

Original AIDS Task Force reinstated to discuss issues

Jean M. Bond
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The AIDS Task Force met at the University Wednesday afternoon to discuss recent information, programs and emerging issues related to HIV and AIDS.

The task force, which is composed of educators, health care workers and others from the University and Lane County community, originated in 1991 to develop AIDS policies for the University, according to Michelle Waltuck of the Office of Student Affairs.

After the guidelines were completed, the task force stopped meeting, Waltuck said.

Wednesday was the first meeting of the reinstated task force. Those involved in the original task force decided to reconvene, and discuss what is needed by the campus

community because HIV and AIDS are still important issues, she said.

She said that outreach, education and women's HIV issues were among the most important concerns discussed at the meeting.

A recent campus survey showed that while 31 percent of students considered HIV and AIDS to be the most serious health problem facing the campus, only 3 percent considered HIV or AIDS to be a problem for themselves, said Gerard Moseley, vice provost of academic support and student services.

In addition, 704 HIV tests were given in the Student Health Center last year, down from 801 the previous year, according to Moseley. (The tests are available at the health center for \$12 and can be either confidential or anonymous.)

According to Doug DeWitt of the HIV Alliance, incidence of HIV in women is on the rise.

The HIV Alliance client base is increasingly female, DeWitt said, and includes women who were exposed to HIV through intravenous drug use or sexual contact with HIV positive men. He said that these women often have additional problems with drug addiction, domestic violence or poverty.

Outreach and education activities discussed at the meeting included health center workshops, the April 13 presentation by Mary Fisher, a woman with HIV, and the upcoming AIDS Action Celebration at Eugene's Saturday Market.

The next task force meeting will be announced soon, and will probably be scheduled in May, Waltuck said.

City police investigate arson fires at dormitory

Joe Harwood
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene police are asking the campus community for help in solving two early morning arson fires set at the University Inn on March 17.

Residents of the seventh floor were evacuated after a student awoke to a 3:30 a.m. fire alarm and notified the resident advisor, who found a burning pile of newspapers in the stairwell. The fire was quickly extinguished and damage is estimated at \$1,000.

Two witnesses told police they saw John Dean Toran, a 19-year-old student, near the stairwell when the fire broke out. Toran led police on a brief foot chase when they attempted to interview him later that afternoon. He was arrested and lodged in the Lane County Jail on a charge of first degree arson.

When questioned, Toran admitted dropping a flaming match on the newspapers in the stairwell.

Police are also investigating another March 17 arson at the University Inn where the contents of an Oregonian newspaper dispenser were set ablaze.

Anyone with information about the fires should contact Eugene police at 346-2904.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Student Health Advisory Committee will meet today from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Health Medical Library. For more information, call 346-4447.

Science Fiction Reading Group will meet today at noon in Room 448 PLC. For more information, call 345-1292.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will offer a workshop on effective interviewing today from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

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