

HIV self-test provides accurate, confidential results

■ **SERVICE:** The CONFIDE self-test hopes to increase the percentage of at-risk individuals who get tested

By Kristine Sohnrey
Higher Education Editor

Two out of every three people at risk for having HIV have never been tested, said Arisa Cunningham at Direct Access Diagnostics, a division of Johnson & Johnson.

Cunningham, a marketing director for an HIV self-test called CONFIDE, said she believes this product will change those statistics.

"Testing is the only way to know if you have it [HIV]," Cunningham said. "Many of the people [surveyed] said they would

get tested if they knew their testing would be totally confidential and they could do it in the privacy of their own home."

Though HIV home-access testing was opposed in the late 1980s, currently the Center for Disease Control is advocating its use.

According to the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California at San Francisco, home-access or self-testing will reassure individuals who are worried about their health. The organization also said the test will be more convenient than going to a clinician once for the test and once for the results.

"The advantages of using the CONFIDE service is that you get

a highly accurate result, just as accurate as a test at a clinic or hospital or doctor's office, but there is more confidentiality," Cunningham said.

CONFIDE is not available at the Student Health Center, but is available by calling 1-800-THE-TEST. For \$49.50, Direct Access Diagnostic will send it via Federal Express to your home.

Individuals can also purchase it at major pharmacies, like Walgreen's and Thrifty, for \$34-\$39. After purchase, the client mails the test specimen as indicated in the kit and calls CONFIDE, using a unique code to obtain test results, Cunningham said.

Not everyone believes home-access testing is advisable.

"We're not really advocates of

HOME HIV TEST

■ **AVAILABLE AT:** Major pharmacies

■ **PRICE:** \$34-49.50

■ **DIRECT ORDER:** 1-800-THE-TEST (843-8378)

Not available at the Student Health Center

that [the self-test]," said Virginia Sands, a registered nurse at the Student Health Center. "The self-test does not answer people's questions like a clinician can do. People often misinterpret information or don't receive enough information."

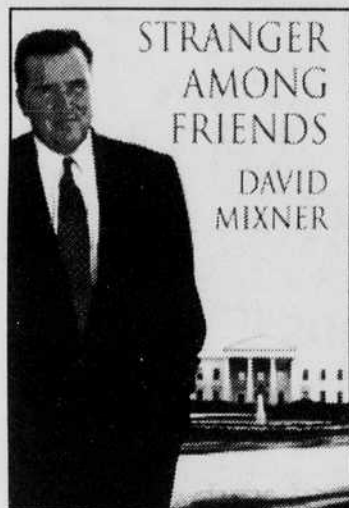
However, Direct Access Diagnostics does provide counseling through the same 800 number.

"They [their counselors] are available at all times. The individual person may change, but the same high quality of counseling will exist among them," Cunningham said.

She said 75 percent of CONFIDE's counselors have master's degrees and two to 20 years of experience. Counselors must also pass a certification process for counseling HIV patients.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the Student Health Center, said he is concerned that the test is not available in every state, but Cunningham said they are in the process of making this test an option nationwide.

CONFIDE received FDA approval on May 14, 1996 after a two year review.



AN EVENING WITH DAVID MIXNER AUTHOR OF *STRANGER AMONG FRIENDS*

Wednesday, October 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Gerlinger Lounge
University of Oregon Campus

MIXNER IS A GAY POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND WILL SPEAK OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN. MIXNER'S APPEARANCE IS PART OF THE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM INTERSEXIONS. SPONSORED BY STANDING COMMITTEE ON GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL ISSUES.



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SENATE

briety

New president elected

The ASUO Student Senate convened Wednesday night to elect a new president and make confirmations to the ASUO Constitution Court.

■ Kalpana Krishnamurthy was voted to be the new president of the Senate in a 9-6 win over summer President James Boyd.

■ The Senate confirmed three new members to the Constitution Court. These were non-law student appointee Daniel Vergamini, second year law student Willie Childs and third year law student Dave Coffman.

"This [position] would provide a good opportunity for me to establish a link between the law school and the community," Childs said.

■ Two new members were confirmed to the Committee on Committees. These were Jennifer Wright and Benjamin Unger.

■ Corey Johnson was confirmed as the new representative for the Associated Students Presidents Advisory Committee. This committee meets with University President Dave Frohnmayer on a monthly basis.

—compiled by Tom Potter



Dr. Britsch is totally committed to medicine.

Dr. Britsch Has Always Had a Clear Sense of

Direction.

When Amy Britsch started Oregon State University, she knew exactly what she was going to do: graduate in three years, go on to medical school, and become a gynecologist/obstetrician.

That's the kind of single-minded dedication Dr. Britsch brings to her practice. After completing her work at Oregon Health Sciences University, she trained at one of the top hospitals in the country for gynecology, learning to manage high risk obstetrics, benign and oncologic gynecology, laser technology, and more.

Now she's back. And virtually every minute of her day is taken up with patient care. "We're like the mailman," says Dr. Britsch. "We deliver through rain, sleet, hail, and dark of night." Dr. Britsch has joined Oregon Medical Group's Clinic for Women, where Saturday and evening hours (until 7:00 pm) are available.

If you're looking for a physician who is totally committed to her patients, call Dr. Britsch for a free, non-medical, "get-acquainted" visit.



Clinic for Women
1200 Hilyard, Suite S-140
(541) 686-7007

Amy P. Britsch, M.D.
Theodore J. Hovick, M.D.
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