

State and Local

'Dr. Ruth' praises condom distribution at A&M



Dr. Ruth Westheimer autographs books in the MSC Patio Bookstore Friday afternoon.

Photo by Jay Janner

By Elisa Hutchins
Staff Writer

Sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer made her first appearance at Texas A&M Friday for her lecture called "Sexually Speaking," but one thing about this particular visit was new to her — condoms.

Though Westheimer lectures at colleges across the country, not one has ever passed out condoms before her visit.

"The first thing I received when I arrived was a condom," Westheimer said. "And you know, I think it's terrific!"

Last week, MSC Great Issues and MSC Political Forum passed out the condoms, which were donated by Planned Parenthood. The condoms were distributed to coincide with Westheimer's visit and an AIDS symposium scheduled for Wednesday, said MSC Great Issues chairman Michelle DeVoe.

Westheimer spoke on such topics as sexual relationships and contraception to about 1,500 students in Rudder Auditorium.

"I bet the walls of this auditorium have never heard such language as we will talk about today," she said.

The author and syndicated radio talk show host's height, 4 feet 7 inches, drew some laughter from the hundreds of people who attended. But while the atmosphere was light at the beginning of the lecture,

Westheimer seemed to get her message through by the end of the show.

"I came to Texas because our society needs to be more sexually literate," Westheimer said. "Sex is part of a broad picture. People have different backgrounds and religions, but they need to understand and communicate with each other if they are going to have a good sexual relationship."

She talked about contraception as the responsible way to have an active sexual relationship.

"Any sexually active woman should carry condoms, they shouldn't just leave it up to the man," she said. "And men, the condoms you've been carrying in your jean pockets since you were 14 are not any good."

She said we have the most advanced forms of technology, but do not yet have a good form of birth control.

Westheimer also tried to dispel the many myths our society has created while trying to inform children and young adults about sex.

"Young girls think they won't get pregnant the first time they have sexual intercourse, and this is just not true," she said. "Many of the 1.5 million unwanted pregnancies last year could have been prevented, but it is the ignorance and pressure that is getting our children into trouble."

On the subject of abortion, Westheimer said she is not a politician but an educator, and that abortion should remain legal.

"I am against using abortion as a form of contraception," Westheimer said. "But I remember how it was in New York before abortion was legalized in 1970. Only rich women could afford to fly to Mexico and have an abortion. The other women had to rely on untrained doctors or their own methods."

After the lecture, A&M Professor Robert Hurley who teaches Health Education 342, a human sexuality class, read anonymous questions submitted to Westheimer by the audience.

Because she is not a medical doctor, Westheimer refrained from answering any medical-related questions. She has a master's in psychology and a doctorate in interdisciplinary family study from Columbia University.

Hurley said there was some hesitation among students about attending the lecture, but once they came into the auditorium, he said, it was a different story.

Gustavo "Goose" Arteaga, a senior engineering technology major, said he attended the lecture with the attitude that it would be more formal, but he thought it was a comfortable atmosphere to talk about sex.

Doctor tells B-CS residents he supports mandatory testing for AIDS

By Clark Miller
Staff Writer

Dr. James "Red" Duke, the noted surgeon and television medical reporter, told about 30 Brazos County residents at an AIDS awareness meeting that he is in favor of mandatory testing for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The Saturday morning meeting held at the College Station Community Center was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, who said he wanted to find out what action Brazos County constituents want to take in fighting AIDS.

The meeting also provided people an opportunity to ask Duke questions about the disease. Most of the people at the meeting asked questions concerning the ways in which the disease can be transmitted and what efforts are being taken to find a cure for AIDS.

Duke, a 1950 graduate of Texas A&M, said he supports mandatory testing for AIDS. He also said that he thought testing should include a test before applying for a marriage license.

"That will blow some people's skirts up, but so what," Duke said.

Duke said he thinks testing for AIDS before getting married is im-

portant because a pregnant woman can pass the disease to her unborn child.

Duke said he is concerned about AIDS because of his work in the trauma center of the Hermann Hospital in Houston. Because he works with people who may have been injured in car wrecks or fights, he said there is always a chance of contracting AIDS through the patient's blood.

However, Duke said that it is difficult to contract AIDS except through blood, semen and vaginal fluids.

"There are only a few ways to get AIDS," he said. "You're not going to

get it from mosquito bites or from drinking out of the same glass as someone with AIDS."

"Fortunately, AIDS is a fragile virus. It's not like the flu virus that is spread through coughing or sneezing."

Duke also told the audience that the AIDS virus isn't the direct cause of death to its victims. He said the virus prevents the body from resisting other diseases.

"Diseases that don't affect you and me are problems to AIDS victims," he said.

Duke said that there is still no cure for the virus although researchers are continually working toward a so-

lution for combating the AIDS virus.

"Nobody knows if we will ever have a totally positive cure for AIDS like we do for smallpox," Duke said.

"We're playing catch-up with the AIDS virus because the virus keeps changing," he said.

After Duke concluded his presentation, Barton passed questionnaires around the room to determine people's attitudes about the disease.

Barton said most people in his district were extremely worried about AIDS. But when he asked the people in the room to describe their level of concern about the virus, most indi-

cated, by a show of hands, that they were not worried about the disease.

Correction

Two photos in Friday's *Battalion* were inadvertently switched, leaving a photo of Madagascar cockroaches accompanying a front-page story on infant nutrition, and a photo of Dr. Katherine Dettwyler, an A&M professor of anthropology, accompanying a page-three story on cockroach research.

Aggie Special
\$11 for TAMU students



Suite dreams for Christmas.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society presents the Nutcracker Ballet on **Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.** in Rudder Auditorium.

One of Tchaikovsky's most famous works, this enduring holiday fantasy is a treat for young and old alike. The Oakland Ballet will perform these delightful dances with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, Franz Anton Krager, music director and conductor.

There will only be one performance of the Nutcracker and a reception will be held at 6 p.m. in Rudder Exhibit Hall prior to the show. All seats will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Don't miss the chance to bring suite dreams to your family's Christmas.

MSC Box Office • 845-1234
Dillard's Ticketron
VISA and MasterCard accepted.

OPAS
MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society
© Memorial Student Center • Texas A&M University • Box 11 • College Station, TX 77843-9081

"THE HOLIDAY TRAVELER"

Win a round trip ticket to anywhere Southwest Airlines Flies!



Look for entry forms and official rules at participating stores.

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited.

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON / EXPIRES 9/30/88

SAVE 30¢

on any 2-liter or 3-liter bottle or multi-pak of Dr Pepper®, Diet Dr Pepper, Pepper Free®, or Diet Pepper Free®

*Available in limited areas



Dr Pepper.
Just what the Dr ordered!™

30¢ OFF

Mr. Retailer: Dr Pepper will reimburse you the face value of this coupon plus 8¢ handling if you and the consumer have met the offer's terms. Void if prohibited, taxed, restricted, transferred, assigned or coupon is reproduced, gang cut, or mint condition. Consumer pays deposit and taxes. Cash value 1/20¢.

ONE COUPON PER CONSUMER PURCHASE. REDEEM BY MAILING TO: Dr Pepper, P.O. BOX 870050, EL PASO, TEXAS 88587-0050

54900 175099

© DR PEPPER, DR, and PEPPER are registered trademarks of Dr Pepper Company, Dallas, Texas 1987.
NutraSweet and the NutraSweet symbol are registered trademarks of The NutraSweet Company for its brand of sweetening ingredient.