

AIDS sufferers use acupuncture as treatment for deadly disease

AUSTIN (AP) — Jim French, diagnosed with AIDS-related complex in 1987, found within a few months that his system couldn't tolerate the strong chemicals normally used to treat the disease.

So he returned several months ago to the fine silver needles of acupuncture that once alleviated his lower back pain. Now, he seems to have the illness, which progressively destroys the immune system, under some control.

"A lot of it you can't explain," French said. "But it works. Whoever would have thought that putting needles in my feet would make my nose stop bleeding? It's really helped a lot."

Since January, acupuncture has become one of the most popular treatments in Austin among suffer-

ers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Brian McKenna, an Austin acupuncture expert who initiated the AIDS treatments twice a week at St. Luke's Methodist Church, said they have drawn 28 patients so far, with about half attending regularly.

"We're trying to offer the options of traditional Chinese medicine," McKenna said. "We've been able to address pain and migraine headaches. We've been able to normalize sleep patterns and help with the appetite loss and digestive weakness often found with AIDS and ARC (AIDS-related complex)."

"But it's important to recognize that no therapy is going to serve everyone all the time."

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese art still used in conjunction with Western medicine in China. It

involves the shallow puncturing of the body at specific points with long, fine gold or silver needles to relieve pain and cure disease.

"Its optimal province is the early stages of a disease process," McKenna said. "But it has analgesic effects at any stage."

McKenna, 35, has no medical degree and does not claim to be curing AIDS. But he has studied with acupuncturists in China, and he points to the experience with hundreds of AIDS patients indicating that acupuncture helps maintain their health.

"It's way too early to predict how acupuncture is going to shape up as an AIDS treatment," McKenna said. "I do, however, believe it would be remiss on our part not to offer hope."

Acupuncturists are not licensed

by the State of Texas, but Austin has attracted about a dozen of them since the early 1980s.

McKenna is licensed to practice in his native New Mexico and by a national association. The needles for AIDS treatments are used only once and then discarded. He and two other acupuncturists who help always wear gloves, he said.

The virus that causes a fatal case of AIDS is primarily transmitted through sexual contact but also can be passed by exchanging blood.

Some Austin physicians who treat AIDS approve of their patients trying acupuncture.

"I have absolutely no objection to it," Dr. Tom Smith said. "I've found that people do better when they take a multiphasic approach. If something is safe, I don't object."

In Advance

Presentation focuses on Mali culture

By Tracey Streater
Reporter

The culture and artifacts of the country of Mali will be the main focus of a presentation by Dr. Kathy Dettwyler, a professor of anthropology, tonight at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC.

The presentation, sponsored by the MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness, will feature artifacts collected by Dettwyler typifying the art and culture of Mali, which is located in the center of West Africa.

Dettwyler will bring examples of weavings and textiles, wooden carvings, masks and basketry that she collected during her stay in Mali.

Claudia Hoste, director of public relations for the MSC Jordan Institute, said they invited Dettwyler to speak because her expertise on Mali will provide extra insight on a country unknown to many people.

"Mali is a country that few people are aware of because it isn't in the news very often," Hoste said. "However, we (the MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness) don't think that should limit our exposure to a country and its culture."

Dettwyler, who earned her doctorate in anthropology from Indiana University, lived in Mali two years, concentrating her studies on the agriculture and nutrition of the country and its people.

Although the land is more suitable for farming than that of other countries in Africa, Mali is severely affected by droughts and is plagued by widespread malnutrition.

Because it has no major natural resources, such as diamonds in other parts of Africa, Mali is the fourth poorest country in the world.

Student Senate sponsors Cheating Awareness Week

By Sharon Maberry
Reporter

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Senate has designated this week as Cheating Awareness Week at Texas A&M.

"The purpose of the week is to raise students' awareness of cheating at A&M," a co-chairman of the project, Margie Boswell, said.

The primary event planned for the week is a noon forum on Wednesday in Zachry to give students a chance to voice their opinions on cheating at A&M, Boswell said. The Academic Affairs Committee would like to find out what cheating policy students would like used at A&M.

"We (the Academic Affairs Committee) hope to establish some guidelines of how to deal with students caught cheating at A&M," Boswell said. "We feel A&M is lax, relatively speaking (with offenders of the honor code.) We need to have a set policy. At a lot of the Eastern schools, students caught cheating are expelled."

The chairman of the Student Senate's Academic Affairs Committee, Tom Black, said that during the first Cheating Awareness Week last se-

mester, the student response was not favorable.

"People did discuss it a lot, but they laughed at it," Black said. "But any reaction is good reaction. We want to make people aware of the problem and to think about it."

"We want to see if we can get a discussion going," Black said of the Wednesday forum with the theme, "Cheating: Is there a solution? And what are your scruples?"

Black said he hopes the discussion will spread throughout the campus and get people talking about the issue.

"We have no program to deal with this issue," Black said. "Any type of honor court (to sentence students caught cheating at A&M) would be great. But I don't know how that court would get power. We would like to make it a court of peers, but students can't kick other students out of the University."

"We're using the forum to try and find out if such a court is feasible and if there would be any support for it. We are also trying to find out if there is anything we can do to help students who have been hurt by other students who cheat. Every place has cheating. We have it too, unfortunately."

Teacher fired on charges of immorality; students 'compelled to tell truth' at trial

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Lou Ann Hogan describes herself as a good high school English teacher who got along well with her students, but school administrators say she may have gotten along too well with one of them.

Hogan, 24, is fighting for her job after four male students told school administrators they saw her having sex with Chad Cadenhead, a 17-year-old emotionally troubled teen-ager who committed suicide a month after the alleged sex acts took place.

The case has drawn a great deal of local coverage and attracted national attention after Hogan was fired from Clark High School on charges of "immorality" and her contract for the next school year was not renewed.

Hogan, who has filed a \$400,000 lawsuit claiming defamation of character against the teen-agers, said they are trying to find an answer to Cadenhead's death.

The students claim they don't want to hurt anyone, but they are compelled to tell the truth. It's a stalemate so far, but both sides convincingly claim they are telling the truth and want the civil case tried quickly to settle the issue.

"I'm mad, but what do I do?" Hogan said. "It will come out that they are not good boys. I just want to stare them in the face. I want to see how they would react."

When that time comes, Taylor Sommer, Scott Autry, Jeff Beckel and Hector Torres, who are named in her suit, said they will tell the truth, that on the nights of Dec. 5 and Dec. 11, they saw

Hogan and Cadenhead engaged in sex.

Sommer, 16, and Autry and Beckel, both 17, are students at Clark High School and Torres, 19, a former Clark student, now attends the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Rumors about who's telling the truth and who's lying are abundant at Clark High School and throughout the North Side Independent School District.

"We're getting made to look like the bad guys for the telling the truth," Sommer said in an interview. "I'm not mad. It's tough, but I'm telling the truth, so I'm not worried."

The twisted tale began in November when Cadenhead told friends he was having a sexual relationship with Hogan, a second-year teacher whose youth allowed her to relate to students.

Sommer, Autry and Beckel did not believe Cadenhead, who according to an autopsy report was an emotional teen-ager with suicidal tendencies who had undergone psychological counseling.

Cadenhead told friends that he would set it up so they could watch, the teen-agers said.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, 1987, Sommer, Beckel and Torres said they went to Cadenhead's house, peeked through a bedroom window and saw Cadenhead and Hogan engaged in sex. On Dec. 11, Autry and Beckel said they were spending a night at Cadenhead's home when Hogan called and said she was coming over.

Autry and Beckel said they slipped out of the house and stood near Cadenhead's bedroom

window. They said Hogan arrived, went to Cadenhead's room and she and Cadenhead again had sex.

But Hogan said the charges are ludicrous. She and her husband, Mike, said they were together on the nights the alleged acts took place.

"Never would I be stupid enough to go to a kid's house not knowing if his parents were there," Hogan said.

The teen-agers said they never talked to Cadenhead much after the acts allegedly occurred.

On Jan. 28, Cadenhead went to his bedroom, put a .410-gauge shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. No suicide note was found, but the teen-agers believe the sexual relationship may have triggered the act.

Sommer said that two weeks after he saw Hogan and Cadenhead having sex, he told his sister and after Cadenhead's death she persuaded him to tell adults.

The Sommers told the Cadenheads, who later told school officials. On Feb. 2, the students were summoned to school administrators offices and were asked to write what they saw.

Hogan was suspended, and on March 10, the school board fired her. Last week, the board declined to renew her contract for the coming year.

School superintendent Jack Jordan has said the teen-agers' story was very convincing.

"We are telling the truth. We have no reason to lie," Torres said. "We want to tell our side of the story and we want to tell it all in court. It's upsetting to us to have to hear the opinions of other people who think we are liars."

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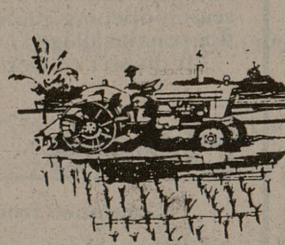
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