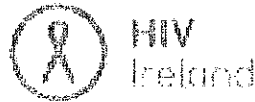


# Print Media



National HIV and AIDS

Archives

#NationalHIVArchives



21st to 25th July 1987

# A condom conundrum

THE "antiquated" sewerage system of Whitegate in East Cork is unable to cope with the modern problem of condoms, according to Cllr. Noel Collins.

He told the Southern Committee that the proliferation of condoms on the seafront at Whitegate was posing a

serious health hazard, particularly to children, who used them as balloons.

"They are being deposited on the beaches with the sewage because of malfunction of the antiquated sewerage system," he said. "The seagulls are beaking

them, and then dropping them all over the place."

He castigated committee colleagues who were inclined to treat his complaint with some levity.

"It is no laughing matter," he said. "Let me add that I am not against the use of condoms, but

they are out of place on a beach."

Cllr. Matt Aherne supported his call for a new sewerage system for Whitegate.

The south Cork manager, Mr. Frank Kavanagh, said he would prepare a report for the next meeting.

# Aids topic of Disney movie

A HARROWING new film has been released by the creators of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Bambi.

The latest Walt Disney production aims to teach teenagers about the dangers of Aids.

The 18-minute film shows doctors giving a group of youngsters some explicit warnings about gay sex and drug abuse.

Its 14 to 16-year-old

viewers will be told about condoms, and warned not to share needles if they take drugs.

Although the film is aimed at teenagers, the company strongly advises that an adult watches it first.

It has just been released on video in Britain by Disney Educational Guidance for use at school sex education classes.

"Mickey Mouse has grown up to keep up with the children of today," said Roger Stratford, of Disney's UK distributors Viewtech.

The Aids video is the latest in a series of controversial subjects tackled by Disney, including child molesting and depression.

Mr. Stratford said: "It is a sign of the times that young children have to watch films on Aids and

child suicide instead of seeing the animated Walt Disney classics."

He admitted the video could be criticised for telling 14-year-olds about gay sex and drug taking.

But he said: "I know of children in the inner cities who are very world wise at the tender ages of ten and 11."

Mr. Stratford criticised TV companies for not

considering children when covering Aids.

He said: "In one recent week of programmes on Aids not one producer consulted education authorities about recording television programmes for children."

"As a result children would have missed many of the programmes because of their late timing."

Irish Independent  
21<sup>st</sup> July 1987

# AIDS now in 'general' population

THE FIRST cases of the AIDS virus found in the general heterosexual population in this country are now emerging.

Irish AIDS expert Dr. Derek Freedman now estimates that an average of three to four people each week presenting to the Genito-Urinary Unit at St. James's Hospital are HIV positive.

And, according to new international studies, Ireland could soon be seeing between 15 and 20 new full blown AIDS cases each year.

A big U.S. investigation into the disease concluded that each year some 2.6 p.c. of those with the virus will go on to develop full AIDS. Applying this to Ireland's official figure of 605 HIV positive cases, it could be concluded that up to 20 people here will go on to

become AIDS victims each year.

However, many experts here fear the true figure for HIV positive cases may be significantly larger than official statistics indicate. One estimate puts the true figure as high as 1,200.

Those carrying the virus are largely confined to intravenous drug users and homosexuals. A number of haemophilis sufferers also contracted the virus through blood factor transfusions prior to the introduction of strict precautions.

But Dr. Freedman said that doctors were now beginning to see cases in the general heterosexual population.

The total figure for AIDS cases in Ireland stands at 19. Eleven people have died from the disease to date.

SV

# Aids explosion feared in Asia

Aids threatens to explode into an epidemic if it breaches the powderkeg of Asia, home for over half the planet's population.

Poor health services, a booming sex industry and high incidence of other sexually-transmitted diseases could light the spark, health authorities warn.

"I am afraid you have the potential for a major catastrophe. I am really afraid of that," World Health Organisation director general Halfdan Mahler has warned.

"If we allow Aids to get into the

powderkeg of Asia then we are really going to have a problem."

Health ministers and Aids specialists from 27 Pacific region countries meet in Sydney this week for a WHO symposium on the threat of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Experts concede that Asia's 2.8 billion people have been spared an epidemic, but warn some countries are incubating a growing toll of infections.

By last month, Asia, not including Australia had reported only 151 of the 52,064 Aids cases know worldwide.

The figures are the top of an

iceberg, as the disease can strike up to five years after infection.

That threat has led a number of countries to close their doors to Aids carriers by blood-testing foreign residents and planning tough laws against people spreading the virus.

Tourists visiting South Korea for next year's Olympic games will have to carry certificates declaring they are free of Aids.

Seoul plans seven years' jail for anyone spreading Aids, Taiwan plans two years' jail for the same offence and Hong Kong retains a never-imposed life sentence for homosexuality.

Foreigners intending to live in China must undergo Aids tests before obtaining a residence permit. Thailand will deport Aids-carrying foreigners.

In India, where 86 people have contracted the disease and five died, 20,000 foreign students face controversial compulsory blood tests.

Bangkok prostitutes take their own precautions. One said: "I make the customer shower then look him over closely — if I see or feel something amiss I make him use a condom."

# Virus weakness may supersede AIDS cure

Brian O'Mahony reports

3.7

IT could take another three years before a cure for the killer AIDS virus is developed, a top US pharmacist claimed in Dublin yesterday.

Vice-president of Columbia Laboratories Inc., Mr. Bill Bologna, told the *Examiner* that the disease could begin to ease off before the discovery is made.

Viruses change, he explained. They can get stronger or weaker. If the AIDS virus gets stronger then there will be a "much greater threat to the heterosexual community".

Mr. Bologna, who has been involved in the pharmaceutical industry for several years, said the major difficulty was the "lack of a fundamental understanding" of the AIDS virus.

Without that it was extremely difficult to find a cure, he said. If the virus gets stronger it could pose a much more serious threat to the heterosexual community.

While it did exist among heterosexuals, it was predominant among the gay community, he declared.

Speaking from his experiences in New York, which has about 50% of the world's AIDS

victims, Mr. Bologna said he knew 12 people who had been killed by the virus.

He was aware, he said, that the Pasteur Institute in France was testing a vaccine at present. But from his own experience

of drug development, it was extremely difficult to produce a cure without a full understanding of the virus, which was still lacking despite the best efforts of top medical people around the world, he stressed.

## No condoms for Irish Virgin



RICHARD BRANSON

DUBLIN'S Virgin megastore will not be stocking Virgin boss Richard Branson's latest project to go on the market — condoms.

For the Virgin chief has decided to set up a manufacturing plant in Britain to produce cheap condoms aimed at halting the spread of Aids.

The new condoms, called Mates, are to be sold in every Virgin megastore — except Dublin.

"In Ireland, condoms can only be sold legally in chemists and through Family Planning Clinics and we do not intend to break the law of the country", Dermot Haurahan, manager of the Dublin megastore said.

"Virgin is a law-abiding firm, and although we would be very sympathetic towards the Aids problem, we will not be stocking the new Virgin condoms," he said.

However Mr. Haurahan, did not rule out the establishment of a pharmacy in the Virgin premises in the long term.

The Mates condoms are to be marketed by the Virgin empire, with no profit margin to either manufacturer or stockist.

All the revenue from the sale of the condoms will go towards Aids care, education and research.

# High school tycoon has condom plan

From BRENDAN MALIN in Boston  
**IF A 16-year-old U.S. student gets his way, condom vending machines will be installed in the high school he attends — with the profits from sales going to himself.**

The novel approach to the battle against AIDS and teenage pregnancies is the brainchild of Robert Encarnacao, a student at Amherst High School, Massachusetts, who is also a keen business promoter. Already, he is president of an enterprise registered as "Robert Sean Associates" which sells toothpaste, cleaning and fitness products, housewares and jewellery.

Describing him as "an unusual kid" who is orientated towards social and business ideas, his mother is supporting the automatic condom plan. But the Amherst School Committee has some doubts.

"My purpose is to provide a public health service," says Robert, arguing that students hesitate to buy condoms at drugstores because they feel their privacy is compromised. "And with every venture," he adds, "there is the possibility of profit."

Under Robert's plan, he would be granted a franchise — exclusive marketing rights — for the school condom-vending devices. The condoms would, he estimates, sell at a price of 75 cents to one dollar each, and he figures that each machine would yield him a profit of between five dollars and seven and a half dollars per week.

Agreeing that Amherst does not have a high rate of teenage pregnancy he points to the AIDS and adds: "for those who do have sex, which we can't stop, we should give them a responsible way of doing it."

The student has detailed his plan to School Superintendent Donald Frizzle who pointed out that approval from principals, faculty students and parents would be necessary before the proposal could be brought before the School Committee.

School Committee chairwoman Mrs. Joan Hansen stressed that reaction by the Amherst community to the plan would take some time to make itself felt and she pointed out that there were a lot of questions to be answered, such as "where do you put the machines? In the boys' and girls' rooms? In the cafeteria? At the front door?"

But revealing the generation gap present in the approach to such questions, Mrs. Hansen said that her own two high school children thought the condom vending machine idea was a good one.



# AIDS scare pesticide on sale here

**THE controversial crop pesticide at the centre of a row in Britain, amid allegations that it affects people in the same way as the AIDS virus, is on sale here.**

British MPs have called for a ban on the chemical, "Temik", following claims that it can harm people's immune systems.

Temik, a pesticide manufactured by the Union Carbide company and approved for use on crops such as potatoes, onions and sugar beet, is available on the open market in Ireland, the Department of Agriculture confirmed today.

A Department spokesman said that Temik was a toxic chemical, like all herbicides and pesticides, and said that the Government here "had no difficulty with it" provided the instructions were carefully followed.

But the American State of Wisconsin has already banned the chemical following the allegations that it can hit people's immune systems, in a similar way to the AIDS virus.

In a special pesticides report, the British Agriculture Select Committee of MPs, says that the use of Temik should be suspended until the full toxicological data has been re-assessed.

The committee heard allegations about the supposed AIDS-like effect of Temik during research in the United States.

The MPs also noted American and Canadian research examining possible links between paraquat and Parkinson's disease. Further experiments are "urgently needed" to confirm there is no link

between paraquat and nervous system disorders, the report continues.

ACOT, the Irish Council for Development in Agriculture, confirmed that the Temik pesticide is on sale in Ireland as a "soil sterilent," but added that it is recommended for use only on non-food crops.

Irish farmers have not used Temik on potato or sugar beet crops for the last six years, an ACOT spokesman said.

Evening Press  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 1987

## The human side of AIDS

FOR THE foreseeable future, at least until a vaccine is found, or the more elusive cure, AIDS has changed our lives. Even if we refuse to countenance any change in our habits, if we foolishly try to ignore the implications of the disease in our behaviour, AIDS has had a huge impact on human consciousness — and on the human psyche too.

Up to now, AIDS has been dealt with in the language of the media — simplified, reduced and occasionally, regrettably, sensationalised. That distanced us, especially at the beginning when it looked like "The Gay Plague" was going to be confined to minority sections of the population. With customary arrogance, the majority thought "This was nothing to do with me" and got on with their lives.

However, it has become only too evident, as the death toll mounts along with the increasing numbers of people who are testing seropositive with antibodies, that AIDS is no respecter of persons. We're all at risk. But the human dimensions of the disease are still largely unexplored.

Now, the balance is beginning to be redressed, and one way in which it is being done is through the exploration of that human dimension in fiction. A new collection of short stories, *The Darker*

Proof by Edmund White and Adam Mars-Jones (Faber, £3.95 stg.) which seeks to bring AIDS into the realm of feeling.

The stories are deeply sad, and beautifully written, particularly the first, "Slim", by Adam Mars Jones, in which the narrator never mentions the word AIDS. "I don't use that word. I've heard it enough. So I've taken it out of circulation, just here, just at home. I say Slim instead." If you want to understand more about the human response to the huge challenge of AIDS, these stories make a very good place to start.

Brasher, but compulsive reading is *Outbreak*, Robin Cook's latest medical thriller (Macmillan, £9.95 stg.) which concerns the sinister epidemic of a virus called Ebola which threatens to make AIDS look as harmless as the common cold, so deadly is it.

Robin Cook's prose is workmanlike, his dialogue is rather wooden, and his heroine, a diminutive doctor, seems to have an unerring instinct for trusting the wrong people and for going into deserted facilities where the deadly virus is stored.

Like Cook's earlier "Coma", however, the story will keep you on the edge of your seat, and like *Coma* would make a very good film. Not to be read, though, by anyone who might have to undergo any form of medical treatment in the near future!

NOELEEN DOWLING

**London Times**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> July 1987**

## **Aids virus 'can be destroyed'**

**By Pearce Wright**  
**Science Editor**

A discovery by two of the leading teams engaged in research into the Aids virus suggests that some people may be able to destroy the infection.

Scientists from the United States and France have isolated one type of white blood cell, or lymphocyte, which will kill those that become infected with HIV, the human immuno-deficiency virus.

The scientists found the lymphocytes, which destroy virus-infected white blood cells, in the blood of individuals who had been diagnosed as HIV-positive. Some had developed the disease and others had not.

According to the research teams, the discovery could help in devising more effective treatments for Aids and in constructing a vaccine against the disease.

The findings, made independently at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the National Institutes of Health in the US and at the Pasteur Institute and two other Paris hospitals, are described in today's issue of *Nature*, the scientific journal.

# Storm over call for ban on 'AIDS' crop spray

By NICK ASSINDER

THE WIDESPREAD use in Britain of a potent pesticide which has been claimed to produce AIDS-like symptoms sparked a political row yesterday.

Members of the powerful Agriculture Committee of MPs were deeply split after their Tory chairman, Sir Richard Body, produced a draft report calling for a ban on American-produced Temik.

The chemical is widely used by British farmers for potatoes and sugarbeet and has already been given the all-clear by the Independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

But after 16 months of investigations into the use of pesticides, which included visits to America and Canada, Sir Richard attacked the Ministry of Agriculture for taking a 'casual view' of allegations surrounding Temik.

## Surprised

It has been claimed that, like AIDS, Temik reduces the body's resistance to disease. The makers strongly deny this claim.

Sir Richard called on the Government to suspend its use until further tests had been carried out.

His report states: 'During the course of the inquiry we heard allegations in the U.S. that Temik produced AIDS-like symptoms.'

'We are surprised that

## MP'S 'SCARE STORY' UNDER ATTACK BY PESTICIDES FIRM

the Ministry of Agriculture has taken a casual view of allegations about Temik.

'In view of the seriousness of the risks, we recommend that the UK should follow the examples of the State of Wisconsin in suspending the use of Temik until the toxicological data has been reassessed in the light of the findings and Temik found to be safe.'

But his report, which had not been discussed by other committee members, prompted allegations of scaremongering.

Tory member John Carlisle dissociated himself from it, saying he 'totally disagreed' with the call to ban Temik and branding the allegations as 'scare-mongering.'

A spokesman for May and Baker distributors of Temik in Britain pointed out last night that Temik had not only been given the all-clear by British experts, but also in America and Canada.

## Immune

He said it did not produce AIDS-like symptoms and had not been suspended in Wisconsin but voluntarily withdrawn.

The Ministry of Agriculture said it had no intention of banning the pesticide and added: 'The Advisory Committee of Pesticides looked at all the evidence from Wisconsin, and later Illinois, and came to the conclusion that there was no evidence to suggest that Temik harmed the human immune system.'

Evening Herald  
24<sup>th</sup> July 1987

# Aids threat worries dentists

AIDS contaminated waste is being dumped by Irish dentists who are not taking proper precautions for their own health or that of the general public, according to a senior lecturer at the Dublin Dental Hospital.

Dr. Barry Harrington, Head of Support Services at the Hospital told the Eastern Health Board yesterday that most waste from dental practices is disposed of by the public sanitation services. This puts a potential risk in the way of dental nurses, patients, cleaning staff, and bin men, he explained.

At a special clinic the hospital which is responsible for haemophiliacs and prisoners, sees an average of three Aids patients every week. All surgery waste is then incinerated rather than using the public waste disposal services.

Next September the Hospital will be holding a conference of dentists in the Dublin area on the threat of Aids and Hepatitis B.

# 'Aids-linked' soil pesticide on sale here

THE controversial crop pesticide at the centre of a row in Britain, amid allegations that it affects people in the same way as the Aids virus, is on sale in Ireland and is still permitted for use on food crops.

British MPs have called for a ban on the chemical, "Temik", following claims that it can harm people's immune systems.

Temik, a pesticide manufactured by the Union Carbide company and approved for use on crops such as potatoes, onions and sugar beet, is available on the open market in Ireland, the Department of Agriculture confirmed yesterday.

A Department spokesman said that Temik was a toxic chemical, like all herbicides and pesticides, and said that the Government here "had no difficulty with it" provided the instructions were carefully followed.

But the American State of Wisconsin has already banned the chemical as a result of the allegations that it can hit people's immune systems, in a similar way to the Aids virus.

In a special pesticide report, the British Agriculture Select Committee of MPs, said that the use of Temik should be suspended until the full toxicological data had been reassessed.

The committee heard allegations about the supposed AIDS-like effect of Temik dur-

ing research in the United States.

The MPs also noted American and Canadian research examining possible links between paraquat and Parkinson's disease. Further experiments are "urgently needed" to confirm there is no link between paraquat and nervous system disorders, the report continues.

ACOT, the Irish Council for Development in Agriculture, confirmed that the Temik pesticide is on sale in Ireland as a "soil sterilent," but added that it is recommended for use only on non-food crops.

Irish farmers have not used Temik on potato or sugar beet crops for the last six years, an ACOT spokesman said.

A Department of Agriculture expert, confirmed that Temik was still permitted for use on food crops.

Tests done abroad, she said, had shown that Temik did have some effects on the immune system of mice, but this was not a cause for real concern. "All pesticides are dangerous compounds, and should be treated as if they are toxic and dangerous. They are not things to be used lightly," she warned.

# All-clear after fury at 'Aids pesticide'

## STAFF REPORTER

NORTHERN Ireland was given the all-clear last night after it was revealed that an Aids-type pesticide is being used on farms across the British Isles.

The controversial chemical is used mainly in the treatment of sugar beet — a crop which is not grown in the Province.

But "Temik" is used by hundreds of farmers throughout Eire and the south of England.

There were angry calls yesterday for a ban to be placed on the chemical which is alleged to affect people in a way similar to the Aids virus — by hitting the immune system.

An appeal for Temik to be outlawed came in a special pesticides report by the agriculture select committee of MPs.

It says that although the MPs did not take evidence from the former manufacturers, Union Carbide, they feel Britain should follow the example of the American State of Wisconsin which has banned the chemical following claims that it can harm people's immune systems.

The MPs' report stresses that it is hard to judge the pesticide, given a lack of reliable information on immune system illnesses.

"In the meantime, the State of Wisconsin has suspended the use of Temik," it says.

"We are surprised that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken a more casual view."

"Although we have not taken formal evidence from Union Carbide... in view of the seriousness of the risk, we recommend that the UK should follow the example of the State of Wisconsin in suspending the use of Temik until the toxicological data has been reassessed... and Temik found to be safe."

The committee heard allegations about the supposed Aids-like effect of Temik during research in the United States.

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman could not say how much Temik is used in Britain, but confirmed that it is available and approved for use on crops, including potatoes, onions and sugar beet.

The select committee report was written by chairman Sir Richard Body, but not endorsed by other members, because the election interrupted proceedings. It has, therefore, been published as what the committee describes as a "special report".

The MPs also noted American and Canadian research examining possible links between Paraquat and Parkinson's disease.

Further experiments are "urgently needed" to confirm there is no link between Paraquat and nervous system disorders, the report says.

The report also calls for the Government to consider labelling pesticide packages with health warnings similar to ones found on cigarette packets.

It pleads for a change in attitude towards testing pesticides.

It says: "We have concluded that anxiety can no longer be allayed by merely stating that no harmful effects have been observed in pesticides and that therefore they are safe."

"Those responsible for their clearance must convince the public that they have the resources, knowledge and independence of

judgement to investigate potential risks to human health from pesticide use and they must do this in a more open way."

Government secrecy over pesticide poisoning incidents and its control over pesticide use was also severely criticised.

"We deplore the lack of a centralised system for co-ordinating all reports on pesticide poisoning," said Conservative MP Sir Richard.

"In view of undoubted public concern about possible chronic health effects of pesticide use, we find the lack of epidemiological research into the health of agricultural workers quite unsatisfactory and urge greater effort to be made in this area by the responsible public authorities."

The report added: "We recommend as a matter of urgency, that public funding be made available for additional studies when the safety of a pesticide has been called into question."

The committee recommended much more openness with the release of health and safety data to allay public fear, and said the public should be told about the effects of pesticides.

*Wellcome Unit Drug  
Helps AIDS Patients  
Survive, Studies Say*

\* \* \*  
AZT Is Found Most Effective  
In Early Stages of Disease,  
Reports in U.S. Indicate

By MARILYN CHASE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SAN FRANCISCO—Medical reports confirm that AZT, a drug developed by Wellcome PLC's Burroughs-Wellcome Co. unit, prolongs life among AIDS patients, but also suggest it is most effective and least toxic in patients with earlier stages of the disease.

These implications underscore the theory, held by many in the field, that early intervention with antiviral treatments could hold promise in coping with the epidemic. As of July 20, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control had reported 38,808 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, including 22,328 deaths. Some believe AIDS-related complex, or ARC, cases outnumber AIDS by as much as 10 to one. CDC estimates there are 1.5 million carriers of the virus in the U.S.

Expanding uses of AZT—or any of a number of antivirals now under development—could broaden the market for makers of AIDS therapies. A spokeswoman for Burroughs-Wellcome, a unit of the London-based Wellcome pharmaceutical group, declined to comment on financial implications for AZT.

In trading on London's Stock Exchange yesterday, Wellcome rose seven pence (11 U.S. cents) a share to 472 pence (\$7.61).

AZT costs about \$10,000 a year retail, making it the most expensive prescription drug ever marketed. It was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on March 20—months after the first experimental dose was given.

Ninety percent of patients with AIDS and ARC lived after taking the drug for one year, compared with a 60% nine-month survival rate among patients receiving a placebo, or sugar pill, according to the reports.

Breaking it down by stage of disease, ARC patients on AZT for 12 months had a 94% survival rate, compared with an 86% survival rate for AIDS patients taking AZT, a Burroughs-Wellcome spokesman said. The placebo pill frequently is given to a control group for comparative purposes.

Margaret A. Fischl of the University of Miami and Douglas D. Richman of the University of California at San Diego were principal authors of the reports published in yesterday's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Perhaps of most long-range significance, the two reports underscored the fact that the most substantial and lasting improvements with the fewest side-effects occurred in patients with ARC, a condition that often precedes the full onset of AIDS.

Extending this concept to even earlier stages of the diseases, a trial of AZT now is being organized involving 1,500 people who carry the virus but haven't manifested any symptoms of disease.

In ARC patients, AZT sparked a lasting increase in CD4 cells, also known as T-helper cells, key sentries of the immune system. But in AIDS patients, these cells got only a temporary boost, often declining to pre-treatment levels after 20 weeks of therapy.

Toxic side effects—principally marrow suppression, anemia and a decline in certain white blood cells—were more severe in patients with advanced disease. "Patients who have had AIDS longer or who are more debilitated may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of AZT," Dr. Richman wrote in one of the reports.

In addition, AZT and acetaminophen painkillers, such as Tylenol, don't mix, the report warned. Neutropenia, or a plunge in certain white blood cells, occurred more often in patients who were taking acetaminophen for aches or fever. It is believed that the pain reliever shares the same pathways of elimination and causes buildup in blood levels as AZT.