



# WORLD AIDS DAY



## Health centers say AIDS tests important

Marcelene Edwards  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Many people have had some sort of encounter where they have put themselves at risk for AIDS, which is why it is so important for people to be tested for AIDS, said Kristin Olmos, a health educator at the Student Health Center.

The health center advertises the importance of AIDS testing in the *Emerald*, pamphlets and through word-of-mouth. They offer two types of testing — confidential and anonymous. Confidential testing goes into the student's file under a confidential heading. Anonymous testing has no record of the test or the results. Students are only identified by numbers that correspond to the results. The cost for this procedure is

\$12, which includes counseling.

AIDS and HIV are serious, widespread diseases.

"People need to know what their HIV status is," said Jim Shoemaker, who runs anonymous AIDS testing at the Whitebird Medical Clinic.

If a person is negative they can find out how to stay that way. If a person is positive it is important to know so they can make some choices about their future, Shoemaker said.

"The disease is spreading across the entire population," Shoemaker said. It is spreading quickly and affecting many people, he said.

Both the health center and the Whitebird Clinic require counseling for people

who take AIDS tests. At the clinic, if a person does not have a pretest consultation a blood sample is not taken. The consultation includes a discussion about the test, risk behavior and possible results, Shoemaker said.

Two weeks later the tests results are available. At the clinic the person meets with the same counselor and the results are given verbally.

"If the results are negative, we discuss how to maintain that status," Shoemaker said.

If the results are positive the counselor discusses the person's options and questions such as should they tell anyone and where should they go next.

Shoemaker said he encourages people

to take a more holistic approach to HIV to see what will work for them. These techniques include Eastern religions, herbs and vitamins. Work starts as soon as the results are read, he said. A person with HIV can stay asymptomatic for a long period of time, but it is not an easy fight.

The health center operates similarly. The student must meet with a health educator to discuss the situation before and after the test. The counselors discuss how accurate the tests are and procedures for the test.

People interested in taking an AIDS test should wait more than three months after the possible exposure to be tested. This gives the body's antibodies time to reproduce, Olmos said.

## AIDS exhibit illustrates effect of disease on everyone

David Thorn  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Personal testaments and photographs line the walls of the EMU Gallery this week, as part of a month-long exhibit titled "AIDS: A Human Experience."

The exhibit is composed of the work of four artists, who use the words, names and images of people touched by AIDS to illustrate how the disease has affected so many lives.

"I think [the exhibit] just shows me human courage and strength," said Teresa Javurek, viewing the art on Wednesday afternoon. "It doesn't scare us. It invites us to touch these people and see that they're human."

One of the artists, Mike Walsh, resides in Eugene. His work on display includes "Names - Tears," which was created specifically for this show. Filling the large display case at one end of the gallery, the piece is described by the artist as "a personalistic layering of first names: men, women and children - the fatalities of this late 20th century plague."

The names are everywhere in the display — pressed on the glass case itself, visible beneath a layer of fallen leaves on the floor, written on the rungs of ladders propped against the wall. Larry Powell, Greg Usher, Norma Sims, Randy Shilts.

Along the same wall as the "Names - Tears" display are the black-and-white photos of "Robert," taken by Lithuanian artist Edis Jurcys. The images depict a Portland man living with AIDS — dyeing Easter eggs, lying in a hospital bed and sipping coffee in his kitchen.

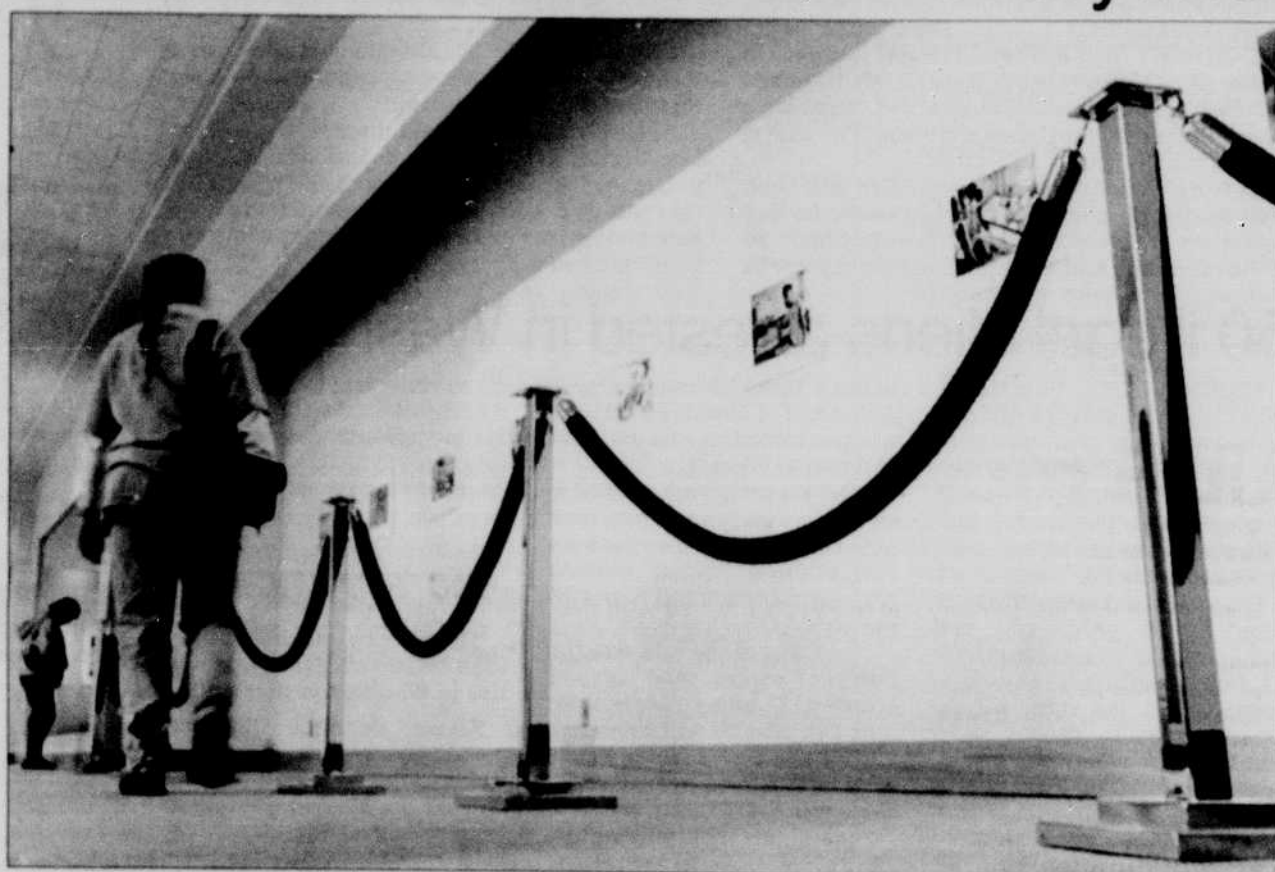
Below one image is a message from Robert himself, talking about how his parents were "in denial" about his disease. "They say no, it's your problem, you take care of it," the message reads. "Which is bullshit. It's all of our problem."

On the opposite wall are the photos and messages compiled by Jerry McGrath and Mary-Linn Hughes, as part of their traveling exhibit "This is Our Yard."

Each large color portrait is accompanied by a statement from the person photographed. John Rolling Thunder, whose photo appears at the far end of the gallery, writes in his statement, "For myself there is no battle with the disease, just total surrender to one of life's challenges. I am not dying from this disease, either. I am living."

"This experience has taught me how to live in each moment and for each moment."

In another picture, John and Joan Shaw are shown holding a section of the AIDS quilt that they prepared



The display, AIDS - A Human Experience, presents photos and personal statements of those with HIV and AIDS.

to honor their son Stephen, who died of the disease in 1989. Another son of theirs has been diagnosed with the disease, but their message is still one of hope: "There is just a little more hope for this son. I pray every night for that miracle drug."

Miguel Garcia, photographed in a prison cell with his tattooed arms crossed in front of him, uses all capital letters to make his point. "REMEMBER, WE ARE NOT ONLY KILLING OURSELVES, WE ARE KILLING OTHERS! To the virus, we are all the same."

But to viewers, the people included in this exhibit are not all the same — men and women, homosexuals and heterosexuals, those with the disease and without it. Nicole Croghan, a freshman studying journalism, said it was shocking "to see all the different kinds of people."

But, she said, "No matter if you could relate to it or not, it still reached out to you."

Down the stairs, separate from the rest of the "This is Our Yard" exhibit, are the picture and words of "Laura," who is HIV positive.

"AIDS is a devastating disease," her message reads. "But I, like many others, am still dreaming of a good life in the future, fighting for freedom, still loving and needing to be loved."

Anna Spickerman, the EMU Cultural Forum's Visual Arts Coordinator and organizer of the exhibit, said she had been pursuing the idea of an AIDS-theme exhibit since last spring.

"I wanted to have a show that would honor World AIDS Week and heighten awareness about AIDS," she said. But because the global event put AIDS art in high demand, Spickerman said, "It was really very lucky that it all came together."

The exhibit is scheduled to remain until Dec. 16.

## EDUCATION

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a disease of a special population," he said.

According to Moseley, the implementation of policies dealing with AIDS is winding down. The task force has covered most of the policy issues on campus and the new guidelines seem to be working well, he said. But, Moseley said, AIDS education on campus is just beginning.

Although the University offers a few AIDS education workshops and distributes information on AIDS awareness, most of the people who deal with the issue on

campus said University efforts are not enough.

Annie Dochnahl, a health educator for the University Health Center, said AIDS awareness is not a prevalent issue on campus because it is an issue that most college students grew up with.

"I think it's easy for students to become complacent," Dochnahl said. "Most of them are familiar with the fact that safer sex decreases the chances for contracting HIV. The problem is many are not acting on that knowledge."

The University sponsors a few classes that deal with issues of AIDS awareness. "Not just

Another AIDS Workshop," a seminar offered by the Educational Policy and Management department, is scheduled for winter and spring terms. The Human Development department has scheduled the seminar "Risky Business HIV" for winter term.

The Student Health Center offers HIV testing and treatment, periodically conducts events about AIDS education and distributes a wide variety of information dealing with AIDS and the HIV virus. The Women's Center and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance also distribute information on AIDS.

Susan Anderson, co-director

of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance, said her organization focuses on AIDS issues during National Coming Out Day and Pride Week.

AIDS issues are also discussed in Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance discussion and support groups that are partly organized by the alliance, Anderson said. "Our organization also distributes literature and free condoms," she said.

Anderson said the University could never promote safe sex enough.

Dochnahl sees the role of AIDS education on campus changing.

**W**e need to have an update on current trends in the spread of AIDS.

— ANNIE DOCHNAHL  
Health educator

"We need to have an update on current trends in the spread of AIDS," Dochnahl said. "On behavioral issues, such as how alcohol affects sexual decision making. We need to put our knowledge about AIDS and HIV into action."