Print Media

National HIV and AIDS Archives

#NationalHIVArchives

1st to 5th May 1987
Lottery to help battle on AIDS

Funds from the National Lottery are to be used for the government's AIDS information programme being launched today by Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon.

No provision for the Health Education Bureau, which will spearhead the AIDS campaign, was made in the revised estimates for 1987, published yesterday. A footnote said funding, which amounted to £2 million last year, would come from the National Lottery.

When the last government proposed the National Lottery it was intended to be used to fund such activities as arts and culture and sport.
Campaign on AIDS underway

THE first step in an intensive government campaign to educate the public about the AIDS disease is to be launched by Health Minister, Dr. Rory O'Hanlon today.

But the Minister refused to tell the Dáil last night how explicit or otherwise the information campaign is to be.

During Question Time he described the threat from AIDS as similar to that from tuberculosis 40 years ago.

Dr. O'Hanlon said the Government's information programme had been designed to meet "the identified information needs" of the population.

At one level the programme will reinforce public knowledge about AIDS through a mass media programme and on an individual level.

The Minister said the personal worries of individuals would be addressed through a detailed booklet and a confidential freefone service.

He said that fundamental to the success of the campaign was the development, on continuing basis, of local AIDS information and education programmes.

A Central Strategy Committee has been established by the Minister to develop and implement further strategies for dealing with AIDS. This committee will monitor the needs of the health services, including the hospital services in relation to AIDS and make recommendations.

There had been 19 cases of AIDS in Ireland to-date, 11 of which had occurred since January, 1986. Three of the 11 had died from AIDS as a result of drug abuse; five were homosexuals or bisexuials and three were haemophiliacs.
AIDS profits still under Wellcome mat

INTERNATIONAL pharmaceutical group Wellcome pleased the City yesterday with a bumper set of figures that put 36p on its shares which finished at 440p. It did better than expected in the United States, particularly with its antiviral drug Zovirax which is used against herpes, and sales of products just out of patent held up well.

Profits rose 26pc to £81.2m in the half year ending February 28 with some help from better margins on sales 12pc higher at £557.1m, all but 10pc of them overseas. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, who got its numbers badly wrong with a forecast of only £74m, are now expecting pre-tax profits of £180m for the year and £195m for next.

Wellcome shares have a very high rating because of the publicity and hopes for Retrovir, its recently launched drug which is being used to suppress the symptoms of AIDS' victims. But AIDS played no part in yesterday's figures. By the end of the year Wellcome will be able to supply Retrovir to all the 46,000 the World Health Organisation has indentified with the disease.

Although the potential for Retrovir is enormous, Wellcome shares are too highly rated to attract the small investor. There is also a substantial down side in the share price, says BZW analyst Peter Woods.

There are fears about the toxic and side effects of the drug - it can cause anaemia, may attack the neurological system and cannot be used on AIDS victims where the symptoms are severe. Also Retrovir is only 18 months or so ahead of a similar drug, Didoxycyctidine, being developed by Hoffmann La Roche which may prove more effective and have less side effects.

DOUGLAS BENCE
AIDS - OUR FIGHT IS ON

THE Government today finally spelled out how AIDS can be avoided.

But the long-awaited campaign, launched today by Health Minister Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, avoided the snappy Church and social dilemma of the use of condoms in fighting the spread of the disease.

Instead, it lays the main emphasis on single-partner sex, and drug avoidance as the most effective way of avoiding AIDS.

The £100,000 campaign, the Government hopes will save lives. It is at risk and who is at risk, how it works, can be avoided if:

- People stay with one partner.
- They remain faithful to that partner.
- Drug-users avoid sharing needles and equipment.

The lifetime "hit" beyond today tells people that if they see further doubt they should ask their doctor or STL clinic about prevention through the use of condoms. And it warns that casual sex spreads the virus.

But the Health Education Bureau, which prepared an information booklet for the Government, points out explicitly that for sexually-active youth who are not in "one normal, constant, relationship, a strong condom correctly used is the single most effective defence against AIDS.

But it warns that condoms cannot offer 100 per cent protection.

The campaign, as a single life on the disease, will use television, radio, newspapers, and billboards from this weekend to inform the public about the facts.

But it will be less explicit than the British campaign which caused some controversy in that country.

Drug dealers are targeted as a middle-life group but they are not immune either, not even the medical or equipment.

Homosexuals, bisexuals, promiscuous heterosexuals, both men and women, and newborn babies are also in the high-risk categories.

Major billboard in the country's six cities will carry a hint message this holiday season: "To holidaymakers and travelers, Don't Bring It Home.

Other billboards, asking people not to "tame" themselves with AIDS, are aimed at drug pushers who are dangerous situations.

The campaign is based on the idea that the AIDS virus can be caught by casual, non-sterile contact with infected people, such as sharing bongs, vaccines, or bathing in swimming pools and from sources, unable to even speak.

A confidential telephone advice service will be available from next Monday between certain hours.

People may anonymously dial 56 and ask for the Freephone AIDS Information Unit in Dublin (01) 9135277.
AIDS AND CONDOMS — IT'S UP TO YOU

CONDOMS will reduce the risk of contracting AIDS, the Government said today, but it does not urge their use.

As the long-awaited AIDS campaign was launched, the Minister for Health, Dr. Rory O' Hanlon, said that individuals must decide for themselves if they wished to use condoms.

Adding that the Department had not consulted the churches, involving the Catholic Church, which is opposed to the use of condoms, Dr. O'Hanlon said that the campaign would be "a two-pronged" attack on the deadly disease.

There would be advertising in the press, radio, and television, he said. Information booklets would also be available to anybody who wanted them through doctors, pharmacists, and the country's eight health boards.

Advertising posters would go on view throughout the country aimed particularly at high risk groups such as drug addicts, homosexuals and people returning from abroad, the Minister said.

"Far and away the safest way to avoid AIDS is to have one partner, and to be faithful to that partner," Dr. O'Hanlon continued. "The most important point to get across to the public is the fact that there is no cure. However there are treatment facilities in hospitals throughout the country and these will continue irrespective of health cuts."

He said that there were certain misconceptions about the disease which the Government wanted to redress. Many people falsely believed that the disease could be picked up from using the eating utensils of sufferers or by swimming in the same pool as infected people. It was myths like this that the Department wished to eliminate.

With 19 AIDS deaths to date, 11 of them since January 1986, Dr. Derek Friedman, chairman of the Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases, said drug abusers posed the major threat to the spread of the disease to the rest of the community.

He agreed that while for some people condoms might be a questionable safe and practical alternative.
582 found to have AIDS antibodies, meeting told

By John Armstrong

THE total number of persons tested for AIDS in Ireland up to March 31st last was 8,705, of whom 582 were antibody-positive, the annual general meeting of the Irish Society of Medical Officers of Health was told yesterday in Dublin.

An antibody-positive test result indicates that the person involved has been exposed to the virus, is infectious, and has a 20 per cent to 30 per cent likelihood of progressing to full-blown AIDS.

Professor Irene Hillery of the Department of Microbiology at University College, Dublin, which acts as the national centre for AIDS testing, told the meeting that the 582 antibody-positive cases were made up of 364 intravenous drug users, 107 homosexuals or bisexual men and women, 23 babies — all born to antibody-positive mothers — and 50 "others".

A total of 1,080 homosexual or bisexual men and women had been tested and the 5 per cent shown to be antibody-positive was a very low proportion compared with findings in the UK and elsewhere, she said. The "others" category included five blood donors and a small number of visitors to Ireland who had since left the country, she added.

Professor Hillery said figures for the month of April would be available early next week and would show that about another 1,000 people had come forward for testing. Another two babies had been identified as antibody-positive.

Research to date had isolated the AIDS virus not only in blood and semen but also in saliva, tears, breast milk, female genital secretions, brain tissue and bone marrow, Professor Hillery said.

But in some of these cases the indications were that relatively large quantities would have to be ingested for infection to take place. "It has been estimated for example that you have to swallow two litres of saliva to be at risk," she said.

Professor Hillery said that one of the major difficulties in developing an effective strategy to contain the spread of the disease was the three-month time lag between infection and the body's development of antibodies which could be detected in tests. During this period a person was infectious and could pass the virus on but this would not show up in the tests. Persons in the high risk categories, including intravenous drug abusers, active homosexuals and bisexuals and haemophiliacs, should be tested at regular three-monthly intervals, she said.

There should be no testing without the permission of the person involved or, without informing them of the implications of a positive result, including the life insurance and mortgage implications.

She said there had been three threatened strikes at Sherriff Street Post Office in Dublin since testing began when blood samples posted to her laboratory had broken in the sorting office, spilling their contents. "I have had to go down there to clean up. It is illegal to send blood samples in breakable containers through the post," she said.

She added that she would strongly advise anybody involved in an accident in Africa not to accept a blood transfusion, as the blood would not have been screened for AIDS.

Dr J. H. Walsh of the Department of Health said that as the number of AIDS cases increased, consideration would have to be given to making Directors of Community Care responsible for treatment in their own areas.

"It will grow. We know that but we don't know how fast. They can't all be sent to St James's. The general policy is that AIDS cases will be treated in general hospitals and that after treatment patients be sent back to the community. Eventually if the situation becomes bad enough we will have to think of hospices," he said.
Government to launch AIDS campaign today

THE Minister for Health, Dr O'Hanlon, told Mr Bernard Allen (FG, Cork North-Central) that he was looking at the future of the health boards and the structures necessary for them. However, he said that he did not see any good reason to propose a reduction in their number. He also said there were no plans to move some hospitals away from health board responsibility.

Mr Peadar de Rossa (WP, Dublin North-West) asked if the Minister believed there would be better management in the voluntary hospitals if they were under the health boards. The Minister said he did not.

Dr O'Hanlon said the exact opening date for the new Beaumont Hospital depended on the supply and installation of essential equipment. The board of the hospital had been asked to proceed speedily in commissioning the hospital. It was intended to have the hospital open by the end of the year. It was intended that the range of services currently provided at the St Francis and the Mater hospitals would be available from Beaumont from the opening day.

"It was not possible in the difficult financial position of the moment to consider the extension of the long-term illness scheme to cover children suffering from asthma, Dr O'Hanlon said. However, he was reviewing the scheme with reference to the heavy outlay incurred in respect of some conditions, including asthma, to see how the hardship could be alleviated within the context of the drug refund scheme.

The Minister told Mr Brendan Howlin (Lab, Wexford) that in the interests of continuity and his statutory obligations he did intend to make appointments to the health boards, even though a reorganisation was planned.
AIDS leaflets for young launched

CONCERN for the welfare of young people “growing up in our Church family” has led to the production by Presbyterians of a leaflet on AIDS which has been described as simple, factual and, it is believed, helpful. An on-going study of the problem is being made by an appropriate committee of the Church. This leaflet is described as a “first effort”. It is implied that there are others to follow.

The leaflet will be distributed to all our people over 15 years. Clerks in the 22 Presbyteries have been asked to give guidance on the best means of distribution within each Presbytery. But, so far as young people are concerned, it is said to be desirable that the leaflet be placed in their hands (it should not be a case of “those interested, please take one”) by someone who has formed a relationship of trust with them. The help of parents, senior Bible class, Boys’ Brigade and youth club leaders is therefore enlisted.

Those responsible for this production hope that it will generally be agreed in the Church that they have acted quickly and responsibly in meeting the educational needs of young people especially.

PRESBYTERIAN
NOTES

It is noted that the late Very Rev Dr R. K. Hanna, a former minister of Adelaide Road, Dublin, and Moderator of the General Assembly, was the moving spirit in the inauguration of the annual Portrush Ministers’ Conference, during his year as Moderator in 1927.

The conference celebrates its diamond jubilee this year, meeting as usual in Castle Erin, Portrush, from May 11th to 13th.

The guest speaker will be the Rev David Searle, a Scot, formerly of Aberdeen and Falkirk and now the minister of the Hamilton Road Church in Bangor.

Mr Searle, already well known as a conference and convention speaker, will speak on the practical matters of the ministry, with subjects to be announced nearer the time of the conference. Those interested should immediately contact the Rev H. D. McKerrnan, 43 Ballyholme Road, Bangor, Northern Ireland (Telephone 472142).

The Clerk of the General Assembly, the Very Rev Dr T. J. Simpson, reminds all ministers that Commissions for Ruling Elders to the 1987 General Assembly should reach him not later than May 4th.

The convenor of the Television, Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Aids Committee, the Rev Willis Cordner, together with Mr Alec Johnston, has been filming with a video unit during the month of April in Kenya and Malawi. Sufficient film for one major programme on each of these countries, and for several shorter commentaries on particular aspects of Christian work will be taken.

The Home Mission takes a caravan to be used by ministers prepared to supply the pulpit of the Arklow church during the months of June and September. A week’s free use of the caravan is given for return for Sunday services. There are vacancies. Those interested should contact Rev Alastair Bell, (Tel. D Gda. 574579).

A mobile home is available in a quiet family setting in return for help with the Sunday services in Admiral Gorey, Co Wexford. A mobile home is free June and September and its use is negotiated through the Rev S. Williamson, The Manse, M. Park Road, Emniscorthy, Co Wexford.

The Rev Tony Davison, minister of Christ Church, Limerick, will give the talk on the RTE 2 programme “Nightlight” during May 4th and 7th at approximately 11 p.m. each evening.

A service of morning worship will be televised by RT 1 at 11 a.m. on May 10th with the minister, the Rev Dav C. Cusack, and a congregational address from Dun Laoghaire church York Road, Dun Laoghaire.
AIDS OVERSEAS

Sue Shaw finds out what the overseas development organisations have been doing about AIDS.

Many overseas development organisations have been slow to respond to AIDS compared to agenices in the West. The Norwegian Red Cross, says Ronen, managing director of the international non-governmental organisation, "The flows from abroad on how to respond to the AIDS problem. There is a need to prioritise funds to existing primary health care programmes,," she says. In addition, agencies may find it difficult to allocate resources to the AIDS problem in a way that maximises the impact in the region where they are operating.

Another factor in the delayed response is the weak reporting system which has so far excluded a large number of overseas governments. The situation has led to a lack of coordination and an increase in the demand for services. In the absence of proper reporting systems, countries have been unable to track the spread of the disease and allocate resources effectively.

AIDS affects not only the individual but also the community. The disease is a social issue, affecting not just the infected but also their families, friends, and communities. The impact of AIDS on societal structures and institutions is significant, and addressing it requires a multi-sectoral approach.

In conclusion, it is clear that the response to AIDS must be comprehensive and coordinated. It is essential to partner with local communities, governments, and international organisations to develop and implement effective strategies to combat the disease. The allocation of resources, coordination of efforts, and a strong political commitment are crucial in addressing the AIDS epidemic.

Review

Don't scapegoat Africa

Rick Fielden reviews AIDS: An African Perspective, Black Health Workers and Patients Group (£20 per copy from 278 High Road, Tooting, London SW17 974).

Africa has been scapegoated by the popular media, with evidence of AIDS being spread in Africa. The media and government policies have contributed to this perception, leading to a lack of understanding and a failure to address the root causes of the disease.

In reality, the origins of AIDS are complex and multifaceted. The disease is not unique to Africa, and similar patterns of transmission have been observed in other regions. The media's portrayal of Africa as a disease-ridden continent has contributed to a lack of investment in research and treatment programs.

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In conclusion, the media's portrayal of Africa as a disease-ridden continent has contributed to a lack of understanding of the disease and a failure to address the root causes. The media's role in shaping public perception is crucial in addressing these issues. It is essential to challenge these stereotypes and provide a more balanced and accurate portrayal of Africa.
AIDS

The Government has at long last launched an official campaign against the AIDS epidemic, at least 12 deaths, 19 confirmed cases of the disease and 138 men known to have been infected with the virus.

Belated though it is, this newspaper has been urging this campaign for months, if it was to be effective, thoughtfully and hopefully.

Central to the Health Minister's strategy is a new and deadly ambitious in the proposition that the ultimate responsibility for curbing the disease rests on responsible sexual behaviour.

For it is clear that the condition—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—is sexually transmitted in the great majority of cases.

In addition, a booklet circulated by the Health Education Bureau points out that the sexually active people who are not in a 'one lifetime partner' relationship, a strong condom correctly used, is the single most effective defence against AIDS.

This need not be said. And it is said by many of us in a much more meaningful way. Everyone, however, should be aware of whether condoms are to be used for this purpose.

As such, it was welcomed by the Catholic Bishops' Task Force on AIDS—rightly so.

Another way in which this disease is transmissible is through equipment used by drug users. The booklet warns that this is another problem and that it is not to be ignored. It also mentions that needles, or other medical equipment, should be used by drug users.

AIDS is a disease that is not easy to treat, and the booklet cautions that, despite the efforts of doctors and nurses, there is no cure for AIDS. The booklet also warns that the disease is not contagious, but it is important to avoid needle sharing and other activities that can spread the virus.

One of the goals of the campaign, it should be said, is to reduce the number of new cases of AIDS and to prevent the spread of the disease.

The booklet also mentions that the campaign is aimed at reducing the stigma and discrimination against people with AIDS and their families.

This is a crucial point, as the stigma and discrimination against people with AIDS is a major problem in many countries.

The booklet also mentions that the campaign is aimed at reducing the number of new cases of AIDS and to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dr. O'Hanlon's campaign against AIDS has been widely welcomed, and it is hoped that it will help to reduce the number of new cases of the disease.
AIDS campaign: Shocking but is it simply too little, too late?

By Fergal Cronin
Safe sex urged in battle on AIDS

By MAIRTIN Mac CORMAC and LIAM RYAN

THE GOVERNMENT campaign against AIDS, announced yesterday, strongly emphasises single-partner sex and the avoidance of drug abuse.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The AIDS campaign... is it too little too late? Page seven.

...the most effective way of avoiding sexual contact with an AIDS sufferer...
THE IRISH TIMES

13 D'OLIER STREET, DUBLIN 2
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1987

COP-OUT

Four months late, the Government's campaign to inform people about the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome will not strike the casual observer as something which ought to have taken that length of time to prepare. Concerned observers will find much to criticise in it.

The basic flaw is that it appears to be aimed at the majority of the population in this country, the people in secure family units living traditional and largely sexually orthodox lives. The people, in short, who are least at risk of contracting this lethal disease. By looking over their shoulders at the upholders of the sexual norms in Irish society, the Government and the agencies who have helped formulate the campaign, appear to be about to fail in getting the life-saving message to those most at risk from the disease.

At its most basic level, the campaign cops out on the question of condom usage. Its primary injunctions are: "stay with one faithful partner" and "remain faithful to that partner." Those who deviate from the sexual norm in Irish society are not likely to pay much attention to this advice, effective as it may be for avoiding exposure to the virus which causes AIDS.

Third on the list is "if in doubt, ask your doctor or clinic about protection through the use of condoms." Why ask your doctor? Why not just use condoms? They may not afford 100 per cent protection to those who run a risk of exposure, but there is ample evidence to show that they can be very effective in lessening the spread of infection through groups at risk.

The fourth piece of advice offered is "if you inject drugs, don't share needles or equipment." Those who inject drugs are the single largest group at risk of AIDS infection in this country. They come last in the campaign's list of priorities, apparently, and the advice offered is incomplete and, for many of them, utterly unrealistic. For those who feel they need heroin, the risk of contracting AIDS is not likely to deter them from using someone else's needle if that is the readiest source of the drug to hand.

Will the heroin addict, desperate for a dose, pause if offered money for prostitution to think about casual sex or condoms? Are the campaign's designers relying on the prostitute's customer to ensure safety — someone who has already ignored the first two injunctions in the campaign?

There might also be more room in the campaign given to reassurance for the general public about how AIDS cannot be contracted. There is nearly as much need to quell hysteria as to prevent the spread of the virus. And the provision of a telephone information service at limited hours over a period of only two weeks seems very inadequate to meet the anxieties of those who may be further alarmed by the campaign itself.

There is an air of cloud cuckoo-land about this belated exercise. It is nothing like a solution for what is, increasingly and clearly, an Irish problem.
Gay crusader with the comic touch

TABOO or not taboo? That is the question. Gays may be out of the closet, but homosexuality is still a tricky subject for screen comedy. One wrong word and you've upset either Mary Whitehouse or the gay community itself.

EastEnders and Brookside have gay characters, but when it comes to laughter, homosexuality on screen is a minefield.

A few American shows, notably Soap, have succeeded in raising laughs rather than hackles. But only now is British television brave enough to tackle a comedy series with a gay man as the lead character.

The Corner House (Cl, 9.30pm Monday) doesn't stop there — racism, unemployment, royalty and a myriad contentious issues are raised as a variety of characters pass through an old-fashioned coffee house. It's Cheers, English style — comedy with a message.

"I'm gay myself, so everything I write will inevitably have a gay content," says Chris Eymard, who co-wrote the series and stars in it with Robert Llewellyn.

"Having 'come out' as a homosexual I intend to stay out, despite the fact that people won't leave us alone.

"I suppose in a way you could describe the series as a private crusade. Being gay is great as far as I'm concerned. It's other people who feel the need to push us back into the closet."

Eymard plays Gilbert, the cafe owner, who, despite his gentle nature, is still very much the boss to his immature employee, Dave, played by Llewellyn.

Gilbert is a marked change from the moody, gay waiter image that's so much a part of the traditional sit-com.

"Comedy is a good vehicle for breaking down stereotypes and getting across political points," says Eymard. "People are relaxed and more receptive."

"As Gilbert, I can get away with saying lots of things that might be difficult otherwise.

"I'm not trying to preach. But, for once, gays aren't the target. They're funny, but not at their own expense."

BACKLASH

Inevitably, there will be some public reaction to a series with a sympathetic view of homosexuality. In the showbusiness world there has already been a gay backlash in response to the Aids scare, so is the time right for this series?

"It's more important than ever for gays to be visible," says Eymard. "It's people who don't understand homosexuality who are responsible for the so-called backlash."

"What I've tried to say is that my sexuality isn't invalid or inferior just because it's different. Gays are here and we're human, and it's time people recognised the fact and left us alone."
AIDS, UNBALANCED

Risks to addicts

Gays under-played

By PAM O'CONNOR

HEALTH MINISTER Dr.

Sunday Independent, May 3, 1987
Hooded police with AIDS man

A young Australian charged with house-breaking was escorted into court in Sydney by police officers dressed from head to toe in white protective clothing because he was suffering from AIDS.

Steven Atwood (20), described by police as a homosexual prostitute and heroin addict suffering from hepatitis as well as AIDS, appeared before the magistrates court bleeding from cuts to his face.

Atwood hurt himself when he fell out of a window during his arrest, and police will not touch him. His escorts wore hoods, plastic gloves and masks.

Magistrate Brian Cook told Atwood that no lawyer was likely to come near him, adding, "I know I wouldn't.

No plea was taken and Atwood was remanded in custody.
Aids failure

Too little and too late. Delay in publicly confronting the AIDS problem may have been understandable — with the change of Government — but that does little to excuse this Government’s failure to make up for lost time with its quite inadequate response to this killer disease.

In Irish terms, AIDS now represents the greatest threat to public health since T.B., but the Government’s campaign scarcely suggests that it sees it in those terms.

It proposes to treat the least important aspect of the AIDS problem as if it were the major one.

AIDS, by and large, is not a heterosexual problem, and that is what the Government’s campaign, in the main, seems to be addressing.

For homosexuals, it can be a problem, and for drug users who inject drugs, it clearly is. They are the group most at risk in this country. They should be the subject of special attention, and they are not.

The Government, one feels, in launching this campaign, is doing so more out of a sense of inherited obligation than from any serious conviction about the scale of the AIDS problem, and the need for a crisis response.

The Minister for Health should think again.

Surely, as a recently practising doctor, he must accept that greater use of condoms is vital in ensuring that the AIDS virus is not transmitted.

Yet, in this campaign, greater use of condoms is not directly advocated as a basic precaution for those likely to be at risk, but as something requiring discussion with a doctor.

The use of condoms is not a medical matter. It is plain common sense and Dr. O’Hanlon should know better.

Quotes of the week

"I don’t give a damn about your view." — British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock to the party’s black rebels.

"P... off." British Health Minister Edwina Currie to surgeon Ian Hutchinson who criticised her over health cuts.

"We have a burning love for churches." Graffiti on a Cologne Catholic Church during the Pope’s visit. A Church was burned two miles away.

"The orchestra is the pits." — Wayne Sleep, star dancer in the West End musical Cabaret, whose remark halted the show for three nights.

"It reflects the egomaniacal self image of a profoundly insecure troubled personality desperately needing public reassurance." — Dr. Noel Browne, reviewing “The Spirit of the Nation,” collected speeches of Mr. Charles J. Haughey.

"He ruined my career, you know.” — Photographer Linda McCartney, wife of ex-Beatle Paul.

"The basic flaw is that it appears to be aimed at... people in secure family units living traditional and largely sexual orthodox lives who are least at risk of contracting this lethal disease.” — The Irish Times on the Government’s AIDS campaign.

"Townsend Thoresen takes responsibility for this casualty.” — Counsel at the London inquiry into the Zeppelin disaster.
Aids drive is ‘unbalanced’

By Pam Colmer

Health Minister Dr. Rory O’Hagan was concerned yesterday for bringing “morality” into the anti-Aids campaign.

There was particular criticism of the emphasis in his advice on avoiding the disease by avoiding homosexual contact.

Dr. O’Hagan was accused of anti-gay propaganda and of not acknowledging the importance of the use of condoms and avoiding high-risk groups like homosexual and heterosexual drug abusers.

The Minister’s £600,000 AIDS education programme, announced on Friday, includes a television advertisement which clearly outlines the dangers of casual sex but makes no mention of the dangers of sex with an AIDS-infected partner.

The campaign strongly urges the public not to “leapfrogging from one partner to another” as a way of reducing the risk of AIDS.

The new AIDS education programme also warns that homosexuals, doctors, nurses, and health workers should have safer sex.

But, Dr. O’Hagan said that it was up to the individual to make the decision to use condoms and he was concerned that they were not always used.

But, Paul Lavelle, co-ordinator of the Health and Welfare Alliance, said that the emphasis on the importance of the programme and the need for people to be responsibly responsible for their own sexual behaviour.

However, he added:

Risks to addicts, gays under-played

An absolutely confidential telephone advice service will be available from Monday, 4th May at the following times:

MONDAY 11th | 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
TUESDAY 12th | 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 6th & 13th | 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
THURSDAY 7th & 14th | 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
FRIDAY 8th & 15th | 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SIMPLY DIAL 10 AND ASK FOR FREEPHONE AIDS

or Dial (01) 795577 Direct

Department of Health
Priests and monks falling to AIDS...

The American bishops who have said that the Church's "national celibacy" means priests and monks are no longer chosen to have any role in the Church's structure.

THE CATHOLIC Church in the United States is in a deepening crisis over the increasing number of cases of sexual abuse by Church officials. The crisis has led to widespread fear and anger among Catholics.

A recent report by the National Catholic Reporter suggests that the Church's response to the crisis has been inadequate. The report states that the Church has failed to implement effective policies to prevent sexual abuse.

The report also highlights the Church's failures in dealing with cases of sexual abuse, including failure to report cases to authorities and failure to provide adequate training for Church officials.

Priests and monks falling to AIDS...

The Church has been forced to confront the reality that AIDS is an increasing problem within the Church.

A recent study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that the number of priests and monks diagnosed with AIDS has increased significantly in recent years.

The study also found that priests and monks are more likely to contract AIDS through heterosexual contact than other groups in the general population.

The Church has been criticized for its slow response to the AIDS crisis, and for failing to provide adequate support for those affected by the disease.

The Church's response to the AIDS crisis has been met with widespread criticism, and many agree that more needs to be done to address this growing problem.
AIDS FEAR

Blood-BY-POST

Sotteres are given

Protective Gloves

Sotteres el publibis

By 9d May 1987

Sunday World, May 9th 1987
NEW AIDS GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

A NEW explicit and easy-to-read leaflet on AIDS has been produced for the country's student population.

And unlike many other publications the new leaflet tells people how they "can't" get AIDS as well as how they can avoid it.

Julian Daly of Trinity College in Dublin who published the leaflet said:

"The leaflet is aimed at dispelling the myths about the disease; shattering the complacency that it 'can't happen to me' and giving guidelines to minimise the risk of infection."

The idea for the publication was first floated by the Trinity students union three weeks ago because of the Government's slow reaction to the crisis.

"We wondered how long the people have to wait or how many are to die before the Government launch an anti-AIDS campaign," added the second year English student from Cork.

The 25 universities and colleges both North and South of the border took part in the project and on Monday week 30,000 copies were distributed nationwide by Fast Track.

**Aimed**

The leaflet is also aimed at the country's thousands of fun-loving students who travel each year to the US for summer work and are more open than most to the dreaded disease.

It was originally intended to direct-mail the AIDS information to Trinity students but that got the thumbs down from the college authorities. "They felt it would be offending the sensibility of some students and their parents," Julian Daly added.

The fold-out leaflet is divided into 10 sections which cover every aspect of the disease including a section on how you CAN'T contract AIDS:

- Normal contact with an infected person
- Eating with, or sharing plates, cups, glasses, cutlery, communion cup with an infected person
- Using bathrooms, lavatories or swimming pools
- Receiving blood or blood products — all blood is heat treated and screened for AIDS
- By donating blood — they always use new needles (anyone who feels they may be infected should NOT donate blood or carry an organ donor card)
Killer virus 'like AIDS for dogs'

THOUSANDS of Irish dogs will suffer needless and agonising deaths this autumn—all because their owners will not inoculate their pets against a killer disease which has been likened to AIDS.

Speaking during a veterinary seminar on animal healthcare held in Dun Laoghaire yesterday, Mr. John Bainbridge of the Irish Veterinary Union said the killer disease "parvo virus" is set to kill off thousands of pet dogs this year unless they are vaccinated.

Discovered only nine years ago, parvo virus kills almost all untreated dogs within days after painful and severe symptoms have weakened the victims.

According to Mr. Bainbridge such needless suffering can be prevented with one simple injection costing less than £20 which also protects dogs from other diseases that can have similar affects.

Parvo virus reached epidemic proportions in Ireland last year with vets in towns and cities throughout the country reporting thousands of cases.

The disease is particularly rampant in urban housing estates according to the Tallaght-based vet because dogs in such estates have more freedom and are allowed to roam the streets passing on the virus.

Mr. Bainbridge also warned dog owners, especially those who have recently purchased puppies, to have them wormed immediately and at regular intervals.

"Pups and bitches that have just been born tend to have worms, which are passed to a child when playing with an infected animal and can cause permanent blindness" he said.
**Strategy behind the campaign**

**The Government's long-awaited advertising campaign on AIDS was launched at the weekend.** In his speech introducing the campaign, Health Minister Dr. Remy O'Hanlon stressed that “any mass media campaign can only be a first step, albeit an important one, down the road of public education and information.”

These first steps consist of two radio and one television advertisement. The television advertisement concentrates on the dangers of contracting AIDS through casual sex, and shows only playing cards until one of them turns up - the death card. The radio advertisement is similar in content, warning that “drugging around is a gamble, even if condoms are used.”

The second, shorter radio advertisement deals with drug abuse.

“Now injecting drugs can also infect you...” is the slogan that this campaign proceeds on the assumption that most adults are comparatively well-informed about AIDS, and that these advertisements are to serve as reminders that AIDS can affect anyone who has multiple sexual partners, or injects drugs.

Dr. O'Hanlon himself stated that the Irish population was very well-informed about AIDS, and particularly about the transmission - intimate sexual contact, sharing needles of an infected person, reusing infected blood during a blood transfusion and injected machines transferring it to their unborn babies.

The AIDs campaign concentrates on the dangers of unprotected heterosexual intercourse, which, although it does carry risks, is more dangerous in either homosexual intercourse or injecting with a shared needle. There is no mention whatever of heterosexual intercourse, or of the particular dangers facing homosexuals, in either the television or the radio advertisements, even though one of the two Irish men who have died of AIDS have been homosexuals.

The radio advertisement dealing with drug abuse is more vague, warning young people of “drug use.” So far, only dealing with the young people who are in most danger - those who are already using drugs. The written literature is more specific on this line. The poster entitled “Shoot Yourself with AIDS” states “may be you won't come off drugs, maybe you will. But if you shoot AIDs through somebody else's veins you've got no chance. Sharing needles can be the death of you.”

The written literature does not offer the drug addict any advice as to how where and how to get it. The Department of Health views the evidence in favor of free needle schemes with some skepticism, and has no plans to introduce free needle schemes for Ireland's drug addicts.

The campaign's neglect of the two high-risk groups - gay men and junkies - has not prepared them for the advertising industry to promote that it is no risk. There was high competition between the advertising campaigns for the AIDs slogan “Alice & Tony” agency that took it very seriously, and the advertising agency. We will have to see which of them is the more successful.

So how big a problem are we facing in Ireland? Today we begin a three-part series with a report on how the killer disease works. And tomorrow and Wednesday we focus on the groups most immediately at risk - the homosexuals and the drug addicts.
Rite Aid Sets Pact to Buy Unit of Sherwin-Williams

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

PHILADELPHIA — Rite Aid Corp. said it reached a definitive agreement to acquire Sherwin-Williams Co.'s Gray Drug Fair Inc. unit for between $115 million and $120 million.

Rite Aid, an operator of discount drugstores, auto-parts stores and book stores, said the purchase price is slightly more than the unit's book value. It said the final price is subject to accounting adjustments.

Shiremanstown, Pa.-based Rite Aid said it expects the acquisition to add about $500 million to its annual revenue. For the fiscal year ended Feb. 28, Rite Aid posted revenue of $1.76 billion.

Rite Aid recently expanded with the acquisition of stores from Kroger Co.'s SupeRx division and from Gray Drug Fair for about $110 million.

Cleveland-based Sherwin-Williams, one of the U.S.'s best-known makers of paint, said the sale will complete its exit from the drugstore business.

Sherwin-Williams acquired the Gray Drug Fair unit for $55 million in 1981 in the hope that it would even out the company’s cyclical paint and coatings business and boost profit margins. Nonetheless, the chain has contributed only marginally to profit in recent years.

Analysts think Sherwin-Williams will use proceeds of the sale to finance acquisitions related to its core business or to step up openings of its chain of paint stores.

Rite Aid shares closed Friday at $35, unchanged, and Sherwin-Williams's at $34.125, off $1.125, both in New York Stock Exchange composite trading.
Protein Licensed to U.S. Unit of Sandoz Can Help AIDS Patients, Scientists Say

BY MARILYN CHASE
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

SAN DIEGO—Scientists said early tests show that a new human protein successfully can treat the problem of anemia in acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The protein, naturally produced by the body in small amounts, was synthesized by gene-splicing techniques at Genetics Institute Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., and is licensed to Sandoz Inc. of Hanover, N.J. The pharmaceutical unit of Sandoz AG of Switzerland financed the clinical trial.

Jerome Groopman, a researcher at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, told scientists at a meeting here that he treated 16 AIDS patients with the protein, a blood-cell growth factor called GM-CSF. He said all patients' white blood-cell counts resumed normal levels. Side effects included mild aches, chills and fever, phlebitis, an inflammation of the veins, occurred in four patients.

Inviting Infections

Dr. Groopman's findings, if borne out in further tests, would be important because low white blood count invites infections that can be fatal to people whose immune system is weakened by AIDS, cancer chemotherapy or other disorders. As reported, tests of GM-CSF against cancer began at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, using a version of the protein made by Immunex Corp. of Seattle.

Amenia is a double-barreled problem in AIDS. AIDS patients often suffer a lowered white count from the syndrome itself. In addition, lowered white count is a complication of therapy with Burroughs-Wellcome Co.'s azidothymidine, or AZT, the only drug so far cleared for treatment of the fatal disorder. Burroughs-Wellcome is a U.S. unit of Wellcome PLC of the U.K.

Dr. Groopman said the synthesized protein also may block reproduction of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. He said that five out of nine patients in the test experienced a drop in the level of proteins in their blood after treatment with GM-CSF. Three patients had no change, and one showed an increase. But GM-CSF needs further study before it can be considered an anti-viral drug.

Further Study

Dr. Groopman emphasized that his early results warrant further study in an expanded group of patients with both AIDS and a variety of malignancies, including lung cancer, breast cancer and lymphoma.

"The question is whether GM-CSF will improve host defenses," Dr. Groopman said. Yet to be proven is whether the protein will live up to its performance in the test tube, where it has shown that it may prevent infection-fighting cells from migrating from an infection site and boost tumor-fighting capability of killer cells.

Despite Dr. Groopman's refusal to preview his results to non-scientists until Saturday's meeting of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, apparent leaks to Wall Street from other sources sparked a near-doubling of Genetics Institute's stock price, from the low 20's in January to the low 40's in recent weeks. In over-the-counter trading Friday, Genetics Institute closed at $41.25, down 13.5 cents.

Drug Developments

Scientists from the National Institutes of Health also presented AIDS drug developments. H. Cliff Lane of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases said tests of alpha interferon-induced tumor shrinkage in some patients with Kaposi's Sarcoma, an AIDS-linked malignancy. But he noted that the drug had no effect when patients' T4 cells, a type of immune sentry ravaged by the disease, had fallen below 100 a cubic millimeter, which manufactured by a number of companies, alpha interferon for the test was supplied by Schering-Plough Corp.

In addition, two new members of the AZT family of drugs are advancing through development at the National Cancer Institute, Dideoxynucleosine, or DDA, and cyanothymidine, or CNT, like AZT are false building blocks of DNA that insert themselves into the virus and interrupt its replication.

Samuel Broder, NCI's chief of clinical oncology, said he hopes to begin human trials of DDA this summer because test-tube studies suggest that it is less toxic to the bone marrow than AZT. Saturday's meeting marked the first public mention of CNT, which appears as active as AZT in tissue culture and thus "should be another candidate for pre-clinical development," Dr. Broder said.

Scientific Skepticism

A presentation about ICN Pharmaceutical Inc.'s drug ribavirin, however, prompted a renewal of scientific skepticism about the drug. Several scientists suggested that the patients receiving a placebo, or sugar pill, as a control, who have been carefully selected to match patients in the drug group, were perhaps slicker at the outset. Thus they developed AIDS much faster, making the drug recipients look good.

"I wonder how carefully patients were evaluated," Dr. Groopman said. "How many placebo patients may have had brewing cases of pneumonia?" Peter N.R. Hesselline, a researcher at the University of Southern California, denied that there was any statistical "manipulation," but he conceded that differences in patients' T4 cells did affect the disease's progression. He maintained that the drug "has promise" but needs further study.
Doctors divided over the patient's right to know

HELEN MANN, an 85-year-old lady, thought that her new GP was being tactful in his first appointment of the day. When she saw his face, she was shocked. The last time she saw him, he was lying on the floor, his legs around the neck of his patient.

It took her a few moments to realize that an adult had been involved in a domestic dispute and had been strangled. The next day, the police called at the door and informed her that her son had been killed. She was able to use her aport, to press the button that had been placed on the floor under the door to the patient's room. The GP involved agreed to attend the scene. But when she told him that her son had been found lying on the floor, he insisted that she was hallucinating.

Since then, he has been found lying on the floor under the door to the patient's room. The doctors are divided on the matter. Some doctors believe that the patient's right to know should be respected, while others believe that the patient's right to privacy should be protected.

Turning record card hieroglyphics into plain English

GIVING PATIENTS the right to see their notes is likely to involve doctors in considerable legal problems and to increase the amount of medical record-keeping that doctors have to do. The Royal College of Nursing has warned that the new code of practice for doctors will require doctors to keep more records than ever before. The college is concerned that the new code of practice will make doctors' work more time-consuming and that the amount of time doctors spend on record-keeping will increase.

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Testing for Aids in secret

Dear Sir,

I would like to support the case made by Nicholas Timmins for "Secret Aids screening" (27 April) but take issue with the title of the article, which, I believe, confuses the understanding of two different types of procedure that need to be considered separately.

In the public mind, "screening" is understood to mean the performance of a test or tests aimed at identifying a treatable condition, such as an incipient cancer of the cervix. The ethical justification for screening is the unwritten contract that the screener is proposing to benefit the health of the population to which the test is offered. For this, individual consent is clearly needed.

The separate type of procedure, to which Mr Timmins is referring, is more accurately classed as an epidemiological, or population, survey. Under this head, individual benefit is not proposed (although where effective treatment is available, ethically this must be offered); the object is the furtherance of medical knowledge or the monitoring of some disease condition.

In an epidemiological survey, it is not ethically required that individual consent be obtained. For such community-based research, the World Health Organisation guidelines state:

Where research is undertaken on a community basis — for example, by experimental treatment of water supplies, by health services research or by large-scale trials of new insecticides ... individual consent on a person-to-person basis may not be possible, and the ultimate decision to undertake the research will rest with the responsible public health authority. Nevertheless, all possible means should be used to inform the community concerned of the aims of the research ... If feasible, dissenting individuals should have the option of withholding their participation.

It would seem, therefore, that it should be ethical to carry out epidemiological surveillance for Aids without individual consent, providing that a method of sampling can be used that will give scientifically valid results.

Yours faithfully,

Dr J. M. G. WILSON
Musselburgh, Midlothian
29 April
AS THE spread of AIDS inevitably means an increased demand for condoms, there is growing competition to supply that demand in Ireland. John Gibbons reports.

Condom competition

WELFARE HYGIENE, a Dublin company, holds the sole Durex franchise and claims to supply over 90 per cent of the Irish market. However, a new competitor is Veronica O'Leary, whose company, Frederick Trading, claims sales of 115,000 condoms since start-up last December.

O'Leary's brother, Pat Moyles, is reputed to have made his fortune in the last two years by buying the sole agency in Britain for the "Red Stripe" condom. She is now supplying the Irish market.

Prior to the arrival of her company, the market was entirely dominated by the London Rubber Company, manufacturers of the Durex brand.

Dures suppliers, Welfare Hygiene sell some 60,000 condoms a week, giving an annual sales total in excess of three million units in the Republic. Other estimates suggest the market to be twice this.

O'Leary is confident that she can corner around 30 per cent of what can only be an expanding market. She imports condoms from France and Germany in bulk boxes, and then repackages most of the stock in six or 12 packs for distribution to chemists and other outlets. She operates from a basement in Dublin's Monkstown.

The reason for her repackaging, according to O'Leary, is that "it's creating employment here in Ireland for people in printing and packaging, as well as the people I hire on an occasional basis to pack the condoms into individual boxes." She argues that it would be far cheaper for her to simply import small boxes direct from the manufacturer.

Looking at her competitors, she claims: "Durex are definitely undercutting themselves on the Irish market". She maintains that when her brother, Pat Moyles, began selling condoms on the Irish market, they were substantially cheaper than Durex. Now the products are around the same price. "Durex are manufacturing condoms for a penny each in London, and selling them for £3 per box of 12 on the Irish market," she claims.

O'Leary spends most of her time on the road, visiting pharmacies and trying to get them to stock her product. As a woman selling what is markedly a man's item, she says that the job "has its moments."

But she says that her field research has shown that the majority of condom buyers are in fact women. Men, Veronica adds, are a bit shy about this kind of thing.

Prior to entering the condom business, O'Leary worked at a number of jobs, usually as a receptionist. Among the firms she has worked for are the Blood Bank and Irish Dunlop.

She remains nonplussed about the "Condom Queen" tag the locals in Monkstown have hung on her. "I could be selling toothpaste. I don't think the sort of business you are in should have any relevance to your religious views."

Since October 1985 the sale of condoms has been liberalised, following the introduction of the amendment to the 1979 Health (Family Planning) Act. But holders of Department of Health licences are still precluded from advertising their wares. Therefore it is within this context that the current Government campaign on AIDS will operate.

Veronica O'Leary's company is currently supplying the Gay Health Action Group with condoms, and in addition, she supplies them in the medical field.

VERONICA O'LEARY: Looking for 30 per cent of the market. — (Photograph: Matt Kavanagh)
Doctors get go-ahead for new vaccine trials

HIV Vaccine approval has just been given for doctors, at St Stephens Hospital Chelsea in West London, to test a revolutionary new vaccine against HIV on volunteers later this year.

The vaccine is made up from antibodies against HGP-30, which is an artificially created protein very similar to one of the more stable proteins in HIV itself. Because the vaccine contains no HIV derived proteins, researchers are confident that there will be no risk whatever of accidental infection.

Twenty-four volunteers will receive the vaccine in the first phase of the study due to last six months. The main purpose of this phase is to look for any possible side effects.

Dr Brian Gazzard, Consultant Physician at St Stephens, will be conducting the trial and is considering including antibody positive volunteers as well, at some stage.

This vaccine is different to more conventional vaccines against diseases like ‘flu’ or measles, because it is aimed at recognising a protein under the surface of the virus as opposed to one of those on the surface which constantly change.

Even if this vaccine is successful it will take about five years of further large scale testing before it gets onto the market. The chances of success are hard to gauge and some leading scientists like Prof Arle Zuckerman, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, want to play down the potential of this vaccine lest it raise peoples’ hopes unnecessarily. Dr Gazzard is cautiously optimistic about the prospects for vaccines in general.