**Aids clams young American crusader Gertz**

New York: Alison Gertz, who said she contracted

the Aids virus during her first sexual

encounter when she was 16 - and who

publicised her misfortune to show that heterosexuals can be at risk - died recently. She

was 26.

Miss Gertz, whose story was told in the

television movie *Something to Live For*

died at her parents' home in Westhampton

Beach, Long Island, according to friends

the family.

She said she was exposed to the human

immunodeficiency virus (HIV) the' first time

she had Sex and that she only had sex with the partner who infected her ..

She was not diagnosed until age 22, after her health began to decline.

She blamed the delay on what she said was

the doctors' assumptions that an affluent

heterosexual woman was not at risk of acquiring HIV.

Her father, Jerrold Gertz, is the grandson:

of a founder of the Gertz Department Store!

Her mother, Carol, co-founded a national

chain of fashion stores called Tennis Ladies

Miss Gertz founded the New York-City

based Aids activist group Love Heals, and

when her health permitted lectures on Aids to students. (AP)