Print Media

HIV Ireland

National HIV and AIDS Archives

#NationalHIVArchives

1st to 5th February 1987
AIDS For Sale

A Dublin heroin addict infected with AIDS antibodies is working in a Dublin massage parlour. There may be others like her. The danger of contracting AIDS from such people is enormous, says one expert. There are up to 50 massage parlours in the city centre, as well as freelance masseuses operating from flats, regular striptease clubs and at least one escort agency working hotels. Some of the women in Dublin's sex trade are intravenous drug users, one of the highest risk groups for AIDS.

"I'm numb to it all now."

SOME AIDS carriers in Dublin who are heroin addicts say they have turned to massage work to support their habits. The Sunday Press has learned of one young addict who has worked in massage parlours for almost 11 years and claims to have had the AIDS virus antibodies since then. Since getting the virus, she has stopped working to a family member who cares for her. She lives with her brother and sister-in-law, who also have the AIDS virus antibodies.

The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

A boom in Dublin's brothels

PROSTITUTION in the capital is booming in Dublin City and is the number one reason for young men to travel abroad. The city's brothels are doing a roaring trade, with some owners claiming they are making a profit of €50,000 per week.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.

In Freedom says there have been no reports of infection from clients, both fellow and online. Intravenous drug users are the highest risk group for the virus. However, a recent study by the Dublin Health Board suggests that the virus is primarily transmitted through shaking hands, rather than sharing needles.

AIDS carriers are more resilient than other drug users, and in Freedom says that this is likely due to the use of medical cannabis. The woman, who is now 26, claims she has learned to live with the virus and regularly sees doctors. She also uses the AIDS viral antidote to maintain her health. She says she has never felt better.
AIDS patients should be on ordinary wards, says new sex doctor

by ANNE MARIE HOURIHANE

AIDS patients in hospital should not be isolated in separate wards, according to Fiona Mulcahy, who has recently been appointed Ireland's first ever consultant specialist in sexually-transmitted diseases.

"There is no reason why an AIDS patient cannot be treated in an ordinary ward. The only reason why such wards were opened in two UK hospitals was that they had many AIDS patients who were more easily cared for if they were grouped together. As far as we can tell, there is no reason to believe that we will have to deal with so many cases in the foreseeable future."

Contrary to recent newspaper reports, she says there are no plans to set up a separate unit in Ireland for AIDS patients.

Dr Mulcahy is a specialist in genito-urinary medicine. She took up her post at St James' Hospital in Dublin just a fortnight ago. She has already set up appointment-only clinics at St James', which will deal with patients who need more time and attention than they would receive under the ordinary out-patient system. These patients will include AIDS-related cases but Dr Mulcahy does not anticipate that AIDS will comprise the majority of her work.

At present, for every ten men who attend the Dublin clinics for other sexually-transmitted disease, just one woman presents herself for treatment. That's just one of the alarming statistics Dr Mulcahy brings to her new job.

She is worried about the missing female patients who are probably not being treated at all. (Women often show no obvious symptoms of sexually-transmitted diseases and therefore suffer some of the long-term effects of going without treatment, such as infertility). She is about to start a 'tracing' system at St James' hospital.

A health visitor will be employed to find the partners of infected patients. The health visitor — who will be trained in Britain — will also help advise patients on such difficult problems as how to tell an innocent spouse that a visit to the clinic is recommended.

"It is very important that the taboos surrounding this area of medicine are removed. We don't just deal with sexually-transmitted disease, we deal with all types of genito-urinary disorders," she says.
You can't catch AIDS by post - official!

A PHIAL of blood from a suspected Aids carrier being sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory at UCD was broken open accidentally in the Central Sorting Office at Sherriff Street last Thursday. It was the second such incident in a year despite strict new guidelines issued to doctors sending blood samples.

"We've notified everybody not to send samples by post," said Professor Irene Hillary of UCD who runs the special Aids testing unit at Belfield.

But Professor Hillary, who described the incident as "innocuous", said there was no danger of infection to post office workers. "The sample proved negative — there was no Aids virus present."

"There was no need for panic. I've never come across anybody who got Aids through an accident like that," she said.
Why do innocents suffer and swindlers often succeed?

AIDS:

AIDS, disasters, suffering children, old deaths. Just some of the problems you are asking me to write about. It's the old age problem of suffering.

Let me say right away that there is only one way to understand suffering and that is to suffer. There's only one way out of it and that is through it.

To rescue!

By FR. BRIAN D'ARCY

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.

So how do we rescue people left in the suffering of AIDS? What can we bring to bear on this epidemic we call AIDS?

There is nothing more humbling, nothing more powerful, nothing more instructive, than suffering itself.

It is the one thing that a person can do for himself or for others.

Suffering is one way of looking at life. It is one way of looking at the world. It is one way of looking at God. It is one way of looking at people. It is one way of looking at crime. It is one way of looking at poverty. It is one way of looking at hope.

Suffering is the best way of looking at life. It is the best way of looking at the world. It is the best way of looking at God. It is the best way of looking at people. It is the best way of looking at crime. It is the best way of looking at poverty. It is the best way of looking at hope.
Boy, 10, dies from AIDS

A 10-year-old boy suffering from haemophilia has died from AIDS. Stephen Quirk, from Tynygroes near Colwyn Bay, North Wales, received an infected blood product — Factor 8 — from America.

He died at Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, shortly before Christmas — the youngest ever haemophiliac sufferer in Britain to fall victim to AIDS.

Haemophilia is an inherited disease which prevents the blood from clotting. Any wound, however small, can cause fatal bleeding. Factor 8 is the life saving product that restores the clotting agent.

His grieving mother Mrs. Eileen Quirk today described how she watched Stephen being destroyed by AIDS.

She said that her son was taken to hospital within hours of infection. Tests showed that he might have AIDS and five days later the incurable disease was confirmed.

From then on his condition worsened. His fingers began to go blue and he wheezed “like an old run-down washing machine” and he could neither eat nor drink.

Eleven days before Christmas he slipped into a coma and his veins collapsed. On December 19 he died.

Mrs. Quirk said the doctors, nurses and ambulance men attended the cremation. Only six weeks before he had been a bright, healthy lad.

For the last 15 months all donated blood products have been screened for the AIDS virus.

A spokesman for the Gwynedd Hospital confirmed that Stephen died of AIDS last December. “It is a very sad story,” he said.
AIRLINE IN AIDS SCARE STAFF BAN

DAN AIR refused to recruit male cabin staff because of the fear of spreading AIDS, it was disclosed today.

Dan Air claimed up to 30% of men attracted to work as airline stewards were homosexual — and alleged that cabin staff generally were "sexually promiscuous," the Equal Opportunities Commission said in Britain today.

But the claims were dismissed by the Commission, who found the airline guilty of sex discrimination after a 16-month inquiry. On October 15 last year it issued a notice ordering Dan Air to change its recruitment policy.

The Commission said that during the inquiry Dan Air and its parent company, Newman Holdings PLC, stated they would not change their policy of excluding male cabin staff because of the AIDS risk.

Counsel for the company had pointed out that AIDS mainly affects homosexuals and a large proportion of men — up to 30% — attracted to cabin staff work were homosexual.
Archbishop warns on spread of AIDS

By Patrick Comerford

SELF-CONTROL, fidelity within marriage and chastity outside marriage seem to be "the only sure way" of limiting the spread of AIDS, according to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Donal Caird.

Writing in this month's issue of the Dublin and Glendalough diocesan magazine, Church Review, Dr Caird says that the spread of AIDS could be a catastrophe.

"We must encourage the health authorities in our country to pursue every means of limiting the spread of this disease, but particularly to appeal to those who are exposed to a misuse of sex or drugs to consider carefully the terrible cost to themselves and to society, and to abandon those practices," Dr Caird says.

"At present, self-control, fidelity within marriage, and chastity outside marriage would seem to be the only sure way of limiting the spread of the disease, and avoiding what could be a catastrophe. As Christians, we have the responsibility to help in every way we can."

The archbishop identifies four groups in society most at risk from the spread of AIDS — "promiscuous homosexual males; drug abusers who share hypodermic syringe needles; haemophiliacs who depend upon blood transfusions which may include infected blood; and generally those who indulge in promiscuous sexual activity, male and female."

Dr Caird says Christians must show compassion "to the unfortunate sufferers," and says a consoling attitude should not be adopted "towards those who are in the midst of suffering." However, he adds: "We must reserve the right to censure those false prophets who misled untold numbers of young people into believing that there is no moral limit to human freedom."

"Many of these young people are now tragic victims of this terrible disease; but they are no less the tragic victims of the cult leaders who have misled them in the direction which has exposed them to this dread disease."

Late last year, the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland advised parish clergy to wipe the chalice during Holy Communion service. In his comment in the Church Review, Archbishop Caird says some Church members "have asked whether there is any risk of contracting the disease through the use of the common chalice at the celebration of Holy Communion. The best medical authorities assure us that the common chalice is not likely to be even a remote source of infection."

Dr Caird's comments in the Church Review were distributed in parishes throughout Dublin, Co Wicklow and parts of Co Kildare yesterday morning. However, the archbishop was not available for comment. The archbishop and other Irish bishops are taking part in an Anglican ecumenical consultation in London and Geneva.
AIDS AND THE BISHOPS

Sir, — You fail to do justice to the Catholic Church in your editorial of January 14th. You applaud the Hierarchy's approach as both "Christian and responsible." On closer inspection of the bishops' statement, it seems to me that their insistence that this tragic disease has its "roots in moral disorder" is nothing short of morbid hysteria. Their further statement saying that to reduce the discussion concerning AIDS to a debate about free needles and easy availability of condoms "would be an evasion of the issues" is disingenuous to say the least. For it is precisely these factions which constitute the core of the issue as far as the Catholic Church is concerned.

You comment that the Catholic Church's advocacy of chastity as the only reliable alternative may be "somewhat naïve." On the contrary, there is nothing " naïve" about the Church's response. The same Church has never baulked at calling a spade a spade and neither should we. In recent years, the Church's correctly perceived threat to Catholic social teaching in this country has led it time and again to mobilise its considerable forces for a determined fightback on these issues, hence its involvement in the anti-amendment campaign, divorce campaign, etc.

As regards the efficacy of monogamy as a means of preventing the spread of the disease — it is rather the forms of contact which dictate whether or not the disease is spread. A monogamous relationship with someone who has already contracted the virus is no safeguard. On the other hand "safe sex" with different partners is a very effective method of preventing an individual contracting or spreading the disease.

It is indicative of the Catholic Church's attitude that it fails to sanction (and indeed warns against) one of the few scientifically proven methods of helping to stem this disease, i.e., safe sex. So much for "caring and compassion." Apparently the Catholic Church considers the preservation of its own brand of morality more precious than the health of its flock. Finally, you were quite right to highlight the slowness of our own authorities in responding to the dangers of AIDS. With a general election close at hand, it is essential to put pressure on our public representatives to redress the situation. — Yours, etc.,

BERNADETTE BARRINGTON,
218 Le Fanu Road,
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10.
AIDS

Sir,—The AIDS epidemic has brought the enemies of the people out of the woodwork again, suggesting that we treat AIDS as a problem of public health. AIDS is nothing other than a problem of public morality. These people are seeking to undermine our society by advocating the distribution of sterile needles to drug addicts, condoms to perverts and even the legalisation of prostitution under the shabby guise of halting the march of a disease for which there is no cure. These same evil people are those who have tried, in two recent referendums, to destroy the moral values of the Irish nation.

We in Ireland have already solved the problems of abortion and divorce, and we can, in the same Christian spirit, tackle AIDS together. Let us hold an AIDS referendum: after all, it worked before — didn't it.—Yours, etc.,

R.M. CONROY,
22 Ovoca Road,
SCR Portobello,
Dublin 8.
Fateful Decisions on Treating AIDS

New drugs and future vaccines confront doctors with tough choices

You're the doctor, and the patient is dying from AIDS. A new drug called azidothymidine (AZT) might temporarily suppress the virus and prolong his life. But you hesitate: AZT may do nothing for his manifestation of the disease. It could even hasten death. And prescribing the drug could bring malpractice suits, since AZT has so far worked only on AIDS sufferers with symptoms different from this patient's.

Do you let him go? Or do you risk everything on the chance of helping him?

These questions took on new urgency last week when the Anti-Infective Drugs Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration recommended by a 10-1 vote that the FDA approve AZT as the first commercially available treatment for AIDS. The news generated heavy demand from America's 13,000 AIDS victims. For among potential AIDS drugs being tested, only AZT seems to prolong life, specifically for people with Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). The prospect of public release intensified ethical concerns surrounding not only drugs for AIDS treatment but also vaccines to prevent it.

Indeed, an ethical concern prompted researchers last year to cut short clinical experiments on PCP patients. In six months only one of 145 AIDS patients given AZT died; many of the others grew stronger and regained some sense of well-being. (Since then, eight more have died.) In a like-size control group given only medically inactive substances, or placebo, 16 perished. These dramatic results prompted Burroughs Wellcome, the North Carolina firm that developed the drug, to call off the trial and immediately begin giving AZT to all the test patients.

Many doctors hailed the decision, including Charles Schable, chief of the AIDS Diagnostic Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. "I don't see how you can have a placebo group," he said, "because if you're pretty sure it's going to work, why should you not give it to people?"

But halting the test robbed researchers of the chance to judge, under controlled conditions, any long-range effects of AZT, which might be as dangerous as the untreated disease. In fact, some people taking AZT have developed anemia and suffered bone-marrow degeneration. "AZT may be a genie that we are letting out of the bottle," says Dr. Itzhak Brook, chairman of the FDA advisory committee and the only dissenter in the vote. Dr. Maxime Saligmann, a French immunologist, who has experimented with AZT at the Hôpital St.-Louis in Paris, agrees: "There simply isn't enough knowledge about the benefits of the drug compared to the toxic effects and long-term risks."

Another troubling consequence of releasing the drug is its likely restriction to AIDS patients who have had PCP (about 60% of all victims). Without further tests, doctors cannot tell what the effects will be on those with other variations of the disease. Says Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: "There is an ethical dilemma of doctors using AZT beyond the categories where the drug has been proven safe and effective."

Even more distressing is the certainty that AZT will be in short supply for a while. Arthur Caplan, a medical ethicist at the Hastings Center at Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., calls the shortage a "classic triage situation. "Who do you give it to?" he says. "You're not going to throw the drug away on someone at least as desperately ill that he will die anyway." He is also inclined to withhold it from drug abusers, who, along with homosexuals, are the principal AIDS sufferers and might waste the treatment by re-infecting themselves. Nor does he feel anyone but medical professionals should decide. "Desperately ill patients are not in a position to make that choice," he says.

Richard Dunne, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in Manhattan, takes issue with Caplan. "I don't think researchers understand at a feeling level the predicament of a dying person who hears of something promising," he says. "Human beings have a right to make their own choices."

Doctors and researchers are also struggling with the ethics of testing potential AIDS vaccines now under development in the U.S. and France. The problem: vaccines for any disease must eventually be tested on healthy humans. What if volunteers accept the vaccine, then risk exposure and come down with the disease? That would prove the vaccine ineffective but, in the case of AIDS, could prove fatal.

Says Dr. Michael Castron of the Duke Medical Center in Durham, N.C.: "You can't arbitrarily expose a group of people to a virus to see if the vaccine is protective." Moreover, the behavior of the AIDS virus is so complex and unpredictable that a vaccine based on a derivative of the virus could still be dangerous.

Last year, nonetheless, a French team under Dr. Daniel Zagury apparently tried, without prior test on animals, a vaccine on African prostitutes. Many of his colleagues were fearful that he might be experimenting with Third World subjects who had little understanding of the risks involved. Zagury retorted that his critics have "no competence" to judge his methods, but so far has not released published his results.

As physicians ponder the issues raised by AIDS drug and vaccine testing, Dr. Jean Bernard, 79, chairman on medical ethics of France's Consultative Committee for Life Sciences and Health, urges them to take the long view. He reminds his colleagues that the tremors of our posture 30 years ago to cut corners in getting a polio vaccine. But, he notes, thousands of lives were saved when researchers took the time to get it right. "The point is," he sums up, "that you have to avoid passion. You have to take the personal procedures." -- By Ezra Bowen. Reported by B.A. Phillips. Paris, with other bureaus.
ORGANISED into groups throughout the country the Moral Majority has shown its clout in two referenda.

TO dismiss them as the lunatic fringe is misleading.

ARTICULATE and well-briefed, they've used their numbers to campaign against issues such as divorce, contraception, abortion and sex education.

THEIR aim is to restore the family unit to supremacy in Irish life and protect traditional moral beliefs.

MAURA O'KIELY reports

In this past decade we've learnt more and more about the Moral Majority.

It's a religion born though it doesn't officially preach about the supernatural. It's a group of people who believe that the American church is the answer to the woes of the West.

And they're not the only ones. They're aligned with the Moral Majority and have their own organisations to back them up. They've also been working closely with the American church.

The Moral Majority is an outgrowth of the religious right in America. It was founded in the 1970s and has grown in strength ever since.

The church has always been strong in this country, but it's only been in the last few years that we've seen the Moral Majority get its act together.

It's a powerful organisation and it's not going to go away any time soon. Expect to see more of them in the future.

Who they are, why

Mona la Belle

is the leader of the Moral Majority in this country. She's been working on this for years and she's got a lot of influence.

She's been working with other religious leaders to try to get their message across. And it seems to be working.

They've been able to get their message across and they've been able to get a lot of people on board.

The church has always been strong in this country, but it's only been in the last few years that we've seen the Moral Majority get its act together.

It's a powerful organisation and it's not going to go away any time soon. Expect to see more of them in the future.

Freedom

And they're not just about the church. They're also about freedom. They believe in the right to bear arms and they believe in the right to be able to make their own decisions.

They're against any sort of government control and they believe in the freedom of the individual.

Sexual

They're also against any sort of abortion. They believe in the right to life and they believe in the right to be able to have children.

They're against any sort of contraception and they believe in the right of couples to be able to decide whether or not to have children.

They've been able to get their message across and they've been able to get a lot of people on board.

The church has always been strong in this country, but it's only been in the last few years that we've seen the Moral Majority get its act together.

It's a powerful organisation and it's not going to go away any time soon. Expect to see more of them in the future.

Freedom

And they're not just about the church. They're also about freedom. They believe in the right to bear arms and they believe in the right to be able to make their own decisions.

They're against any sort of government control and they believe in the freedom of the individual.

Sexual

They're also against any sort of abortion. They believe in the right to life and they believe in the right to be able to have children.

They're against any sort of contraception and they believe in the right of couples to be able to decide whether or not to have children.

They've been able to get their message across and they've been able to get a lot of people on board.

The church has always been strong in this country, but it's only been in the last few years that we've seen the Moral Majority get its act together.

It's a powerful organisation and it's not going to go away any time soon. Expect to see more of them in the future.
AIDS campaign now in shambles

FROM PAGE ONE

vision and radio ads, pulled out.

Today he said: "It is out of the question. It would interfere with my job as a journalist.

Doherty, Advertising Agency — which won the lucrative contract to sell the vital message to the public — suggested the punt and bachelor.

The "Today at Five" and "Today Tonight" presenters made a demitasse for the group but he is banned from making public advertisements without permission from the R.T.E. Authority.

"It is part of my contract that I don't do ads without first getting clearance from R.T.E.," he explained.

He said he was angry that the advertising agency made public his involvement in the demise commercial. "It was a private matter between the agency and me," he declared.

Other names which have been mentioned for a possible role in the campaign are Bob Geldof, Kevin Sheedy, "Twink" and "Megaxim" presenter, Flora MacSwaney.

The Government also came under fire for an earlier decision not to run any campaign on AIDS until after polling day.

The Labour Party charged that the Fine Gael government was putting lives at risk by postponing the campaign until after polling day.

Minister for Health, John Boland, who has been organising the anti-AIDS campaign, decided in consultation with the Taoiseach, Dr. FitzGerald, that it would be better to postpone the election until after polling day.

Mr. Fergus Finlay, former Assistant Director of the Government Information Services and now spokesman for the Labour Party, pointed out that the campaign was originally scheduled to commence in January.

"The fact that it has been delayed is absolutely disgraceful," he declared.
Solving the ridge of how best to protect the horror of AIDS
AIDS ad drive is aimed to shock

By JOHN WALSH

THE £500,000 anti-AIDS campaign being considered by the Government is extremely explicit about the dangers of casual sex and stresses the need for the use of condoms. The starting date has been put back until after polling day mainly because the Government does not want the campaign to become an election issue.

The public information campaign will take the form of an initial three-month advertising blitz in newspapers, radio, television, cinema, billboards and poster sites.

It will be backed up by a freephone service, probably run by the health boards, and by the provision of special treatment facilities for AIDS sufferers.

The contract for the campaign has been won by Doherty Advertising Ltd. which is preparing some very graphic ads under the general theme of "Casual Sex Spreads AIDS".

The headings for the newspaper ads are likely to lead to a storm of controversy. They include:

- Bang-Bang, you're dead, Casual Sex is Russian Roulette.
- AIDS, Don't Bring It Home.
- The Condom—You Can Think Of It As A Contraceptive Or As A Life-Saver.
- Government Warning—Casual Sex Can Damage Your Health, and AIDS Shows No Mercy To The Innocent.

Each ad will have different wording. For instance, the wording planned for one of them is as follows: "Just one act of intercourse with a person who is an AIDS carrier may be enough to give you AIDS": "The main way in which the AIDS virus is transmitted is by sexual intercourse, and every sexually active person is, potentially, at
AIDS can be a form of sin — Moderator

THE Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Dr John Thompson, has said the Church cannot condone homosexuality and must pronounce AIDS as a form of sin if it results from any activity which transgresses the moral code.

Dr Thompson said that the teaching of the New Testament shows that homosexual relationships are not the will of God and because of this cannot be accepted. “The Gospel tells us quite clearly that man and woman were made for one another and we must abide by that.”

He said the “terrible plague of AIDS” was influencing people to change their lifestyles and to reflect on the Church’s teaching that there should be chastity before marriage and fidelity within it. “Sexuality is part of God’s gift of creation but must only be expressed within responsible personal relationships. Its abuse leads to evil consequences which affect the innocent as well as the guilty.”

In a statement, which he described as a personal reflection on the problem, Dr Thompson said the loss of Christian faith among many people and its non-existence among others had meant a serious decline in Christian standards and created a permissive society which had brought with it a deterioration in lifestyles and morals.

Turning to the origins of AIDS, Dr Thompson said it first appeared in African society and in the gay community in America and then rapidly spread to Western Europe through illicit sexual relationships and drug abuse. But the virus, which has already caused 30 deaths in the North and left 30 people carrying positive anti-bodies, has now infected entirely innocent victims, he said.

Outlining what he thought the Presbyterian Church should do, Dr Thompson said Christians have to set standards. They should point to the consequences of the failure to live by them and exercise a pastoral role by giving the example of the proper use of God’s gift of sexuality and indicate the damage its abuse can cause to the body and soul and to society.

The Moderator welcomed the British Government’s publicity campaign to heighten public awareness about the disease but he said this did not imply the Presbyterian Church’s agreement with the underlying assumption that illicit sex is morally permissible so long as it is safe.

He said the medical profession stands in a unique position to help and educate the community. “Everyone must work to contain, reduce and overcome AIDS and encourage the acceptance of moral standards that promote right relationships between human beings in those most intimate areas of life. The present situation could be used as a warning signal to society generally and also to bring the response of a more wholesome and better life.”
Aids and cancer funds equation

From Mr Albert Singer

Sir, Your Wednesday Page correspondent (January 21) gave many reasons justifying the Government's substantive input of funds for Aids publicity in comparison to that given to cervical cancer and other "less fashionable diseases". She argued that it was proper "to have Government money spent on those health areas where one's personal failure can hurt others". The problem is that every one of her reasons could be applied to cervical cancer.

We are facing an epidemic rise in cervical pre-cancer and cancer which shows no signs of abating. This being so, many of us find it difficult to understand Government priorities in respect of Aids and cervical cancer. The former is incurable, the latter is curable, being the only cancer that can be prevented by the easy destruction of its pre-cancerous stages. Aids has killed 300 persons so far, yet 2,000 women this year alone will die needlessly of cervical cancer.

Although each cervical cancer death is a tragedy, especially with so many young women now contracting the disease, it is the anguish of the living that concerns us. In this district general hospital clinic we have about 700 women with abnormal smears waiting for a first clinic appointment, sometimes eight to nine months hence. A further 600 already diagnosed with pre-cancer are awaiting treatment. Every day, between 60 and 85 telephone calls are received in this unit from anxious, distressed and disillusioned women.

We who run the services are powerless to act. In Islington, a deprived inner-city district, we have many worthy claims from other services for our limited and truncated funds. It is only central government who can help. Indeed, the recently announced two-year waiting list handout is a short-term expedient: how can it work if the epidemic, as still seems likely, is still running at full steam in 1989?

Certainly, one has to commend the Government on its publicity for Aids. One has compassion for those with the disease. However, many of us feel that the emphasis on the heterosexual spread and risks with Aids is probably excessive, especially as only seven women have died of Aids from proven heterosexual contact and many experts are unsure as to the true risk of heterosexual sex.

Should not a review now take place in respect of the priorities of both these sexually transmitted diseases? Certainly the realities of what diseases are curable and incurable should be considered.

Yours sincerely,

A. SINGER
(Consultant gynaecologist,
Whittington and Royal Northern Hospitals)
Islington District Colposcopy Clinic,
Royal Northern Hospital,
Holloway Road, N7.
January 28.
Liberace very ill

FANS began gathering outside Liberace's desert home in Palm Springs, California, yesterday, as word came that the flamboyant showman was clinging to life "moment to moment."

"There's not much time," his publicist, Denise Collier, said. She said he was being attended at bedside by his family and close friends.

Collier described Liberace (67) as semi-conscious, suffering from pernicious anemia, complicated by advanced emphysema and heart disease.

She said he was being kept alive, "just moment to moment."

A crowd of fans kept a vigil in a parking lot across the street from the entertainer's home.

The Las Vegas Sun, quoting informed sources, reported last month that Liberace was terminally ill with AIDS.

Asked on Monday to comment on the reports, the entertainer's Las Vegas physician, Dr. Elias Ghanem, said, "he lived a private life and deserves to die that way."
EEC helps in anti-AIDS fight
Desmond hits out at AIDS campaign leak

By EVELYN RING

FORMER Health Minis-
ter Barry Desmond yest-
erday condemned the
leakage of confidential
information on the
Government's anti-AIDS
advertising campaign.

"I absolutely deplore
the leaking of an official
document and would fur-
ther deplore the making
of a party political issue
of this serious health
problem," said Mr.
Desmond.

He was referring to a
Dublin newspaper report
which claimed that Fine
Gael had put off the
starting date of the cam-
paign until after the elec-
tion because of fears

that it would result in a
'grudge war' between the
Government and the
Catholic Church.

Mr. Desmond said that
he had not seen the
document referred to by
the newspaper and could
not comment, therefore,
on the accuracy of the
report.

The Health Education
Bureau has yesterday
stated that the informa-
tion on the campaign was
confidential and had "be-
deliberately leaked in a "totally irre-
ponsible manner" with-
out regard to the conse-
quences.

The Bureau pointed
out that the original pro-
posals had been revised
and the campaign was
currently being rede-
signed. They would now
be forced, at this "deli-
cate stage" in the de-
v elopment of the cam-
paign to make further
amendments.

The Bureau went on to
say that any subsequent
resulting delay in the
launching of the cam-
paign, which was of cru-
cial importance for pub-
lic health, was regre-
ttable.

The Minister for
Health, John Boland,
said that the Govern-
ment had decided on
January 20 to have the
campaign redesigned.
Classroom warning over AIDS

By Roger Scott

Schools and colleges in Scotland have been advised to tighten up on hygiene to prevent the possible spread of AIDS.

A booklet issued to head teachers and college principals says blood must no longer be taken from pupils for use in science studies.

Students playing brass instruments during music lessons should always use their own mouthpieces.

The 13-page booklet also renews warnings against do-it-yourself ear piercing and tattoos and muddling blood to form playground bonds.

Scottish Education Minister John Maclay said: 'In the ordinary classroom situation, there is absolutely no danger of contracting AIDS from a fellow pupil.'
BBC and ITV plan joint campaign

Stars set for week-long TV blitz on AIDS

By CORINNA HONAN

THE BBC and ITV are joining forces to launch a week of daily programmes about AIDS.

International rock stars and comedians — including American Eddie Murphy, former Wham! singer George Michael and David Bowie — have been asked to start the week with a 90-minute ITV special.

Due for peak-time screening on Friday, February 21, the show will feature jokes, sketches and songs aimed at making an expected audience of 17- to 24-year-olds more aware of the dangers.

Programme-makers are still deliberating over whether to include an AIDS victim in the format.

A series of five 15-minute information programmes will be shown each night after the News at Ten in most regions, with Granada, Central and Scottish TV making their own local variations.

BBC plans for the week are being kept under wraps, but are due to include several hours of feature programmes.

The project is one of the few occasions, outside sport, when both the BBC and ITV have agreed to suspend the ratings war by deliberately scheduling programmes so as not to overlap.

"We wanted to make sure there was maximum exposure to information about AIDS by showing our programmes in the same week and not scheduling directly against each other," said BBC daytime head and AIDS week co-ordinator, Roger Lawton.

Battle

ITV co-ordinator, Yorkshire TV's director of programmes John Polley, said: "It's quite a unique co-operation. I can't recall any agreement of this kind in the past — it's a measure of how seriously everyone takes the AIDS problem.

"We shall be making a major effort to reach people and laying on phone-in help lines. We regard this as the first phase of the battle against AIDS and are now thinking in terms of a five-year plan for ITV which will involve short information films.

"We also plan to co-ordinate our ITV medical shows, like Where There's Life, so there's a regular pattern to keep abreast of changes on the AIDS front." The move is bound to delight the Government, who have already spent £20 million on a leaflet and advertising campaign which had a mixed reception.

The TV initiative emerged from talks between executives attending DHSS briefings on AIDS before the commercials were even thought of. But Government involvement in the AIDS week has been limited to an advisory role.
Liberace slips into a coma

Liberace slipped into a coma last night after a priest had administered the last rites to the dying entertainer, his lawyer said.

"There is little hope he can last much longer," the lawyer, Joel Strole, said after fans held a candlelight vigil outside the Liberace mansion, Casa de Liberace, in Palm Springs, California.

The fans, many of them middle-aged women, stood outside the mansion for up to six hours.

His manager for 36 years, Seymour Heller, bitterly denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the entertainer has AIDS.

But medical sources have confirmed that Liberace has AIDS. One doctor admitted: "If it was not for AIDS we could treat him for the conditions he is suffering from."
Evening Press
4th February 1987

Condoms in church

A minister says he plans to distribute condoms at services on Sunday to help make people more aware of AIDS. Rev. Carl F. Titchener, heads the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst in Buffalo, New York.
Begin AIDS campaign
---
POA

The Prison Officers' Association today demanded that the Government immediately begin the public information campaign on AIDS.

"There is no justification for the delay in providing, after many months, the available information on an ongoing basis to the general public on AIDS. A public health and safety issue must come before political party consideration," they said in a statement.

AIDS was a killer disease. The delay in informing the public of the full facts on what was medically described in Ireland as an epidemic was totally unacceptable and would lead to the continued spread of the virus.
FG denies AIDS drive changed over ‘church fear’

By JOHN WALSHE

FINE GAEL last night dismissed as “rubbish” claims that the AIDS campaign was being delayed for fear of upsetting the Catholic Church before polling day.

A party spokesman said the forthcoming public information campaign was being revised to place more emphasis on the danger of drug users contracting AIDS. It would be introduced as soon as possible and it would stress the dangers of contracting AIDS through drug abuse and through casual sex.

But the Labour Party said it was “diagnosed” that the campaign was being delayed until after polling day, while a Fianna Fáil TD from Croke Park claimed it was because the Government was afraid of upsetting the Catholic Church.

Dr. Sean McCarthy, who first called for an AIDS campaign in 1981, said that the Government wanted to stress condoms in the campaign but was afraid that would upset the Catholic Church before the election.

But the “condom campaign” had failed in the US and the Government should spell out the message that promiscuity causes AIDS, which in turn causes death — there should be no shilly-shallying in spelling out that clear message.

Party leader Charles Haughey said that he would have no problems about mentioning condoms in a public information campaign, if that was the advice of the medical profession. However, developments in the US indicated that the emphasis on condoms was not effective and not very beneficial.

Mr. Haughey said that we were facing something of epidemic proportions through the spread of AIDS. He believed there should be special treatment units for those suffering from the disease and said that not enough action had been taken yet on treatment facilities in Ireland.

CONTRACT

Meanwhile, talks are due to be held today between the TV and Television Advertising Ltd, the agency which has won the contract for the campaign.

The agency has recommended presenter Pat Kenny as a link man for radio and television advertisements. He has already done a demonstration tape for the agency but would need permission from the Authority to get involved in the campaign.

In a statement last night the Health Education Bureau said that the publication in the Irish Independent of the original proposal for the campaign at this stage necessitated further amendments to the content.

The EEC has offered a helping hand to Third World countries to help isolate AIDS. The European Commission announced yesterday that it proposed to spend £25m on public information and preventive measures in Africa, Caribbean and

Independent
4th February 1987
Drug slogan in revised Aids drive

By CHRIS DOOLEY

THE Government's anti-Aids campaign is being revised by the Health Education Bureau because the Department of Health felt the slogan did not place enough emphasis on the threat to drug abusers.

But the £500,000 campaign is still expected to include explicit warnings about the dangers of casual sex, when it finally gets underway after the election.

The Minister for Health, Mr. Boland, is believed to have postponed the campaign, because he did not want it to become an election issue.

But it became inevitable yesterday when details of the original campaign proposals were made public, the slogans being considered by the Government included explicit warnings such as: "Bang-Bang, You're Dead. Casual Sex is Russian Roulette".

But the Health Education Bureau said yesterday that the publication of aspects of the campaign would result in further amendments and could set it back even further.

"Any subsequent delay in the launch of a campaign which is of crucial importance to public health in Ireland is altogether regrettable," said a HEB statement.

Mr. Boland second thoughts

The previous Minister, Mr. Desmond, had planned to get the campaign underway by the end of last month.

Mr. Haughey said yesterday his party would have no problems mentioning condoms in a public information campaign, if that was the advice of the medical profession.

Labour Party spokesman Fergus Finlay yesterday criticised the decision to postpone the campaign.
AIDS AND THE BISHOPS

Sir,—It was with distress that I read in my copy of *El País* on January 14th that the Irish bishops have entered into the debate on AIDS on the side of the disease. To condemn the use of condoms as morally reprehensible and conducive to the spread of AIDS is irresponsible, given the gravity of the present situation.

Intolerance masquerading as theology is hardly new, but cynicism of this kind does an inquisitorial tradition. Diseases are useful if tendentious metaphors. In earlier times, the Church saw the leper rotting at the gates of the medieval city as a sign from Heaven. A metaphor of the fall and simultaneously of the eternal bounty of God, for the leper would go straight to Paradise. There are those today who would see the AIDS sufferer as a sign of the failure of the sexual revolution of the sixties and seventies. Condoms, it would seem, cannot be permitted to unbalance the argument. People have to die.

The unfinished project of a more humane society is everywhere under attack. The fight against AIDS is also the fight against intolerance, ignorance and bigotry. The Church is not afraid to show its colours and neither should we be. —Yours, etc.

JOHN GRAY

Calle Arzobispo Mdo, 7-10,
Valencia 46015,
Spain.
EEC plan for AIDS

From Colm Boland, in Brussels

THE EEC plans to give financial help to African and other developing countries in their efforts to combat the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

The initial EEC funding may amount to about £60 million, but officials here said the proposal had yet to be formalised before being put to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The mutual benefits of the plan were stressed by the EEC Commissioner for Overseas Development Policy, Mr Lorenzo Natali, speaking to an assembly of delegates from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries as well as members of the European Parliament at Arusha in Tanzania.

As well as providing medical supplies and expertise, it is hoped to bring about much greater collaboration between research institutions in Europe and Africa in order to bring forward the day when a solution would be found to this major threat which concerned all mankind, he said.

• Indian authorities yesterday deported a Swiss national suspected to be suffering from AIDS, a Swiss consulate official said in Bombay. The man confessed in hospital to being a drug addict, the official said. Medical tests showed that he could also be suffering from AIDS. — (AFP).
Advice on use of condoms ‘no problem’ to FF

A Fianna Fail government would not have any problems about advocating the use of condoms in a campaign to fight AIDS, the party’s leader, Mr Haughey said in Dublin yesterday.

“We are dealing with an epidemic,” Mr Haughey said at a press conference to launch Fianna Fail’s document on youth, “Programme for Young People”.

There was some evidence from the US that condoms were not all that successful in the fight against the disease — but Fianna Fail would rely on the advice of medical experts. “If they say condoms are part of the answer, then we’ve no problem with it.”

The document, launched by Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Fianna Fail’s spokesman on youth policy, says a Fianna Fail government would create 10,000 jobs by concentrating on high-quality pure food products, with 20,000 downstream jobs in this area.

Another 24,000 jobs would be created by developing fisheries, fish farming, mariculture, inland fisheries and exploitation of ocean resources. These jobs, Mr Haughey said, would be created through investment from the private sector using the Industrial Development Authority and Bord Iascaigh Mhara as “pump primers”.

The document outlines the party’s policy on the problems of drugs and alcohol, saying Fianna Fail would consider introducing more stringent laws on the supply of alcohol to persons under 18 both on licensed premises and in supermarkets.

Fianna Fail also promise a campaign to provide cheaper motor insurance and affordable homes for young people — including agreement in principle to a tax incentive for those taking out mortgages — and the development of the youth work service. This would be done within the resources available, with an extension of the co-ordinating role of the National Youth Council among youth organisations.

Last night Mr Alan Graham, president of the National Youth Council, expressed disappointment with the document.
AIDS campaign won’t start until after election

By Dr David Nowlan, Medical Correspondent

THE Department of Health confirmed yesterday that, as reported in this newspaper on January 22nd, the Government’s publicity campaign against AIDS has been postponed. It will not start until after the general election.

When first proposed before Christmas, the campaign was scheduled to start in mid-January. Then the starting date was put back to the end of January and the Coalition Cabinet was expected to consider the campaign details (already approved by the then Minister for Health, Mr Desmond) at its meeting on January 20th.

That was the meeting at which the Labour Party ministers resigned from the Coalition. The following day a decision was taken — presumably by the new Minister for Health, Mr Boland, and the Taoiseach — that the campaign should be postponed until after the general election.

Yesterday, the Department of Health issued a statement from Mr Boland saying that the Health Education Bureau and the Department were discussing a “re-design” of the campaign and that, when the new design was completed, it would be re-submitted to the Government for approval.

Mr Boland’s statement said that no contracts would be formally signed with any advertising agencies until the re-designed campaign had been approved by the Government.

This means that the details, revealed in a morning newspaper yesterday, of a campaign designed by Doherty Advertising Ltd (the campaign approved in principle by Mr Desmond) are now subject to alteration. It is probable that the outline will still involve a three-month media advertising programme with the general slogan that “casual sex spreads AIDS” echoed on billboards and in cinemas throughout the country. It is probable that a series of printed advertisements and short films for television and cinema will be made with messages such as “AIDS — Don’t Bring It Home” and “Sometimes It’s Not a Matter of Who You Wake Up With. It’s What You Wake Up With That Matters” and “The Condom — You Can Think Of It As A Contraceptive Or As Life-Saver”.

But there should now be an additional component aimed at those who abuse drugs and use needles to do so. And one unconfirmed report suggests that the condom message may be toned down as a result of some reservations expressed by a member of the Cabinet. The main thrust of the campaign will be on the importance of faithfully monogamous sexual-relationships.

A proposal that the health boards might run a free-phone information service might be difficult to implement in a hurry since the personnel answering the phones would have to be very thoroughly briefed on the subject of AIDS.

Whatever the ultimate outcome, it now seems impossible to get the campaign moving before polling day. And that means that its eventual launching will become the responsibility of the incoming Government. That might lead to further demands for a re-design and further procrastination.

Meanwhile, there are many people in Ireland at risk of contracting the virus who need urgently to be told how to avoid AIDS. Over $20 are known to be carrying the virus and more are likely to have been exposed, and the number of cases of AIDS diagnosed rose this week to 15. It is a number that will continue to rise.
Ethical Dilemma: Asking AIDS Victims To Name Past Partners

By MARKED CROSBY
Senior Reporter of The Wall Street Journal
NORTHWEST - Most doctors almost certainly will not be able to get the names of people who today have AIDS from those who are infected. It's clearly unethical to do so.

Whether something should be done has become a matter of debate in many circles.

In the U.S., there are more than 1.5 million people who are infected with the AIDS virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified 1,000 cases in New York City alone. Doctors say that about 1,000,000 Americans have been infected. But not all are aware of their status. The U.S. government estimates that 100,000 more cases are likely to be diagnosed each year.

The dilemma is this: even if doctors want to ask about the source of the virus, they are afraid of what the patients will say. Moreover, doctors don't know whether their patients have been infected by other people. The patients, in turn, are afraid of what the doctors might do with their information. The situation is complex and convoluted, and it is not easy to find a solution.

Mitchell, a 48-year-old man, is an example. He was diagnosed with AIDS in 1982. He has been told that he has been exposed to the virus through sexual contact with other men. He has been advised to seek treatment and to tell his doctor about his sexual history. But he is afraid of what the doctor will say. He has been told that his doctor will not treat him if he does not tell the truth.

The dilemma is that doctors want to help their patients, but they are afraid of what the patients will say. The patients, in turn, are afraid of what the doctors will do.

Mitchell's dilemma is not unique. It is a problem that affects many people who are infected with the AIDS virus. It is a problem that affects doctors and patients alike.

The dilemma is that doctors want to help their patients, but they are afraid of what the patients will say. The patients, in turn, are afraid of what the doctors will do.
Liberace dead aged 67

Liberace, the flamboyant pianist showman who combined classical training with an outlandish wardrobe and an extravagant stage act, died in Palm Springs, California, yesterday, at age 67, his publicist said.

"He was pronounced dead at 2.05 Pacific time," (22.05 GMT) said spokesman Denise Collier. "Cause of death: cardiac arrest brought on by subacute encephalopathy."

The pianist, known as "Mr. Showmanship" for his spectacular shows, had slipped into a coma.

He had been reported close to death for the last week and his publicist had said he was suffering from pernicious anemia - a sometimes fatal form of the blood disease - complicated by advanced emphysema, which causes breathing problems, and a heart disease.

As he lay in his lavishly furnished house, known as "Casa Liberace", admirers, many of them middle-aged women, held a candlelight vigil outside.

Danny La Rue, a friend for more than 25 years, said: "He was an enormously generous and kind man, with great warmth and affection for humanity, Liberace was a legend."

He added: "His professionalism was beyond reproach. Lee was one of the world's great talents and had such a magnetic charisma and presence both on and off stage.

"He was a star in every sense of the word and although his death is a great tragedy, he has left behind a marvellous legacy to his outstanding talents through his records and TV appearances and many memories. We will never replace him".

Piano virtuoso Libera, who died last night.
Boland denies AIDS charges

HEALTH Minister John Boland said yesterday that, the decision to submit again a draft anti-AIDS advertising project to the design consultants had been taken by the Cabinet before he took over as Health Minister.

He said the Cabinet wanted greater emphasis on drug-related aspects of the disease, and denied that Fine Gael wanted the changes to avoid a row during the election campaign about the use of condoms.

Earlier yesterday the 1,500-strong Prison Officers' Association condemned the Government for its failure to begin the proposed public information programme on AIDS.

Mr. Tom Hoare, POA spokesman said there was no justification for the delay in providing all available information to the general public on the disease, adding that a public health and safety issue should come before political party considerations.

He said AIDS was a killer disease and the delay in informing the public of the full facts, on what had been medically described in Ireland as an epidemic, was totally unacceptable, and could lead to the spread of the virus.

He added that the failure to begin the public education programme had left prison staff isolated and vulnerable because of the ignorance in the wider community and that ignorance could only be overcome by a public education campaign.
In 1982-89, he starred in a daytime version of that series for ABC and in 1984 he was the star of the Liberace: the Sequined Stylist for CBS that originated in London and featured a variety of comedy sketches and music. He also appeared in several films, including South Sea Honeymoon (1954), Front Page (1940), All for One (1923), and My Little Christmas (1924). He also played a cabaret singer, Liberace earned his legacy in Las Vegas, California, and an apartment in New York City.

Despite his success, the entertainer had also struggling with the press, critics often took a dim view of his keyboard talent, but in recent years his quality as a pianist seemed to import that his ability to entertain. His fellow pianists praised concerts at such venues as New York's Radio City Music Hall, where he set attendance records and the last stage show in the spring of 1982.

His public appearance was on the Oprah Winfrey Christmas Show, taped in mid-November. Asked more about a magazine that commented unfavourably on his musical talent, Liberace said: "I cry all the way to the bank."

More recently, he settled for $50,000 dollars ($50,000) what remained of a multi-million dollar settlement with Bill his former lawyer who claimed he was a former lawyer who claimed he was awarded a salary for life by the entertainers estate for his work during the entertainer's travail, a contract, a house, and a bank. His health deteriorated and he was treated in January for a heart attack. A blood clot formed and his agent diagnosed him with AIDS. The star died on June 26, 1987.
Hospitals may do a secret AIDS test

PLANS to test hospital patients secretly for AIDS are being considered by Ministers.

But those found to have the killer virus would not be told.

The Government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, revealed last night that Mrs Thatcher's 'AIDS Cabinet' is seriously considering the idea.

Anyone going into hospital for any treatment, and having a blood test, would also be screened for AIDS.

The patient would not be told the result, and medical staff doing the screening would not know who the samples came from.

Results from the test would be used to get a general picture of the disease and draw up emergency plans to combat it, said Sir Donald.

He told the Social Services Committee of MPs that such testing is already done to gather information about other infectious diseases, such as measles.

But questioned by Tory Nicholas Winterton, he admitted there are ethical and legal difficulties about the idea.

Until these are sorted out, nothing will be done.

Telecom hope

HOPES were rising last night of an end to the 11-day strike by 110,000 British Telecom engineers. Both sides met for full talks, and Communications union leader Mr John Gokling said: 'We are nearer a settlement.'
Independent
5th February 1987

AIDS couple commit suicide

An Italian couple committed suicide in a motel room in northern Italy, leaving notes saying they were suffering from AIDS and asking that their two-year-old son be looked after, police said yesterday.

Police said the man had first shot his wife then turned the gun on himself.
Independent
5th February 1987

Hospital patients facing secret Aids tests

by PHILIP JOHNSTON
SECRET Aids tests may be carried out on hospital patients, it was revealed last night.
Blood taken from accident victims and others would be checked without their knowledge, said the government's chief health officer Sir Donald Acheson.

Hospital staff would not be told whose blood they were testing — and victims would NOT be told if they had the killer disease.

The idea behind the screening would be to discover the real extent of the Aids epidemic, Sir Donald told the all-party Commons health committee.

But the proposal, which is being considered by ministers, prompted an immediate outcry from MPs.

Alliance spokesman Charles Kennedy declared: "This must be a non-starter."

Ethical

And Tory Nicholas Winterton questioned whether the checks would be ethical.
Sir Donald admitted the scheme had "limitations."
Although it would provide greater information on the spread of the virus, experts would be unable to discover how the new victims they found had contracted the disease.

"It would be impossible to tell which of them were male homosexuals, drug abusers or heterosexuals," Sir Donald conceded.

But the "blind" testing could resolve arguments between doctors over the scale of the Aids menace.

Officially, there are now 600 cases in this country and there have been 300 deaths.

It is estimated that 4,000 will die by the end of 1989 — but some experts put the figure much higher.
Liberace – camp, candelabra and classics

The flamboyant Liberace, who died today aged 43, put openly into the world of the world with his dazzling Technicolor and shimmering style to entertain audiences around the world.

The man born William Valetric Silverstein, in West Allis, Wisconsin, had a vanity for an audience and thrived on the élan of a young male audience, in his way and on stage through his candelabra and the touch of camp which colored his oratorical style and storytelling.

Audiences were not only to hear his music but also to see him outshine the audience – even without his candelabra, his dress, and the grand piano and gold lame suit he wore to heavy that he could hardly carry the weight.

Critics lambasted him for triviality, lacking in the music of the 20th century. But to the public the sensuality of the star became rather a star was a forerunner of the 1980s.

He died on May 14, 1987, to an AIDS-related disease. He had played the French horn and lived with his mother, but before playing the part of a boy, showing early promise as a classical pianist. He maintained a life-long devotion to his mother, frequently bringing her on stage.

He had his own television show in the 1950s, gave Royal Command Performances in London and played for presidents and kings.

He last appeared on stage last October at New York’s Radio City Music Hall, where during a sold-out engagement, the New York Times reported that he flew across the stage like a wallaby, Peter Pan in 102 pounds of purple and white feathers.
The Irish Press, Thursday, February 5, 1987

Aids — ads delay

The Minister for Health, Mr. Boland, denied that he was responsible for the delay in launching the £500,000 Aids advertising campaign, being organised by the Health Education Bureau.

He told a press conference yesterday that the decision was taken by Cabinet, when his predecessor, Mr. Desmond, was in power.

"The decision in relation to redesigning the draft campaign, and that's all it was, was taken at Cabinet level before I became Minister for Health," he said. He added that he was not in a position to say when the campaign would be ready to be launched.

The advertising agency were told to place greater emphasis on the drug abuse aspect of Aids related diseases and was told to come up with a campaign that was acceptable and to do so with a degree of urgency.

He denied that the "draft campaign" had too much emphasis on condoms and that Fine Gael members of the Cabinet thought this would be offensive to the Catholic hierarchy.

The Prison Officers Association yesterday demanded that the Government immediately begin the public information campaign on Aids.

There was no justification for the delay in providing the available information to the general public on Aids. A public health and safety issue must come before political party consideration, the statement said.

"Aids is a killer disease. The delay in informing the public of the full facts on what is medically described in Ireland as an epidemic is unacceptable totally and will lead to the continued spread of the virus."
FF to be pragmatic on AIDS

FIANNA FAIL. Limerick East candidates, who include a family doctor, yesterday attacked the Government's decision to halt the £900,000 public information campaign on AIDS.

Deputy Willie O'Dea said: "This Government is hung up on sex matters. As far as Fianna Fail is concerned, we will adopt a pragmatic approach to the problem."

He said AIDS was a truly frightening phenomenon and should be taken seriously by the Government. But, he added, it had not been proved that condoms were the answer.

Dr Richard O'Flaherty said AIDS had created such a scare, and so much human misery, that it was time to tackle the problem before it got a grip in this country.

Morally, he said, he would be against the use of condoms. But he could see no reason why this method could not be tried, if it was thought to help combat the disease.

Both Deputy O'Dea and Mr Michael Parkes, the third Fianna Fail candidate in what was their first Fianna Fail press conference in Limerick, supported the recent stand by the Taoiseach, Dr FitzGerald, in relation to maintaining Shannon as the first trans-Atlantic port of entry.

Reminded of what Padraig Flynn had said in favour of building Knock Airport to admit American pilgrims, Deputy O'Dea said: "He is quite well able to look after Mayo. We will look after this region."
Liberace died yesterday surrounded by friends and family at his Palm Springs home. He had been gravely ill with anemia, emphysema and heart disease.

Liberace’s physician, Dr. Elias Ghanem of Las Vegas, said he flew to Palm Springs on Monday and was surprised the star “has held on this long.”

Liberace’s manager, Seymour Heller, has denied a report that he has AIDS, saying a watermelon diet left him tired.

But Dr. Ghanem said Liberace went on the watermelon diet more than a year ago, lost weight, then gained it back after he took him off it.

“The watermelon diet did not play a role in his being ill now,” the doctor said.

He refused to discuss AIDS saying Liberace “has always lived a very private life. I hope the world will remember him as Mr. Showmanship”.

Liberace slipped into a coma after a priest administered the last rites.

Fans held a candlelight vigil outside his mansion, Casa de Liberace, in Palm Springs.

“The fans, many of them middle-aged women, stood outside the mansion for up to six hours.

“I have seen 30 of Liberace’s performances and I can’t believe I will never see him again in his lovely stage clothes playing his grand piano,” said fan Elsie Macmillan.

The entertainer, a workaholic who has averaged earnings of more than five million dollars a year for the past 30 years, had said he intended to take this year off.

“Too many people wait and then it is too late,” he said in Chicago recently.

Flamboyant Liberace put sparkle into the classics and seduced audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile and outlandish wardrobe.

Born Vladislaw Valentin Liberace in Wisconsin, he introduced millions to Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin through his easy-listening medleys.

He prided himself on being able to play any song requested. But it was the glass pianos, the sequins and candles and the touch of camp which endeared him to a multitude of undemanding music-lovers.

He blazed the trail for many young performers, with Elton John, Elvis Presley and David Bowie just three of dozens of artists who admitted being inspired by his outrageous wardrobe.