

People should visit blood drive today

The University will sponsor a blood drive today and tomorrow in 167 EMU for people interested in donating blood. All those capable of giving blood should consider participating in the event.

The spread of the AIDS virus may deter some from participating. Executive director of the Lane Memorial Blood Bank, Bert Toepel, said they have had to work harder than they have in the past to generate enough blood. The bank works on a day by day basis to fill daily blood needs.

But people should not worry about contracting the AIDS virus by donating blood. Precautions are taken to ensure the donor's health blood quality. A donor only could get AIDS if the needle used on him or her previously had been used by someone with the virus. This is not a safe health practice regardless of AIDS and is not done.

According to Toepel, potential donors are asked to read a pamphlet listing the dangers of AIDS and high-risk groups. Anyone in a high-risk group is dissuaded from donating blood.

After blood is donated it is checked for hepatitis, syphilis, anti-bodies and the AIDS virus.

Although the initial reviewing process for donating blood can be long, it is worth the time. Toepel said about 7 percent of the blood received annually at the bank comes from University students. We should not hesitate out of fear or ignorance.

The blood drive will run today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All qualified to give blood should do so.

Commentator's remarks signal lingering prejudices

When sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder said black athletes were bred to be better athletes, he brought the problem of racism in sports — and many parts of society — to the surface once again. His comments were repulsive and regrettable. But what is even more regrettable is that little can be done about the incident.

In a television interview on Friday, Snyder said that since the Civil War "... the slave owner would breed his big black to his big woman so that he could have a big black kid." This prompted charges of racism, and Snyder was fired from his CBS position Saturday.

The comments came during the weekend celebrating the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and show that King's dream of a society where people are treated equally and fairly has not come true.

Unfortunately solutions do not come easily. Snyder has been fired; he publicly apologized, but that is only one aspect of the problem. Racism is subtly prevalent in our society. However, racism often goes ignored, until an event such as this brings it to the surface.

Celebrating King's birthday has brought back memories for many about a time when people fought for causes in which they believed, and helped alleviate many racial barriers still lingering. These efforts may not have achieved all their aims, but the cause should not be forgotten. Ultimately, the responsibility for combating racism lies with individuals.

DEMOCRAT FOOTBALL



Letters

Get off horse

Dear Craig Harris (ODE commentary, Jan. 14): Thank you so much for riding to the rescue of all of us poor, naive dorm inmates on your white virgin horse.

Since the television demise of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, I have felt lost in a dorm-sponsored sea of sexual deviancy. It is about time that some of us fought against this onslaught of sexually oriented dances.

Before I read your article I used to think that the titles to the dorm dances ("Safe Sex Dance" and "One Night Stand") were merely stupid jokes. After reading your article I realized that everyone who goes to these sorted affairs does indeed have sexual relations with others at the dance. Can you imagine what the poor people who clean up after the dance must have to put up with?

Enough silly talk. If two people are going to have sexual intercourse, it is not going to be because they attended a dance with a title that 12-year olds might find "dirty." If the couple decides to have sexual intercourse, a condom is the second best defense against AIDS (the best defense being celibacy).

The only way this country is going to slow the spread of

AIDS is to continue frank and uncensored discussions of "safe sex" and the use of condoms. Not talking about sex is not going to make people forget about it.

Eric Winkler
Senior, Journalism

Don't poach

I have purchased a hunting permit, but have yet to be successful in my daily excursion into the asphalt jungle.

Although the reserves are heavily hunted, the bag limit of one space per day would still be possible if not for the large number of poachers. A quick count made yesterday at one reserve revealed that, of 60 kills made, 20 percent were illegally taken.

The University's small force of wardens cannot effectively patrol all the reserves, and poachers — even when caught — receive no more than an unheeded written reprimand. Continued disregard of the wildlife management laws should be dealt with severely. Immediate confiscation of equipment used in illegal acts. Failing this, the next best solution would be the formation of a vigilante group which could let air out of the egos of those who wantonly misuse such an important campus resource.

Jim Heinrich
Spanish instructor

Smoker woes

I have seen one well-used smoking section after another disappear.

Smokers themselves do not want to be in a smoke-filled room, but the obvious answer of proper ventilation has not been applied.

But to the problem itself, the authority cited by non-smokers claiming the dangers of breathing (ETS) tobacco smoke as found in air, are folks like White and Froeb (1980) who claimed this smoke reduced lung function.

This study, as others, has been severely criticized by the

scientific community, i.e., Dr. M. Lebowitz, Internal Medicine, University of Arizona. "Even with a biased population, poor study design, and incorrect statistical evaluation, there was no clear cut... meaningful (or believable) difference between passive smokers...."

On the other hand, Dr. J.M. Sumut, Department of Medicine, University of New Mexico; L. Garfinkel, Chief Statistician, American Cancer Society (two studies, one with 175,000 subjects); Dr. L.C. Koo, et al., University of Hong Kong; Dr. R. Rylander, University of Gothenburg, Sweden and University of Geneva, Switzerland (1983 workshop); and a 1983 workshop of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (who reviewed available studies), found no significant elevation in risk from passive smoking. (Emerald word length restrictions will not allow full listing and details.) I guess if some yell wolf long enough, even the EMU "directors" begin to believe.

If people who are perceived as a potential danger to others need "attic" isolation, then we need to also look at people with colds, flu, or a long list of other diseases; people who are "prone" to harm, or maybe kill others (i.e., trouble with law, lower class people, etc.). We would also need to look at foreign students, minorities and, of course, gays and lesbians. We all "know" the dangers lurking there. Then the mentally defective, a real danger that would need a person to rate them on a danger scale.

What am I griping about? I can now walk 450 feet or one block with breakfast to one of 13 tables (30 percent smokers of 17,688 students fall term 1987 equals 5,306 smokers) for smokers, in 1.1 percent of the EMU floor space (200 square feet) of a building that is one-third supported by smokers ("owned" by students?).

Duke Terwilligar
Student

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