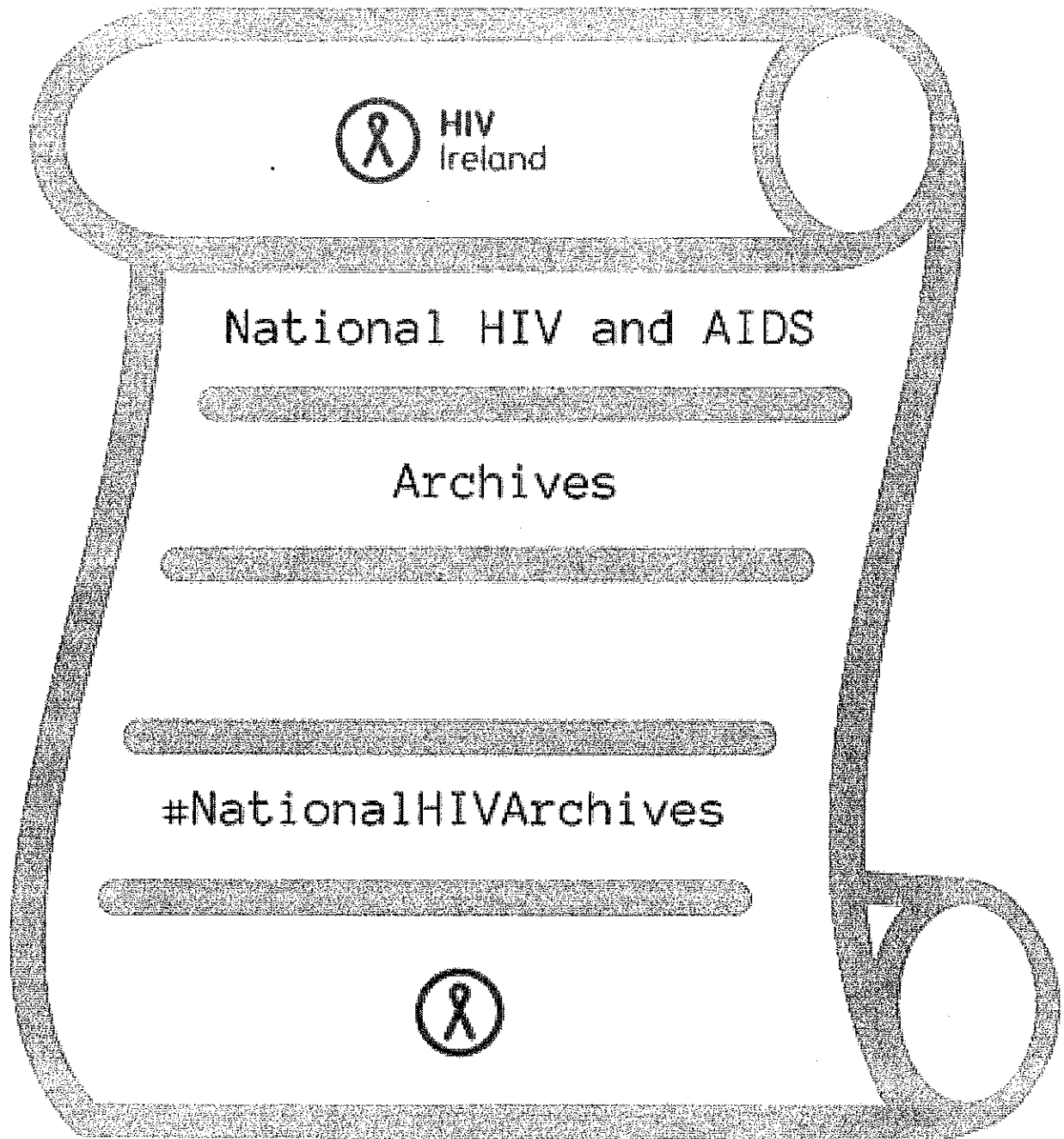


Print Media



6th to 10th May 1987

Daily Mirror
6th May 1987

LIZ GIVES A RING FOR

ELIZABETH Taylor has donated a gold and diamond ring to raise money for Britain's AIDS victims.

The ring will be auctioned by the Aids Crisis Trust to help build a hostel in London for sufferers of the killer disease.

Miss Taylor handed over the ring — which has the letter E in dia-



GENEROUS: Liz

monds on it — to ACT organiser Marguerite Littman last week.

"I was delighted," said Mrs Littman. "It was a very generous gesture."

Mrs Littman is a member of Mirror Publisher Robert Maxwell's National Aids Trust committee.

SL

Daily Mirror
6th May 1987

POP MAN'S FEAR



PAUL: Fear

RADIO disc jockey Paul Gambaccini spoke yesterday of his fear of the disease AIDS.

The 38-year-old BBC broadcaster, who described himself as "predominantly but not exclusively homosexual," said: "After visiting New York in 1983 I told a friend, 'I have seen the future and it's name is death. I saw it coming."

"I have a friend who has died of AIDS and I know others."

SV

DAILY MIRROR, Wednesday, May 6, 1987 PAGE 7
Maxwell launches fight against killer disease

£50m WAR ON AIDS

A £50 MILLION fund-raising campaign to fight AIDS was launched yesterday.

The Government-backed National Aids Trust, which hopes to raise the cash in two years, has already received £500,000 from the Government and £500,000 from Mirror Publisher Robert Maxwell's charitable foundation.

Mr Maxwell, who is spearheading the

fund-raising efforts, pledged to double his donation if the Government doubled its own.

Urging the public to support the campaign he said: "AIDS is a national emergency, a scourge which has to be tackled without panic.

"We must help the country to help itself. Together we must defeat this dreadful disease.

"Our target is a large sum but I'm confident we'll raise it. We need nothing less.

"Give generously. One day it could be your life or one of your family's lives that you are saving."

The Trust will co-ordinate all voluntary bodies giving help, information, and raising money to fight AIDS.

Concern

It will be run by two main committees. The first, chaired by Sir Austin Bide, president of Glaxo, will provide advice and information and distribute funds.

The second, chaired by Mr Maxwell, will be responsible for raising the money.

Mr Maxwell added that the public was deeply concerned about AIDS.

He said even those who may have brought the

'Give generously . . one

day it could be your

own life you're saving'

By JILL PALMER

disease upon themselves were entitled to help.

"If we do not help them, how can we call ourselves civilised?" he said.

Helping launch the campaign in London Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler, said:

"The response to AIDS should not be, and had not been, a matter primarily for the Government.

"The response of the voluntary sector has always been an essential element.

"To be fully effective,

however, there needs to be effective co-ordination. "The NAT will be an independent charitable trust, but the Government is giving £500,000 for administration and providing the Accommodation."

Last night voluntary bodies helping AIDS victims welcomed the launching of the Trust. There are 100,000 cases of AIDS worldwide although only 41,000 have been officially reported. An estimated five to ten million people are carrying the virus.



PARTNERS: Mr Fowler and Mr Maxwell yesterday

5

Coming face to face with the Aids scare

NOW that the Government has finally launched its Aids campaign — isn't it a hoot — one can only assume we all know everything about it.

The easy mistake to make, though, is to assume you personally are immune. If you don't belong to one of the high-risk groups, you might feel you could relax a bit and go back to old habits.

But take a look at this week's copy of *The Face* for the best Aids advertisement to date — and the scariest.

When you open the front page, you're confronted by a piece of card

with a 6-inch square of metal foil on it, which acts just like a mirror.

As you see yourself reflected, you catch sight of the slogan: Now you

know what a typical Aids carrier looks like.

We're all at risk. If you don't want to die of ignorance, follow the British campaign.

Irish Aids victims brave TV camera

IRISH Aids sufferers and carriers of the Aids virus are to be featured on a special series of programmes to be broadcast by RTE next week.

Starting on Monday, the station is to screen a total of six programmes which will deal with the medical and moral issues raised by the AIDS problem in Ireland.

An AIDS sufferer based in New York and an Irish person with the disease are among those to be featured on *Borderline*, which goes out next Thursday night (May 14) at 11 p.m.

The programme will deal specifically with the experienced of young people in Ireland. There will be an invited audience of 30 people and a live phone-in to the studio.

A filmed interview with an AIDS sufferer, and a studio panel featuring representatives of the relevant interest groups, including an Irish sufferer will also be included.

The Today Tonight team will present a two part programme on Tuesday and Wednesday at 9.30 p.m., focussing on the spread of the AIDS virus in Ireland.

According to RTE, the programme will deal with what has been perceived as central to the Irish situation — the high risk group of intravenous drug addicts as well as the other major groups at risk: homosexuals, haemophiliacs and children born to HIV positive mothers.

By CLAIRE GRADY

The problem of taking tests for the disease, the prevention of AIDS and the threat to Irish heterosexuals posed by AIDS will also be discussed by a range of experts including Dr. Fiona Mulcahy, national AIDS co-ordinator, and Dr. Anthony Pinching, of St. Mary's Hospital in London.

"AIDS: The Moral Dimension" is an hour-long programme in the form of a panel discussion, which will go out at 8 p.m. on Thursday. A moral theologian, an active worker with AIDS sufferers, a doctor and a hospice representative will examine how the Christian religion is affected by the AIDS crisis and the moral issues involved.

The "AIDS Week" opens on Monday at 10.55 p.m. with a repeat on the special "Zero" programme on AIDS which deals with the disease in scientific and medical terms.

And it closes on Friday night with Gay Byrne devoting a "major part" of the "Late, Late Show" to discussion on AIDS.

According to a spokesperson for the station, the idea of the special series of programmes is to enable the problem of AIDS to be addressed in a factual manner which "will enable the medical and moral issues to be discussed."

Financial Times
6th May 1987

AIDS trust launched

The National AIDS Trust was launched to co-ordinate Britain's voluntary effort to fight the illness. Mirror Group Newspapers chairman Robert Maxwell will lead a bid to raise £50m in two years and former Glaxo chief Sir Austin Bide will head a team co-ordinating voluntary work and allocating funds. Page 8

SL

THE IRISH TIMES, Wednesday, May 6, 1987

Maxwell to chair AIDS trust

A GOVERNMENT-BACKED trust was launched yesterday in the battle against AIDS. The Mirror Group Newspapers chairman, Mr Robert Maxwell, will head the trust which plans to raise £50 million in two years.

Launching the National AIDS Trust, which will co-ordinate the work done on AIDS by voluntary organisations, the Social Services Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, said: "The response to AIDS should not be a matter primarily for the Government."

Mr Maxwell has promised to give at least £500,000 to the trust from the Maxwell Charitable Foundation and Mr Fowler said

the Government would also give £500,000 to get the trust started.

Mr Maxwell told reporters the trust would go for double the amount of money raised by the sale of the Windsor jewels, the proceeds of which had been donated to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for research into AIDS and other incurable diseases.

He said 100,000 people worldwide had AIDS, although only 41,000 cases had been reported. An estimated five to 10 million people were carrying the AIDS virus.

Mr Maxwell said that by 1991, the estimate was that one million people would have AIDS and

between 50 and 100 million people would be infected.

A gold ring belonging to the actress, Elizabeth Taylor, is to be sold at a Christie's auction, on June 1st to help AIDS victims. The ring has the initial "E" in diamonds, and was given by the British-born actress after a telephone call for help from Mrs Marguerite Lippman, founder of a new charity to help AIDS victims, AIDS Crisis Trust. — (PA).

● In Washington President Reagan has approved the establishment of a national commission to further AIDS research and study how to prevent the further spread of the disease. — (AFP).

56

Irish Times
6th May 1987

THE IRISH TIMES, Wednesday, May 6, 1987

Minister defends AIDS campaign

THERE HAS been some selective, inaccurate and misleading reporting of the Government's public information campaign about AIDS, the Minister of State at the Department of Health, Mr Terry Leyden, said yesterday.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Co-ordinating committee on Drug Abuse, of which he has been appointed chairman, Mr Leyden said that some reports had said that the campaign neglected two of the high-risk groups, gay men and intravenous drug abusers. This was not the case, as the campaign covered "in explicit terms" the danger of homosexual intercourse and the sharing of needles by drug abusers.

Mr Leyden said that drug pushing was "one of the most heinous of crimes and one which should attract the stiffest of penalties." The drug problem could be contained with the gradual implementation of a good plan of action, but it was the individual's decision not to experiment with illicit drugs that counted the most.

Treatment and crime statistics indicated that the incidence of heroin abuse had peaked in 1983 and had levelled off since. But it was still at an unacceptably high level, and the problem could not be eliminated overnight. There were no easy solutions.

SV

Today
6th May 1987

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1987



PAUL: Aids test

My lost friends, by DJ Gambo

DISC Jockey Paul Gambaccini spoke for the first time yesterday of his sorrow over the death of friends killed by Aids.

The 44-year-old broadcaster, who said he was "predominantly but not exclusively homosexual", also revealed he has taken an Aids test. It proved negative.

"I have a friend here who has died of Aids and I know others in the US," said the American-born DJ who found fame with BBC Radio One.

"After visiting New York in 1983 I told a friend: 'I have seen the future and its name is death'."

"Another friend in this country received his test result and got a surprise. The odds are that he will never be old."

Jolt

Gambaccini, who helped record last year's government Aids commercials, said he began to "regulate" his sex life a few years ago, adding: "It takes a jolt to bring people back to reality."

He attacked politicians for "under-funding" the fight against the illness but praised Health Secretary Norman Fowler for his US fact-finding mission.

And the Princess of Wales had won the respect of the young when she shook hands with sufferers last month, the DJ said.

SC

Today
6th May 1987

£50m whip-round for war against Aids



MAJ WELL: fund-raiser

by CHRIS MIHILL
Medical Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to raise £50 million for Aids victims was launched yesterday.

And it was revealed that Lord Snowdon is to charge £250 for photo sessions to help the war against the disease.

The £50m public appeal is to be handled by a new charity, the National Aids Trust.

Health Secretary Norman Fowler yesterday launched the group, which hopes to raise the cash in two years.

Mr Fowler said: "Many com-

Snap up a photo date with Lord Snowdon

panies and individuals have said they would like to make a contribution to help fight Aids and asked where their money should go.

"All the evidence suggests there is a pool in the country of companies and people who want to give."

The Trust will be headed by Sir Austin Bide, president of drugs firm Glaxo.

But the man in charge of raising the cash will be publisher Robert Maxwell.

He immediately pledged

£500,000 to match the government's £500,000 donation.

"Our country needs no reminding that Aids is a scourge which has to be tackled without getting into a panic," he said.

"The target of £50 million is a large sum, but I believe we can raise it. We need nothing less. The British public is both sensible and generous."

Mr Maxwell's last venture into public fund-raising was for the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh, which ended

millions of pounds short of its target after a boycott.

The new group will co-ordinate existing voluntary groups as well as funding research and providing practical help for Aids sufferers.

It was launched on the same day as plans by photographers Lord Snowdon and David Bailey to help Aids were announced.

They plan to offer their services as portrait photographers during a Christie's auction on June 1.

Elizabeth Taylor has given a gold ring for the auction. It has the initial E in diamonds.

The auction is being held in aid of the charity Aids Crisis Trust.

SL

Today
6th May 1987

'Heroin is lesser of two evils'

DOCTORS should be allowed to prescribe heroin for drug addicts in a bid to combat Aids, two health chiefs said yesterday.

Government guidelines recommend complete withdrawal as the only treatment for addicts.

But the policy should be reviewed, according to Dr Philip Connell, chairman of the government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and Sir Henry Yellowless, former chief medical officer of the Health Department.

Heroin addicts on Merseyside are already being given "maintenance" doses of the drug under a special Home Office licence.

The scheme is supervised by Dr John Marks,

by PAULINE WALLIN
consultant psychiatrist in Liverpool.

Dr Marks believes the treatment helps to safeguard addicts from the dangers of adulterated drugs and dirty needles, which can spread Aids.

He said: "The choice is between addicts getting heroin from doctors or from the Mafia."


Advice

Dr Connell plans to urge health ministers to watch next week's three-part ITV programme, War on Drugs, in which arguments for and against the maintenance system are put by politicians, government advisors and doctors.

SW

Today
6th May 1987

Elton's friend demands Aids tests for stars

 WHILE allegations and denials of sex sessions with teenage rent boys fly around the less salubrious sections of the press, pop mogul Billy Gaffe is taking no chances with artists appearing on his own Riva record label.

He is demanding Aids tests to make sure that singers and musicians on his books are suitably pure.

It must all have seemed rather ironic to the artists after they'd read a national newspaper's scurrilous reports of homosexual parties involving Gaffe and his close friend Elton John at the

Riva boss's country mansion. The pair have reacted angrily to the intrusion into their personal lives, and Elton — backed by Gaffe — is suing the newspaper concerned.

But Billy obviously doesn't extend his insistence on privacy to those who work for him. Even his friend Elton's backing singer, Shirley Lewis, was ordered to take an Aids antibody test — which proved negative.

Gaffe's spokesman Bill Stonebridge confirms that the tests — now written into contracts — are company policy. "After all, when you invest £200,000 in a budding star's career, you have to make sure your investment is safe," he is at pains to explain. "The world of pop is a risky one," says the deeply-concerned chap. "The temptations in the way of young artists could put them at risk. Insurance companies are beginning to insist on tests and it will become standard practice."

Which should interest the man who made Riva's fortune — that well-known sexual puritan, Rod Stewart. Not to mention such models of chastity as The Roaring Boys and Limahl, who have all graced the label.

SV

Doctors stumble on Aids breakthrough

THE BIGGEST breakthrough in the fight against Aids in the last three years has been made *by accident* at Dr Tony Pinching's laboratories at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington.

His researchers have stumbled on a genetic factor which explains why some people, who are repeatedly exposed to the virus, remain uninfected while others develop full-blown Aids. It suggests some people may be naturally immune to Aids.

The clue is a substance called group specific component (Gc), a protein, which is found in the blood. There are three common types of Gc and the protein is inherited from an individual's parents. There is Gc1fast, Gc1slow and Gc2.

Dr Pinching's researchers have found that people with Gc1fast

are much more likely to become infected with HIV and to develop Aids than those with Gc2.

"It's a very important breakthrough," said Dr Lesley-Jane Eales, an immunologist on the

research team. "We think that Gc1fast helps HIV bond onto the white blood cells, which enables the virus to multiply and attack the immune system."

Immunity

"Gc2 seems not to do this and people with Gc2 are less likely to be infected even though they are coming into contact with HIV time and time again." The team studied samples of blood from people with Aids, PGL, HIV infection and a group of uninfected partners of people with Aids.

"Having Gc2 appears to give a

person some immunity," said Dr Eales. "But so far there hasn't been much research in this area and we have just stumbled on a very important step."

Cash

Dr Eales and her colleagues plan to test larger samples of blood from the States to learn more about the way in which HIV bonds with the help of Gc1fast and why it doesn't with Gc2.

But the speed of Dr Pinching's research depends very much on the injection of Government cash and future funding.

The tests

- Samples of blood from 63 people with Aids show that more than half, 53 per cent, have Gc1fast.
- Another test on a group of 16 partners of people with Aids who are negative - and have been repeatedly exposed to the virus - showed that 53 per cent have Gc2.
- Only 18 per cent of the general population has Gc1fast and 29 per cent has Gc2.

A further article on this research will be published in next week's Capital Gay.

Sc

Unknown Source
8th May 1987

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

Transfusion AIDS kills politician

THE AIDS epidemic has reached into the ranks of the U.S. Congress claiming the life of Rep. Stewart B. McKinney (56), a Connecticut Republican whose doctor said that he apparently contracted the disease from the many blood transfusions he received during heart surgery.

Dr. Cesar Caceres said in a statement issued by the congressman's office that McKinney, a father of five in his 37th year of marriage, had "died of pneumocystis pneumonia, a bacterial infection brought on by acquired immune deficiency syndrome."

Dr. Caceres said that he believed that McKinney was infected while undergoing multiple bypass heart surgery in 1979. "This was during the window period between 1978 and the spring of 1985 when no testing of blood bank donors for HTLV-III (virus) was done," the doctor continued. "In recently reviewing his medical charts, I found that when he first came to see me in 1980 and 1981, there was evidence of increased globulin (blood levels important in antibody production).

SV

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, MAY 10, 1987

RTE's full focus on threat of AIDS

A lot of people are not going to like it and will simply not watch it. The pity will be that they probably will not let their children watch it either.

Starting tomorrow, RTE is mounting a week-long look at AIDS and the issues and dangers, the disease raises here. There will be six extensive debates of the topic—with even most of Friday's "Late Late Show" being given over to it—and RTE is hoping that viewers will forego entertainment for once and stick with what the station sees as vital programming for the public good.

One of the key players of the week will be John Masterson, a man who understands, better than most, the danger that the older generation will switch channels. With a doctorate in psychology

TALKING TO SUFFERERS

among his achievements, John will be producing a special "Borderline" programme aimed at young adults and he makes no secret of the fact that he wants older people — "parents and teachers" — to make a conscious effort to look at the programme.

"Young people must be allowed to express their feelings and to inform adults of their opinions regarding the AIDS crisis," says John. "All too often there is a lack of communication, and serious misunderstanding between the generations."

So, what can viewers expect in this slot aimed at the younger set? It will, for instance, include the idea of "conscious decision taking" in personal relationships and re-

sponsibility in sexual relationships — both heterosexual and homosexual — and instruction on the correct use of condoms — both as contraceptives and a guard against disease — interviews with AIDS sufferers and a studio debate involving gays and drug addicts.

"There are significant areas of ignorance which need to be cleared up to make way for the facts," says John Masterson. "It is vital for young people to become aware of the risks."

"We will also have a panel of people who are working with the community, concluding the Youth Officer of the Irish Family Planning Association. There will also be a live phone-in. Unnecessary fears and fallacies must

be dispelled."

The week's anti-AIDS campaign starts with the repeat of a "Zero" programme on the disease that was first shown earlier this year and winds up with the "Late Late Show" coverage.

On Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a special two-part "Today Tonight", with filmed reports focussing on the spread of the AIDS virus in Ireland. The programme will look at the high-risk groups — homosexuals, haemophiliacs and children born to HIV positive mothers — and emphasise the threat to heterosexuals. It will also deal with the question of taking AIDS tests, and means of prevention.

On Thursday, Father Billy Fitzgerald will be producing "AIDS: The

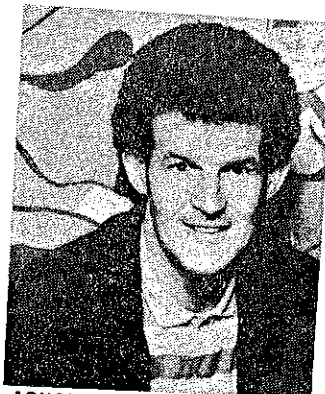
Moral Dimension", an hour-long discussion session chaired by Marian Finucane. The panel line-up will include a moral theologian, a doctor, a hospice representative and someone who works with victims of the disease and will discuss how the Christian religion is affected by the crisis and the moral issues involved.

The "Borderline" special is also going out on Thursday evening, chaired by Aonghus McAnally. He has been out in New York filmed a 20-minute insert on an AIDS patient who knows, from bitter experience, the rigours of the disease and the dangers of promiscuity. This man has, however, come to terms with his lot in a positive way and has his own message to give.

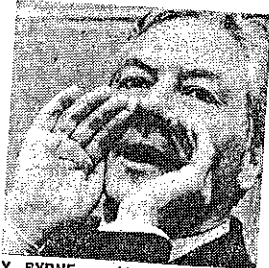
Late Late to tackle problem

THE importance RTE is putting on the coming week's programmes on the serious threat of Aids here — and the world crisis itself — is illustrated by the fact that the popular Late Late Show is to be partly devoted to the disease.

This is a little surprising in view of the blanket coverage that will have gone on in various programmes during the week. But seemingly this is the kind of emphasis RTE chiefs feel the series warrants, particularly after a recent survey in which 75 per cent of those quizzed gave inadequate definitions of AIDS.



AONGHUS McANALLY will present a 'Borderline' special on Aids, while Marian Finucane chairs a discussion on the moral issues of the disease (Thursday, RTE 1).



GAY BYRNE... his Late Late Show joins in Aids debate.

The slim, slightly built young man munching a plate of curry and sipping from a glass of coke in a bustling lunchtime wine bar in London last week looked no different from thousands of others of his generation.

Yet Patrick (26), an unemployed sales assistant from South Dublin, is very different. He has little chance of surviving to his thirtieth birthday. He is slowly dying from AIDS.

Pat agreed last week to a talk to the *SUNDAY PRESS* about the terrifying disease that is destroying his body.

For over two hours he talked unemotionally, factually and at all times optimistically about the wasting virus that has devastated his young life.

"I don't know how long I've got, he told me. "It could be three years, it could be more. I don't want to start a clock, because that's like saying 'I'm dying over that period and I'm expecting to die at the end of it'."

In the short time left to him this bright and articulate Irishman has decided to devote himself to helping other sufferers. He is now a member of the Frontline AIDS team set up by The Terence Higgins Trust to counsel, advise and help others.

Matter of fact

"I've been called matter of fact, even casual," he said. "But it is a fact of life. I am dying from AIDS and there is nothing I can do about it. There is no other way to look at it."

For Pat the deadly virus could have been planted anytime in the last three years. For it was only three years ago that he finally discovered he was homosexual.

"I was never one of the lads," he confided. "I always drank Coca Cola and I never smoked. I was here for about 18 months and began to think about things... I began to let the question arise and then I found out."

In the period that followed the Dubliner wholeheartedly embraced the frothy gay scene of the British capital.

Death sentence

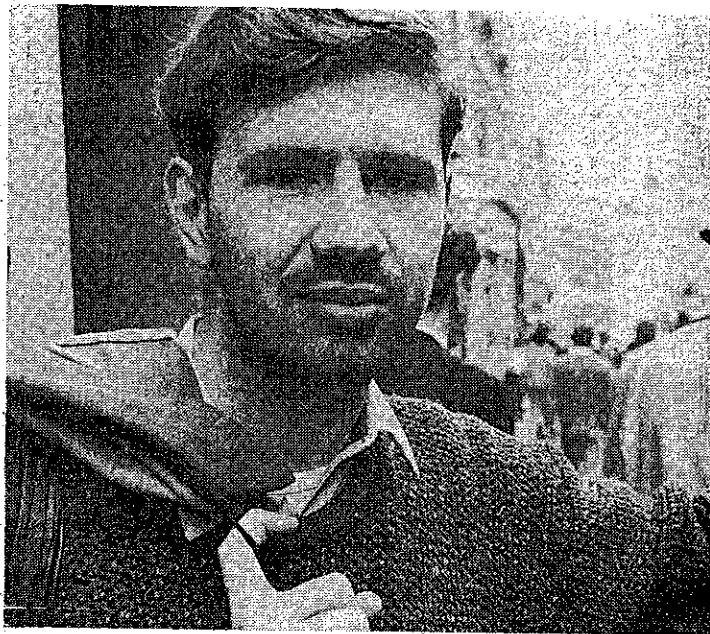
Few people worried about this new disease called AIDS. But one of Pat's sexual partners passed on a death sentence. Did he know which one?

"I think that's the silliest question under the sun," smiled Pat. "First of all, I'm gay which is a high risk group. Can any unattached heterosexual male in his early twenties know everything about every partner he sleeps with. 'I couldn't narrow down to one person. I wouldn't even try.' It was only after Christmas that Pat, began to worry that all was not right with his body."

He started to lose weight at a frightening speed. Eventually, he shed two and a half stone. He also discovered swollen glands under his arm pits. And a nagging cough got worse. He was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London's premier AIDS treatment unit.

THE AIDS CRISIS

As RTE begins a major five-night campaign on AIDS tomorrow night, John McEntee meets a young Dubliner with the killer virus and hears how he struggles to give his life meaning.



Living Under A Sentence Of Death

By mid February this year after exhaustive tests Pat's hospital doctor arrived at his bedside. "The tests have come back and we now know what we are treating you for," the doctor explained. "Do you know what it is?"

"Is it pneumonia," Pat inquired. "It's pneumocystis carinii. I think you understand what that means. 'Pat knew then that he had full blown AIDS. With the deadly virus now gnawing slowly away at his body's immune system he was referred to the Terence Higgins Trust. They assigned the Irishman a

"buddy" to help him cope with the knowledge that he was, at the age of 26 slowly dying.

Getting on with life

"I'm not resigned to dying," he told me. "Acceptance is a better word. I accept the situation and get on with my life. This is about living with AIDS not dying."

Soon after his release from St. Mary's Pat went home to tell his mother. A year earlier he had candidly told her he was a

practising homosexual. She was understanding, but this meeting was to be different.

"She took the news as well as any mother who is told her son is terminally ill, that her eldest son is dying."

It could not have been easy. He now visits home regularly and his mother comes to London to be with him. But he will not return permanently to his native city.

"They haven't got the backup in Dublin, either with the voluntary organisations or the medical facilities."

"When I feel even slightly

ill I ring St. Mary's and explain my symptoms. They tell me what to do. I probably feel less alone and less isolated than I have ever done in my life. I've still got all my friends, no one backed off and my family is very supportive," he says.

Glowed with health

Throughout this seemingly morbid discussion Pat remained cheerful, even ebullient. His bearded face glowed with health and none of the other diners would have guessed that he was an AIDS sufferer.

But the grim reality was never far away.

"I can only sleep in two hour shifts, my lungs are damaged and I'm fairly exhausted after climbing stairs. But I still have some of my immune system."

To minimise the creeping effects of the disease, Patrick has to take a variety of four different tablets on a daily basis, reaching into his leather shoulder bag he produced the four bottles. There were two different types of cortisone to control his condition, Kotoconazole for fungus and Acyclovir for intestinal herpes.

"All I have to do is heed the signals from my body. I can't take it for granted, he said. "In fact, you are more dangerous to me than I am to you. I'd have to bleed over you in copious amounts to pass AIDS on but you only have to breathe over me to make me ill."

"I have to watch out if someone is unwell and avoid them. If I cut myself shaving I have to look after my own blood, no one else is going to touch it. We do not share our razors and tooth brushes."

"You can't pass it on by kissing unless you pass over three and a half litres of saliva," chuckled Pat. "You need to embrace for a week and by that time you'd be blue and rigor mortis would have set in."

The young Irishman stressed again and again the fact that AIDS was not just a homosexual disease. It will kill anyone. "I say to the Irish, educate now or you will have the same figures for AIDS victims as Britain in three years time."

"Four years ago the British government had the opportunity to educate the people to the dangers. They failed to do so and now they have a crisis on their hands."

Sadly, Pat is a statistic of that crisis. In the coming months the last ramparts of his body's defence system will collapse. He will become ill and more frequently. The bouts of pneumonia will recur again and again. He will lose weight at an alarming rate. He will suffer pain, embarrassment and finally a coma and death.

"I intend to stay alive for as long as I can," he vowed. "The day I give up hope is the day they put me in a box. I'll worry about tomorrow when it doesn't happen. And who ever guaranteed anyone 75 years anyway. I have a much better chance of holding on if I adopt the right attitude."

● Patrick agreed to be interviewed and to be photographed on condition that his surname was not published.

52

The 'mystery' of homosexual men

IS a male homosexual made or born, and of what importance is it to decide? It seems more important to me that a person is comfortable with his identity, rather than encouraged to thrash about inside himself, because the world would bully him into being other than he is. However, knowledge is essential for understanding and this book will be of interest to anyone interested in the 'mystery' of homosexuality.

For this reason this book by American psychiatrist Richard Green, with the pejorative title *The Sissy Boy Syndrome*, warrants serious attention and must be seen as something of a landmark in the long debate and controversy which still continues in regard to the cause and nature of male homosexuality.

The book deals with the findings of a painstaking and thoughtful "prospective" study over a 15 year period of "two behaviourally different groups of young boys, growing up to be two behaviourally different groups of young men."

There are almost as many theories as the cause of male homosexuality as there are authorities who have studied the problem. The second chapter in the book, 'Chickens and Eggs', would alone make this book worth reading.

The author calls the first group in the study "feminine

IVOR BROWNE

THE "SISSEY BOY SYNDROME" AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMOSEXUALITY

By Richard Green, MD
Yale University Press, £30 (UK)

boys", saying that other children call them "sissy". These boys would be preferred to be girls.

They like to dress in girls' or women's clothes. They preferred Barbie dolls to trucks. Their playmates were girls. When they played "mummy and daddy" games they were "mummy", and they avoided rough and tumble play and sports. By contrast the second group of boys was conventionally masculine. They were content being boys, dressed in boys' clothes, preferred truck play, played with boys, role-played as "daddy" and enjoyed rough and tumble play and sports.

● MATURE

The only firm conclusion the author reaches is that "feminine" boys are far more likely to mature into homosexual or bisexual men than are most boys. Two-thirds of the 66 males in the original "female boys" group have been interviewed in adolescence or young adulthood. Three-quarterse

of them are homosexual or bisexual. Only one of the males in the group of conventionally "masculine" boys reports being homosexual or bisexual.

"The 'recipe' approach to preparing a developmental model of homosexual orientation is a tempting tradition. A cup of father absence, a dash of maternal dominance, a sprig of peer rejection, and a pinch of early homosexual seduction combine to yield the homosexual man. But this approach is problematic. The same ingredients do not always yield the same product. One wonders, as with the ingredients that constitute living protoplasm, whether, if we combine the necessary early life ingredients for homosexuality, they are sufficient to yield homosexual life."

The delightful thing about human nature is that one cannot assume anything. Two people can develop along totally different lines out of similar personal experience. The mysteries of life are simply that, mysteries. This book fails because it is permeated with the attitude of a small boy who pulls the legs off a spider to see how it works. The author ends up with all the data — or the bits — but lacks the courage to come to a conclusion.

● Ivor Browne is chief psychiatrist with the Eastern Health Board and a lecturer in psychiatry in UCD.



• BARBARA CARTLAND: not the only person with a hot line to God
S. Wil 10/5/87

Aids according to Blessed Barbara

SIR — The Queen of Romance, Barbara Cartland, is in no doubt that Aids is a punishment from 'the almighty for immorality and downright perversion (26 April). Barbara Cartland is not the first person to make this observation, nor, I suspect, will she be the last. The buck has been passed right to the top. Forget the green monkeys and the conspiracy theories, the Aids virus arrived on a bolt of lightning from the heavens.

We should be grateful to have latterday prophets like Barbara Cartland to keep us abreast of the latest in Godly punishments. I wonder has she any inside information on, for example, the Spanish Flu of 1918-19 which claimed the lives of 20 million people worldwide. I think not. Barbara may be a hard-headed business woman, but I doubt if that enables her to pick through the catalogue of disease and death that has afflicted mankind through the centuries and single out

several diseases as punishments from God.

Aids is not the only terminal disease floating around. Cancer may have been displaced from the title of Public Enemy No 1 but it is still felling people, of all ages, left, right and centre.

Even if definitive cures are found for all the gruesome, terminal diseases afflicting mankind, death will come in other guises. We are fighting a constant battle to prolong life and it is an uphill battle with no summit in sight; as soon as one enemy is defeated another appears. As novelist John Irving once wrote, "death is horrible, final and frequently premature" and it comes to everyone sooner or later, even the Queen of Romance.

It is ludicrous to single out one of the Grim Reaper's guises as a punishment from God.

Maura Bambury,
Fernhill,
Tonafora,
Dunmanway,
Co Cork.

AIDS: SUPPORT SYSTEMS

A little help from a Buddy

ODIES are unpaid volunteers who walk cold into the lives of PWAs—People With Aids. They offer a relationship which is neither professional nor casual in the usual sense. Buddies are not under the same emotional strain as friends and, like friends, they have a commitment to offer support.

A Buddy, says Joe, a PWA, like a friend, sister, mother, or brother rolled into one. When a PWA asks for a Buddy, it is the Buddy who initiates the relationship with the PWA who sets the pace. Often as is required, Buddies listen, tell jokes, feed the cat, write wills and, above all, they listen. Buddies start off as strangers, yet often end up as the closest to their PWAs.

What motivates Buddies to spend hours of their time for others, only to have to grieve when they die?

For many reasons are many. For one, it helps ease guilt over a crime. Mary does it to share the burden of coping with bereavement. Adam does it because he feels that, as a gay man, it is psychologically healthier for him to come to terms with Aids in this way than just through reading and thinking about it.

These reasons for working with PWAs are not emotional. Adam points out. Aids does its own priorities, he says. The reality of it is so overwhelming it sorts you out in time flat. If these four Buddies ever needed any sorting they did it a long time ago. They seem strong and caring—kind of people it would be a surprise to get to know whether or not you had Aids.

Tom Wilson (not his real name) is an instantly likeable middle-aged man. Twenty years ago, under extreme duress, he killed his homosexual lover on the spur of the moment. He has been tortured with regret and has ever had another lover. He went to prison, but tried over and over again to kill himself. In the end, someone in prison told him, "Look, he's dead. Nothing will bring him back. Stop thinking of yourself all the time and get out and do something for other people."

Buddies help Aids patients through their darkest moments.

PHILIPPA BRAIDWOOD
looks at the people who willingly take on grief.

Tom's potential talent as a Buddy was spotted by his local Buddy co-ordinator, who approached him with a job. His first (highly successful) Buddying experience ended last month when his PWA, Peter, died. Peter has left me with the impression of an inner kind of beauty; he was a great man. On my first visit he said he didn't want to talk about Aids, so we never did. We talked about his life. He'd been very successful in his work. His flat told you that. It was full of silver and paintings.

Peter lived alone and his family were outside London so Tom spent a lot of time just keeping him company. He also did practical jobs, like cleaning the flat. Towards the end, he watched Peter go through a lot of suffering. Tom can hardly bear to talk about it. He was desperately ill. He looked ghastly. He would get terrible hiccups. Each hiccup took so much out of his fragile body, and they went on for hours and hours. Tom spent weeks at Peter's bedside and was with him the day he died. I kissed him on the forehead. It was wonderful to see him so peacefully. All that fighting gone.

Peaceful

Peter never knew of Tom's crime. He didn't want to know about Tom's past; he made that clear when Tom tried to tell him. Tom no longer lets his guilt dominate his life; he has lots of friends and hobbies. He deals with his guilt positively, he says, by Buddying.

Buddy Lionel Stanley (not his real name) 44, a softly spoken South African, spent 12 years in a Cistercian monastery till he had his vows annulled a couple of years ago. Before that, he was a graphic artist. He found both lives unfulfilling. Working with PWAs, he says, feels like his true vocation. Since September, Lionel has Buddied four men,

two of whom have died. (Buddies have one PWA at a time usually, then at least a month off after the death.) Lionel is now Buddying two people because he has plenty of time. They are Tim, a student, and Patrick, 26, who is unemployed.

Lionel is accepted as a Buddy by Tim's flatmates. They rejected Tim's first Buddy; 'Apparently he arrived in leathers and was very camp,' says Lionel. Tim gave him up, and went a year before asking for a new Buddy—a year in which he attempted suicide after being ostracised at college, beaten up and targeted with hate mail and burning rubbish. This left him feeling lonely and withdrawn. Last week he and Lionel went to the theatre. Tim enjoyed it. He likes having Lionel around, too, in case he feels the need to pick up the phone and talk to someone in the middle of the night. 'He knows me, so he can say, "Tim, you're being silly..."'

Lionel's other PWA is Patrick, who is from an Irish Catholic family. Patrick refuses to worry about the future. Lionel says death hasn't hit him yet. Patrick realises this. He likes having Lionel as a Buddy partly because he likes him and they live close to one another and partly because 'It's nice to know someone's waiting to catch you when the bottom falls out of your world.'

Mary Willoughby (not her

real name), 63, is one of 35 women Buddies in London. Mary brought up her four children alone after her husband, a psychiatrist, committed suicide 22 years ago. Two years ago, after her mother's death, she felt she wanted to help others come to terms with death. She did a bereavement counselling course, then contacted the organisation which runs the Buddies scheme. 'I thought that as a woman, a mother and a grandmother I might be able to help someone unable to talk to their own family.'

Mary is now successfully Buddying a man in his forties. 'He has a job, a good social life and several friends. I'm just someone he can sit down and have a cup of tea with. It goes along very easily.'

Award-winning fiction writer and Independent arts reviewer Adam Mars-Jones, 32, is a Buddy. His new book, 'The Darker Proof', with Edmund White, is a collection of short stories on and around themes inspired by Aids (Faber & Faber, out on 6 July). Adam says he became a Buddy because, as a gay man, Aids was an imposing part of his culture and he felt the need to face it head on, 'in order to deny its metaphors.'

Adam, tall and confident in denim and leather, has Buddied 'four and a half men.' The first was a 45-year-old manic-

depressive artist. 'On my first visit I had fears and physical jitters,' says Adam. 'All I got from him was sweetness and attentiveness. He enormously idealised me in a way you would try to cut away in a social relationship. I didn't expect him to die; you have to inhabit your PWA's hope.'

My second was a kept man who sort of ran an antique shop and lived in his lover's shadow. My relationship with the lover was the crucial one. The lover took a pride in the way he nursed him and I had to be careful not to upstage him.

Pleasure

My next was a formidably accomplished Oxford don. He found the sheer boring business of taking pills and seeing to dressings dragged him down. When someone's life is their intellect, if you're sufficiently on their wavelength you can help to restore their identity by reminding them who they are. It was a pleasure to talk about opera while waiting for prescriptions.

My fourth was a doctor's lover. The doctor fretted in a medical mode but couldn't adopt the tone of voice the sick man wanted.

The 'half' Buddy relationship was one with a pathological liar who posed as having Aids. It was beyond my skills to cope with the strong element of fan-

tasy there, so I withdrew. Adam deals with Aids by confronting it. In his work, he tries to make others confront their perceptions. 'Slim,' one of the short stories in his new book, avoids the word Aids: 'If you avoid the word, you avoid the reactions.' It also challenges ideas about what PWAs are thought to want. The PWA in 'Slim' says: 'Buddy likes to hug. I don't. I mean, it's perfectly pleasant, it just doesn't remind me of anything. It was never my style. I'm sure the point is to relieve my flesh of taboo, and the Trust probably gives classes in it. . . . I just wait . . . as if he was a cloud and I was waiting for him to pass over the sun. Then we carry on, and I'm sure he feels better for it.'

The Buddy scheme is run by the Terrence Higgins Trust and operates, in this country, only in London. Anyone is eligible to be a Buddy: age, sex, race, background and sexual orientation are irrelevant. Successful applicants do a weekend training course. There are currently 150 Buddies under four London regional co-ordinators. The Trust needs more Buddies. If you would like to be one, or to make a donation, write to the Terrence Higgins Trust, BM Aids, London WC1N 3XX.

If you live outside London, investigate locally. Initiatives in Buddying are slowly developing around the country.

RICHARD MILDENHALL



'Someone's waiting to catch you when the bottom falls out of your world,' says Patrick (right) of Buddy, Lionel.

DAVID HARDEN

10th MAY 1987 SL