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To register call 346-5656
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Numbers climb at HIV center

As AIDS deaths decline nationwide, interest in new medications is rising, HIV Alliance says

By David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of people who walked into HIV Alliance infected with the virus skyrocketed in the past three months.

The organization reported 25 new clients for the July to September quarter, up from an average of three new clients per quarter. Two of the new clients are University students.

"Well, to be honest I haven't figured it out," said Jim Shoemaker, client services director at HIV Alliance, a social services organization for people infected with the virus. "I haven't figured out if it's just one of those blips on a map or a trend."

The national trend, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, is a 47 percent decrease in the AIDS death rate. The HIV infection rate fell from the eighth to the 14th leading cause of death in the United States.

Shoemaker said he believes local publicity about the success of the AIDS medications currently

HIV Alliance Statistics

New clients for July-September quarter: 25
Average new clients per quarter: 3
Percent change: 833 percent
University students who are clients: 10
University students who became clients in July-September: 2
National Trends in AIDS/HIV: AIDS deaths down 47 percent from 1996-97
HIV infection down from 8th to 14th leading cause of death.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV Alliance

used is drawing people to HIV Alliance.

"People are wanting to find out more about the medications," Shoemaker said. "People want to turn the course of the disease around for themselves."

Last year, HIV Alliance took in 49 clients. This year the number is already up to 40, Shoemaker said. Plus, he said, many of the new clients have problems besides HIV.

"People who have no housing, no jobs, no skills, who are using all the other social service organiza-

tions" are coming in, Shoemaker said in a statement released by HIV Alliance. "For many of these people, HIV is the least of their problems."

Shoemaker also said clients with substance abuse problems are not uncommon. For these people, new AIDS medications may not work.

"Substance abuse makes [treatment] difficult," Shoemaker said. "They're not able to be consistent with their medications. If someone goes on a speed run for four days and doesn't take their medication, their virus has probably developed a resistance to [the medications]."

But Shoemaker points out that many of his clients are not substance abusers, and more of the clients are going back to school.

In all, Shoemaker is confident that HIV Alliance can handle the increase in clients.

"It's certainly manageable," he said. "It just keeps you more busy. There's no worry that we don't have the capacity to take in more clients than we do."

For students curious about getting tested for HIV, the Student Health Center offers confidential tests for \$12 to \$31. Call 346-2720 to make an appointment.

Asian crisis

Continued from Page 1

er students to afford tuition.

The University helped international students with financial difficulties last year by extending tuition payment deadlines and offering some scholarships, Chen said. But, she added, "The help offered by the University is not enough."

The International Student Association is drafting a letter to the administration requesting additional aid, including another extended tuition payment deadline and lower loan interest rates for students affected by the Asian economic crisis.

Tom Mills, director of the International Education and Exchange

Office, said his office is trying to work with students on an individual basis to address their economic problems.

Mills said his office this fall has seen an increase in the number of students requesting financial assistance.

"We do encourage students to come in and see us," Mills said.

Also, the business office is offering opportunities for students to refinance their loans, Mills said.

The financial crisis causes additional worries for international students who are already taking full class loads and working, said Mary Moen, ISA co-director.

"It's a stress for them to have

their situation so uncertain and also a stress of not knowing what their future holds," Moen said.

Mills agrees that students' financial problems are "an added stress, especially for those caught in the middle of their academic careers here."

For many international students, credits earned at the University will not transfer to universities in their home countries, Moen said.

An ISA Asian economic panel planned for the beginning of November will focus on finding additional ways to accommodate students experiencing financial trouble.

Would you like to work on your leadership skills? Do you want to meet new people?

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International Representatives are on campus now, and seeking interested men to become Founding Fathers of UO's newest fraternity!

For more information on becoming a *Founding Father* and starting your own traditions Plan to attend our informational meetings:

Tuesday, October 20, from 7:00-8:00pm in EMU - Alsea Room

Wednesday, October 21, from 7:00-8:00pm in EMU - Coquille Room

If you are unable to attend, but are still interested, please contact Corey Rasmussen at (541) 346-9584 or stop by our office in the EMU Century Rooms from 11:00am to 3:30pm.

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Flu Vaccination

Influenza vaccinations will be given at the University Center for faculty and staff every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and for students Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 14

Students \$3.50

Faculty and Staff provided by PEBB

Annual flu immunizations are recommended for the following:

1. Healthy persons 65 years or older.
2. Persons with long-term heart or lung problems.
3. Persons with any of the following: kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, anemia, severe asthma and conditions which compromise immune mechanism.

Influenza vaccine may be given to persons wishing to reduce their chances of catching the flu, persons who provide essential community services and students or others in schools or colleges.

For more information, call the University Health Center at 346-4441