



Earthwatch

Around the world in AIDS-Y Days

August 1, 2005 By Lucile Scott

NORTH AMERICA

Conservatives in Mexico vow to fight the nation's new proposal to put condom machines in public high schools to halt HIV and teen pregnancy.

THE CARIBBEAN

In May, Trinidad and Tobago opened the nation's first public HIV-testing center. Previous clinics served only pregnant women.

AFRICA

Millions in excused international debt dollars will be spent to rush free HIVmeds to 100,000 PWAs, Zambia officials announced in June.

EUROPE

France's prez, Jacques Chirac, proposed a global airfare tax—adding \$1 to all international tickets to raise AIDS funds—for debate at July's G8summit.

ASIA

India trumpeted a May 25 study that showed HIV cases dropping 95% from 2003 to 2004. Facing an international howl, an expert came forth to confess that the drop was due to "changes" in how the data were collected.

PACIFIC

In June, Malaysia's health minister unveiled a plan to give free condoms nationwide, sparking a backlash by Muslim clerics and politicians, who insist that Allah wants only married HIVers to have them.