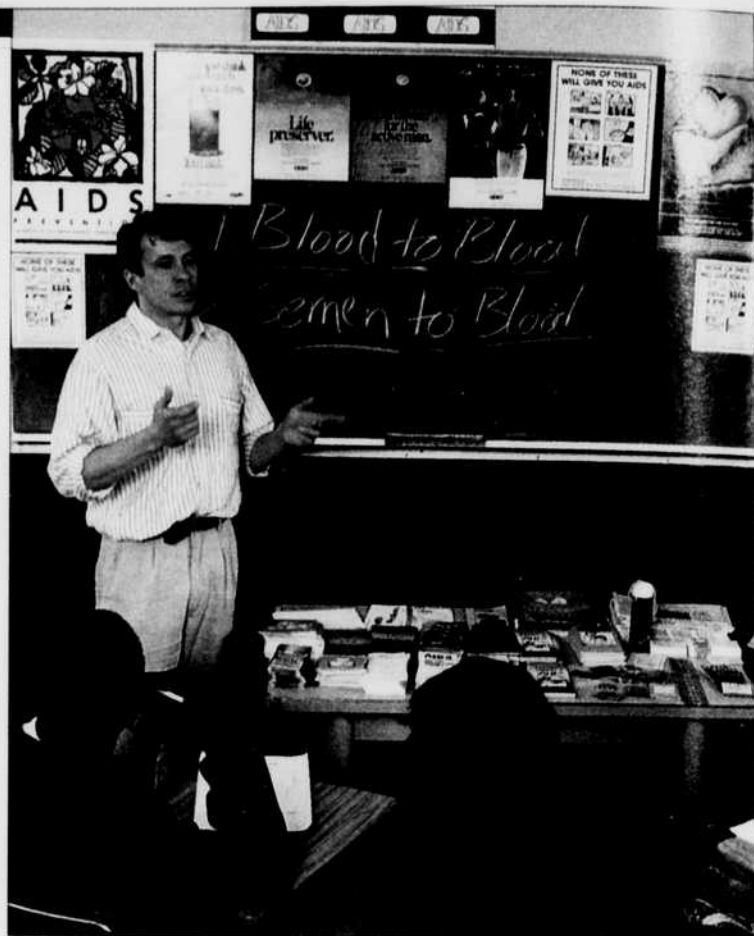


represent 4 percent of the total, and that percentage is expected to increase in the next few years. An estimated 1.5 million U.S. residents now harbor the AIDS virus, many without knowing it; while they may never come down with the disease, they can pass it along through unprotected sexual relations. Experts say that the greater the number of sexual partners, the greater the risk of contracting AIDS. Today's college students may find that a heedless affair during spring break could have disastrous consequences years later. "When you go to bed with someone, you go to bed with everyone they've gone to bed with," says Alan Grieco, a clinical psychologist in Winter Park, Fla., and an expert on STD's. Students who aren't careful in their choice of partners and who don't use condoms are playing Russian roulette with their future. "The real risk is contact with an infected person who may not even know that he or she is infected," says psychologist Mark Hochhauser, director of the Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota. "You can experiment once," says Hochhauser, "and that can be enough."

Many students say they don't really understand AIDS and they don't know which activity is safe. The Tulane School of Public Health surveyed more than 1,000 freshmen at seven Louisiana universities last spring and found that although a majority said AIDS had affected their choice of partners, many had significant misapprehensions about how the disease was transmitted. For example, 16 percent erroneously thought they could contract the AIDS virus by living in the same house as a person with AIDS; 15 percent thought that blood donors were at high risk. Sometimes a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. University of Pennsylvania sophomore Matt Fischtrom, for one, says he isn't concerned about the disease. "I learned a lot about it early because I'm from the San Francisco area," he says. "It



JAMES D. WILSON—NEWSWEEK

Some warnings are taking hold: Weisser lecturing at Berkeley

Life With AIDS: 'All of Us Are Potential Victims'

Last semester, in a social-work class at the University of Houston, Kenneth Durham was assigned to portray a person in crisis. He played a young gay with AIDS. After the exercise, the student who had played his counselor asked how Durham had managed to make the part seem so real. "It was real," Durham explained. Later he asked if the student had any questions about AIDS. "No, Ken," was the reply. "I'm not going to be meeting those kinds of people. And I don't really care."

Ken Durham doesn't look sick. At 29, the 6-foot-tall University of Houston graduate student is slender but not thin; his ruddy complexion effec-

tively masks all signs of the anemia which drains his strength. But Durham, who will earn his masters of social work degree this May, suffers from AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), a syndrome that is virtually always a precursor of AIDS. Experts say his chances of developing an opportunistic infection and dying of AIDS are between 25 and 100 percent. His own estimate: "I think it's inevitable."

No one had heard of AIDS or ARC when Durham first became sexually active in 1980. He was 22 then, a senior at Baylor University, active in the Young Democrats and Psi Chi, an honor society for psychology majors. He went

through what gays call a normal "crashing out" period, sleeping around a lot for about three years. Durham figures that was when he caught the AIDS virus—but he doesn't know from whom. Two men he dated later died of AIDS. "But you don't have to have the disease to pass it on," he says. "It could have been anyone."

Too late: After completing a B.A. in business and psychology and an M.B.A. at Baylor, Durham became a banker. By 1984 he had become assistant treasurer for the Houston office of Bank of New York. He was earning \$34,000 and due for a raise. But he felt unhappy; banking didn't satisfy his strong desire to help people. And he hadn't been feeling well. In two years Durham had had 11 colds, severe headaches and rashes. Maybe it was stress, he thought, hoping his frequent workouts at the gym would replenish his energy.

But by August, when he finally decided to look for another career, he had such trouble catching his breath that he could hardly swim. That same month a friend died "a horrible death" of AIDS: suddenly the disease became real to him. Before, "that was just something going on with those guys up in New York." Too late to protect himself—although he didn't yet know it—he began practicing safe sex.

Durham enrolled for the 1985 spring semester at UH, but a month before classes began he became so fatigued it took him an hour just to dress. That scared him, despite his doctor's assurance that he just had a cold. In the fall he began volunteer work for the AIDS Foundation of Houston and the Montrose Counseling Center. He also had himself tested: positive. This past fall, his doctor confirmed he had ARC.

Durham's lover broke up