



# National HIV & AIDS Archive

**Print Media**

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HIV Ireland  
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**Dublin Event Guide**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 1987**

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**LIVE MUSIC**

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## **Aid to fight Aids**

The Radiators from Space, Dublin's leading punk band of the late 1970's, will reform for a one-off concert to help the *Aid to fight Aids* Campaign.

The Radiators, probably best known for the classic album **TV Tube Heart**, band split up in 1980, with nearly all the members staying in one area or other of the music business. **Mark Megarray** (Hogan), now heads his own band and also plays with various others including the Honor Heffernan Band. **Steve Rapid**, having reverted back to his former title of **Steve Averill**, is currently running the Dublin based Creative Department, a graphic design studio, who concentrate on album covers and touring merchandise for many international music bands, including U2. **Pete Holiday** now plays with Light A Big Fire. **Johnny Crash** is working in London and the final member, **Phil Chevron**, now plays with The Pogues.

Also on the bill for the concert is ex- Virgin Prune, **Gavin Friday**, who comes complete with a new band. Real Wild West will also play. Just to make it even more exciting, MC for the night is **B.P. Fallon**, who, for sure, will try persuading a few of his friends to come along, and if he's successful, you never know who might end up on the stage. The crucial date is the 13th September and the venue is **Hawkins**. Doors open at 7.30pm Tickets can be booked in advance (advisable) at HMV, all in for 5 pounds. Help the cause!

' DUBLIN EVENT GUIDE " 1/9/87

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# AIDS tested people may be 'uninsurable'

PEOPLE in Britain suffering from AIDS, showing signs of the virus or living a certain "lifestyle" are being refused life assurance policies, according to a survey published yesterday.

A report in the latest issue of *Labour Research* shows 12 of the 15 leading insurance companies describe people with AIDS as "uninsurable", which means they are unable to get endowment mortgages.

But the companies did indicate that AIDS sufferers with existing policies were not affected as long as details supplied when the policy was taken out were correct. Three of the companies contacted — Sun Life Assurance Society, Equity and Law Life Assurance Society and Provident Mutual Life Assurance — declined to comment on their policies towards AIDS sufferers.

"Taking or even considering having an AIDS test may make people uninsurable," says the report.

"Insurance companies are very cautious about people having a positive AIDS test."

Five companies — Guardian

Royal Exchange, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Royal Life Assurance, Eagle Star Holdings and Friends Provident — said they would decline applications from people who had had a positive AIDS test.

The rest would postpone a decision for two to five years and then review the application.

The report says many companies have recently included wide-ranging questions on AIDS as a result of recommendations from the Association of British Insurers.

Two companies, Commercial Union and Eagle Star, said they would seek information on the lifestyle of applicants if they were two males buying the same property.

Scottish Widows said it might "think again" if an applicant turned out to be homosexual and Royal Life Insurance said it would not insure "promiscuous" individuals who had had a negative AIDS test.

The Terence Higgins Trust, which provides a counselling service for AIDS sufferers, condemned the insurance companies attitude. — (PA)

**Irish Times**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 1987**

### **AIDS treatment**

**A POSSIBLE treatment for AIDS may be found in the seeds of an Australian chestnut tree, a researcher at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington, said. The seeds yield a drug called Castanospermine that appears to interrupt the AIDS virus's ability to reproduce itself inside the cell. — (UPI)**

## Help offers pour in for Aids family

Arcadia, Florida: Offers of help poured in from other states and foreign countries for a family with three Aids-exposed sons who remained in seclusion after a suspicious fire destroyed their home.

Arson has not been ruled out as a cause of the Friday blaze that left Clifford and Louise Ray and their children — Ricky, aged 10, Robert, aged nine, Randy, aged eight, and Candy, aged six, — homeless, destitute and determined never to return to Arcadia.

Since the boys went back to school last week there have been bomb threats, a school boycott and the fire. The Rays said on Saturday they were forced to flee for their safety.

The family remains at an undisclosed location outside DeSoto County, its members trying to decide their next step.

"They are weighing their options today," the family attorney, Mr Bill Earl, said yesterday.

The Ray boys were barred from Memorial elementary school last autumn after they tested positive for antibodies to the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome. A federal judge ordered the boys reinstated in school this summer, prompting angry protests. The boys are haemophiliacs and are believed to have been exposed to Aids through a blood factor they take to make their blood clot if they are injured.

Mr Earl said: "There's been a lot of calls of support from people around the country." But the family was still in desperate straits. "They don't have anything right now," he said.

But the Rays want any donations from residents of DeSoto County to go toward teaching residents about Aids.

Meanwhile, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Arcadia, the pastor urged 300 parishioners at Sunday Mass to search their hearts for love, compassion and understanding.

"It reminds me of the time of leprosy when they rang bells and told people to stay away," the Rev Michael Hickey said.

"It's a crying shame. I feel as sorry for the Rays as I can be. I know there's a lot of us doing some soul-searching," said Mr John Childs, standing outside Calvary Baptist Church. "A house burning is terrible."

St. Paul's rectory was turned into a makeshift collection centre. One priest took more than 100 phone calls from people wanting to send money to help the Rays.

Seven churches in Virginia got together a joint collection of articles to send the family. Callers from London and the Netherlands were sending cheques.

Citizens Against Aids in School, an Arcadia group organised to keep the Ray boys out of school, called off a week-long boycott on Friday at Memorial elementary. — AP.

# Aids test means insurance blacklist

By Philip Edward

Britain's Aids sufferers are now regarded as uninsurable by 12 of the country's top insurance companies, according to a report out today. And they have adopted a near-blanket blacklisting policy by refusing life assurance policies to people who show any sign of the Aids virus or live a certain "lifestyle," the report says.

Some "promiscuous" people would not be insured even if they were cleared in an Aids

test, says one company surveyed.

The report, in the latest issue of Labour Research, is condemned by the Terrence Higgins Trust, which counsels Aids sufferers. It says insurance companies are acting in an irrational way.

The inquiries were made in the wake of recommendations from the Association of British Insurers suggesting that widening questions on Aids be included on application forms.

Endowment and pension-linked mortgages could be affected as well as life assurance and mortgage protection policies. Existing policies would not be at risk.

Three companies refused to co-operate with the research but those who replied gave a similar response.

Says the report: "Taking or even considering having an Aids test may make people uninsurable. Insurance companies are very cautious about

people having a positive Aids test."

Five companies — Guardian Royal Exchange, Royal Life Assurance, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Eagle Star and Friends Provident — said they would decline applications from people who have had a positive Aids test. Others said they would postpone a decision for two to five years and then review the application.

Two companies, Commercial Union and Eagle Star, said they

would seek information on the lifestyle of applicants if there were two males buying the same property.

Scottish Widows said it might think again if an applicant turned out to be homosexual and Royal Life Insurance said it would not insure "promiscuous" individuals who had a negative Aids test.

Some companies have also included questions on hepatitis, an infection common but not exclusive to people carrying Aids.

# AIDS creeps into China

**S L O W L Y**, but relentlessly, "ai zi bing" — AIDS — is creeping into China, which until last month represented the largest population pool on earth still free of the disease.

A youth from Zhejiang province has died of AIDS after being injected with infected blood serum from the United States, the official Xinhua Agency has announced. The young man, a haemophiliac, became the first native Chinese to succumb to the disease. Three other haemophiliacs in the same province also tested positive for the AIDS virus after receiving doses of the same infected blood.

Minister of Public Health Chen Minzhang also revealed last month that several Beijing residents have tested positive for the AIDS virus. He did not identify the residents or say whether they were natives or foreigners.

Before the death of the Zhejiangese youth,

identified simply as a "boy", only two other people had actually died of AIDS on Chinese soil, and neither was a native.

One, an Argentine tourist named Oscar Messina, came to China having already contracted AIDS and died of it in Beijing in June 1985. His body, clothes, personal effects and hospital bed sheets were all burned, so great was the horror of the disease.

The second victim was an overseas Chinese who returned to China's Fujian province after living for many years in New York, and who succumbed to AIDS last spring. One African diplomat left China recently after being diagnosed as having contracted AIDS.

Now, with the death of the first native, the government is proposing a whole new set of strictures aimed at cutting off the spread of the disease.

China already has banned all imported blood and blood serum products and has burned huge quantities of imported secondhand clothes in its fight against AIDS. Now quarantine stations will be set up to test everyone requesting a Chinese resident permit.

A programme to give blood tests to all foreigners residing in China was announced last spring, but is proceeding slowly because of a lack of

disposable syringes, Health Minister Chen said. Health also said traditional Chinese medicine, including gigong breathing exercises, may help combat the disease.

But China has no plans to test tourists for the disease, and quarantine procedures at Chinese ports of entry remain perfunctory. Visitors merely fill out a chit of paper saying they are in good health.

In 1986, about 22.8 million foreigners, including overseas Chinese, poured into the country, making tourism one of the richest sources of foreign exchange revenue for China.

But along with their money, the foreigners may be bringing in AIDS. And Chinese authorities are in a dither over this dilemma — as if they had found a goose that lays golden eggs, but carries a lethal disease as well.

Health Minister Chen expressed fear that AIDS "might be promoted by illegal sexual intercourse between foreigners and young Chinese ladies," one of the few public admissions that prostitution is on the rise in China, especially in the southern city of Guangzhou (Canton) where, in recent months, taxi drivers have been arrested for using their vehicles as rolling brothels.

Chen called for more "moral and sex education" among China's young people to prevent the spread of AIDS. He

also said traditional Chinese medicine, including gigong breathing exercises, may help combat the disease. Over the long run, the spectre of AIDS may reinforce China's age-old xenophobia, which periodically breaks out in political rashes such as the recent campaigns against "bourgeois liberalization" and "total Westernization."

The fear has been mutual. After thousands of Chinese coolies were brought to America in the 19th century to build the Union Pacific railroad spanning the country, a wave of revulsion set in and laws were enacted to prohibit further Chinese immigration to the United States.

One of the most virulent of the China-haters was the American scholar Baynard Taylor, who wrote in 1853:

"It is my deliberate opinion that the Chinese are, morally, the most debased people on the face of the earth. Forms of vice which in other countries are barely named are in China so common that they excite no comment among the natives."

"Their touch is pollution and, harsh as the opinion may seem, justice to our own race demands that they should not be allowed to settle on our soil."

Today the Chinese could say the same thing about the U.S.

# Aids: experts not hopeful on vaccine

AMERICAN scientists are confident they can develop drugs to treat people infected with the Aids virus, but are less optimistic about finding a vaccine to prevent the disease.

Leading researchers told a meeting sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine that they believe Aids eventually will yield to a battery of treatment drugs under development.

But, after initial failures with prototype vaccines used on animals, they said they cannot be as confident about seeing a preventive vaccine in the

near future.

"We cannot predict the success of vaccines," said Dr. William Haseltine of Harvard Medical School. "What we can predict is the success of antiviral agents."

Dr. Haseltine said development of drugs to treat or hold off Aids infections is moving rapidly and should produce good results soon. Researchers are dealing with one disease caused by variations of essentially the same virus, called HIV, he said.

Scientists now know more about HIV than any virus in history and have identified a dozen places

in the virus, or in the cells it infects, to attack and control it, he said.

Scores of candidate drugs aimed at stopping the Aids virus are being tested in the laboratory and in humans. Dr. Haseltine said, and a number will be available in a few months or years for a combined attack on the disease.

Dr. Haseltine said most of the simple approaches to vaccines against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) have been tried and have failed in tests with chimpanzees, the best animal model for humans.



Evening Press  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 1987

## Aids hits teen sex

THE FEAR of Aids is stopping girls from having under-age sex, according to a survey published today.

Three years ago, almost 50 p.c. of those interviewed for the British magazine *Loving* said they had lost their vir-

ginity before reaching 16. Now that figure has dropped to 36 p.c.

Mr. Gerry Fallon, editor of *Loving* said: "Our survey of readers' sexual habits three years ago was conducted when Aids was not an influence on a young woman's approach to sex."

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## Doctors 'not equipped to respond to AIDS'

ALTHOUGH more than 80 per cent of Irish doctors in a recent survey said they had read literature on AIDS, about half said they felt they did not have sufficient information to respond to patients' needs. Only 23 per cent said they had the special blood sample kit necessary to ensure the safety of those transmitting or receiving specimens, although 72 per cent said they would take blood samples to detect AIDS.

The survey was carried out among more than 400 doctors in Ireland, and appears in the first issue of *Irish Doctor*, launched yesterday by the Minister for Health, Mr O'Hanlon. The new publication will be distributed twice monthly free to all doctors practising in Ireland, and is edited by Dr Aiden Meade, a Dublin general practitioner, who is currently chairman of the Irish Medical Organisation's Ethics Committee, a member of the National Health Council and a member of the health and science faculty of Trinity College, Dublin.

The first issue carries a three-part section on AIDS, including the survey, an article on the AIDS strategy in Ireland by Dr James Walsh, deputy chief medical officer of the Department of Health, and an article on testing for AIDS, written by Dr Irene B. Hillery of the Department of Microbiology, University College, Dublin. Among the points which emerged from the survey was that while 89 per cent of doctors agreed with the Department of Health recommendations on AIDS, fewer than 20 per cent would notify the Department of HIV positive patients, and 69 per cent would notify directors of community care. A majority of doctors, 59 per cent, said that notification should be compulsory.

**The Times**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 1987**

● WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has identified 3,035 military personnel and 1,766 recruit applicants as carriers of the Aids virus out of more than three million tested, according to the latest statistics (AP reports). Military personnel with the virus are allowed to remain in the service provided they show no signs of the disease itself.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1987

# California plans emergency legal action on Aids

From Ivor Davis  
Los Angeles

In a desperate effort to try to curb the growing Aids plague, California, the most populous state in the United States, could begin its own programme of testing experimental drugs within weeks if a new emergency Bill is approved this week.

Complaining that the US Food and Drug Administration is dragging its feet in giving its blessing to the experimental anti-Aids drugs, California's Attorney-General, Mr John van de Kamp, has taken the unusual step of sponsoring the new law by noting: "This Bill is the State of

California's announcement that, in the face of an extraordinary medical emergency, business as usual is not enough.

The state's chief law enforcement officer added that the measure "will echo like a thunderbolt . . . in the corridors of the federal medical bureaucracy."

If the measure is approved, California will be able to begin tests, possibly within weeks, on the first of thousands of volunteers who have Aids or who have been tested positive for the Aids virus.

Mr van de Kamp said the measure would enable pharmaceutical com-

panies to bypass the FDA as well as offer some hope to Aids patients, many of whom are crossing the border into Mexico to seek drugs and treatment.

In Washington, the FDA denied that it has moved too slowly in efforts to test Aids drugs.

The measure, which has won the support of leading lawmakers in California, is expected to be approved next week before the legislature adjourns.

However, Mr Neil Schramm, the former head of the Los Angeles Aids task force, has said that even if the

Bill is passed it may not be possible to produce a vaccine or cure any faster, even if California establishes its own testing procedures.

"Everybody is frustrated by the slowness of research," he said, "but unfortunately that is part of the problem with quality research. No amount of rushing things can make good research happen faster."

The Governor of California, Mr George Deukmajian, has threatened to veto another Aids Bill that would require schools in California to give Aids prevention education to junior and senior high school students. Republican lawmakers claim the law

**The Times**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 1987**

● **SEOUL:** South Korea said yesterday that it would test some 12,000 prostitutes for Aids after news that a youth who regularly visited a red-light district in the capital had contracted the virus (AFP reports).

**In Dublin  
3rd September 1987**

**rock**

SOMETIMES I LIE IN BED in a tortured state, twisting and turning all night and pondering over important issues. Like how long will the piece of string? Is *The Irish* really shrinking? Will the **Michael Jackson** album be good? Can **Paul McCa** possibly spend all his money in his lifetime?

Occasionally I slip into a catatonic like euphoric trance and so these questions are answered just as I'm about to jot them down I fall to earth with a jolt. A postman, arrived with yet another U2 record. Life goes on....

**The Subterraneans**, who released their 'Maxi Joy' in October in the Baggot Inn for the next few Fridays.... Reunion gig of the band is in Hawkins on Sunday week (Sept), when **The Radiators** will be back together for a once of **Chevron**, **Pete Holiday** etc. Special guests including **Gav** and supported by **The Wild West**.

'Strangeways' is the title of the new album **Smiths** and there's even a rumour that **Johnny Thunders** has been rehearsing with the three remaining members... **Scullion**, a good old Scullion... what a

**In Dublin  
3rd September 1987**



*The Radiators now and then (inset). Catch their once-off reunion gig (and help the AIDS campaign) by going along to Hawkins on Sunday 13 at eight pm.*

# Hard-hitting Aids campaign slogan angers Tory MP

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday launched the latest stage of its £20m Aids campaign with a series of hard-hitting advertisements warning of the dangers of injecting drugs.

The advertisements which include graphic shots of addicts injecting syringes, and a television and cinema campaign which will mainly be shown late at night, immediately drew fire from some Conservative MPs who objected particularly to a Press advertisement which warns: "It only takes one prick to give you Aids."

Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, described the slogan with its warning "Don't inject Aids" as a smutty joke which would cause unnecessary offence. "I don't see how it is going to help potential sufferers to put forward propaganda in a way which causes unnecessary offence," he said.

The advertisement however was defended by John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services. Market research had shown it was the most effective of the 18 adverts being used in the campaign, he said. "We have to concern ourselves with using the most effective message for those we are trying to contact."

The threat from sharing needles was not only to drug users,

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By Nicholas Timmins  
Health Services  
Correspondent

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"but to the unborn babies of infected mothers, to the sexual partners of drug abusers and from them to the general population".

The £5m two-stage campaign will concentrate on the youth and music press and late night rock and pop music programmes, hammering home the message that in some parts of the country — notably Edinburgh — one in two injecting drug abusers are now infected with the Aids virus and that sharing a needle just once can pass on the disease.

The message to the estimated 40,000 to 50,000 who inject is "if you can't stop, never share injecting equipment", while warning those who might be tempted to inject not to do so.

The second stage of the campaign links the Aids message to the Government's heroin prevention programme warning that addicts lie, scrounge, steal from their families and friends and go into prostitution to support their habits as well as putting themselves at risk of Aids if they share needles or syringes.

The Terence Higgins Trust,

which yesterday had its grant boosted from £118,000 a year to £300,000, said the advertisements were some of the best Government-sponsored ones so far, and the British Medical Association said the new stage in the Aids campaign was crucial.

■ The BMA and Victoria Gillick appeared to have fought to a draw yesterday as new Government figures showed no difference in the rate at which girls under-16 became pregnant during 10 months in 1985 when doctors were barred by the Appeal Court from prescribing contraceptives without parental consent.

The ruling brought warnings of a rise in unwanted pregnancies, and was overturned by the House of Lords in October 1985. Figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show total pregnancies fell by 204 in girls aged 13 to 15 during the period, and by 243 over the whole of 1985.

■ The fear of Aids is stopping girls from having under-age sex, according to a survey published in a teenage magazine yesterday.

Loving magazine said that three years ago, almost 50 per cent of those interviewed said they had lost their virginity before reaching 16. Now that figure has dropped to 36 per cent.



## Outspoken new drive on AIDS and drugs

THE Government yesterday launched a £5 million campaign against drug abuse and AIDS, amid warnings that in some parts of Britain one in two addicts is infected with the deadly virus.

The Social Services Secretary, Mr John Moore, said: "Injecting drug users are at serious risk of becoming infected with the AIDS virus if they share needles and syringes.

"The threat is not only to the drug users themselves but to the unborn babies of infected mothers, to the sexual partners of drug abusers and, from them, to the general population."

The campaign is to be carried out through TV, radio and cinema commercials, backed by advertisements in youth magazines.

Mr Moore said: "This campaign is hard-hitting, and some people may find some of the material disturbing, but we cannot afford to pull our punches if we are to reach the young people who are most at risk." — (PA)

# Explicit publicity to highlight Aids risk from abuse of drugs

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

An explicit publicity campaign warning young people of the risk of Aids from drug abuse was launched by the Government yesterday.

The message of the campaign, "Don't Inject Aids", is being pushed at teenagers and young adults through street posters, television, radio and cinema commercials and teenage newspaper advertisements.

With more than 1,000 cases of Aids confirmed in Britain, the Government believes that the spread of the disease among intravenous drug abusers is the main threat to the general population.

Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, said at the launch of the campaign in London yesterday: "We don't know how many drug abusers are already infected, but in some parts as many as one in two may be carrying the human immunodeficiency virus".

Mr Moore predicted 4,000 Aids deaths in Britain by 1990. "The threat is not only to the drug users themselves, but to the unborn babies of infected mothers, to the sexual partners of the drug abusers, and from them to the general population", he said.

At least 50,000 people in Britain are estimated to abuse drugs, particularly heroin.

In Scotland, at least 2,000 abusers are thought to be already infected with the Aids virus. Of a total of more than 1,200 people in Scotland known to be infected, 56 per cent are drug abusers.

Dr Iain Macdonald, Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday: "More than ever before, we have to deter drug misusers from injecting. We are especially anxious about young people who are injecting amphetamines and

who see themselves, quite wrongly, as being less at risk of catching Aids than heroin injectors."

The Government estimates that in 1989, there will be 150 cases of Aids among intravenous drug abusers in Scotland alone, with a similar or larger number there in each year thereafter.

One of the warnings that will be carried in newspapers and magazines shows a needle about to be inserted in a man's arm and carries the message: "It takes only one prick to give you Aids".

Another saying "Just one fix can get you totally wasted", is shown with a body in a plastic bag, labelled "Aids".

A typical street poster showing a blood-stained syringe says: "If you get into injecting, what's going to get into you?"

The first television commercial was shown at 1 am today on a youth-oriented music programme. It depicted a drug-abuser being told by a doctor that he had been found to be carrying traces of infection.

Mr Moore and others involved in the campaign emphasized yesterday that the television commercials would be shown only late at night to "target audiences" of young people.

"We are trying to reach three groups", Mr Moore said. "They are those who might be tempted to use drugs, those who might be tempted to inject drugs and those who, if they can't stop injecting, should never share injecting equipment."

The campaign is being launched with a new drive aimed at discouraging drug abuse in general.

"We are particularly concerned that the anti-injecting

message should not be taken as condoning other forms of drug misuse", Mr Moore said.

● Response to the Aids campaign was mixed last night. Mr Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, objected to the slogan: "It only takes one prick to give you Aids".

He said: "Although this is a desperately serious problem, a lot of people have been worried about the publicity used in this campaign."

"Most advertisers will agree that it is perfectly possible to shock people without causing unnecessary offence. This particular advertisement, like some of its predecessors, seems to go over the top."

"I do not see how it is going to help potential sufferers from Aids to put forward propaganda in a way which causes unnecessary offence. It is like a series of smutty jokes, and I hope the Department of Health and Social Security will take that aboard."

The British Medical Association said the message about Aids had to be succinct.

"Considering the major drug problem in many of the big cities, including London, this new development in the Government's Aids programme is crucial", a BMA statement said.

The Terrence Higgins Trust, an Aids charity, welcomed the campaign. "For once they have actually done something in the type of language people understand", Mr Jim Wilson, a trust spokesman, said.

He called for advertisements aimed at children. "We have 10 and 11-year-old users who inject themselves in Scotland", he said. "I am a firm believer in teaching children at a young age."

## Aids condom fails in test

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The College of Health has given a warning that five brands of condom including one specifically designed to protect against Aids have failed British Standard pin-hole tests.

A survey of 35 different condoms by the college found that four brands leaked when they were filled with water and a fifth had other manufacturing defects.

One of the brands, Aegis Anti VD, which is also known as Aegis Anti Aids, had a 32 per cent failure rate and was immediately taken off the market by the distributors

when they were told of the test results.

Details of the survey, which are published today in the College of Health's journal, *Self Health*, show that 100 samples of the 35 different types were tested for holes by filling them with a third of a litre of water and looking for leaks.

The results of the test showed that half the brands had produced no leaks and most of the others had between one and three faulty condoms, an error rate within the British Standard pin-hole test.

The current British Standard permits 0.5 per cent error rates, that is five condoms in every 1,000, although a 3 per cent failure rate is allowed when testing smaller numbers.

However, four brands, Aegis Anti-VD, Duet Supersafe Ribbed, Duet Supersafe Studed and Sweet Rider significantly exceeded that number of faults.

Each brand was also tested for strength.

The fifth brand, Blaustiegel Koralle, failed because it had a number of other manufacturing defects.

**British Herald**  
**4<sup>th</sup> September 1987**

## **Aids man charged**

AN AMERICAN JUDGE has ordered an Aids-stricken male prostitute to stand trial on attempted murder charges, saying he believed the man intended to pass on the deadly virus when he sold his blood.

"What we have here is a deliberate and conscious disregard of human safety," Judge Alban Niles said yesterday as he held Joseph Markowski to answer five charges, including attempted murder, assault and attempted poisoning.

The case is believed to be the first in the United States in which a person with acquired immune deficiency syndrome had been charged with attempted murder for allegedly selling sex and tainted blood.

SV

# Doctors' new hope for AIDS babies

By JOHN ILLMAN

Medical Correspondent  
A REVOLUTIONARY technique is bringing new hope to babies in Britain born with AIDS.

Six infants aged from 18 months to four have been given the life-prolonging treatment with 'dramatic results', it was disclosed yesterday.

The treatment consists of 'passive immunisation' against common infections with antibodies taken from blood donations.

Doctors say the technique is designed to counter the devastating effects of AIDS by providing the body's natural defences with a major boost.

Dr. Peng Lee Yap of the Edinburgh blood transfusion service, said that after the treatment children who had been in hospital were able to live at home.

They put on weight and were no longer so vulnerable to common infection.

One of the children, who lives in the North of England, is also being given the AIDS drug AZT. 'We want to explore whether giving the two together is better' Dr Yap said during an international conference in London staged by the Hospital Infection Society.

● Talks began last night in London between Soviet diplomats and the Foreign Office on the prospect of co-operation to fight AIDS.



## The problem with AIDS

ONE of the central chapters in my new book "Puppets of Utopia" (Four Courts Press) deals with the problems raised for Church, State and Society in general by the appearance of AIDS as a world-wide phenomenon that is terrifying people at every level.

For the past year or so scarcely a day has passed without newspapers carrying some piece of news about it. It has emerged that, without doubt, this new scourge has profound implications for medicine, politics and our lives.

Reactions on the whole have tended to be of unmitigated fear and one reads of very serious regulations about testing people for the disease, and restricting the movements of those suffering from it, even of their possible isolation in what one French politician called "salaatoria" — SIDA being the French equivalent term for AIDS.

As one who has spent most of my life studying and teaching social philosophy and political principles, I have been frustrated by some of the measures that have been proposed or implemented.

I am only too well aware of the way in which even democratic Governments can slip into measures, albeit well-intentioned, that could in fact be an infringement of the rights of the individual person. At the same time, it is undeniable that the primary task of Government is to protect the people as a whole and safeguard the common good.

One of the most difficult aspects of the AIDS question at the moment is to be sure of what the facts really are as regards the extent of the danger of its developing into a catastrophic epidemic for mankind. The figures that are coming out are by no means in harmony.

By Jeremiah  
Newman, Bishop  
of Limerick

For example, on July 4 last, this newspaper reported the World Health Organisation as having indicated an increase, over 118 countries, of 2.65 per cent in one month since 3rd June. Yet on 5th July the Sunday Times carried a heading "Hopeful signs for new AIDS figures", saying that in San Francisco the rate of new infections among men appears to be levelling off and that elsewhere the expected break-out of the disease into the heterosexual population has not yet happened.

But on August 23 last, the Observer carried a story entitled "Epidemic feared as AIDS affects 2,000 heterosexuals". This goes against some scientific views that homosexuals and drug-takers are almost exclusively the ones at risk.

Be that as it may, a situation has developed in which everybody has to sit up and take notice. What to do is the dilemma!

While understanding their predicament, I think that it would be wise for legislators not to panic, while at the same time taking all possible useful and acceptable steps to help contain the plague, if plague it is indeed.

In doing so, however, great care has to be exercised not to rush into treating AIDS sufferers as latter-day lepers and banishing them, as it were, from society.

Doctors too have big problems presented to them, in the matter of caring for these unfortunate people. The way Rock Hudson kept the secret that he was a victim is but one example of the horror that the thing has raised in people's minds. And he is but one of quite a number, particularly in New York's artistic community.

Nevertheless, the Irish Times reported on July 1 last that the British Medical Association voted by 181 to 140 to observe that they need not ask their patients for permission before carrying out AIDS tests on them! The same paper reported on Wednesday last that the new journal, "Irish Doctor", has suggested that 59 per cent of doctors thought that notification of the disease should be compulsory, in one way or another.

The fact is that doctors have obligations regarding professional secrecy to their patients, but also to the community and themselves, whom they are equally entitled and even bound to protect.

There is only one incontestable fact that has emerged from all the discussion to date about AIDS and moral principles, and that is this: choice acts is the single certain way to avoid it and its spread. The Christian Churches are agreed on this. Let us all pray that the spectre of an almost uncontrollable plague will not materialise and that, in the meantime, AIDS victims will not be regarded as pariahs.

Irish Times  
4<sup>th</sup> September 1987

## Man (70) has AIDS virus

A MAN in his 70s has been admitted to St. James's Hospital, Dublin, with the AIDS virus.

This is the first such case reported in Ireland, according to the Department of Health, but is not uncommon elsewhere.

TCD head of geriatric medicine Dr. David Coakley warned doctors to check the sexual histories of geriatric patients.

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## Donations sent to victims of AIDS assaults

From Sean Cronin

GOODS and gifts including money are being sent by Americans to St Paul's Catholic church, Arcadia, Florida, for the family of Louise and Clifford Ray whose three sons were denied schooling and who had their home burned down because they are haemophiliacs and carry AIDS antibodies.

The cheques and goods total \$25,000, a church worker said. The Rays are in seclusion. The fire that destroyed their small home was called "suspicious" because it began in a bedroom of the timber home and Mr Ray's brother was the only witness.

"It's enough that it scared me to get out of Arcadia," Clifford Ray said. He hopes to settle with his family in a more hospitable part of Florida than the small rural community southeast of Tampa, near the Gulf of Mexico.

The boys — Ricky (10), Robert (9) and Randy (8) — were barred from the local school last year when it became public knowledge that they carried the AIDS virus, apparently the result of blood transfusions. The Rays took the case to court and a federal judge ruled last month that the boys should be permitted to attend classes. When they went to school half the pupils stayed at home.

The Rays, who are Catholics, were supported by their church. The Reverend Michael Lynch told the 300 parishioners, "It reminds me of the time of leprosy when they rang bells and told people to stay away."

The Mayor's wife, Sue Ellen Smith, said the community was reacting against a dreaded disease for which there is apparently no cure and parents were concerned about protecting their children. In these circumstances it was unfair to portray the community of about 6,000 as made up of bigots. The Smiths took their ten-year-old son out of the school.

### AIDS-blood donor faces charges

A JUDGE in Los Angeles has ordered an AIDS-stricken male prostitute to stand trial on attempted murder charges, saying he believed the man intended to pass on the deadly virus when he sold his blood.

"What we have here is a deliberate and conscious disregard to human safety," Judge Alban Niles said as he remanded Joseph Markowski in custody to answer five charges, including attempted murder, assault and attempted poisoning, at a trial on September 18th. The case was believed to be the first in the US in which a person with AIDS has been charged with attempted murder for allegedly selling sex and tainted blood.—(AP)