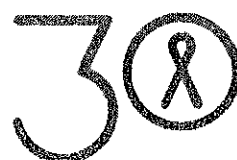


National HIV & AIDS Archive

Print Media

16th to 30th September 1987

HIV Ireland
1987—2017



Optimism grows within UK AIDS research

By David Fishlock, Science Editor

16/9/87, p.14

A WRY remark from Sir James Gowans - "it's difficult to spend a lot of money quickly" - epitomises the success with which Britain's medical scientists seem to have organised their directed research programme on AIDS.

Despite the difficulty, Sir James says he expects the programme to commit the full £2.5m allocated this year, and one of his senior researchers predicts that trials of its first vaccine will start within 12 months.

In the six months since the Government announced that it was granting an extra £14.5m over three years specifically for AIDS research and development, the medical scientists have organised a national programme involving 24 laboratories and such research-based companies as Wellcome and Celltech. In addition they have formed international links with the US, France, and the United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO).

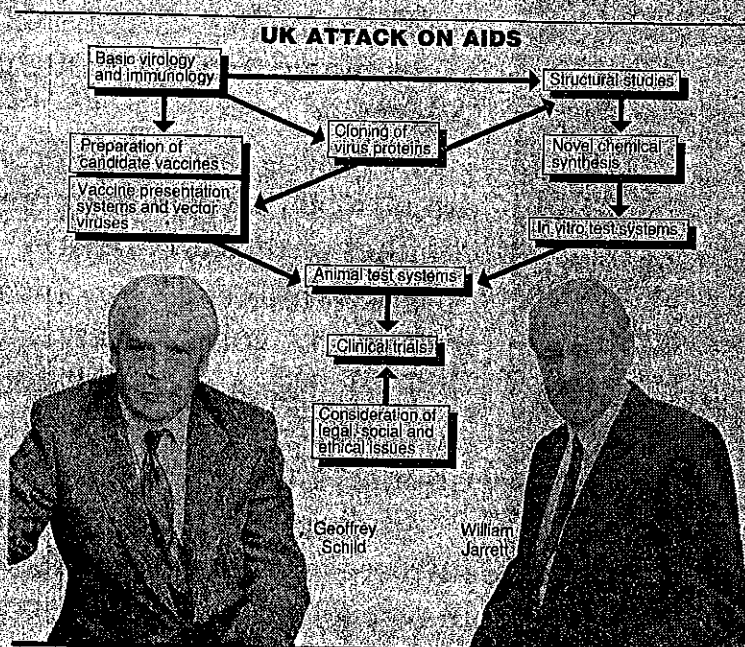
The Government pledged £2.5m this year, £2m next year, and £7m in 1989. But the programme has already committed cash beyond the three years, Sir James says.

On October 1 a new director, Dr Geoffrey Schild, takes over from Sir James, the founding director, who is also retiring as chief executive of the Medical Research Council. Dr Schild is already chairman of the steering committee managing one prong of the research programme.

As programme director, he will continue to run this committee, while overseeing both committees in the programme's two-pronged attack on AIDS.

Dr Schild is director of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control at South Mimms, north of London, a new £25m Medical Research Council (MRC) investment in the safety and quality of medical products of biological origin: vaccines, hormones, blood products, and a host of possibilities emerging from the new biotechnologies such as genetic engineering.

Dr Schild's newly-finished laboratories - particularly the biotechnology block - have a central role in the AIDS programme. They are equipped with the secure containment needed for research on highly infectious organisms, as well as pilot manufacturing facilities to make biological standards and reference materials. The insti-



tute's billwick is defined as the standards laboratory for medical substances which cannot be characterised by chemical and physical features alone, but which have a biological or living dimension.

Anything that emerges from the AIDS research programme on vaccines will come to this institute for testing following internationally agreed procedures by which candidate vaccines can be directly and

Tests may have to rely heavily on human volunteers

productively compared for efficacy and safety. The institute will probably also examine any anti-viral drugs for AIDS in the same way.

The institute is one of ten WHO centres for AIDS. "It means we're a member of an extensive international network," says Schild. It has already been involved in efforts to sort out an international scientific nomenclature for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the very complex AIDS virus.

Only a year ago, scientists were pretty pessimistic about an early solution to this very elusive virus with its apparently infinite capacity for deception. A US laboratory reported only last month that HIV is mutating up to five times as fast as any other infectious agent.

Over the year, however, researchers have become more optimistic for two reasons, Sir James Gowans says. One is the discovery at Glasgow University that there is an effective and simple vaccine which cures a similar disease in cats.

The other is a recognition that animal models may not be the best way of finding the answer to a disease so specific as HIV is to humans. Scientists may have to bypass much of the customary animal testing and rely heavily on human volunteers. There will be no shortage of volunteers, forecasts Professor William Jarrett, head of the department of veterinary pathology at Glasgow University. Every researcher already has a file of volunteers willing to try a new way of warding off AIDS.

Prof. Jarrett, a Glaswegian with an international name for his work on animal vaccines, is a key figure in the British quest

for an AIDS vaccine, one of the twin targets of the research programme. A year ago the drug companies were not very interested, he says. Today it is different. There's much more hopefulness.

As a veterinary scientist, he knows well that efficacy is not the only factor required in any vaccine likely to wipe out AIDS worldwide. It has also got to be cheap, stable and easily distributed if it is to make any impact.

A simple vaccine cures a similar disease in cats

In say Africa, where the disease is already endemic, Prof. Jarrett and his brother Oswald have a five-year grant worth more than £1m for work which includes investigating two of the most promising approaches for an AIDS vaccine to emerge in the last year. One is the preparation of the feline (cat) vaccine in which the feline immunising complex (FIC) is combined with an extract of free particles to enhance the antigen's immune response

to levels which may protect effectively against AIDS.

The second approach is through a related animal disease of cats called feline immunodeficiency disease (FIV), which Prof. Jarrett has shown is related to HIV. Just how closely remains to be seen.

Another five-year programme grant worth more than £1m has gone to Prof. Robin Weiss and P.H. Chapman at the Institute of Cancer Research in London for work on the biology of HIV and the development of new tests for virus neutralisation and infectivity. This grant will also provide the rest of the programme with a service for virus neutralisation tests.

The second - and probably still more ambitious - prong of the programme aims to discover and design anti-viral drugs effective against HIV. Professor Max Perutz, the Nobel prize-winning molecular biologist, with the Laboratory for Molecular Biology, Cambridge, is chairman of this programme's anti-viral steering committee.

The MRC has often been criticised for long-standing faith in molecular biology as the scientific basis for a new kind of medicine. Sir James himself, called the politician who asked him "how many people will molecular biology cure?"

In fact, Britain's AIDS research programme is founded on a bedrock of molecular biology and a fundamental understanding of the virology and immunology of HIV.

Since the virus was first isolated very rapidly by molecular scientists in 1983, it has been characterised, mostly by US research workers. Molecular biology has pinpointed the places at which the virus is likely to be most vulnerable to a drug. One is where it might block replication of the virus at the critical step of transcription from RNA to DNA. Another is the virus coating, where the "shoming" mechanism which guides HIV to its target is thought to reside.

These drugs, tried so far for AIDS - AZT and zalcitabine - are too toxic, says Prof. Perutz.

All these projects are extremely difficult, he warns. "We cannot expect quick results. His aim is to whip up enthusiasm in British universities for tackling specific targets, such as the one undertaken by Professor David Brown at Imperial College London to analyse the structure of the enzyme which performs the critical transcription from RNA to DNA."

Irish Press
16th September 1987

The Irish Press, Wednesday, September 16, 1987

● SOUNDCHECK ● SOUNDCHECK ● SOU

A rock column by DERMOT HAYES

Rock against AIDS

★ THE PUNK and new wave explosion contributed to many new directions in the current state of rock music.

One of those things was to make people aware of issues going on around them and their relevance to everyone else's lives. So, Rock against Racism was born and it brought together the very contrasting musical cultures of reggae and punk.

Sunday night's Radiators' reunion gig in aid of the AIDS Alliance saw many different shades of musical and sexual sub cultures converge on Hawkins. There were

punks, Mohicans, bikers, straights, gays and many other shades of night life.

The performance of the Radiators stirred many memories and also raised a few issues — it brought home the depth of talent that the punk movement had unleashed. Phil Chevron's songs highlighted the relative lack of music and songwriting talent there is here at his moment.

The show did something else — it raised money for a cause that by some contrivance, appears to have become a forgotten one in this country. The danger of AIDS has not gone.

Soviet testing of foreign students for AIDS begins

From Conor O'Clery,
in Moscow

THE Soviet authorities have begun the compulsory testing of foreign students resident in Moscow for the AIDS virus, and yesterday announced the launching of a publicity campaign about the dangers of contracting AIDS. Leaflets entitled "What you should know about AIDS" will be distributed through Moscow's

estimated two million letter boxes within the next few days, the Soviet news agency Tass reported yesterday. EEC embassies in Moscow have asked their home countries to provide syringes and stocks of disposable syringes and in anticipation of more widespread screening of foreign nationals resident in the Soviet Union.

The diplomatic community is

awaiting the outcome of negotiations between the United States embassy and the Soviet Department of Higher Education about the extent of the planned tests for foreign residents, including journalists, business representatives and workers attached to embassies or Soviet concerns.

The Soviet authorities have said they will not accept foreign-issued certificates on the absence of AIDS, but it is expected that

embassies will be allowed to provide syringes and monitor the process for their own nationals. Some British students have already been screened but the three female Irish students at the Pushkin Institute have not been approached. Students residing in the Soviet Union for less than ten months may not be affected by the test programme.

The Soviet Health Minister, Mr Yevgeni Chuzov, has given an

undertaking that tourists and visitors on business trips will be exempt from compulsory testing. The Soviet press has been monitoring the progress of the virus. Statistics issued last month show that 102 people have become carriers, of whom four are described as ill. Eighty are foreign students, mostly from Africa.

More than a million Soviet citizens have already been screened for AIDS and 100 AIDS

laboratories will have been opened by the end of this year. Soviet scientists have synthesised a preparation for treating AIDS called Azidothymidine which is currently undergoing trials and several research centres are looking for an AIDS vaccine. ● Cuba's entire 10 million population is to be tested for AIDS, the Health Deputy Minister, Mr Hector Terry, said on 14. — (Reuters)

Dental symposium on AIDS risks

By Carol Coulter

DENTISTS should treat all patients as if they carried the AIDS virus, a HIV carrier told a symposium in Trinity College, Dublin yesterday. The symposium, on blood-borne virus infections was organised by the School of Dental Science and the metropolitan branch of the Irish Dental Association (IDA).

"There's a percentage of married men and priests in the gay community who will not tell a dentist they are gay," said Michael, who is a homosexual, and an out-patient in both St James's and the Dental Hospital. "I would hate to be the cause of infecting a dentist or one of his staff. The amount of guilt is massive already."

Those who spoke at the symposium also stressed the importance of protecting those with the HIV virus, as they are very susceptible to infection.

Ms Joan Flynn, from the infection control team in St James's Hospital, described the measures recommended to prevent cross-infection. These included frequent hand-washing and the use of rubber gloves, the use of protective eyewear, masks and gowns, the disposal of syringes and other sharp objects, and decontamination of working surfaces between consultations with patients.

Mr Eamonn Brady of the IDA said that there had been a great demand from dentists for the symposium. "In England, dentists got this out of proportion," he said, "here they are taking precautions."

Dr Dermot Shanley, Dean of the School of Dental Science, said that HIV carriers should be treated in ordinary surgery, not referred to the Dental Hospital. This would encourage all dentists to take the necessary precautions.

Opening the symposium, the Minister of State for Health, Mr Terry Leyden, pointed to the growing concern among dentists and other dental health care workers about the problem of diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis. An education and information campaign was vital in this regard, and the Department of Health was active in this respect, he said, although the responsibility started with the training bodies.

Dr Fiona Mulcahy, the consultant in charge of the sexually transmitted disease unit in St James's, described the symptoms of such diseases as they appeared in the mouth. A number of sexually transmitted diseases produced lesions in the mouth, especially in cases where the patients reported oral-genital contact, she said.

In the case of AIDS-associated conditions, dentists might notice the presence of oral herpes, fungal infections and cancerous changes in the skin in the mouth and around the head and neck, she said.

Dr Barry Harrington described how the design of a dental surgery might need to be modified in the light of changing circumstances, and recommended that, as well as wearing gloves, dentists should sterilise all non-disposable instruments in an autoclave. He added that the cost of some of such changes for the dentist would be considerable.

AIDS mother sent to Mountjoy

6.11.

A CALL to the Minister for Justice, Mr Collins, to grant compassionate release to a young Dublin mother suffering from AIDS who has commenced a six-month jail sentence in Mountjoy prison, was made by Mr Joe Costello, chairman of the Prisoners Rights Organisation, yesterday.

Lorraine Hickey (21), of Champions' Avenue, Dublin, was found guilty in the Dublin District Court yesterday of stealing 200 cigarettes from a Cash and Carry Store. Justice William Hamill said

he had to take into consideration that she had 21 previous offences. He directed that both the defendant and her daughter receive medical treatment while in custody. However her daughter Joanna (1½) was taken from the prison last night to her grandparents home.

The court was told that the defendant had been a heroin addict since she was 14 years old. Both she and her daughter were in the second stage of the disease and may not have very long to live.

SV

Anger over AIDS show on schools TV

PARENTS' leaders bitterly attacked the BBC last night over a new package of schools programmes dealing with AIDS, child abuse and how to become a Page 3 model.

The hard-hitting subjects are hailed by broadcasters as a 'social action campaign' to mark the 30th anniversary of

the schools service. But most parents do not want their children to see them, claimed James Hammond, deputy general secretary of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations. He said school governors should be allowed to vet controversial material before it is shown.

Scene — a series aimed at adolescents, will feature a pro-

gramme about AIDS next month. It will also show a play, This Year's Model, about a girl who decides to become a topless pin-up.

Child abuse will be the subject of a programme in the series You And Me — aimed at youngsters of four and five. Puppets called Cosmo and Dibs will be used to get the message across. Broadcasting: BBO Schools

which uses up about four per cent of licence fee income, reached only 320 schools when it began in 1957. Today, 30,000 schools and colleges use the service which is an important export earner, going to most major foreign TV networks.

Mr Hammond added: 'I think the BBC should ask our reaction before they make programmes. They must cer-

tainly did not come to us.' The producer of the AIDS programme, Roger Tonge said: 'We won't just give a list of don'ts which make sex sound boring. AIDS is treated as an opportunity to re-assess personal relationships and remind us that there are enjoyable yet responsible ways of being in love.'

Police attached — Page 19

INSIDE: PROPERTY TIMES — A 16-PAGE COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

THE IRISH TIMES

Price 60p incl. VAT
55p sterling area

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

No. 40,863 CITY

Minister to study medical report on AIDS prisoner

By Sean Flynn
THE MINISTER for Justice, Mr. Cecil Collins, is to examine a medical report this morning on the condition of the Dublin woman prisoner who has contracted an initial stage of the AIDS virus, but at this stage there is no question of her being a danger to the public, according to the Department of Justice.

The Minister is to seek the medical report after the Auxiliary Prisoners' Rights Organisation, who has appealed for Lorraine's release, said that he had previously got a writ of *habeas corpus* from a medical expert, who said that the woman was not a danger to the public.

Mr. Collins said that the report would be examined by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cecil Collins, and the Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Smailes, and that the Minister for Health would be asked to advise on the woman's condition.

Mr. Collins said that the report would be examined by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cecil Collins, and the Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Smailes, and that the Minister for Health would be asked to advise on the woman's condition.

The jailed, sick and segregated prisoners: page 6.

Last night, the Minister said that the woman had received two routine examinations by the Department of Justice and by Lorraine's grandfathers. It appears that she may have acquired the secondary stage AIDS Related Complex, but this would not place her life in immediate danger. Mr. Smailes was unavailable for comment last night.

Mr. Collins said that the report would be examined by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cecil Collins, and the Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Smailes, and that the Minister for Health would be asked to advise on the woman's condition.

Meanwhile, Lorraine Hickey's father strongly denied that his 19-month-old granddaughter Joanne, who was briefly jailed with her mother on Tuesday, had been infected with the virus. Mr. Joseph Hickey told *The Times*: "Then after all the reports in the papers that she had only months to live, I went into the rounds today to verify what I knew already — that she is perfectly all right."

Mr. Joe Costello of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, who has appealed for Lorraine's release, said that he had previously got a writ of *habeas corpus* from a medical expert, who said that the woman was not a danger to the public.

Mr. Collins said that the report would be examined by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cecil Collins, and the Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Smailes, and that the Minister for Health would be asked to advise on the woman's condition.



Minister seeks medical report on prisoner

(Continued from page 1)

In his statement, Dr. Kavanagh said that he was horrified to hear of the sentence in the case. "I am not criticising the justice system, but I am concerned that the system has many previous convictions and it may have been impossible for him to do anything else. But it seems to be that to send a person like Lorraine to prison is hardly treating her with the kindness and love which the Pope spoke of in his message to the people of Ireland. I am sure that the Minister for Health will be able to advise on the woman's condition."

He also said he had been in contact with the Department of Justice yesterday morning and had been informed by officials that Ms Hickey would receive medical treatment in Mountjoy Prison. He said that he thought she should be released and that she should be given appropriate treatment for AIDS.

The Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Smailes, said that he was not a doctor and that he was not in a position to give medical advice. He said that he was not a doctor and that he was not in a position to give medical advice.

Mr. Costello said that the Minister for Justice should look at the whole area of the treatment of drug addicts and AIDS sufferers who come before the courts. "They will have to look at the situation from a medical point of view, rather than from a legal point of view. The Minister should be a centre on the outside to treat people, which could provide judges with an option."

(Continued on page 6)

Study finds AIDS tests deficient for up to 14 months

By Dick Ahlstrom,
Science Correspondent

AIDS tests now in use may fail to detect infections for a much longer period than originally thought. A study, reported in the *Lancet*, suggests that it can take up to 14 months before antibody tests confirm the presence of the HIV virus.

Yet new tests, including a test kit now being manufactured in Ireland, stand out by providing accurate results in as little as two hours.

Studies to date had suggested that the delay between infection by the virus and the demonstration of a positive HIV antibody test was about 12 weeks. The production of antibodies is the body's response to invasion by the virus.

The length of latency is important in that it increases the risk of cross-infection. The carrier, even if tested during the incipient stage of the disease, will not know that she or he is a carrier.

The introduction of an effective antigen test would reduce or eliminate this latency period.

Antigens are proteins from the surface or inner core of a virus, and these are present in the body from the moment infection occurs.

"There is an awful lot we don't understand about the immune response to HIV," stated Professor Irene Hillyar of UCD's Department of Microbiology. This new, lengthened, delay period may be more likely to occur in persons who were already infected with the virus among a high-risk category for AIDS, she explained.

The subjects in the test reported in the *Lancet* were from high-risk groups — 25 sexually active homosexual men and 25 sexual partners of men who were already found to be HIV positive.

None of the study group were found to have been infected when antibody tests were used. But none of them did go on to develop HIV antibodies. Subsequent antigen testing of stored serum samples showed that it took between six and 14 months before the subjects from whom the samples were taken displayed the presence of HIV antibodies.

Noctech Ltd of Dublin is the

Irish company now manufacturing an antigen test for HIV. It negotiated a worldwide manufacturing agreement with the originator of the test, Immogenetics, a Belgian research company.

The antigen test detects the presence of core and envelope proteins for HIV1 and HIV2 in about two hours. Noctech has been manufacturing the test kit since May.

Anti-Aids

Serum separation is the only rule for both partners in a married couple if one of them is afflicted with AIDS virus, a leading Catholic magazine says in an interview to be published in *Stam* this week. The Rev Gino Concetti, theologian and moralist at the Church's newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, insisted that the healthy partner should remain faithful.

He said the solution advocated by the Church was against confining the stricken spouse to solitude. AIDS could not be a ground for annulment, he says. However, if one spouse had concealed before the marriage carrying or having developed the disease, the marriage can be annulled under canon law, he said.

The jailed, sick and segregated prisoners

LORRAINE HICKEY is one of a small number of female prisoners in Mountjoy who are in the initial stages of the AIDS virus — they have AIDS antibodies — although some, which may include her, have also contracted the second, or more advanced, stage of the disease.

The personal circumstances of these prisoners are similar. All are under 25 and all have been intravenous drug users. Many would have been victims of the heroin epidemic in Dublin between 1979 and 1984, from their criminality stemming from that desperate need to feed their habit.

Given the high incidence of drug abuse in Dublin, it was inevitable that the AIDS problem would be visited upon the prison service. Blood testing to identify prisoners who have contracted AIDS antibodies has been compulsory since last year. Both the Department of Justice and the Prison Officers' Association have agreed on a policy of segregating those AIDS virus carriers.

Once a prisoner (even one with AIDS antibodies) is committed by the courts, the Department of Justice must place them in custody. The emergence of the AIDS virus has placed an additional strain on a prison service already coping with severe accommodation crisis and poor staff and management morale.

Initially, the male prisoners with AIDS antibodies were accommodated in the Hill Street Unit at Mountjoy. Here, but earlier this year, they were transferred to a special Separation Unit at Mountjoy after a series of disturbances, including a riot, protest about prison conditions. There are now 40 male prisoners with AIDS antibodies in Mountjoy, but given the accommodation difficulties at the prison, it is not clear how many of these have been placed in the basement block of the main prison, which is

THE sentencing to six months imprisonment of a 22-year-old Dublin woman, Lorraine Hickey, who is suffering from an initial stage of the AIDS virus, has prompted considerable public disquiet. SEAN FLINN, Security Correspondent, has been examining the treatment of prisoners with AIDS-related problems at Mountjoy.

Dealing with the female prisoners with AIDS antibodies has proved a more difficult task for the prison service than the case of the male prisoners. Last year, the female prisoners with AIDS antibodies were accommodated on a landing of the Hill Street Unit at Mountjoy. In March of last year, eight female prisoners were transferred to a special Separation Unit at Mountjoy. At present, the Separation Unit is a small, one-story building, which is not a unit in itself, but a part of the main prison. The Prison Officers' Association and the Department of Justice say that the standard of accommodation is not as good as that of the main prison, which is

going to be a death here soon if something is not done. Last Friday three women cut their wrists in protest. "You can do something about this," they said.

Earlier this year, the female prisoners were transferred to the Hill Street Unit at Mountjoy. At present, the Separation Unit is a small, one-story building, which is not a unit in itself, but a part of the main prison. The Prison Officers' Association and the Department of Justice say that the standard of accommodation is not as good as that of the main prison, which is

are quite defensive about their record in dealing with the AIDS problem in the prison service. They say that they have been forced by circumstances to deal with what is essentially a medical problem, and one where there is no ready solution. "We can only do our best to deal with the difficulties within the available resources," says one official.

By contrast, the Prisoners' Rights Organisation says that the Department and the Government should be blamed for the government's failure to provide the kind of specialist facilities which prisoners with AIDS-related difficulties urgently need.

The attitude of the courts towards the problem of AIDS was easily summarised by Judge Michael Moriarty in the sentencing of a 25-year-old Dublin woman to four years in prison for charges of robbery. The judge said, "I am sorry that you are still suffering from this disease. It was a matter for you to review the

Body Matters

Support group for lovers of people with Aids

AT THE risk of provoking a chorus of dissent I'll admit that I consider myself a caring and capable person. If a friend has a problem I hope they find that I have time and a broad shoulder ready for them.

Why is it then that I get into such a state with my lover George and his Aids? Not that it's quite Baby Jane at our house but there are times when it is not the fountain of love and support that I want it to be. In situations where I think I ought to smile lovingly, prepare chicken soup and caress a fevered brow I find myself angrily clattering the pots and pans, husting after the workmen on the neighbouring building site, and what semblance of a loving smile I can muster has to be glued in place. I love George but I hate his disease, his depressions and his lack of vitality.

It is tough being the lover of someone with Aids. It isn't even easy to admit that. What right have I to feel sorry for myself - he is the one with Aids, not me. How can I talk to George about my misery or anger or depression when I am so much better than he?

This way trouble lies. If these feelings are not brought out into the open and dealt with then real and dangerous resentments fester until a poison more virulent than HIV infects your relationship.

For the past few months the Terrence Higgins Trust has been running a support group for the lovers of people with Aids to help us recognise and talk about these problems. No one promises instant solutions. The one thing we all want - a cure - isn't on offer. But realising that others share your feel-

by Tony Whitehead

ings and experiences begins to put things into a clearer perspective. For one thing it is the only place where you can bitch and moan and cry and not feel guilty.

Lovers of people with Aids have to understand and care for their own needs if they are to be able to help their partners. This is not something that many of us can do alone.

For more information about the support group for lovers of PWAs contact Jacky Hockings at the Terrence Higgins Trust.

New information on the incubation period for Aids

THE LENGTH of time between becoming infected with the virus and the development of the full blown disease is known as the incubation period. This will vary considerably from person to person and many infected people may never develop Aids. However for the last few years the statis-

tical norm in those people who do go on to Aids has been pegged at 5 years.

One obvious problem facing anyone studying the incubation period is identifying when the infection occurred. At the time it was probably just another fuck.

There is less uncertainty for people who were infected from a blood transfusion. Researchers in London and the US have examined the records of people who received infected blood and have found an average incubation period of 5.62 years for men and 8.77 years for women.

Whether these figures hold true for people infected through sex is uncertain. A blood transfusion will introduce a lot more virus into the body than sexual activity will and this may hasten the development of disease. Neither do such figures mean that an antibody positive man can breathe a sigh of relief after 6 years. Statistics refer to groups not individuals and your chances of developing the full syndrome do not necessarily decrease.

Communards Benefit

THE COMMUNARDS will be raising money for The Mark Ashton Trust on October 20th with a benefit gig at the Academy, Brixton. Organisers hope to arrange a warehouse party in Brixton after the show to raise further money for the trust.

Even Herald 18/9/87
Roaming through

NIGHTOWN
with the Wild Rover



A HAPPY PUNKETTE

Radiating goodwill—10 years on

NOT only did The Radiators bring tears to the eyes of many an erstwhile punkette (now BMW-driving yuppies), they also inadvertently revived a few of the genres' baser habits.

Last Sunday night saw Hawkin's turned into a veritable spittoon. Nine 10 years ago, says the Rove — but pretty pathetic now.

Steve Rapid, Averill had the right idea. He let Phil Chevron do the honours for most of the show and didn't come on until he was sure the reservoir of slime had dried up. Imagine the delight of prancing about on stage in front of an audience mostly made up of clients you had designed album sleeves for.

But there was evidence of fan hysteria, particularly when the bar closed

before 10. Naturally the place was stuffed from early on with an assorted bevy of wrinkle-pickers holding in the beer bellies and trying desperately not to look a day over 17. A cocktail of age and anarchy all rolled into a pair of size 34 slacks.

Opening the tin of mushles were The Real Wild West followed by Gavin Friday, who prompted one teenage goffer to say: "He's great looking". But if you stare at your shoes long enough he sounds like Dickie Rock."

The Radiators had a ball. But it's 10 years on, the times they are a taming and not a fist was raised in anger throughout the happy night.

As one youn 'un remarked after the show: "Brilliant. How come they never made it?" It's apity Chiswick Records aren't around to answer that one.



● Pope John Paul embraces four years old AIDS victim Brendan O'Rourke, of San Jose, California.

Jeers for the Pope

Gays in demo as he meets AIDS victims

POPE JOHN PAUL met AIDS victims for the first time last night and told them that God loved them.

As he spoke, chants, jeers and whistles could be heard from 3,000 homosexual rights activists campaigning outside a church in San Francisco where he met 100 AIDS sufferers, including Catholic priests and some children.

Protesters, by the largest protest demonstration of the Pope's American tour. During the meeting, the Pope picked up four-year-old Brendan O'Rourke, who is dying from the disease, and kissed him on the cheek. Brendan pulled on the Pope's ear and the audience burst into applause.

His father told reporters: "When Brendan likes somebody he pulls that person's ear. He obviously liked the Pope." Brendan contracted the disease at birth from a blood transfusion. Dan Turner (39), one of the longest AIDS survivors in San

Francisco, said he felt overwhelmed by the meeting.

MORAL EVIL

"I'm glad the Pope came to the United States, and I believe he listens," he said. Pope John Paul also shook hands with some of the AIDS sufferers and patted some on the shoulder. One of the group fell to his knees as the Pope walked by and kissed the papal ring.

The demonstrators protested against the Pope and Vatican policies, especially a Church document last year calling homosexual acts a moral evil.

The protesters kept a block away from the basilica by police, jeered and chanted: "Shame, shame, shame!"

"Pope go home" and "Vasel Pope" as the Pontiff arrived at the basilica.

The protesters, whose shouts could be heard inside the basilica, waved posters, many obscene.

"God loves you all, without distinction, without limit", the Pope said. "He loves those of you who are elderly, who feel the burden of the years. He loves those of you who are sick, those who are suffering from AIDS. He loves us all with an unconditional and everlasting love."

The heaviest security of the Papal tour was clamped on San Francisco, the city where most hostility to the Pope has been expected.

The turnout was low for his drive through the city after his arrival from Monterey, California, by helicopter.

Police estimated crowds at 150,000, far lower than some expectations of up to one million spectators.

COMPASSION

The Pope's bullet proof "Popemobile" was escorted by 40 police motorcycles. Police, fearing bomb attacks, had removed mail boxes and sealed manhole covers alongside his route.

The Pope's statement was only his second public pronouncement on AIDS.

The first was in Phoenix, Arizona, on Monday when the Pontiff said Catholics must show love and a God cannot punish a person for sinning out of compassion for victims of the disease.

The Pope's speech in the 19th century basilica, San Francisco's oldest intact building, had the theme that God could love and forgive human beings despite their weakness and sins — an apparent reference to homosexuality.

The Vatican document last year described homosexuality as a "disordered" condition.

"God's love for us as Our Father is a love and faithful love, a love which is full of mercy, a love which enables us to hope for the promise of salvation when we have sinned," the Pope said.

The Radiators' rave-up

SUN. 19th SEPTEMBER 20-9-87.

THE inglorious Seventies were fondly recalled with a quick pogo down memory lane at The Radiators' reunion gig at Hawkins last week.

The gig, a benefit for the AID to Fight AIDS campaign, had all the clout of a Happening or a Vibe — confirmed by the presence of Vibe-Master B.P. Fallon as MC.

It was seven years since The Radiators' last hometown gig — and it was easy to divide the packed audience into old fags and curious on-lookers.

The assembled Young for whom rock and roll began with Duran Duran, gazed on in amazement as their elders and betters disported themselves in a frenzied fashion to the tuneless bashings of a stageful of lunatics.

Philip Chevron, who took time out onstage to praise everyone, bravely cranked out classics such as "Sunday World" and "Television Screen".

Various friends of The Radiators surfaced onstage, such as Gavin Friday and Steve "Rapid"

ROCK:

Lise Hand

Averill, who did a pasable impression of Iggy Pop.

The gig, seven years on, may have been a tame shadow of the headbanging days of Moran's but it still drew collective cries of "Seems like only yesterday," as the Radiators' faithful fans waved their crutches, sticks and wheelchairs in salute.

★ ★ ★

THE Baggot Inn, a place rarely described as a haven of tranquillity, has been subjected of late to a particularly ferocious barrage of ear-splintering rock.

On Monday nights, QED rampage, pilage and plunder the venue. Although the name may be unfamiliar, QED is basically Fastway without Fast Eddie.

However, QED have more than proved that they can go it alone.

Fronted by the dynamic Dave King, who was undoubtedly Born to Rock, QED are a loud-no-holds-barred heavy rock band of the highest calibre.

However, this is not just relentless rock; Dave King is the possessor of a dramatically powerful voice which adds rare depth to the usual two-dimensional fists-in-the-air heavy rock tirades.

Also in the Baggot on Wednesday nights, steam-rock and rollers Blue In Heaven continue to produce the most electrifying, energetic sounds this side of Richmond.

Vocalist Shane O'Neill, a tangle-haired demon with a voiceful of blues and a soul full of red-hot rock and roll, leads a revitalised band through a passionate, steamy set that, like the best tequila, leaves one breathless.

While Blue In Heaven await a new deal they will shortly release a five-track EP, which will include a live track or two. Watch this space.

★ ★ ★

SOMETHING Happens! are taking time off from preparations for recording their debut album on the Virgin label to play several dates around the country.

The band will play the Baggot next Friday, Boxing Club, Drogheda on Saturday; Sir Henry's Cork on October 2 and Tralee on October 3.

Glaswegian band, Deacon Blue, currently the darlings of the UK rock press, are scheduled to play Hawkins next Friday, September 25. Deacon Blue have just released their first album, "Rain Town" and have been hailed for their excellent live show.



Something Happens! For gigs around the country..

YOU'LL have to go back in time to find a Dublin band playing punk music anymore — unless you fall in with some garage band doing dodgy Clash covers.

But Dublin resounded with real Irish 'Seventies punk last Sunday when the legendary Radiators From Space reformed for one last bash at Hawkins, in Hawkins Street.

Probably the best-remembered Dublin punk band, apart from the Rats, the Radiators went their separate ways a long time ago. But they came together again as part of the lineup for last weekend's charity gig in aid of the fight against AIDS.

Grown up

Ex-Radiator Phil Chevrone, now making it big elsewhere as a Pogue, talked to SUNDAY WORLD about punk rock ten years on...

"It started when there was a reaction against the plainness of music in the mid-'70s," he explained, "and bands like The Ramones, The Damned, The Pistols, and The Rats were set up.

"When we set up the Radiators, it was very Irish punk — we were picking up on what we had grown up with in Ireland in the '60s and '70s against a backdrop of moral, political, and religious hypocrisy."

According to Phil, the Irish music scene was totally sewn up by middle-age boys singing songs about drinking, tequila and sitting in the sun: "We wanted to reflect what was going on in our lives," he said.

And with influences like T-Rex, the Velvet Underground, and Bowie, the five young Dublin lads set out to make their fortune in the world. The Radiators cut two albums during their six-year existence, complete with songs such as: Television Screen and, believe it or not, SUNDAY WORLD!

But when punk died, so did the Radiators. Phil eventually joined up with

THE RISE AND FALL OF PUNK ROCK

the Pogues; Pete Hoidal works with Light A Big Fire; Jimmy Wynne works with the BBC; Steve Rapld is better known as Steve Averill, U2 album sleeve designer; and Mark Megaray works with Honor Heffernan and the Gay Woods Band.

"I think punk rock died after about six months," Phil said sadly. "When punk became a media thing, loads of bands who hadn't been punk suddenly called themselves punk."

Exploitation

"The spikey hair, pins, and bondage came out of the High Street exploitation of punk," he said.

"The whole point was that it was individual, but it became a sort of uniform. Now, you have got people in ugly clothes that don't say anything individual, but only make a communal statement..."

Sunday Tribune
21st September 1987

THE WEEK IN WORDS

What we have now is thriving and efficient — British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, speaking of industry in Teesside, where one in five of the adult population is out of work.

Dissent from church doctrine remains what it is — dissent — Pope John Paul II, speaking to Catholic bishops in Los Angeles.

The government campaign states "Casual sex spreads Aids", when in reality it's *unsafe* sex that spreads Aids — Mick Quinlan of Gay Health Action.

The next best thing to winning the Sam Maguire Cup — Fr Michael Murphy, parish priest of Sneem, Co Kerry which won the Tidy Towns competition.

History is in the making — Soviet spokesman, Gennadi Gerasimov, at the Shultz-Shevardnadze disarmament talks.

Fianna Fail have blindly and consistently voted to pass these outdated, destructive roads, always under a whip — a whip imposed from Kinsealy by a man who knows nothing about city life except to sweep through it before elections — Deirdre Kelly of the Living City Group on the Dublin City Council's decision to run a dual carriageway through the area of St Patrick's Cathedral.

I myself personally speaking think that the standard of literary is quite high — Mary O'Rourke, Minister for Education, on RTE's *Morning Ireland*.

Hot Press
25th September 1987

THE HEAT IS ON AGAIN

**THE RADIATORS, GAVIN FRIDAY, AND THE
REAL WILD WEST (Gay Health Action Benefit,
Hawkins)**

THE RADIATORS were long before their (Irish) time. Running while others were standing still, "Ghostown" documented Eighties Dublin almost before the decade began. And exactly because the Radiators were so far out of time, this reunion wasn't a pointless wallow in nostalgia or an affront to cherished memories. The cheers at Hawkins were shouts of recognition: the sound of Dublin finally catching up with them.

Justly, the "Ghostown" segment was the most impressive. Back when they could be scrappy, typical of a band whose songwriting reach often exceeded their playing grasp. But now they've separately become more seasoned musicians and thus able to play this one-off with a conviction not always available to a band whose commercial career hit a downslide exactly when their creativity should have been peaking.

But there were other, now technical reasons. The "Ghostown" songs are lasting, adult, not adolescent, songs whose meaning doesn't flit by with maturity so the Radiators could wear their extra years well.

A song like "Kitty Ricketts" couldn't but gain from experience; "Faithful Departed" was, is and always will be true, till the ghosts that haunt hope in this society are laid, and "Let's Talk About The Weather" with Phil Chevron emphasizing the line "I couldn't bear to see a grown man cry" could, in the aftermath of reflection, take on an almost unbearable poignancy at an AIDS benefit which let none forget, probably pumped a four-figure sum into GHA's deserving coffers.

We also got a new Chevron song, "Under Clery's Clock" a cousin to "Weather" while the Holliday-Chevron harmonies on "Million Dollar Hero" and "Who Are The Strangers?" emphasized just what clever pop tacticians The Rads could also be. Maybe the nostalgia factor did surface later and they raced through their Moran's set with covers like "Waiting For The Man" and the inevitable "Gloria" but without those songs, they could have been equally charged with showing only one face of the band.

They certainly had supports like never at Moran's. Surprisingly polished, Gavin Friday was almost reserve for Agnes Bernelle. Before, he's often lost focus — you never know whether he's the sleek cabaret compere or an arch Moore St madame — and suffered through untidy playing but at Hawkins, it looked as if he's finally finding his balance, aided by a sympathetic band, including Richie Buckley and an accomplished, unidentified, female double-bassist.

The Real Wild West were also an ideal foil since they share with the Rads a Northside fascination with Dublin literary traditions, a common stance that uses rather than excludes Joyce, Behan and O'Casey. As of now, they've but one flaw that might develop into a dangerous major fault — a lack of variety in drum and bass patterns which is the real reason they can get lumbered with Fall comparisons — and which also causes a lack of contrast, of ebb and flow in their set, a crucial drawback in a band of such witheringly dramatic potential.

But on "Tumbleweed" and "Eat The Flesh" (the latter Bo Diddley Goes To Bombay), guitarist Paul Murrigh and trumpeter Ian Smith emit a fearsome, furious racket, streaking off into those lethal, dissonant zones of the Gang Of Four and James Chance once explored. But though the Real Wild West rage hard, they're never incoherent and nihilist. With some minor tinkering, this could be a truly mighty band.

I dwell on them because this wasn't an exercise in punk nostalgia. Instead a restatement, a summary of Dublin post-punk possibilities that got shoved off the agenda once every Irish band decided to be U2, Duran Duran, Joy Division, and The Smiths. Jude, Carol and Spiderman where were you? The fabulous Fabrics revival starts here!

Hot Press 14/25/9/87

Bill Graham

5 ✓

Governor OKs Aids prisoner to go on the run...

AN AIDS virus prisoner is going on the run from Dublin's Mountjoy jail — with the blessing of the governor.

Gerard Coakley from the city is showing the authorities a clean pair of heels as he races away from the prison officers employed to keep him behind bars.

His 18 month sentence is not getting in the way of his ambition to compete in the Dublin City Marathon. In order to ensure that he becomes the first prisoner to complete the course the prison authorities are however keeping him in their sights.

On Wednesday of last week Gerry was 'released' from Mountjoy. With him were two prison officers jogging along for security reasons.

But both prison officers are also competing in the marathon and the run out suits them as well. On their last outing they covered 11 miles — nine roadwork and two cross country in preparation for the real thing on October 26th — the Bank Holiday Monday.

Gerry is not only the first prisoner to compete in the marathon and the also unique in that he is being allowed freedom from the segregation unit until of the prison.

He has been diagnosed as having the AIDS virus and is confined to the Base area of the prison where some of those with the virus are detained.

The Governor of Mountjoy Mr. John Loneragan refused to comment on the prisoners participation in the marathon.

But at the headquarters of the Business Houses Athletic Association which organises the race in conjunction with RTE Radio 2 a spokesperson confirmed his entry.

ORIGIN OF AIDS VIRUS

COLM KEENA'S article on AIDS (S.P. September 20) quoted Professor Irene Hilery as stating that "The most accepted theory for the origin of the virus is that it is a descendant of a monkey virus STLV. Some African tribes inject monkey blood into themselves as part of a ritual." That may be true, but it is not the only means by which the monkey virus has been transmitted.

It was not too many years ago that Dr. Frederick Klenner, of Reidsville, North Carolina, had published in the professional literature that the Salk and Sabin vaccines, produced from monkey's kidneys, may well one day be allied to the increase of leukemia in the United States. Klenner's comment is reinforced by the article recently written by Dr. Harold Buttram and his associate, Dr. John Chris Hoffman in 1983, where they make the interesting observation that in all the literature on AIDS no mention has been made of the possibility of its relationship with modern mass immunisations, even though this particular disorder has arisen in a generation subjected to such procedures.

Dr. Robert Gallo, the U.S. expert who first identified the AIDS virus, told the

London Times (May 11, '87): "The link between the WHO programme (the World Health Organisation effort to eradicate smallpox in Third World countries) and the AIDS epidemic in Africa is an interesting hypothesis. I cannot say that it actually happened, but I have been saying for some years that the use of live vaccines such as that used for smallpox can activate a dormant infection such as HIV."

Has Dr. Gallo been making these speculations "for some years" only to the British press? Or, if he and US surgeon general Koop and the experts from the US Centres for Disease Control have mentioned this to US reporters, have their words been drowned in the cacaphony of propaganda telling people that it's their own fault if they get AIDS?

WHO information indicates that the AIDS table of Central Africa matches the concentration of smallpox vaccinations, i.e., the greatest spread of HIV infection coincides with the most intense immunisation programmes. Thus Zaire, at the top of the AIDS list, had 36 million people vaccinated. Next is Zambia with 19 million, followed by Tanzania with 15 million, Uganda with 11 million,

Malawi with eight million, Ruanda with 3.3 million and Burundi with 3.2 million. Brazil, the only South American country covered by the smallpox eradication programme, has the highest incidence of AIDS in that part of the world.

Latest AIDS news to hand concerns the discoveries of Dr. Eva Lee Snead, of Texas, USA, who had been conducting research into AIDS. As a result of this research, she discovered some horrifying facts which implicate a virus SV40, found in the African

green monkey, upon which the polio vaccine was initially prepared. Dr. Snead queries how the virus has been circulated amongst people throughout the world who have never seen a green monkey and concludes that it could only have been conveyed by the polio vaccine. She further asserts that the US government and so-called scientists are covering up for fear of public backlash.

PATRICK J. CARROLL
Priory Lawn,
Waterford.

Sunday Times
29th September 1987

Aids scare over pregnancy drug

A BATCH of drugs designed to protect Rhesus babies has been suspended by American military hospitals after a pregnant woman who took it contracted Aids. The maker of the drug, RhoGam, is a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson which has denied the drug was responsible.

Doctors in California say that 100 women treated with the drug last year made them suspicious that a batch had been contaminated with the virus.

(Reuter)

Contra shooting

AIDS victims take to stage

IN conveying the anguish and anger that AIDS sufferers feel, a new theatre group has a tragic edge: all cast members have the deadly syndrome or the condition known as AIDS-related complex that often precedes it.

The cast varies as different actors deteriorate or improve in health, and the scripts reflect firsthand experience with AIDS.

"We've got to adapt to a population that can't be depended upon on any given week," said Seth Glassman, a former drama teacher at New York University who directs the AIDS Theatre Group.

Instead of performing plays created by healthy playwrights unfamiliar with the feelings that accompany an AIDS diagnosis, the actors develop their own scripts as what Glassman called a "testament and record of these peoples' experiences."

He said he had to develop material so that if any piece were dropped it would not be critical to the whole performance. The group had to allow for the inevitability

that some actors would be sick, he said.

Nonetheless, the group — an offshoot of the US Gay Men's Health Crisis Organisation — is so popular that replacements and understudies are easy to find, said assistant director Sylvia Stein.

AIDS is no stranger to the American theatre, with the dramas "As Is" and "Safe Sex" addressing the subject on Broadway and "Beirut"

and "The Normal Heart" playing off-Broadway. AIDS has claimed well-known victims in the performing arts: movie star Rock Hudson, and Chorus Line creator Michael Bennett, and showman Liberace.

The actors re-create AIDS-related experiences they have had in doctors' offices, including a hospital running out of beds, a patient's lack of health insurance, grisly medical treatments and the poignant day AIDS was diagnosed.

In addition to producing good theatre, the groups purpose is to empower people with AIDS and to combat the feelings of helplessness and passivity that accompany sickness, said Nick Pippin, an assistant director of the group and an actor infected with AIDS.

The actors expressed frustration over the health care system and over the Government's slowness in approving experimental drugs to treat their illness. Although the group's purpose is not to advise or to counsel, its workshops seem to have a psychological therapeutic effect.