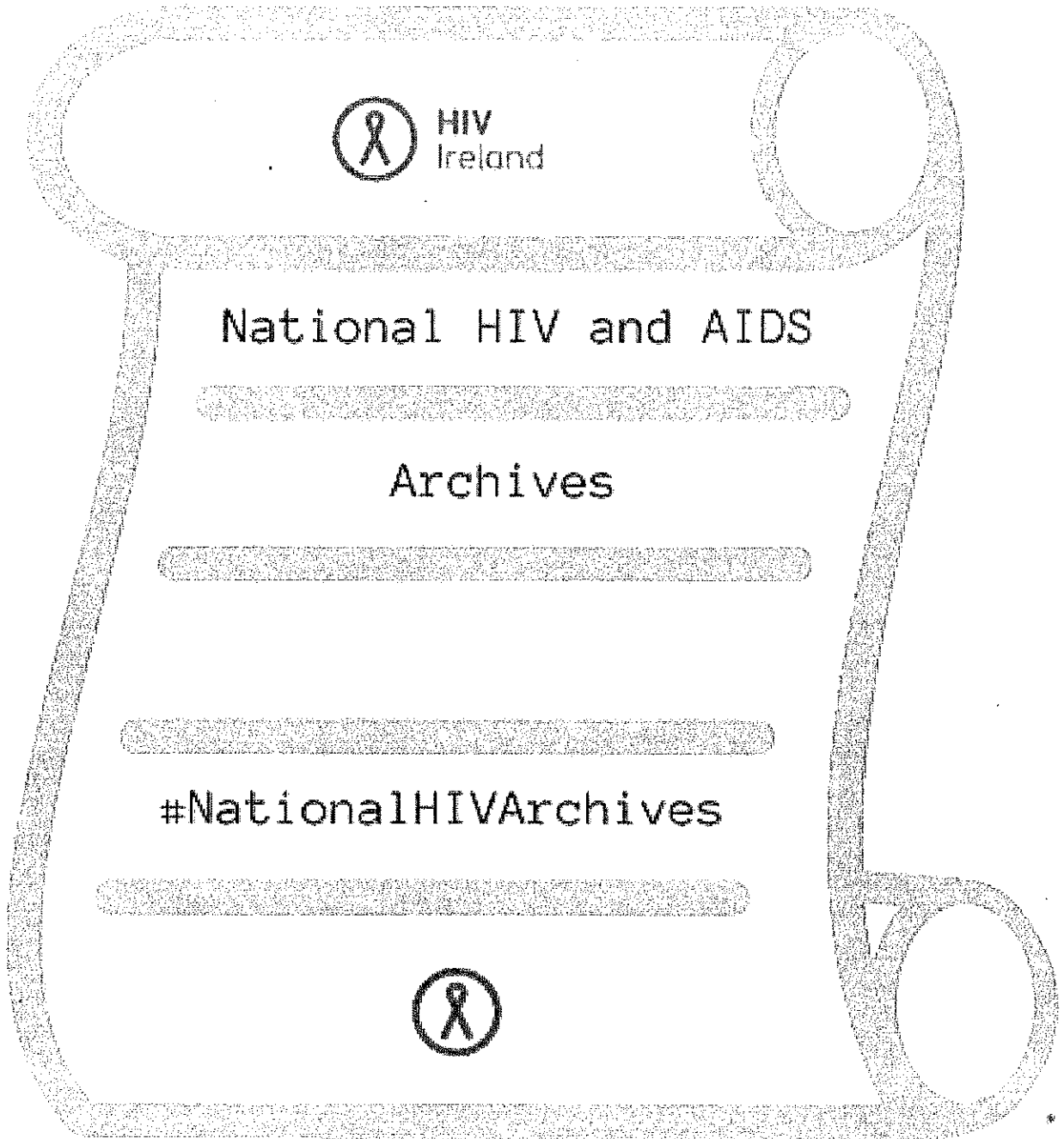


Print Media



11th to 15th August 1987

Diana is used in AIDS painting

By RICHARD KAY
Royal Correspondent

PRINCESS DIANA has been placed at the centre of a bizarre tribute to an AIDS victim.

She is being painted on a giant canvas touching the hand of a woman who died from the disease, contracted from a bisexual lover.

It is understood that the Princess had not been aware she was to feature on the canvas, which will be displayed in British cathedrals in an AIDS charity project endorsed by religious leaders, politicians, industrialists and actors.

The Princess did not know the dead woman, never met her and did not give the artist a sitting. But she has helped to destroy myths over the killer disease, by visiting 12 victims in hospital earlier this year.

Wished

The Princess, who is on holiday with Prince Charles and their sons in Majorca, was contacted by former Labour minister Lord Ennals, now an active charity campaigner, to endorse the project.

According to Royal sources, she wished them well but said she was not able to offer her endorsement.

The 12ft by 6ft painting will
Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

Portrait

Continued from Page One

depict Diana stooping over the bed of Sunnye Sherman, a U.S. legal secretary who died last year, one of the first American women to be diagnosed as having AIDS.

Diana is to be shown dressed in purple. At her side is St George, patron saint of England, while looking on are two martyred saints, Sebastian and Catherine.

It is to go on a 'pilgrimage' across Britain where it will hang in cathedrals.

The portrait, which will be completed next month, was defended last night by the Canadian artist Andre Durand.

He said: 'It is an imaginary meeting. Diana is a popular world wide figure who has shown the hand of friendship to AIDS sufferers.'

Names backing the project include Lord Weinstock, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, actresses Glenda Jackson and Claire Bloom, TV personality Janet Street Porter and Prof Michael Adler, a British authority on AIDS.

The artist hopes to raise £30,000 for Crusaid, the charity set up a year ago to help AIDS victims and their families.

Aids: new fear strikes health workers

By STEVE BRENNAN
Medical Correspondent

HEALTH workers are becoming increasingly worried about the 'unknown' risk factors in contracting Aids.

A new report has highlighted at least two instances of nurses contracting the virus through simple surface contact with infected patient's blood.

A recent conference in Dublin of midwives and public health nurses was told of the risks of contracting the killer disease and stressed a range of safety precautions.

The seminar was told that the real danger to hospital workers was from "needle-stick injuries" — where an infected syringe accidentally jabs the nurse or doctor sending the virus directly into the blood stream.

But a report just issued from the American Department of Health and highlights the case of a nurse who appears to have contracted the virus through surface contact with infected blood only.

During an emergency medical procedure, the nurse "may have had

a small amount of blood on her index finger for about 20 minutes before washing her hands", the report states.

"Afterwards, she may also have assisted in cleaning the room but did not recall other exposures to the patient's blood or body fluids. She had no open wounds, but her hands were chapped", the report states. She was not wearing gloves, as is now advised to all health workers in such situations.

The nurse eventually was identified as having contracted the Aids virus and a follow-up investigation into her married life established that she could not have contracted it in any other way.

Another female health care worker contracted the virus possibly from contact with infected blood and her facial acne. Although, in a second incident the same worker scratched her hand with an infected

needle — but the scratch did not break the skin.

These and other incidents now being recorded seem to fall outside the previously accepted risk codes being applied to health workers and are being closely studied by experts.

Now hospitals around the world, including Ireland, are using powerful new anti-Aids disinfectants.

One of these, Phoraid Disinfectant, which kills the Aids virus outside the body, and Phoraid Antiseptic are now being manufactured in Ireland by Smyth Morris chemicals in Blessington, for worldwide sales.

The anti-Aids product was approved recently by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as also being effective against the Hepatitis B virus, which has also been of grave concern to medical workers.

Evening Press
11th August 1987

Bid to stop condom TV ads

A HIGH COURT bid by a father of four to block further screenings of television advertisements for condoms was adjourned yesterday to allow him to seek professional legal advice.

Mr. William Spring (42) a university teacher, of North London, is arguing for a declaration against Independent Broadcasting Authority that the contraceptive advertisement shown earlier this month "offends good taste and decency" and is unlawful. He also wants an injunction to stop further showings.

But Mr. Richard Buxton, Q.C., for the IBA, told Mr. Justice Hoffman that although that IBA had "no hesitation" in defending Mr. Spring's complaint on its merits, in law Mr. Spring was asserting a public right for which he must have leave from the Attorney General.

Outside the court, Mr. Spring said that the Aids epidemic was being used as a "cloak" to alter the code of television advertising, which had not allowed screening of contraceptive advertisements for 27 years.

Irish Times
11th August 1987

THE IRISH TIMES, Tuesday, August 11, 1987

Clinic offers AIDS advice

By Ronan Foster

THE Irish Family Planning Association yesterday launched a week-long service to provide "accurate information" on all aspects of AIDS at its clinic at 59 Synge Street, Dublin. The information week runs until this Friday and includes video films, free literature and a free counselling service to personal callers or by telephone.

The videos, which are screened continuously throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., contain detailed information regarding how AIDS can and cannot be spread and what sexual practices are safe, as well as methods of treating AIDS sufferers. The counselling service is available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The clinic's telephone number is 682420.

The Guardian
11th August 1987

Setback for father in fight to ban condom ads

A father's attempt to block further screenings of television advertisements for condoms was adjourned in the High Court yesterday to allow him to seek professional legal advice.

Mr William Spring, aged 42, a university teacher and a father of four of Finsbury Park, London, is arguing for a declaration against the Independent Broadcasting Authority that the contraceptive advertisement shown this month offends good taste and decency and is unlawful. He also wants an injunction to stop further showings.

But Mr Richard Buxton, QC, for the IBA, told Mr Justice Hoffman that although the IBA had no hesitation in defending Mr Spring's complaint on its merits, in law Mr Spring was asserting a public right, for which he must have leave from the Attorney-General.

The judge told Mr Spring: "It looks as though, if you want to pursue proceedings of this kind, you will need leave from the Attorney-General, or else you will have to apply for leave from a High Court judge to bring judicial review proceedings." No date was fixed for any resumed hearing.

Mr Spring said later that he would seek legal aid. "Parliament has cut down people's rights to apply direct to the courts in matters like this," he said.

The IBA said the advertisement was screened at 9.15pm in accordance with its guidelines. "It has been screened only once, although it has been referred to in news programmes," a spokesman said.



William Spring: 'support among ordinary people'

Evening Press
12th August 1987

EVENING PRESS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1987

AIDS epidemic in Spanish Jails

An AIDS epidemic in Spain's overcrowded jails is causing panic among inmates and prison staff, and has so alarmed foreign prisoners, that some are demanding to be sent home to finish their sentences.

Fifteen prisoners have died of AIDS so far this season. Prison doctors, who say 80% of their patients are suffering from AIDS-related diseases, have staged protests to demand disposable coats, masks and gloves.

Dutch and American prisoners have written to their embassies saying they would rather serve longer sentences at home than risk catching AIDS in Spanish jails, and in one prison foreign inmates have banded together to protect themselves against sexual attacks from other prisoners.

Irish Press
12th August 1987

Branson begins Aids campaign

VIRGIN Group tycoon Richard Branson takes delivery of 40 million US-made condoms next week as part of a campaign to promote safer sex. The cut-price condoms, to be called Mates, will go on sale in Britain next month. "With 40 million of them it should keep everyone going for a while," joked the millionaire adventurer. The move is part of a Virgin Healthcare Trust anti-AIDS campaign. Next year Branson plans to start a company making his own brand. He was speaking as he opened a new community mental health unit at St. Charles Hospital, North Kensington, West London.

Irish Times
12th August 1987

Branson's condom crusade

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Cork Examiner
13th May 1987

Liberace AIDS report fury

THE estate of Liberace in California, has filed a claim against Riverside County, alleging the coroner damaged the late entertainer's reputation by linking his death to AIDS.

The claim accuses coroner Raymond Carrillo of ordering an unnecessary post mortem and of violating state law by disclosing Liberace's blood tested positive for the AIDS virus before a cause of death was determined.

Liberace's physician had signed a death certificate saying Liberace died of cardiac arrest due to inflammation of the brain.

Durex sales to help AIDS fight

THE MAKERS of Britain's best-selling condom yesterday launched a £1 million appeal to help fight AIDS. The London Rubber Company said the money would go to the Haemophilia Society, to Mr Robert Maxwell's AIDS Trust and for AIDS research in Africa.

The company will donate 10p for each safety "kite" mark from a packet of three Durex condoms and 20p for each kite mark torn from larger packets.

Special boxes will be on display from next month in chemists and other stores selling condoms for people to put the kite marks in. Money will also be raised by sponsored events and the sale of special tee-shirts.

Announcing the "Million Aid" appeal in London yesterday, Mr Victor O'Shaughnessy, managing director of LRC, denied the company was making large profits while doing relatively little to help in the fight against AIDS.

The company claims more than

95 per cent of condom users wear Durex, and sales are up by 20 per cent on last year. But Mr O'Shaughnessy said that, because of its monopoly position, Durex was subject to price controls, and "profitability is not as massive as you might imagine."

Mr Davis Watters, general secretary of the Haemophilia Society, said 1,200 of the 7,000 haemophiliacs in Britain were infected with the AIDS virus as a result of using contaminated blood products.

Mr Watters said life with haemophilia was bad enough. But because of AIDS, sufferers had been harassed by employers, the press, neighbours, schools and even when they were in hospital.

Mr Maxwell appealed to people in Britain to make much greater use of condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS. He said less than 20 per cent of the sexually-active population was using condoms compared with 80 per cent in Japan. — (PA).

Another blow to victims of AIDS

INSURANCE companies may not honour life policies taken out by people after they have contracted the AIDS virus – even if they had not been queried about it by the insurers.

The recent move by a growing number of insurance companies to include related questions on proposal forms was merely a clarification of existing regulations, Mr. Aidan Cassells, secretary of the Irish Insurance Federation, said yesterday.

So far about four companies have included the questions on their forms and all companies in Ireland will have followed suit within six months, he said.

But in the meantime, anyone with full-blown AIDS or who is HIV positive, is still compelled to declare it on insurance forms.

"AIDS is like any other serious illness which must be declared, such as terminal cancer or serious heart disease, even if the question is not on the proposal form.

If it can be shown you knew you had AIDS or were HIV positive or had reasonable grounds for believing you were, it would be regarded as a breach of the insurance regulations.

The question on the form is just meant to be a clarification so that nobody can come back and say they didn't know it had to be declared," added Mr. Cassells.

The AIDS question is likely to be among the topics discussed by delegates attending the annual conference of the Insurance Institute of Ireland which opened in Galway yesterday.

The Conference opened with the election of Cork-born Mr. Dermot Ryan of Royal Insurance in Dublin as president for the coming year and the election of Mr. Jack O'Sullivan of Bruen and Sons in Cork as deputy president.

Meanwhile, an expert on European law told delegates that substantial provisions of Ireland's Insurance Act could no longer be regarded as valid law and capable of enforcement.

Some of the regulations covering the operation here of companies based in other EC countries demanded that a local office or branch be set up in



Mr. Cassells: "AIDS must be declared".

Ireland.

But this was a requirement which could well be challenged on the basis of recent European ruling, said Mr. John D. Cooke, S.C. president of the Consultative Commission of the Bars of the European Community.

"It may now be greatly more attractive and more efficient for foreign companies to submit to the limited conditions of a permissible authorisation and maintain the necessary limited technical reserves and assets in this jurisdiction, but avoid the expense and inconvenience of having any permanent office here."

The laws were clearly inadequate to cover that situation and would have to be replaced, said Mr. Cooke.

He added that the consequences of this development would depend on the commercial reaction of the major insurers interested in the Irish market.



Cork-born Dermot Ryan who has been elected president of the Insurance Institute of Ireland

US rights groups protest at AIDS test guidelines

THERE was an immediate outcry from US civil liberties and gay rights groups in the US yesterday following the release by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, of guidelines for AIDS testing.

The CDC recommended AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) testing for: those planning marriage; those admitted to hospitals; those suffering from other sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis; those who consider themselves at risk for AIDS; prison inmates; prostitutes; intravenous drug users; those being treated for any medical

conditions which could be caused or aggravated by AIDS; women of childbearing age who are members of high-risk groups, such as prostitutes, intravenous drug users and Africans and Haitians who live in or were born in communities "where there is a known or suspected high prevalence of infection among women."

But civil liberties groups said such testing may violate the rights of many people who did not know they had the right to refuse AIDS testing.

The CDC said the number of reported AIDS cases in the US

had passed 40,000 of whom over half were already dead.

A study of AIDS-infected men and their female sex partners indicates the virus is far less infectious to heterosexuals than once thought, suggesting a heterosexual AIDS epidemic in the US is not imminent, researchers reported in the *Journal of The American Medical Association*.

But the public health authorities from the University of California at Berkeley cautioned that heterosexuals can still catch the AIDS virus, and that their risk increases with repeated sex exposure to an

infected person and through high-risk sex practices.

"The probabilities are low, but it's still Russian roulette," said Dr Nancy Padian, who directed the study published in the *Journal*.

"The fact that the infectivity of this virus to heterosexuals is low has to be tempered by (the fact that) this is a lethal disease for which there is no cure."

Given the low infectivity of the AIDS virus, it is not likely the disease will reach epidemic proportions in the heterosexual community any time in the near future, said Dr Warren

Winkelstein, another Berkeley researcher.

The report was tempered by another study in the *Journal* that found homosexuals from areas where AIDS cases are rare are continuing to engage in high risk sex, and that many of them are now infected with the virus.

Dr David Fleming, formerly with the CDC, reported that blood tests of 112 homosexual and bisexual men in New Mexico found that one in seven are now infected with the virus, similar to the infection rate found in San Francisco in 1980.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended breast

feeding for babies whose mothers test positive for the AIDS virus, in a report published in Geneva recently.

The benefits of breast feeding outweigh the risk of the baby becoming infected with the virus, according to the report, which is based on the work of some 20 specialists from 15 countries.

Dr Jonathan Mann, head of the WHO AIDS control programme for AIDS, said 25 to 50 per cent of infants born of mothers who are AIDS carriers are also infected with the AIDS virus, which can be transmitted before, during or after birth. — (AFP, UPI, Reuter)

Irish Times
15th August 1987

AIDS test guidelines released in U.S.

IT
15/8/87

GUIDELINES for AIDS testing were released yesterday by the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (C.D.C.), sparking an immediate outcry by civil liberties and gay rights groups.

The CDC recommended AIDS testing for:

- Those planning marriage;
- Those admitted to hospitals;
- Those suffering from other sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis;
- Those who consider themselves at risk for AIDS;
 - Prison inmates;
 - Prostitutes;
 - Intravenous drug users;
- Those being treated for any medical conditions which could be caused or aggravated by AIDS;
- Women of childbearing age who are members of high-risk groups, such as prostitutes, intravenous drug users and Africans and Haitians who live in or were born in communities "where there is a known or suspected high prevalence of infection among women."

But civil liberties groups said such testing may violate the rights of many people who did not know they had the right to refuse AIDS testing.

The CDC said the number of reported AIDS cases in the United States had passed 40,000.

More than half of those were already dead.

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