

An independent newspaper
Oregon Daily Emerald
 http://www.dailyemerald.com



Monday, December 2, 2002

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 104, Issue 65

40 MILLION infections and counting

Little hope exists in South Africa

World AIDS Day

Ann Hellmuth

The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

SOWETO, South Africa — A tiny tornado named Vuyiswa barrels through the orphanage door, squealing with delight as she launches herself into the lap of a young woman chatting to a group of children.

"How is my angel?" pediatrician Carolyn Bolton asks as the 8-year-old, almost submerged by a purple-and-white backpack, snuggles blissfully into her arms.

Then the 30-year-old doctor listens carefully as Vuyiswa excitedly describes her day at school. Only weeks earlier, complications from HIV infection had nearly killed the child, whose list of illnesses include chronic lung problems, meningitis and bronchial pneumonia.

Vuyiswa is one of 30 residents of Bethesda House, a Salvation Army shelter for HIV/AIDS children in this vast black township of 1.5 million people on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Voluminous medical files have become the scrapbooks of their lives, chronicling not first words or faltering steps, but the constant chest infections, fevers, meningitis, brushes with death and the fierce will to live.

Turn to **Research**, page 3



George Bridges KRT

Protesters demonstrated for more money for AIDS research and treatment in front of the White House on Tuesday. Police arrested the group after they tied themselves together with chains and blocked the sidewalk. Sunday was World AIDS Day.

HIV Alliance tries to make testing more comfortable

World AIDS Day

Jillian Daley

Family/Health/Education Reporter

Eugene's HIV Alliance Inc. is sequestered in a small, white house, set back from the street.

Inside, there are a few chairs and a small collection of first-floor offices, with blinds covering glass doors. Papers are piled everywhere in messy stacks.

Condoms instead of candies sit in a bowl on the reception desk. The staff say they try to extend the warmest welcome they can to anyone who comes by.

Many come in to be tested at the 1966 Garden Ave. location, one place in Lane County people can go if they are at risk for HIV infection.

They sit in the waiting area, listening for their name to be called.

They go into an office with a staff member to take a test — a simple oral swab will determine if they are infected with HIV.

Some may return to HIV Alliance for their results to discover, weeks later, that they have tested positive.

People around the world share similar experiences when they are tested for the virus.

There are more than 4,000 people with AIDS in Oregon, and about three times this number are infected with HIV. On a wider scale, more than 700,000 Americans have AIDS and roughly 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV.

The HIV Alliance recognized World AIDS Day on Sunday, a day which honors those who have died from AIDS, raises awareness and encourages ongoing research and support for those who suffer from the disease.

At its heart, the 14-year-old event encapsulates a larger, long-standing struggle, in which workers and volunteers at the HIV Alliance are involved every day. The nonprofit group offers free HIV testing and counseling.

Testers mostly concentrate on making

Turn to **HIV**, page 7



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

HIV Alliance board member Dwight Collins speaks at the World AIDS Day ceremony at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection on Sunday.

Local clinics offer testing for students, community

World AIDS Day

Kera Abraham

Freelance Reporter

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, young adults are the fastest-growing group of HIV-positive people in the United States. At least half of newly reported HIV infections are among people younger than 25.

Testing is available at several places in the Eugene area. University Health Center Nurse Practitioner Colleen Jones said at the health center, students must see a medical practitioner and go through counseling before getting tested. About 800 students were tested on campus last year.

Testing at the health center costs

Turn to **Testing**, page 8

UO looks to recruit, retain minorities

The University hopes to draw and retain more ethnic minorities with programs

Danielle Gillespie

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

The University has been developing new recruitment programs and finding ways to draw more students of color to campus. Figures for fall 2002 show that enrollment has reached an all-time high, and a larger number of ethnic minorities is attending the University. However, the percentage of students who identify as ethnic minorities actually has declined.

University officials have focused on retaining students of color who are already attending the University, while also drawing in new students

through programs that they hope generate enthusiasm for potential college attendees.

"The recruitment of underrepresented students is basically the same activities, but at a more concentrated level because we are trying to reach students outside the communication loop," Office of Admissions Multicultural Recruiter Tomas Hulick Baiza said.

The Office of Admissions has been hosting Connections, a program developed last year to give students of color and first-generation students more attention through a series of day-long orientation sessions and campus tours at the University. The office has nine Connection events scheduled for this year, and many people are making trips from out-of-state to attend.

"I am happy to say that it's a well-known event," Hulick Baiza said. "It's gratifying; we didn't know if it would actually stay a program."

Because Connections is only in its second year, there is no data to show its effectiveness at this time. But the University will begin to see the program's results soon, when high school juniors and seniors start applying for colleges, Hulick Baiza said.

Last spring, the Office of Admissions hosted Embracing the Future, an event welcoming local students of color who have been admitted; however, the office is unsure if it will host this event again because of funding issues, Hulick Baiza said.

Turn to **Recruit**, page 8

WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 33, morning fog, then partly sunny

Tuesday: High 50, Low 37, morning fog, then partly sunny

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday Conservative talk radio shows seen as a nationwide trend

Wednesday Find out how to use state law to stop telemarketers