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Sex education, AIDS dominate discussion

By Mary-Lynne Rice
Staff Writer

Conflict over sex education in public schools about contraception and AIDS dominated a panel discussion Wednesday night in the E.L. Miller Lecture Series program

"AIDS: Why Should I Care?", sponsored by MSC Political Forum.

The lecture, "AIDS and Ethics," brought together representatives of different ideologies and concerns: discussion moderator Dr. Clarence Alfrey, medical director of the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in

Houston; Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; political activist Phyllis Schlafly, and Dr. Earl Shelp, assistant professor of ethics at the Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues at the Baylor College of Medicine.

"When you look at the audience that is in the public schools, it's a very different audience from what we have here tonight," Schlafly said.

"In the public schools in this country, we have minor children who are pretty much a captive audience, and it seems that over the last few years, two movements have developed," she said.

"One point of view is that whoever has control over the school establishment can do whatever he wants to with the captive children who are at the public school," she said.

"There is another point of view, that the child in the public school, being a minor and being a captive audience, does enjoy certain rights in that classroom that can't be taken away," she said.

Those rights, she said, demand that anything they are taught about acquired immune deficiency syndrome be "true, healthy, legal and constitutional."

"There is a great effort at the present time to come into the public schools and teach what is called 'safe sex,'" she said. "I would contest that the way that is taught today does not meet the four criteria."

"In fact, there is only one teaching that meets all those four tasks, and that is the teaching in regard to sex, that we should have and should promote sexual abstinence before marriage."

Schlafly's remarks met with applause, mainly from older members of the audience of more than 250, and hissing from others, mostly students.

Levi, however, challenged her as

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Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Phyllis Schlafly, political activist and syndicated newspaper columnist, left; Dr. Earl Shelp, assistant professor of ethics at the Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues at the Baylor College

of Medicine; Jeff Levi, executive director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Dr. Clarence Alfrey, medical director at the Gulf Coast Blood Center, discuss AIDS.

Knowledge of AIDS dangers may not scare risk-takers

By Clark Miller
Staff Writer

Knowledge of the dangers of AIDS may not be enough to stop people from taking risks that may expose them to the disease, a University of Houston sociology professor told an audience of about 30 people Wednesday.

Dr. William Simon made the remarks during the E.L. Miller Lecture Series program about acquired immune deficiency syndrome in Rudder Tower.

Some people who know the dangers of AIDS will take an "it can't happen to me" attitude, Simon told a group of about 30 people.

"We all know that smoking cigarettes is not good for us, but some of us still smoke," Simon said.

Sex is the same way, he said.

"The sexual drive is a powerful thing," Simon said. "Knowing about AIDS may not be enough to stop that drive."

Simon used the teen-age pregnancy rate of the United States as an example.

The United States has the highest rate of teen-age pregnancies of any industrial nation, Simon said. Even with the major effort in recent years to educate teens to the problems of pregnancies, there is still a problem, he added.

"People know about the problem,

but they don't change their lifestyles," he said.

However, Simon predicted there will be changes in people's morals and behavior because of AIDS, but added that the changes could be either negative or positive.

There will be an increase of sexual activity among young people, he said, because young people will engage in more "coupling."

But, he said, the increased sexual activity probably will occur between couples with steady relationships, and there probably will be a decline in promiscuity.

Simon also said there may be an increase of people who will abstain from sex until they find the person they think they will spend their lives with.

"These people are more likely to be swept off their feet much more easily," Simon said.

Because of this, they run the risk of irrationally selecting a sexual partner, he said.

Simon warns that it's important to understand the dangers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, but people shouldn't become hysterical in reacting to the disease.

He said the disease is a special problem to college-age students because it's spreading at a time when these students are starting their socio-sexual development.

Researcher warns A&M audience of potential for spread of disease

By Cindy Milton
Staff Writer

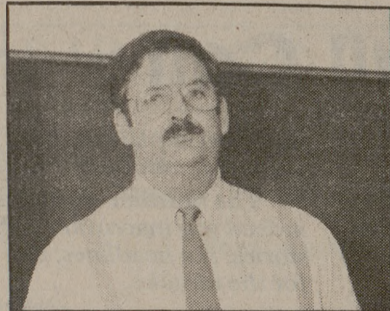
An AIDS researcher Wednesday told an A&M audience that 2,500 of the nation's 45,000 AIDS cases are in Texas — and six of them are at Texas A&M.

And he said the number of cases probably will double in the next 14 months.

Dr. Peter Mansell, medical director at the Institute for Immunological Disorders and head of AIDS research at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, discussed the rate at which AIDS is spreading during "AIDS Research," a lecture sponsored by the E.L. Miller Lecture Series.

Mansell said the way people look at the virus is different depending on where they live.

"AIDS means different things to different people," he said. "There have been about six people at the University known to have been infected by the virus. Clearly that's a different situation to persons that live in Houston — only 90 miles



Dr. Peter Mansell

south of here — where there are about 2,500 cases of AIDS."

He said it's important that people know that everyone is at risk of getting AIDS.

"It's not a gay disease," he said. "It potentially applies to everybody."

He said although the first case of the virus in the United States was in 1981, there is evidence of AIDS cases as early as 1959.

At the presentation, Mansell told about 50 people about the mortality rate of individuals infected by the virus. He said over 50 percent of AIDS cases have died and added that even though medical treatments are available, they are expensive.

Mansell said that although the treatments have potential to prolong the life of the infected person, the mortality rate is inevitably 100 percent.

AIDS is predominantly a disease that kills by infections, Mansell said. When a person has acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the coordination of the immune system disappears.

"It's like shooting the conductor in an orchestra," he said.

But he added that several co-factors are involved in the progression of the disease. The way AIDS affects a person depends on what health problems the person may have.

Mansell said the biggest problem with AIDS is being able to detect and treat it earlier in the course of the disease.

Israeli suggests solutions to world problem

By Lee Schexnaider
Staff Writer

The Middle East is an area that has seen conflict from the dawn of civilization. Israel has a continuing role in the process of war and peace in the region.

Shmuel Ben-Shmuel stepped into this volatile field when he was promoted from vice consul to consul of the Israeli Consulate in Houston in November. The 36-year-old diplomat visited the Texas A&M campus Thursday to meet with several groups and discuss international terrorism and how it relates to U.S. interests.

Q: Has there been an increase in terrorism in the Middle East or has it just leveled out? Are you still having major problems in Israel with terrorism?

A: Terrorism, historically, was a major problem in the Middle East. It's part of the political system in the Arab society and Arab societies in the Middle East. So people who live in the Middle East are used to terrorist methods for hundreds of years. It is not a new phenomenon.

But what's new about this phenomenon (is that) starting in the late '60s it was spread all over the world, especially the Western world. That made the issue so important and so well known in the Western world. So basically it's not a new phenomenon, but it's a new phenomenon in the Western world.



Photo courtesy of the Israeli Consulate

Consul Shmuel Ben-Shmuel

Also, the Western world was exposed in the past to all kinds of terrorist activity, so there is much change in recent years. In the Middle East concerning terrorist activities, most of the acts in the Arab world are due to the conflict between Arabs and themselves.

But I would say the reason for the decrease in terrorist activities nationwide, though not a major decrease, is due to more firm and tough measures that the Western world and especially the United States has taken recently against terrorist activities.

The raid of Libya, of course, is a good example. After the raid on Libya, for example, Moammar Gadhafi became very cautious in his involvement in international terrorism. So he'll still continue to support terrorist groups

but much more cautiously, especially in regards to the U.S. interests. So they became cautious when they found out the price is too high.

Q: Has it seemed like the Western democracies have finally gotten to the point at which they are tired of terrorism?

A: What happened in Western Europe there was one country that always took tough measures against terrorism — that was Israel. Israel found out that the proper response to terrorism is to use tough measures against it. It put a lot of pressure on the terrorist organizations themselves and the countries that sponsor terrorists. The new phenomenon is, of course, the change of the attitude in the Western world and especially the change in the U.S. position toward terrorism in recent years — the willingness to retaliate militarily, the economic sanctions against Syria that were approved by some Western European states. Britain's broken relations with Syria also damaged Syria in the world. Some of the states that sponsor terrorism like Libya, Syria, and in a way, Iran and Iraq, will be much more cautious in their involvement in terrorism.

But the major problem when it comes to the Western world, the whole issue of international terrorism, is not so much with the terrorist organization, it's with these countries that support terrorism. Without the support of countries such as Syria, Libya, Iran and

Iraq, terrorism will probably revert to its local manifestation from the 1960s, and will hardly have an effect in the Western world.

It (terrorism) was spread due to the support of such things as terrorist organizations. All those states, for example, gave terrorists money, training and support them with intelligence. They use their own embassies, especially in Western Europe, as bases for terrorism, which makes it much easier for terrorist groups from the Middle East and from Europe to be active in this area. So by putting pressure on those countries by the Western world, I would say this is the best way to reduce the amount of terrorist activity in the world today. That will be the effective way to deal with terrorism.

Q: Why do these countries decide to take the route of terrorism to achieve their policies?

A: In those societies terrorism is part of the political process. That is only way to get into power in Middle Eastern countries, such as Libya, Syria or Iran. The way to remain in power in those states is through using force against the opposition. That is also the only way for the opposition to get rid of the rulers in those societies. What we see in those societies is not only political conflicts but military conflicts in the country itself between the opposition using terroristic activities and the re-

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School aide from Bryan shot twice

An instructional aide at Stephen F. Austin Junior High School in Bryan was shot twice at the school Wednesday afternoon, Sgt. Dale Cuthbertson of the Bryan Police Department said.

Jo Ann Washington of Bryan was shot in the elbow and in the hip. She is in stable condition at St. Josephs Hospital, hospital officials said.

Cuthbertson said a warrant for attempted murder is out for the victim's estranged husband, Henry Howard Washington, also of Bryan, in connection with the shooting.

Jerry Ellis, principle of the school, said the incident happened in the snack bar area of the school cafeteria.

Cuthbertson said the assailant came on school property and tried to force Washington to leave with him. After breaking free from her assailant, Cuthbertson said the assailant fired at Washington, hitting her twice. The assailant then fled the scene.

No students were present or were in danger during the incident, he said.