

ket, says Weinstein. A variety of TB diagnostics will also be tested, including polymerase chain reaction. (A facility for PCR work is being furnished by Hoffmann-LaRoche.)

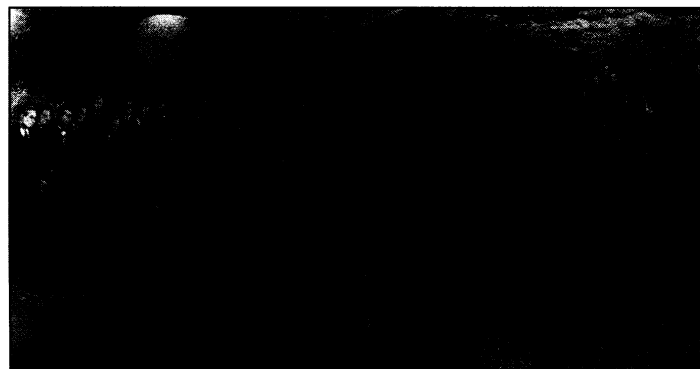
The budget of the new program represents a significant increase for TB research, given that the TB budget this fiscal year for the chief federal-level source, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is only \$5.4 million.

British Have Sex Too

And as much as anyone else, according to a landmark study announced last week that confirms earlier data from a pilot study. In last week's *Nature*, preliminary results from the first major UK sex survey demolish the stereotype of the British as a stuffy, sexually repressed race. Instead, there's precious little to separate the Brits from those reputedly amorous neighbors across the Channel.

Edith Cresson, the foot-in-the-mouth former French prime minister who a couple of years ago pronounced Britain chock full of homosexuals, will have to think again: The new results, collected from a sample of 18,876 people, could almost be a carbon copy of those released last summer by a French survey team (*Science*, 3 July, p. 25). British men, like the French, report an average of 1.2 sexual partners in the last year. British women averaged one partner in the last 12 months (French women averaged 0.9). And 3.6% of British men say that they have had sex with a man—not significantly different from the proportion (4.1%) reported in the French survey.

But the *raison d'être* for the two surveys wasn't to blow away national stereotypes—rather to help design strategies to counter the spread of HIV. In that regard, the British finding that it's the young, and those of higher socioeconomic status, who report higher numbers of recent sexual partners suggests that current efforts to get the safe sex message



Portrait of first chain reaction. Note that sitting atop the pile is the "safety committee," equipped with jugs of cadmium sulfate solution for soaking up excess neutrons if things got too hot. *Chicago Tribune* artist Gary Sheahan, who painted this in 1957, dressed the scientists up in suits and ties for the occasion. Leo Szilard is the one with the briefcase. Enrico Fermi is next to Walter Zinn, whose elbow is on the rail.

Chain Reaction: The First Half-Century

When a team directed by Enrico Fermi created the first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear reaction in a squash court under the football stadium at the University of Chicago on 2 December 1942, the group was elated. The achievement was a key step in the Manhattan Project to develop a weapon—the atomic bomb—that would win World War II, and it promised a wealth of cheap electricity down the road. "There was no ambivalence toward the project. The consequences of losing a nuclear race with Germany were unthinkable," says University of Chicago physicist Roger Hildebrand, who, as a 19-year-old student, developed uranium fuels for reactors.

What a difference time can make. Last week, on the 50th anniversary of the so-called Fermi experiment, a series of meetings, briefings, and public protests across the country reflected the mixed feelings—at best—now attending the nuclear enterprise. Many scientists are now trying to dismantle the nuclear enterprise with the same fervor Fermi and his colleagues showed in building it. In Washington, D.C., for example, Physicians for Social Responsibility used the occasion to publicize its "Manhattan Project II," an international campaign to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

across to college students are well targeted. But Kaye Wellings, a member of the UK survey team from London's St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, believes that a lot more should be done—in Britain at least—at sexually transmitted disease clinics, where many of the people with the highest risk of contracting HIV show up sooner or later.

Wellings promises a "vast trove" of further information relevant to HIV transmission when the full results from the UK survey are released in book form next year. Although those data are being keenly awaited by UK health policy officials, the survey had to get by

without government support. In 1989, former prime minister Margaret Thatcher vetoed public funding for the project, asserting that it was too intrusive. But the Wellcome Trust, Britain's largest medical research charity, came to the rescue with a \$1.55 million grant.

More Personal Space for Whales?

Whale watching is such good business these days that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in its concern for whale safety, may enact a new plan to regulate it. But the plan has raised anxiety levels among whale researchers.

Whale-watching vessels in the United States are currently permitted to approach within 100 feet of the beasts except in Hawaii, where it's now 100 yards. But as the pastime has grown more popular, NMFS and conservation groups have become concerned that frequent close approaches may result in boat-whale collisions, with injuries to the latter. Although supporting data for this are scanty, NMFS wants to extend the 100-yard rule to all whale watching regions of the United States.

In New England, however, researchers argue that tripling the distance will hobble their observations. Yes, under the proposed regulations they could obtain permits to approach closer, but not if they're aboard commercial vessels. And there lies the rub. Whale researchers often moonlight as guides on tourist excursion boats; this affords inexpensive opportunities to photograph the animals and monitor their behavior. The new rule "will force scientists to use dedicated vessels, which would drive up research costs," says Nina Young of the Center for Marine Conservation.

NMFS will accept comments on their 100-yard proposal until 30 December. A final decision on the proposal is expected by spring.

Correction

Last month, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) prompted a 13 November Random Sample naming a group of scientists whose faces were appearing, USPS said, on stamps belonging to its Black Heritage Series. Among them: chemist Percy Lavon Julian; George Washington Carver; physician Charles R. Drew; astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker; and inventor Jan Matzeliger. *Science* readers knew better. Two of the quintet appeared years ago: a stamp bearing Carver's picture was issued in 1948, and Drew appeared in the Great Americans Series in 1981.