

generate more jobs. Putting it crudely, cutting back on spending on high technology — the seedbed of the future — to pay for higher unemployment is a recipe for suck-

MR Scargill first. There are, without the slightest doubt, men and women around the cabinet table who would, in their heart of hearts, like to see Mr Scargill not merely humbled but grovelling. In the real

House of Lords deserves. It has contrived in the twentieth century to be one step ahead of what it always managed to

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Guardian 23/01/85

240 GUARD

Bad blood that leads to an Aids dil

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Sir, — I am the member of a nine-year-old haemophiliac son. My husband is American, and about four years ago, family and friends in America began sending us articles about the Aids virus and its link with haemophilia.

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About that time my son was due to switch from treatment with the NHS Factor VIII to the American factor but at my request, the hospital agreed that he could remain on English treatment although they had not heard of Aids. The situation remained at that, with my bringing articles and information on Aids to my son's haemophilia clinic until about a year ago, when the Aids epidemic received publicity through a television programme.

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This week my husband and I went to Great Ormond Street Hospital to meet with the doctors. The hospital has

been informative and supportive throughout—but the doctors wanted to see us to say that the majority of haemophilia centres throughout England have decided to switch treatment from the NHS factor to the new heat-treated American factor, which they feel is marginally safer. When we asked if it were not true that the NHS Factor would be available in April (Guardian leader, January 21), we were told that only minute quantities would be ready in April and that there would not be enough for the Great Ormond Street children until at least the end of the year.

Having lived in America and knowing how many people sell their blood there, and also knowing the time for real testing of the heat treatment process has been very short—we are faced with this dreadful dilemma. Do we, after keeping our son

on NHS factor all this time, switch to the heat-treated American when we know that Aids is epidemic in the United States, or do we allow him to remain on the English Factor VIII which is not heat-treated and may now be contaminated?

We feel that this is a dilemma we should not be facing. First, the Aids epidemic started years ago. If I, as a lay person, knew about it, I'm certain many others in this country within the medical profession and the Government also knew. Second, since heat treatment of NHS Factor VIII is going to be available — it should be available now so that this dreadful choice need not be made. All English haemophiliacs should have plentiful supplies of the British heat-treated factor. — Yours sincerely,

Julia Harrison,
London, W1.

Sir, — It was read your call for and understanding of the gay community, the spread of the country (Leads January 21).

Unfortunately, self will not be counter the out haviour of your Fleet Street a branches of the putting it mildly there has been of misinformation which has soug the finger at ga characterise us as riers and worth erates. The ap been medieval, medical, and its and in other co appalling.

Equally sicken the Government's act on its respo public health. I a they would not h

Abram's babe

Sir, — Your Diary (January 18) reinforces a point made in an earlier letter to your columns, that the Virgin Mary could be described as a surrogate mother.

Perhaps the most notable example in the Bible, however, was Hagar (Genesis 16). Abram and Sarai had no children, so they entered into an agreement unofficially with the slave-girl Hagar to "found a family through her" and Abram lay with her. Throughout the pregnancy and after the birth of the child family relationships were disturbed, and the experiment ended in disaster when Sarah (Sarai renamed) eventually managed to conceive and the surrogate mother and her son were ejected from the household and denied a share in the inheritance.

It has always seemed curious to me that in the 1662 Prayer Book the epistle for the Fourth Sunday in Lent takes up this theme, although with considerable sophistication. Do many Anglicans realise that Mothering Sunday, therefore, has always been celebrated in the Church by a reading which examines the virtues and

Why beef farmers can't stomach vegetari

Sir, — Vegetarians rejoice! Break out the lentil wine. When sons of toil such as livestock farmer Tony Harman (Guardian, January 19) are reduced to turning their horny hands to crude parody of our way of life, we know we must be getting somewhere.

Mr Harman's fictional scenario, wherein a society of meat-eaters is obliged overnight to become vegetarian, may be a meat-producer's nightmare. But it is the real situation of a population gradually abandoning meat as they discover the vegetarian diet to be cheaper, healthier and tastier, that provokes the nightmares in such as Mr Harman.

It is this gradual transformation which renders invalid the fears Mr Harman expresses in his article — which generally relate to insufficient preparation for change — but which also means a gradual diminishing of profits and consequent run-down of the meat industry. This is the real reason for the tortured dreams of Tony Harman and his cronies.



Sir, — While Tony Harman's article 'A Pig's Life', raised quite a few hackles, it hardly raised a laugh.

No vegetarian or vegan I've spoken to imagines that meat-eating will be banned by legislation, or that mass animal slaughter will be required saving only a few farm animals for show. Much more likely is a gradually increasing abhorrence of the barbarity of eating scorched animal flesh, such as has prompted Harman's outburst. Since the present population of farm animals is maintained at a high level by deliberate breeding, a continuing move to vegetarian

humane diet is a But how silly to plying that vege dren will want play with instead animals; hasn Harman noticed vegetarians and v are peaceful p Yours faithfully, (Dr) Gill Langley, GRO-C Herts.

Hard sell

Sir, — You ma ested to know Guardian is used ment by one of