

Seminar addresses AIDS issue

By Kelvin Wee
Of the Emerald

The fifth annual Wendell Webb Seminar was held on campus last weekend. Sponsored by the School of Journalism, the seminar focused on news coverage of the AIDS public health crisis.

Attending the two-day seminar were eighteen experienced editors and reporters from newspapers in Oregon and Washington. Randal Beam, a University journalism professor, directed this year's seminar.

"The School of Journalism puts on the seminar every summer on some issue of public interest," Beam said, "and AIDS was chosen because it is an important subject and is in the news a lot this year."

"The goals of these seminars are to be a mid-career education experience for reporters and editors from around Oregon primarily; although there were some attending from Washington state," Beam added.

"I feel that the coverage on AIDS in the Northwest has been pretty fair in the past, and this was a good chance for the speakers to offer suggestions for the kinds of stories they would

like to see more on," Beam explained.

Beam added that the two things that stuck in his mind most were the concern about the appropriate use of the HIV antibody test and the lack of information that AIDS cannot be contracted by casual contact.

Panel members included representatives from the Oregon Health Division, Lane County Health Division, Willamette AIDS Council, Shanti in Oregon, Eugene School District, Glide School District, Oregon Health Sciences University, the Bureau of Labor and Industries and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Caye Cannady, a disease intervention specialist from the Lane County Health Division, believed the seminar was a success.

"I enjoyed it very much as a panelist. I got to meet some of the journalists I have known in the past and also many others I may have to work with in the future," Cannady said.

"The question of appropriate terminology to be used when classifying people with AIDS was brought up. My concern is that the media continuously labels them as 'AIDS patients' or 'AIDS victims' which they are not. The appropriate ter-

minology in this case is "Person With AIDS," Cannady said.

The Willamette AIDS Council was represented by Nora Glenn and Jim Clay. Clay, who is a founding member of the Willamette AIDS Council, said the seminar was "an incredible success."

Clay, who spoke primarily on the concerns of the male homosexual community and AIDS, said, "After speaking to the journalists I learned that none of the reporting (on AIDS and the 'relationship' with the gay community) is intended to be biased, but is a result of the lack of information and understanding about the gay community."

Nora Glenn, coordinator of the Speakers Bureau of the Willamette AIDS Council, felt that the attending journalists were very receptive to new ideas.

"I felt it went very well, and (I) was very impressed with the interaction between panel members and the floor," Glenn said.

"A major concern was how to address the issue without necessarily creating too much unrest in the community," Glenn added.

General espouses need for new war technology

By John Carlson
Of the Emerald

Saying that "space is no longer experimental," U.S. Air Force Major General G. Wesley Clark emphasized the need to rely on technology in dealing with the Soviet Union in a speech at the Black Angus restaurant Monday.

Clark is the deputy chief of staff and plans for the U.S. Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo. Formed in 1985, the U.S. Space Command coordinates space systems for the U.S. military throughout the world.

According to Ernest Ross, Defense Education Committee member, the Space Command is not directly related to the Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars."

Clark contends that "our primary opponent (the Soviet Union) is not only more numerous, but in a better geographical position." Because of this, he believes we must utilize our technological advantage over

the Soviets.

"We seem to adapt better to new technology than the Soviet Union," Clark said.

Clark gave some historical examples of the progression to more effective weapons and said change has always been technologically driven.

"Today we experience change at faster rates — since there's no stopping it, we must cope with it," Clark said.

He spoke of the military's increasing reliance on space systems, citing the fact over two-thirds of all long distance military communications are through satellites.

Clark cited the example of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to support his contention space must be used for early warning systems. Because strategic warning systems are fundamental to deterrence, Clark said Pearl Harbor never might have happened had we had the use of such systems in space.

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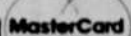
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