

AIDS victim talks to young people about virus

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

The blond mohawk, the lightning-bolt tattoos decorating the sides of his head, the fierce, yet almost pleading, message.

At first glance, one might think his mission consisted of finding a guitarist for his new punk band or seeking out recruits for his motorcycle gang.

Once past appearances, however, it is easy to see that Glen "Spinner" Jones is on a crusade for life.

"This is my mission in life: to be in Eugene, talking to young people about the AIDS virus," Jones said.

Jones, who tested positive for HIV six years ago, has been talking to teen-agers about AIDS for more than two years. In order for Jones to do this, he has to be an expert in two things: the AIDS virus and "hangin' out."

When talking to kids about the virus, Jones uses his personal experience with HIV to convey the dangers of promiscuity and unprotected sex.

"I was very promiscuous at the time I was infected, and I don't know who I got it from," Jones said. "Now I have to treat myself as a carrier."

As for the "hangin' out," Jones seems to have that down to a tee. He knows all the hip

places in town where Eugene's youth gather, and despite the fact that he is 40 years old, he blends in well with the different crowds, he said.

Besides talking to teen-agers on the streets, Jones also does AIDS prevention work in the surrounding high schools. His most recent class discussion was Wednesday at Willamette High School, where he spoke to over 100 students.

While talking with the students, Jones stressed the fact that AIDS exists in our community — and it can affect anyone.

"You have stuff ahead of you that is beyond your wildest dreams, so please don't do anything that might result in

AIDS," Jones told the crowd.

Besides educating students on AIDS, Jones also tells them waiting to have sex is all right.

"To me, losing your virginity in the back seat of a car when you're drunk is yucky with capital letters," Jones said. "It's OK to wait until your wedding day or until you really love someone."

Why does Jones target young people?

He has three teen-age children whom he hasn't seen in six years from a marriage that lasted 11 years.

"I work with young people because I don't get to see my own children, and I miss that," Jones said.



Glen Jones

ETHNICITY

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University began to falter with the resignation of its second director, Coleman said. To keep it alive, Coleman, an English professor, joined forces with Sharon Sherman, also an English professor.

Folklore and Ethnic Studies is now a combined program, with Sherman acting as co-director of Folklore and Coleman heading Ethnic Studies. There is some speculation that the two will divide into separate programs, but Coleman said there are no definite plans yet.

His future with the program is also up in the air, as he handed in his resignation this summer. Coleman said he may reconsider, however, and expects a decision soon.

In addition to offering courses that study the experiences of minorities, the program works to get other programs and departments to teach courses in ethnicity that relate to each discipline.

Coleman said the University's Ethnic Studies program is holding its own in a state where white people make up 92 percent of the population.

"We've worked our asses off here, as a program along with folklore," he said. "We are recognized nationally as a unique program certainly by the folklorists and other organizations, in the most positive sense. Given the population we have here I think we're doing well."

"When you talk about the ethnic population in the state, on campus, there's no way you

can compare what we do here with that of UC-Berkeley, and it's asinine for people to make those kind of comparisons," Coleman said. "I hear this all the time and it's very irritating."

Several Asian American students voiced their concern last spring about the lack of an Asian American studies class. Although such a class was listed in the University Bulletin, it had not been offered since the early 1980s. No professor had been available to teach it.

The students met with University President Myles Brand and lobbied for the class, which is expected to be reinstated this coming spring term, with sociology Professor John Lie teaching it.

Jon Motohiro, an Asian American student and member of the student/faculty Ethnic Studies Committee, agrees with Coleman that the program is vital.

"It's a program that could do a lot for all the students at the University of Oregon in terms of understanding racial and ethnic minorities," Motohiro said. "My frustration right now with Ethnic Studies is not toward the faculty, but the University's overall commitment to it."

"I think you'll find more and more that people of color are willing to speak up for their interests in Ethnic Studies," he said. "We're starting to work together. I see a very strong student interest and I think people are committed to it. But it's going to be a long haul."

BRAND

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free expression of ideas," Brand said. "It then becomes one institution among many with political agendas."

University journalism Professor Tim Gleason echoed Brand's view.

"As a matter of principle, the University should not be excluding anyone from speaking or recruiting on campus," Gleason said.

Gleason said the University community must take it upon itself to protest views it considers unacceptable.

"If we as a community believe the military is engaged in practices we disagree with, we have to have faith that we can persuade other members of the community to not be recruited," he said. "That is the freedom of speech principle that is at the core of the University."

Beyond that fundamental principle, the University is obligated under federal law to allow the military to recruit on campus, Gleason said. Federal law allows the military to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

"The case law seems to say that this is a question that has been preempted by the federal government," Gleason said. "The Supreme Court has continually upheld the military's right to discriminate."

Lower courts have decided state authorities cannot interfere with the recruiting because of the "special role of the military in society," Gleason said.

That special role allows military recruiters to sign statements saying they are in compliance with federal and state anti-discrimination laws, said Larry Smith, director of the Career Planning and Placement Office.

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