Print Media

National HIV and AIDS Archives

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16th to 20th February 1987
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Widely-available sex book banned

"Today's Briefing" April 16, 1987

Today's Briefing, April 16, 1987

"These people are not entitled to say what we should read"
back in class

AIDS: two children

By SÉNÁN MOLONY
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 Hafner (38) for a Church marriage to his wife, Marita (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.
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)
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 Institute, 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.”

“Sex associated with death could produce hang-ups”

Dr Prudence Tunnicliffe, 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 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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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 for 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 ($5.66), 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," she said.

Warburg, which is Wellcome's investment 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 1986, 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 antiviral 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 pneumonitis, 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 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 Hoffmann-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, contaminated 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 coworkers at the university, the National Institutes of Health and Centocor Inc. of Malvern, Pa., describe 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 rages the human immune system, leaving victims vulnerable to death by a variety of rare infections and cancers.
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 more rapid AIDS antibody test and have isolated a cat virus that may provide a model for animal tests of therapies and vaccines against the disorder.

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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.
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 ITV and ETV, and there are echoes in television already suggesting that AIDS is now being given the soap treatment.

I think that we could designate a ground-breaking drama which will undoubtedly make a whole section of society who profoundly believed that AIDS could not happen to them realise that everyone is vulnerable.

In Intimate Contact, Daniel Massey plays a seasoned 39,000-gross senior executive with an electric car firm. He appears to have all the trappings of a leading wide, beautiful children, a stylish fashionable house and, naturally, membership of an exclusive golf club.

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

The series charts the way in which first neighbours then the local authorities, called Clare Gregory, who is later expelled from the golf club, the reaction of colleagues and those at work who finally have him transferred out of his office by accidently locking his two teenage children in the family's car.

SECURITY POLICE

It showed how his wife and his son against him. The despair he felt at all was caused by a single moment of temptation, and finally the newly diagnosed wrote to hospital with his family's anguish.

The idea for the series came to writer Alma Cullen when she found herself at a business conference and was picked out just like Claire Gregory. She just listened to a whole bunch of so-called intelligent people congratulating themselves on how they were killing themselves off with AIDS, she said.

I just wanted to show and what they were saying, not what they were doing. We thought they 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 how just right things could happen and how even the most comfortable middle-class people can be hit by this disease.

I wanted to add the series AIDS At The Golf Club because the series shows how even the most comfortable people can tell themselves entitled yet be taken 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 we are going to have to talk about the subject... to get the message 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 about AIDS victims. At the moment we just tend to think of 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 films and television works. But that again Intimate Contact is one of the most important projects they have ever been involved in.

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

PHYSICAL DECLINE

'She is the kind of person who, unfortunately, is too prevalent in society today,' said Miss Symes. 'She is simply does not understand what is happening, but she seems everything.'

'You think she just doesn't want to know. I suppose I can identify in a great extent because I can't say that I haven't been guilty of prejudice, but I do let through the series.

'If anyone asks you the message that if you do sleep around when you go on a business trip then you will have 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 and leaving from my 24-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 astonishment, but I realised that I had been frightened by what the actress was saying.'

You just didn't realise what they were saying about... to the masses about the effects of AIDS across to every man, woman and child in the country.'
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 this 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 Hotline 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.

Yet 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 Limerick. 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.
Church task force call for AIDS hotline

AIDS in Europe

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 task force, linked to an information centre started by a papal commission, should be established in each country to educate the public and to offer help to victims, the task force recommended.

Each country would also set up a national agency to appropriate services which could include legal aid, psychological help and distribution of contraceptives.

The task force, set up in the Vatican Secretariat, last summer to identify ways in which the Catholic Church could respond to the spread of the disease, said that education and awareness were the main weapons in the battle against AIDS.

The Church could provide priests, religious, monasteries, monasteries and other organisations with information about the health, psychological and pastoral needs related to AIDS, as well as developing programmes for those who have lost loved ones to the disease.

The task force report, released today, said that the Pope's visit would be independent of any particular country, but that it could be given prominence in countries where the need was greatest.

The report follows months of negotiations by the secretariat, which had the support of the hierarchy and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, within the Vatican.

The report's conclusions have been passed on to the Catholic Social Services Conference, a worldwide body of Catholic organisations and institutions, and to the Holy See's own AIDS commission.

The report calls for urgent action to educate the public about the disease and its prevention, and for more research into the causes and treatments of AIDS.

The task force was set up by Cardinal John Dew, archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand, and Father Paul Hudson, director of the World Health Organization's AIDS programme in Rome, in 1985, but it was never officially established.

At the request of Archbishop Peter Canavan, the task force met on two occasions last year to discuss the progress of the world-wide AIDS crisis.

At the meeting of the World Health Organization in Geneva last month, Dr. David Evans, director of the World Health Organization's AIDS programme, said that the task force was an example of the international response to the AIDS crisis.
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
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 panel appointed 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.
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 suppose 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-fated joy as they taste it.

Enter mother, a virago if ever there was one. Noting the offspring's enthusiasm for the dinner, she smiles thinly and announces that she will now have every Sunday off. Dad smiles much more thinly. Presumably it would not occur to him to forget the gravy cube next time, and reassert his traditional right 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 come 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 Libyan) 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 Arabie, and then an English translation by a Gadafy aide. Gadafy's outlook didn't exactly seem sublime: "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 heavy-handed.

* * *

"HE'S an Aries," said Thelma Mansfield of husband Johnnie Morris (Saturday Live, RTE 1).
AIDS, holotie urged by Church committee

The AIDS task force, which was established to address the global AIDS crisis, has recommended increasing funding for research and treatment programs. The task force has identified several key areas where funding is needed, including antiretroviral drugs, vaccines, and diagnostic tests. The recommendation is based on the urgent need to combat this crisis and prevent the spread of the disease.
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.
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 perilous 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, 32 carried out the attack after watching rape scenes on television a day after being freed from jail.

Mr Simon Beers, 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 tube station after her friend had been attacked earlier in the morning.

**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 driver 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 12-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 RUSSELL WINTHUR and MICHAEL WALDROPH STAFF REPORTERS OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CHICAGO—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 hopefully 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 aimed 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 reality of the drug's effects, say critics, is that it isn't even clear that it exists.

In other words: ICN 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's supplied data need to be reevaluated—ICN has been making a powerful case for the drug's approval. Since early 1988, Mr. Panic (pronounced Panitz) has been promoting the Virazole against AIDS story with "persuasive view" 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 clinical trial data study.

Since ICN began making claims about Virazole's use against AIDS a year and a half ago, its stock price has moved more than double, from $15 to $31, and ICN's 45%-owned research unit, which holds the rights to Virazole, has jumped more than 220% 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 $1 million in new stock sales and increasingly attractive convertible-debt offerings. The company is small as drug companies go—it earned $13 million in sales of $120 million in fiscal 1986—but the stock surge makes possible Mr. Panic's plan to raise more than $50 million by year-end to take over a large drug company.

SEC Investigation

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

"enthusiasm with exaggeration." He points out that respected Eastman Kodak Co. financed ICN's AIDS studies and is financing a $45 million, three-year joint research venture with ICN into new drugs. Kodak holds 5% of the Virazole unit's common stock and 2% of ICN.

Whoever is right, this isn't the first time that ICN has drawn criticism and regulatory rebuke for its promotion campaigns. Since Mr. Panic, a Yale immigrant from Yugoslavia, founded ICN in 1969, the record shows he frequently has used brush tactics to promote both its drugs and its stock. Over the years, he has tangled with regulators, shareholders and even the SEC.

"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 persuasive 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. Hepp, 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 politicians and advisers he attracted to ICN were two men who headed the SEC and a former secretary of health, education and welfare.

Inside the company, Mr. Panic, who controls about 7.3% 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's lawsuit, a SEC commission committee of the board found that Mr. Panic owed the company $125,000 for personal medical and political expenses and for personal use of the company's 20-seat jet and a Lake Tahoe, Nev., vacation house. He paid it, but sympathetic directors awarded him $1,600 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 several press releases. At the time, the SEC chairman had given ICN 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's failure to capitalized search and acquisition costs, he dismissed them.

Study was one of two that ICN submitted to the FDA. 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 stock options—under ICN's approving some use of Virazole—to buy 57,500 shares of Viratek at prices of about $7 and $13 a share. The stock is now selling at $60 a share. He receives 50,000 a year as a consultant and gets royalties for sales of the missing device.

might 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 conditions stipulated were granted after Dr. Knight had finished the last of his Virazole studies that were performed, 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 disclosure: "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 officials adds, "there's a sense that it's not a scientific result from a scientist with a financial interest in a company might skew results."

Dr. Knight acknowledges that some researchers have been concerned about his ties to Viratek. 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 independent board chairman who has 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 unverified or inaccurate data, and that the company has failed to provide information the agency requested. As a result, the FDA rejected Virazole in oral form for inflammation, hepatitis and herpes infections in 1975, citing concerns about toxicity and lack of evidence that it worked.
In 1979, ICN’s promotion of its pending Fda license to market Api, 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 Api cooled 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 for 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 was classic. He obtained an option to buy for $6 million a pharmaceutical concern that would triple ICN’s annual sales. The option expired, and when a higher price allowed ICN to raise the money to complete the acquisition, RibiBi, 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 Ronald K. Rubinstain, a biochemist at the National Institutes of Health. Virazole 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, and tropical fever 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, when it gave it “unrestricted” status 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 R.E.W. secretary who is a director of ICN, to address the media. What the firm’s Washington counsel, former Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh, to press FDA Commissioner Frank Young for agency participation in the news conference. Mr. Finch 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,” Mr. Finch 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 is most 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 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 chief of infectious diseases at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: “None of us has been given an opportunity to evaluate what they’ve got.”
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.
Freed AIDS mother aims to beat drug dependency

By Terry Connealy

FREEED 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.
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 mat-
dy, while a Unitarian minister in a nearby state was distrib-
uting condoms from the pul-

The criticism of the church came in Boston from Mr. Law-
rence Reeser, 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 compas-
ionately to those suffering from AIDS, Mr. Reeser added: "We as a church have an obligation to remind our lea-
ters that bigotry, racism and homophobia embarrass us all — at times outrage us."

He was responding at Masses in the Parish Centre to the award to him of a citi-
tion 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 aside our hangups 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 when outside the church a dozen people pick-
eted in protest. They carried banners reading "Only Charity Will Stop AIDS" and "Just Say No."

Rev. Titchener was halfway through his sermon on the theme "The Condom Conun-
drum," when he started distri-
buting 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".
Television channels join forces to campaign against the Aids threat

By Thomas Paxton
Science Correspondent

Britain's independent television companies and the BBC are joining forces to make 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 13.

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

Mr Mick Boley, head of science programmes at BBC Television, yesterday said: "We are convinced that joint action by the broadcast media now can play a major part in minimising the spread of Aids."

Quoting the figures from the Government's health education campaign, Mr Boley said: "We in the BBC cannot bring the number of people who will die of Aids to very many who will die of cancer or heart disease."

The survey, funded by a £20,000 grant from the Royal London Hospital, showed that the public are aware of Aids but are not sure about what it is and how to avoid it.

"Most of the people who do not understand Aids are those who do not want to face the fact that people with Aids can be young, healthy, that those who develop the disease will eventually die as a result and that the Aids virus can be detected by tests," he said.

Most of those polled said they were not particularly concerned. Only 7 per cent said they had not been asked to be tested.

From February 27, special programmes on Aids will be shown on Channel 4, BBC1 and BBC2. The programmes will range from documentaries, such as "Aids in Focus" on BBC2, to debates, special reports and commentaries.

"This is an unprecedented week of public health programmes," Mr Boley said.

The programme will focus on what people can do to reduce the risks of spreading Aids, and what they can do to help their friends and neighbours if they become infected.

"We are trying to stress that this is not a frightening disease. People are being told to go to the doctor for treatment or advice."

However, the CBC programmes will not be broadcast on the BBC's own channels.

Mr Boley said: "The fact that the public have been warned about Aids in recent years does not mean that they are not concerned about the disease."

"Aids is a major health hazard and we are very concerned about the impact it is having on society."

A health service will be set up to help people with Aids in the South East of England, and will be available in other parts of the country the health service will be set up to help people with Aids in the South East of England, and will be available in other parts of the country.

"The service will be run by doctors and nurses who have been trained in the treatment of Aids."

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TV channels join forces in Aids war

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, docuseries, phone-ins and advice slots, has the backing of Health Minister Norman Fowler.

Mr Fowler will be appearing on the first programme at 9pm 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 Justin Long for its first show, Aids - The Facts.

The move by the BBC and the ITV channels to cooperate over programming is unprecedented.

Also during the week, Central TV will broadcast Britain's first AIDS drama, Invisible Contack.

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

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

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

- A faithful image sketch which will be shown on First Aids shows Mrs Thatcher and the Cabinet mystified by the problem.

John Lloyd, writing 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 wrong" said trust director Lisa Pask. "Prisoners infected with Aids have only been given the standard booklet."

So far only 26 of Britain's 47,000 prisoners are known to have the virus.
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 hadn’t worry — most nine to 13-year-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 glacial mint.

As an explanation of what AIDS is, it is woefully inadequate. As a means to scare children it is unfortunately extremely successful.
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.
Part-time Ann leads fight on Aids

by CHRIS MRELL
Medical Correspondent

AIDS TEAM: Sir Brian, Miss Barlow, Mr Service and Mr Fowke yesterday

ADVERTISEES: tonight's Ann Fowke is spearheading Britain's battle against AIDS for ten days a week.

The will take part in a new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of the disease and its spread.

The campaign will be aimed at the general public to encourage them to take part in this important health issue.

The health authorities have been working closely with the advertising industry to ensure that the campaign reaches as many people as possible.

The campaign will focus on the importance of early detection and treatment of AIDS, as well as the need to reduce the spread of the disease through education and awareness.

The government has been committed to addressing the issue of AIDS for some time, and this campaign is a further step in the fight against the disease.

The campaign will run until the end of the month, with regular updates and information being provided through various channels.

The aim is to raise awareness and encourage people to take action to protect themselves and their loved ones.

The campaign is supported by health authorities, charities, and other organizations working to combat AIDS.

The message is clear: early detection, treatment, and education are key in the fight against AIDS.
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 Physicians in London, where she was briefed on the AIDS campaign.

Professor Joseph Ramsay, the college's registrar, told her 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 progressing as quickly as we would like," he said. "The Queen commented that she would like to see more research on the disease in the future." She added that she was "very impressed with the work of the college and the potential for finding a cure." The Queen asked about the current status of the research and was told that researchers were making progress.

Hygiene

"The Queen was interested in the issue of hygiene in the fight against AIDS," the professor said. "She was told that people should wash their hands frequently and use condoms.

The Queen asked about the availability of condoms and was told that they were widely available in stores and health centers.

The Queen also spoke about the importance of education and awareness, and was told that the college was working on a public awareness campaign.

The Queen was told that the cost of treating AIDS was high and that more funding was needed for research.

"The Queen was very interested in the issue of funding and the need for more research funds," the professor said. "She asked about the government's role in funding and was told that the government was investing in research but more was needed."
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 was appropriate to put condom ads on television.
AZT, an experimental drug being used to treat AIDS patients across the United States, may be less effective than previously believed, according to Minnesota medical officials.

"It's a bit of a surprise," said Michael Gutekunst, a Minnesota state epidemiologist. "But it's a bit of a surprise. It's a bit of a surprise that we didn't see a lot of cases. It's a bit of a surprise that we didn't see a lot of cases.

But initially, AZT will be the only drug used by the University of Minnesota's AIDS virus research team, which is one of 10 in the United States and 1 of 15 in the world. The team consists of Dr. Herbert H. Look, director of the team's research unit, and Dr. Michael Gutekunst, the team's epidemiologist.

"Until now, we've been treating patients with AZT," Look said. "But it is a somewhat new drug, and we're not sure how it will affect the virus.

The AZT drug research team was established in 1983, and has been studying the effects of AZT on HIV since then. The team has been able to produce new HIV strains and test them against AZT.

"There is no guarantee that AZT will work on all HIV strains," Look said. "But it is a promising drug, and we are excited about the potential benefits.

Concern

Some local doctors estimate that about half of the Minnesota AIDS patients have some degree of immunity to the virus. This is because many of the patients have developed a natural immunity to the virus by taking AZT.

Dr. Peter Gutekunst, a local immunologist, said "We have some patients who have been taking AZT for a long time, and they have been able to control the virus.

But one local doctor expressed doubt about the effectiveness of AZT. "I don't think AZT is a cure," he said. "But it is a promising drug."
Queen and Philip see the deadly Aids virus

by CHRIS MNIJLL, 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 Andrew McMichael, professor of clinical virology at St Thomas Hospital, assured the sovereigns they were likely to become infected.

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 break it down," he added.

The professor said kissing had a "low risk of transmission".

The Queen's tour marked the college's 125th anniversary.

Victims 'safe in schools'

THERE'S no need for schools to fear young Aids carriers any more difficult contact with other pupils, Britain's biggest teaching union said today.

"Proper hygiene procedures are already in place in schools to ensure the safety of children and staff," said the National Union of Teachers.

But schools must have adequate safety washing equipment and medical supplies for proper hygiene, the union said 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 anteater 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. Wooby, 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.

Willemsen Buysgrove, 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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...I am just sick and tired of what is happening.

One side of the issue, John Cardinal O’Connor of Philadelphia and Bishop Leo T. of San Diego forbid Masses to groups of church members. In New York, John Cardinal O’Connor has successfully fought to preserve the church’s right to offer Masses to all the church members. And last month, Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of New York, Brooklyn Diocese, a man long sympatetic to groups like Uganda, made such organizations from using buildings for meetings or religious services.

On the other hand, in Seattle, Archbishop John Hunthausen sanctioned a Dignity-sponsored Mass and even delivered the homily at the address at the group’s national conference. On six months ago, however, the archbishop stripped him of much of his power, in part because of his delinquency of the church. Two weeks ago, the Rev. John Cardinal O’Connor of New York, a self-proclaimed ally of homosexuals, was expelled as a priest for public dissent from the church’s teaching on homosexuality. Paul Wolf, who for a decade had been friends with the group, was excommunicated by the church. All of these issues should be judged by “freedom of conscience” as well as by church law.

The most notable move was taken by the archbishop in October. With more openly questioning the Church’s teachings on homosexuality—some even saying that it is a moral issue—the Vatican felt it necessary to issue a strong pastoral letter. The “risk of placing homosexual” disorder,” homosexuals for their “de-pedigreed” and warned bishops supporting any group of Catholic that is not in the Church.

The pastoral letter was directed to all the bishops in the United States. It was a milestone in the Church’s teaching on homosexuality. It was a response to the growing棣 divides within the Church on the issue of homosexuality. The letter added that despite the episcopal divisions, there were still many bishops who were open to the idea of ordaining gay priests. It was a clear message that the Church was not going to give up on its position on homosexuality.

The letter also called for a Church-wide study on homosexuality, to be conducted by a special commission. The Church was well aware that the issue of homosexuality was going to remain a divisive issue for a long time to come. The letter was a clear indication that the Church was not going to be quiet about the issue of homosexuality.

The letter was a turning point in the Church’s teaching on homosexuality. It was a sign that the Church was not going to give up on its position on homosexuality. The letter was a clear indication that the Church was not going to be quiet about the issue of homosexuality.

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,” which highlights the lives of saints thought to have been homosexual. Dignity’s float in the gay-pride parade in New York depicts 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 one. If the Church is not going to change, then we have to change the Church.”

The letter was a turning point in the Church’s teaching on homosexuality. It was a sign that the Church was not going to give up on its position on homosexuality. The letter was a clear indication that the Church was not going to be quiet about the issue of homosexuality.