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Perspectives

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Did you remember to take your test today?

Don't freak out if you forgot about it. There is no studying necessary for this one and, truth be told, you can always make it up tomorrow, the next day or any day you please. But, unlike some upcoming math tests you may or may not pass, this test can save lives — maybe even yours.

If you haven't clued in yet, the test mentioned here is for HIV, and today is national HIV testing day. Approximately 10,000 organizations across the country — including the HIV alliance, the Lane County Health Center, Planned Parenthood and White Bird Clinic, all located in Eugene — are offering tests to anyone who wants one.

The World Health Organization estimates that 16,000 people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDs, everyday. Statistics from the American College Health Association show that one in every 500 university students is HIV positive. With an enrollment of nearly 18,000 students at this campus, that works out to be about 36 students.

Doesn't sound like a lot, unless you happen to be one of them or, worse yet, one of the 36 just happens to be your new unknowing partner and the two of you can't decide whether an HIV tests, before venturing into the sexual realm of your relationship, is worth your time. He or she doesn't look like they have the

virus, you're saying to yourself.

Go ahead then, have sex, take the risk. Or why not make a better choice that can serve two purposes? One, it can give you what most likely will be a clean bill of health when it comes to HIV. And, for some people, taking the test clears the mind of the constant fear that the test will absolutely come back positive. Remember, chances are much better that it will come back negative.

So, what about all of these reports that a cure has been found for HIV? Or the stories about people living longer and longer with the disease, even once they reach the level of contracting AIDs?

It is true that some of the new drug

therapies on the market are vastly improving the lives of those living with HIV but, contrary to any media reports you think you heard, no cure for the virus has been found as of today, June 27 you know, national HIV testing day.

If you haven't been tested for the deadly virus, or it's been a few years since your last one, then why not go by one of the clinics mentioned above, take a few minutes and get tested?

The result may surprise you one way or another, but in the end, just knowing could end up saving a few lives.

This editorial represents the view of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

QUOTED

"I die fighting for what I believed in. The truth will come out."

— Gary Graham, who asked that his name be changed to Shaka Sankofa to reflect his African heritage, just before the state of Texas executed him for a 1981 murder. The Register-Guard, June 23.

"I hope that my lawsuit will bring about an increased acceptance of people who see their role in life as a parent and as an academician. We all have a dual role to play in this world."

— Lisa Arkin, who won \$495,000 in the settlement of a sex bias lawsuit against the University. Arkin, a former assistant dance professor, claimed that the University unfairly denied her tenure. The Register-Guard, June 23.

"That's why I don't like to do interviews, because of questions like that. Next question."

— John Rocker, in reference to a reporter asking the Atlanta relief pitcher if his team or baseball had asked him to reconsider riding the No. 7 subway train, the same one he blasted in a December Sports Illustrated article, when Atlanta visits the New York Mets this weekend. ESPN.com, June 24.

"My start was horrible, my transition wasn't very good, but I'm strong enough where I can pull it out at the end."

— Marion Jones, after winning the women's 100-meter dash at Saturday's Prefontaine Classic. Jones' wind-aided time of 10.93 seconds was the second-fastest time in the world this year. CNN.com, June 24.

Letters to the editor

USAS deserves praise

I witnessed [Nike CEO and President Phil Knight's] punitive actions to withhold \$30 million from your school. I witnessed on local TV news in Santa Fe, N.M., one of your school officials going soft on the issue. He should be proud of you all at [United Students Against Sweatshops.]

But for the grace of God and/or fate we could be locked up 14 hours a day for the rest of our lives cutting and sewing garments in degrading environments. Yes, that's right, good people like you and me with hearts and souls and feelings.

I also saw [NBC's Dateline] show on Gap's practices allowing women from China to be exported to Saipan and locked up in a manner most Americans would not treat their animals. This is all for greed. How many more fancy steak dinners do we really need in this country at the expense of

someone else?

I am sending this letter to support you, the USAS! I am a clothing designer. I cut and sew all my own garments. Fortunately for me there is a humane non-profit factory here in New Mexico if I start to do large volume. The women are treated with decency and respect.

Karen Eipel
Santa Fe, N.M. resident

Nike's legacy needs to return

Isn't it ironic that [Phil Knight and Bill Bowerman], who have made such tremendous contributions to the University ["Nike's legacy rooted at Hayward," ODE, June 22] are being overshadowed by an organization which will, undoubtedly, have a small and short-lived impact on the overall success and reputation of our beloved University? I have been deeply appreciative of the dedication both men demonstrated in their efforts to help

the University to excel in athletics and academia. I, too, hope Knight will work through the emotional pain inflicted upon him by a short-sighted administration, and continue his magnificent work to improve the physical structures on the campus and achieve a greater national reputation for the Ducks.

Dan Frank
University graduate, 1957

Walk a day in my shoes

There are fears just as valid as the fear of physical injury. And some of us live in fear every day. ["Afraid to get along?" ODE, June 20].

I live in fear that the capitalist system is unstoppable, that our lives are actually being reduced to cycles of earning and consuming, that human dignity has no meaning any more unless you're willing to toe the line and pretend consumption is the end-all-be-all of human existence. I fear the

degradation to my soul if I continue to play along with the notion that this materialist world is actually valuable to our spiritual development.

And yet my fears are given little credence in today's world. When I voice my fears, most people simply stare blankly away, as if to say, "Can't ... understand ... paradigm ... shift."

And if I were to act out publicly in response to my fears, I would be ridiculed, or worse, if police were nearby.

So while I can understand the fear of Jane and Joe Citizen when they encounter a large group of people who see the world from a radically different viewpoint, I have little sympathy. All I can really say to them is, welcome to my world.

Michael J. Kleckner
Journalism

Editor's note: Michael Kleckner is the ODE's 2000-01 editorial editor, and is currently working as an intern at The Deseret News in Salt Lake City.

