

AIDS affecting not only gay men

By Kim Challis-Roth
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

AIDS has become the top killer of American men aged 25 to 44 and the fourth-leading cause of death for women in the same age group, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta reported last week.

Doug Dewitt, education coordinator for HIV/AIDS Resources, Inc. in Eugene, said last week's statistics are already old news.

"In Multnomah County, the Portland area," Dewitt said, "AIDS has been the leading killer of men in that age range for two years."

The death statistics are grim. Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in 1981, more than 204,400 people have died from the disease nationally, and nearly 1,300 in Oregon alone.

The CDC predicts more than 100,000 new AIDS cases will be diagnosed this year. Homosexual men have made up the largest group, accounting for 48 percent of reported cases last year, but the future focus is shifting.

"This is not just a gay disease," Dewitt said. "Given the combination of alcohol and drug use and increased sexuality among young heterosexuals, AIDS is a tinder box ready to explode."

The CDC reports that AIDS is spreading most rapidly among women, people who have unprotected heterosexual contact, minorities and intravenous drug users.

Joseph Cantania, a researcher at the University of California in San Francisco, said in a November 1992 issue of *Science* that the United States could develop an AIDS picture similar to that of Africa, where 75 percent of all AIDS patients are heterosexual.

Cantania based his findings on a survey taken of more than 10,000 Americans who were questioned about their sexual practices. The study showed that a vast majority of those with multiple partners were engaging in sexual intercourse without using condoms.

The AIDS epidemic is not a topic for only scientific journals. *Insider*, a magazine targeted at university students that was tucked in Wednesday's *Emerald*, discussed AIDS in an article titled "The A to Z of College Culture."

"AIDS — Bummer of an item to start with," the article began, "but it's there and we're all waiting for the incredible bash on the day a cure is found. Meanwhile, it defines our behavior and our fun and we are dealing with it."

Dewitt, of HIV/AIDS Resources, disagrees. He says university students aren't dealing with it enough.

"People don't take the seriousness to heart unless someone they know dies from the disease," he said. "We've had university students who come to HIV/AIDS Resources for counseling tell sto-

ries of 'bed hopping' and unsafe sex practices that are happening in the dormitories and other group living situations. I worry students aren't facing the reality of the disease."

"There can be a lot of lag time between the time of infection and the onset of symptoms," Dewitt said. "In Oregon, 19 percent of reported cases say they acquired the AIDS virus while they were in their teens."

Although President Bill Clinton has pledged increases in federal funding for AIDS research and prevention, Dewitt said the money hasn't been seen locally.

"Even though statistics show AIDS is a leading killer of young men and women, I don't think it's a big issue to the federal government," Dewitt said. "It's a mindset. Traditionally, they (the politicians) aren't the group affected. Currently we have 150 clients — half of whom have HIV. We are supported by a few grants, but mostly we depend on donations."

Dewitt urged university students to become involved on a personal level.

"Do some volunteer work. Go to the theater benefit for AIDS agencies at Robinson Theatre on Sunday. Be aware of World AIDS Day coming up on Dec. 1."

To find out more about AIDS, people can call HIV/AIDS Resources, Inc. at 342-5088, in Eugene, or the National AIDS Hotline at (800) 342-2437.

Benefit for care-givers

By Stephanie Sisson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Willamette Valley's Second Annual Harvest Hoedown, featuring music from the Traceys and the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, will be Saturday at the Red Lion Inn on Coburg Road.

The hoedown is a benefit for Project Care, a non-profit organization that trains and supports teams of care-givers in the Eugene-Springfield area. The organization is made up of volunteers from 19 faith congregations, who last year served more than 2,500 people facing ongoing or crisis needs.

Project Care volunteers are trained to provide support for individuals and families within their congregations and within the community. They assist in establishing support systems, contact community agencies if needed, and perform immediate and other tasks for people challenged by circumstances such as chronic illness, death and bereavement, and divorce and unemployment.

"We hope the community will view this as a fun way to give support back to a group of hardworking care-givers," said Sakre Edson, Project Care coordinator. "We are truly fortunate that musicians of this caliber believe in our work and are willing to donate their time

and energy into making this event a success."

Last year's Harvest Hoedown attracted 150 people, and Edson expects to double the number this year.

"We had such a great time last year," Edson said. "It was a lot of work to put together, but it was so much fun."

Doors will open at 8 p.m. with music from the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, a group of area musicians who play country music, bluegrass and swing. The Fiddlers will be followed at 9:30 p.m. by the Traceys, who recently played at the Eugene Celebration. The Traceys play a combination of contemporary acoustic folk, blues, gospel and swing in three-part harmony.

Tickets are \$12.50 per person or \$20 per couple and \$5 for children under 12. Admission includes hors d'oeuvres, free dance lessons and a variety of door prizes donated by area businesses. Tickets are available at the Red Lion Inn, Springfield Flower Shop and St. Peter's Catholic Church, and will be available at the door.

The hoedown is sponsored in part by the Lutheran Brotherhood Branch 8017, which has offered to match the funds raised by the event.

Groups discuss Clinton health care

By Stephanie Sisson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Representatives from six organizations spoke in a community forum and discussion Thursday about the Clinton health plan.

The forum, which was held at First United Methodist Church, addressed the main concerns of Oregon Fair Share, Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network, Church Women United, NAACP, League of Women Voters and Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice.

Every speaker supported the principles of quality, choice and affordability behind the plan, but none of them liked the plan in its entirety.

Greg Evans, representative of the NAACP, said that the NAACP is still studying the Clinton health plan at a national level, but that one criticism he has of the plan is that, "people of color have not had access to decent, affordable care, and quite frankly I don't see that addressed in this particular health care plan."

Others raised concerns about the term "universal coverage" and wondered if the Clinton health care plan really offered health care to everyone.

"I see that this health care plan excludes Puerto Ricans and other people in United States territories," said Sandy Morgan of Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice. "I get concerned when we talk about universal health care and we exclude people."

"Church Women United supports the plan in terms of near-universal access," said Jane Heidegger of Church Women United. "We'd like to see it become universal access."

Questions about the employer's role in health care were also examined.

"Health care tied to employment has an extreme disciplining effect on working people," said Dennis Gilbert, representative of the Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network speaking on behalf of labor unions. "This is the only country in the world where people lose benefits when they lose their jobs or go on strike."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

African Students Association will meet for "The Way We Are: The African Perspective" tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 465-1321.

Hillel Shabbat gathering and vegetarian potluck will be tonight at 7 at 559 E. 16th Ave. For more information, call 343-8920.

India Association will meet tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. in the EMU Maple Room. For more information, call 345-4087.


Indian Students Association will meet tonight at 6 p.m. in the EMU Oak Room. For more information, call 344-0920.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department of Germanic Languages

and Literature will show the subtitled Swedish film, *Ake and His World*, tonight at 8 p.m. in Room 115 Pacific. For more information, call 346-4086.

Ecology Colloquium will present Dr. Werner Topp speaking on "Life Cycle Strategies of Winter-active Insects" today at 3 p.m. in Room 110 Willamette. Dr. Topp is with the department of zoology at the University of Cologne, Germany.



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