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**AIDS**  
 Continued from Page 1

addition to learning.

Because the issues that students face are very complex, especially issues of AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and drug abuse, the peer advisers play an important role in the education of the students. Many students simply feel more comfortable talking with a peer.

"Research evidence has shown that peers listen to each other," said Annie Dochnahl, health educator at the health center. "The theme this year is 'Get Active.' As a health educator, it's my responsibility to inform the students about the disease. Also, there are a few people who don't know someone

with AIDS."

Dochnahl wants students to realize that serious illnesses can be prevented if precautions are taken to avoid catching viruses such as AIDS.

Preventative measures will be especially crucial toward men in society.

"It's a huge problem and everyone is vulnerable, including men," said Grady O'Connor, peer health adviser. "AIDS is the leading cause of death among men (of all sexual preferences) ages 18 to 25. With (a promiscuous) type of lifestyle you must realize it's an issue. Basically, play now, pay later."

If any students are interested in becoming involved in the Peer Health Program, call Annie Dochnahl at 346-2728.

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**SCHOLAR**  
 Continued from Page 1

archive director, who at first referred to him as the "Harvard nigger." And history moved on.

"By the way," Franklin said, as offhandedly as he could, "one of my own Ph.D.s is now head of that archives."

Born in strictly segregated Oklahoma in 1915, son of a lawyer and a schoolteacher, Franklin has witnessed and chronicled black Americans' hard-won progress toward equal rights and status. But it's not enough, he says.

"We're going in two directions at one time," he said. "More and more blacks are moving up into the middle and upper classes, but more and more of them are sinking. ... We still have to confront the basic problems of poverty, and the relationship between poverty and race."

The many blacks who have advanced cannot rejoice, he said, as long as many others remain trapped in ghettos.

"The most tragic thing is, they are being dehumanized and alienated and destroyed; if they're not being destroyed, then we put guns and dope in their hands and say, 'Destroy yourself,'" he said.

This is a part of living history that Americans turn their backs on, Franklin said. "It doesn't seem to have anything to do with the greatness of this country. It's just another kind of thing," he said.

He paused in his office, lined with shelves where a biography of abolitionist John Brown stands near one titled "Klanwatch."

"I hope we're beginning to address it," he said, allowing just a glimmer of the optimism that shows through his writings and lectures.

Gesturing to an office window, he said, "I'd jump out of the building if I weren't hopeful."

Much of his work has emphasized the role that blacks have played in American history: Black patriots fought at Lexington and Concord, he points out in *From Slavery to Freedom*. They crossed the Delaware with Washington, explored with Lewis and Clark.

And this is not to mention his work on those who made their names in history as stalwarts for equal rights, among them W.E.B. Du Bois, who as he grew older became a friend of the young Franklin.

Franklin himself has led national scholarly societies and served on presidential commissions. As a candidate, President Bill Clinton sought out the tall, graying professor for a one-on-one seminar.

Yale historian C. Vann Woodward and Franklin served together on a committee that helped prepare the legal brief in the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case, in which the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed "separate but equal" schools.

Woodward remembered their side-by-side work in research rooms during segregation.

"I've seen him leave the library in search of a place to relieve his bladder," he recalled — blacks were not allowed to use the facilities. And today?

"The color line is alive, well and flourishing in the final decade of the 20th century," Franklin said in a lecture delivered last year at the University of Missouri, just after four police officers were acquitted in the beating of Los Angeles motorist Rodney King, setting off deadly riots.

"There is nothing inherently wrong with being aware of color as long as it is seen as making distinctions in a pleasant, superficial and unimportant manner," he said, adding:

"It is only when character is attached to color, when ability is measured by color, when privilege is tied to color, and a whole galaxy of factors that spell the difference between success and failure in our society are tied to color — it is only when such considerations are attached to color that it becomes a deadly, dreadful, denigrating factor among us all."

Then, he concluded, in an echo of the Kerner Commission, "We have two nations, black and white, separate, hostile, unequal."

John Hope Franklin — professor emeritus, former president of the American Historical Association, author and editor now working on his late father's autobiography — still watches history unfold.

The prosperous black households featured on television comedies will "encourage what I call denial of the real problems of the country."

"But," he added, "I don't see how that can drown out the noises made by the Los Angeles riots."



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