues," says the author. "These are company men."

The church wasn't always so vocal about its opposition, or so tough. More than 15 years ago the late John Cardinal Cody of the Chicago Archdiocese—then the U.S.'s largest—sanctioned Dignity-sponsored Masses. In 1976, the U.S. bishops maintained a conciliatory view toward homosexuals. "They have a right to respect, friendship and justice," the bishops said in a pastoral letter. "They should have an active role in the Christian community." Even in 1983, the Washington State Catholic Conference, while opposing homosexuality, resolved that "the prejudice against homosexuals is greater infringement of the norm of Christian morality."

Passages Questioned

Of particular concern to the Vatican, liberal forces began scholarly questioning of such explicit biblical passages as the pronouncement in the Old Testament book of Leviticus that "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination." Besides criticizing these passages as outdated, among other points, some clerics began trying to overturn them with other biblical passages. "But by God's grace I am what I am," they read from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, "and the grace that he gave me was not without effect."

To make matters worse, the church was coming under attack for being slow to

organization of 5,000 members whose chief goal is to keep homosexuals in the Catholic Church. Its central activity is celebrating Mass.

In the autumn, the Houston chapter emblazoned "Mass Appeal" banners in bars and restaurants in the city's largely homosexual Montrose neighborhood. In Philadelphia, Dignity pays train fare or gasoline money so that priests from New York, New Jersey and the Washington, D.C., area can conduct services there for homosexuals—at St. Luke and the Epiphany Episcopal Church. "No priest in our diocese will touch us," explains Michael Flynn, a Dignity member in Philadelphia.

Option of Changing Churches

Why not quit Catholicism for Episcopalianism or one of several other religions with more liberal views toward homosexuals? Many Catholic homosexuals explain that abandoning so paternal a church wouldn't be any easier than escaping their sexuality.

"The Catholic Church is my heritage," says Mr. Flynn, the grandson of Irish immigrants. "There are so many things I like about the church: the sacraments, the Eucharist, the smells and bells. They are not going to take that away from me."

Some Dignity leaders recognize that homosexuality is a moral minefield, and they try to tread lightly through it. Joseph Nuber, a former seminarian who heads the Houston group, tries to soften any breach of church policy by insisting that his chapter doesn't specifically condone homosexual activity.

The group's image-consciousness has won it occasional political recognition, such as the Dignity Day in Houston proclaimed by Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Compared with other "gay rights" groups, Dignity's activities are studiously inconspicuous: a pilgrimage to Lourdes for AIDS victims, for instance, and soup kitchens and toy drives for the poor.

But some of Dignity's activities take it well out of the religious mainstream. The national group's newsletter carries a column titled "Saints of the Closet?" that profiles the lives of saints thought to have been homosexual. Dignity's float in the last gay-pride parade in New York depicted Jesus as the good shepherd tending a flock of sheep—every tenth one painted lavender, to symbolize the 10% of the population generally thought to be homosexual. And for some members, raising a clenched fist at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the main church in Cardinal O'Connor's archdiocese, has become a ritual of the parade.

"There are a number of Dignity members who want to make a meaningful, creative nonviolent type of protest," says