

Condom Awareness Day to promote disease prevention

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Condom Awareness Day, co-sponsored by the ASUO and the University Student Health Center, will be held for the first time at the University on Friday.

The purpose of Condom Awareness Day is to make available to students information regarding sexually transmitted diseases, particularly AIDS and its effect on the heterosexual community.

"What we are seeing now with the heterosexual community is the same kind of denial that had gone on in the gay community a few years ago regarding AIDS," said Jeff Bernhardt, ASUO University affairs coordinator.

AIDS and its effects on heterosexuals are being targeted for Condom Awareness Day because it is believed many heterosexuals do not know as much about AIDS as the gay community, Bernhardt said. Sponsors of the day also hope

students will not think of AIDS so much as being a disease that only affects homosexuals, but one that everyone should be concerned about.

"I saw a special on television awhile ago which showed young heterosexual people with broken lives and shattered families because of AIDS; they had no idea it could happen to them. Our goal is to help inform people," Bernhardt said.

Condom Awareness Day is the first step the ASUO has taken to educate students about AIDS since students indicated interest in the issue in December.

"We thought that if we could put together an educational program that could save even a few lives, we would be doing something worthwhile," Bernhardt said.

The ASUO formed an ad-hoc committee at the end of last term to establish more programs to inform students.

One plan for the beginning of spring term is to have a forum,

similar to one recently held at Sacred Heart General Hospital, where people could learn more about AIDS. Bernhardt hopes the forum will attract a large variety of people as did Sacred Heart's forum, where many senior citizens and mothers attended.

Tables will be set up in front of the EMU and the University Bookstore on Friday to make pamphlets as well as condoms available to students. The Schmid Co. donated 2,000 condoms for distribution.

The sponsors are not worried about the student reaction to the day.

"I find that when we first bring the subject up in a meeting people giggle, but after the second or third time we mention it people become more receptive," Bernhardt said.

"The State of Oregon Health Division says that all sexually active persons are at risk, which we believe encompasses a lot of the campus community," Bernhardt said.

The concern about AIDS in the heterosexual population has become a national one, said James Jackson, Student Health Center director.

"Both national and state health officials have concluded that all sexually active individuals need to be warned about AIDS," Jackson said.

Research points to the fact condoms are at least a protective factor in averting AIDS because it helps to prevent the

spread of the AIDS virus found in semen, Jackson said.

"In many cases you are not just sleeping with one partner, you are also sleeping with everyone they've slept with," Jackson said.

The Health Center will be speaking at University classes and living groups. Speakers will talk about whatever aspects of safe sex the particular group has interested in.

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Et al.

MEETINGS

Friends of Rape Crisis Network will meet tonight at 7:30. For more information call Karen at 485-6702.

Undergraduate History Club general meeting today at 3:30 in 348 PLC. All those interested are invited to attend.

LECTURES

Biologist Richard H. Cote will speak on the role of cyclic nucleotides in visual transduction today at 3:30 in 331 Science II.

MISCELLANEOUS

IFC budget hearing schedule for today: Sister University Project at 5; MBA Association, 5:45; Women in Transition, 6:30; Undergrad Econ. Association, 7:15.

Soviet pianist Lazar Berman and University music students will perform classical works today at 1:30 in Beall Hall. Berman will also speak at 4 in Beall Hall. Admission to both events is free.

Career Planning and Placement is holding workshops today on interview skills from 1:30 to 3 in 12 Hendricks and internship options from 2 to 3:30 in 237 Hendricks. A workshop on job searches for education will be held at 4 in 12 Hendricks.

"**Thinking About Elementary Education?**" is the topic of a workshop to be held today at 3:30 in 164 Oregon Hall.

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