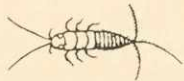


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Continued from page 7

mists. The simple fact is that AIDS takes months or even years to fully manifest itself. Therefore THE PREMISE IS WRONG. Your average "Jane" or "John" could take months or years to show the disease even though they tested negative originally. Therefore mandatory AIDS testing is useless if you carry it through logically. If you really want to be worry free of AIDS then you have to live like a bloody monk. That means no fellatio, no cunnilingus, no sodomy and most cruel of all, no hetero stuff. But this is impossible especially at a university like Dal where the Blue Zone hovers over you wherever you go. So take my advice, find yourself a respectable "acquaintance" and stick with

him or her even if they drive you nuts. That way (assuming that you both get tested periodically) you are both reasonably AIDS free and you can do whatever you want to each other. (Assuming complete loyalty.) If after reading this article you still believe in mandatory AIDS testing, then I advise YOU to "wake up and smell the coffee".
Concernedly Critical,

Robert McCall
Hon. BSc Biochem

AIDS tests "draconian"

To the editors:

After reading Ms. Leigh's disjointed and ignorant letter on the

subject of mandatory AIDS testing, I felt I had to write a reply.

Her letter gets off to a shaky start with the statement that "if it weren't for AIDS such practices (i.e. wild uninhibited sex with every other John/Jane) would be quite acceptable." Get serious! Even if the moral and ethical consequences of such behaviour are ignored, what about the unwanted pregnancies that would result? And AIDS isn't the only sexually transmitted disease in existence; there's syphilis, gonorrhoea, etc.

As for the main point of Ms. Leigh's letter, which is mandatory AIDS testing, it is not clear exactly what she intends to do with those who test positive. She merely suggests that "those people could be dealt with." Perhaps she has in mind something like a leper colony, or perhaps concentration camp where they could be silently disposed of! She then discards logic completely to tell us how popular a government would be if it found a cure for AIDS. How does mandatory testing relate to finding a cure? Medical research is what is needed to achieve this, or is Ms. Leigh implying that the concentration camp scenario could be seen as a "cure".

There are many reasons why mandatory AIDS testing is illogical and impossible. Here are a few.

1. The cost of doing all the tests. Where will the money come from?

2. The AIDS tests themselves are notoriously inaccurate. They often miss the virus when it is present, or identify it when it is actually absent.

3. The legal and ethical implications of such a program could well make it unconstitutional.

4. Such draconian measures will probably send people who test positive "underground" for fear of possible recriminations from people such as Ms. Leigh.

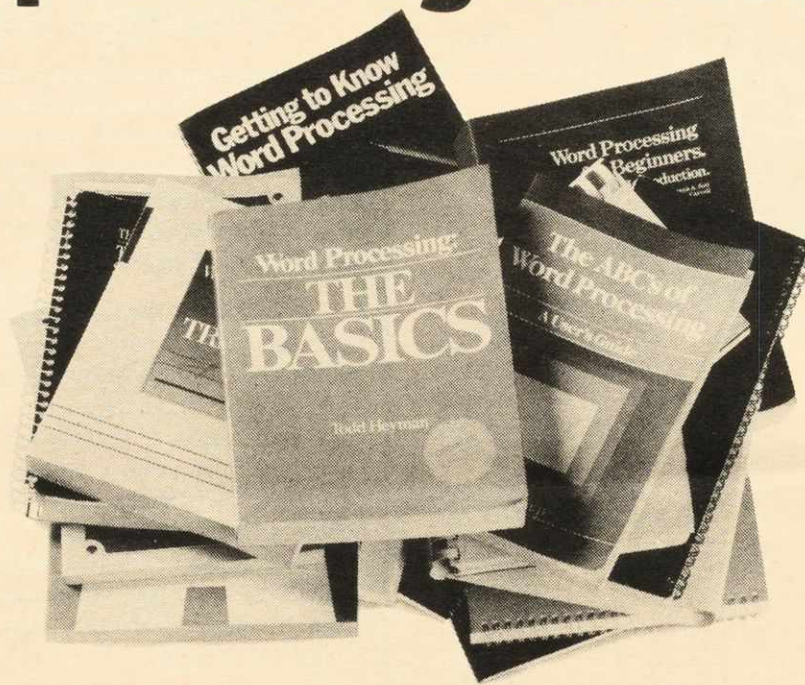
As for Ms. Leigh's three female "acquaintances," I assume that they are the three women involved in the Wentzell case. If the media is to be believed (which may not be so!), Wentzell already *knew* he had AIDS when he had sex with these women. Therefore, how would mandatory AIDS testing have prevented them from getting AIDS?

Unlike Ms. Leigh, I have a number of FRIENDS who have AIDS. Quite frankly, I am sickened and disgusted by the blind ignorance and bigotry which this disease brings out in some people. People with AIDS have enough to contend with already. They need unconditional love, caring and acceptance. It's time for us all to face reality and take responsibility for our own actions. If you are worried about getting AIDS, then protect yourself by practicing safe sex, or abstinence. But don't try to avoid your own responsibilities by passing the "blame" onto someone else.

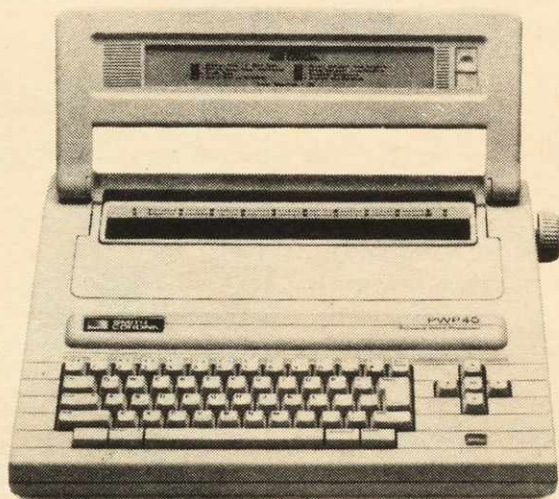
Yours sincerely,

John Cairncross
Master of Development
Economics

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