

Friday, February 3, 1989

'Drug Awareness' comes to A&M Center looks to provide 'Directions to New Attitude' on campus

By Denise Thompson

STAFF WRITER

Although "Just Say No" is perhaps the most well known anti-drug slogan in the country, the Texas A&M Center for Drug Prevention and Education hopes to build upon that idea with the campaign for Drug Awareness Week — "Directions to a New Attitude."

Similar to Alcohol Awareness Week that was sponsored during the fall, Drug Awareness Week at A&M is a spin-off of the National Collegiate's Drug Awareness Week, Ann Coombes, assistant coordinator at the center, said.

Although Alcohol Awareness Week had a variety of programs to educate students, Coombes said the center decided to put more emphasis on a smaller number of activities for this event.

"We decided to tone things down from Alcohol Awareness Week and generate more energy into a fewer number of activities and make them quality activities," she said.

The week officially begins Feb. 6 and ends Feb. 10. Throughout the week, the center will have a resource table in the MSC with different types of information available about drugs. Different organizations will be at the table on different days.

"The Corps and APO have already agreed to help with the table," she said. "We're hoping to have the College Station police come in with the McGruff crime dog and man the table one day.

Also, we are trying to get the DPS office to set up their drug display for one day."

Coombes said the Student Y plans to incorporate part of its Big Hug event into Drug Awareness Week because the two events are the same week.

"They're going to try and get bumper stickers made up that say, 'Give Hugs — Not Drugs,'" she said.

The first main program, a presentation for faculty, staff and students, will be Feb. 8. Sponsored by Parkside Emergency Services, MSC Great Issues, the Drug Awareness Committee and the center, the presentation will focus on cocaine, crack and designer drugs, Coombes said.

"Our activities for drug awareness week differ from the alcohol awareness week also in that the programs for alcohol awareness week focused more on students, and drug awareness week is focused on students but also on faculty and staff," she said.

"A lot of faculty members have children and are going to be interested in the questions this presentation will cover, such as how drugs are done, where you get them and how they're treated."

The other major event for the week will be Feb. 9. As a spin-off of MTV's game show, "Re-

mote Control," the center will help sponsor a game called the "Drug Control Game." Contestants will be drawn from various student leadership organizations, Coombes said.

"We hope to have student leaders from student government, the Corps and we'll probably have Reveille," she said. "Questions about drug usage and prevention will be included in the game."

Although Coombes said the center hopes to have an impact on A&M, she said drugs have not been a major problem at the University.

"That's probably because of the conservative nature of the school," she said. "It could also stem from the evolution from the military."

While A&M ranks relatively low in comparison to other metropolitan schools' drug problems, Coombes said some areas require attention.

"We still rank alcohol as a drug, and there is a high incidence of alcohol abuse on this campus," she said. "Marijuana and cocaine have also been seen here, as well as designer drugs such as ecstasy. So we do have a reason to sponsor a drug awareness week."

"However, hopefully the events we have planned for the week will at least start educating people to what drugs really are and what they can do to you."

Study: social support, stress reduction delay development of AIDS

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER



Positive thinking, social support and stress reduction may help delay the time it takes for a person infected with the AIDS virus to develop the fatal disease.

Dr. Karl Goodkin, psychiatrist and assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, said a report containing these findings is preliminary and part of an ongoing longitudinal study.

A patient goes through two stages before developing acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The first stage is the appearance of the immunodeficiency virus (HIV). An infected person may remain virtually symptom-free for years and may not test positive for a variable length of time after being exposed to the virus.

The intermediate stage, or pre-AIDS stage, is AIDS-related complex (ARC). The time it takes to develop AIDS after being infected with HIV is extremely variable, ranging from three months to eight years.

"For this reason, my colleagues and I think psychosocial factors may play a part in that variability by extending that time," Goodkin said.

Goodkin's study included 40 homosexual males, some who were infected with HIV but had not progressed to AIDS. Others in the study either were not HIV-infected or had been diagnosed as having AIDS or ARC.

Results of his study showed that those who had HIV but had not progressed to AIDS had less stress in their lives, more social support and more effective ways

of coping with stress than either the non-infected group or the group that had progressed to AIDS or ARC.

"In our research we're trying to find a psychosocially at-risk population of people who don't have symptoms but have been exposed to the virus," Goodkin said.

In some cases he believes in using denial instead of acceptance of the disease.

"Denial is best used when HIV-positive patients have no symptoms at all," Goodkin said. "We encourage them to do things such as exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and avoid alcohol and drug use, cigarette smoking and caffeine intake."

If someone tests positive for HIV and continues to abuse drugs, drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes, the disease is more likely to progress rapidly, he said.

"All of this is highly speculative," Goodkin said. "We will need follow-up studies with larger groups before we can be confident that we have an association of stress and coping styles with progression of HIV."

Dr. Howard Kaplan, Texas A&M professor of sociology, said Goodkin's findings are consistent with other findings that stress-related phenomena are correlated with changes in the functioning of the immune system.

Kaplan is doing similar research on how stress might be associated with immune functioning.

"I think Dr. Goodkin's work is definitely worth further investigation," he said.

Pick up permits or forfeit spaces in parking garage

Texas A&M University students who have paid for a reserved parking space in the new Northside parking garage but have not yet picked up their permits may do so until Monday.

After Monday, any reserved parking permits that have not been picked up by the students who purchased them will be made available to students currently on the waiting list for parking spaces.

Lawmaker wants to suspend licenses of school dropouts

AUSTIN (AP) — Some high school dropouts could have their driver's licenses suspended for one year under a bill announced Thursday by a state lawmaker who says it's time to try new ways to keep students in school.

"I do not believe that public relations campaigns alone can effectively discourage students from dropping out," Rep. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, said.

"I think that this (driving) is a privilege that especially students in high school like and cherish, and if it

in any way is endangered, hopefully this would motivate them to continue (in school)," Lucio said at a news conference.

Lucio said that under his bill, school districts would be required to notify the Texas Department of Public Safety of a student who drops out. The student then would have his or her driving privileges revoked for up to a year, he said.

The DPS couldn't reinstate a license before one year unless the student re-enrolled in school and had been in attendance for a full semes-

ter without any unexcused absences.

The bill is expected to be changed to allow exceptions for special cases, Lucio said, such as students who drop out for economic reasons and must drive to work, or those who earn a high-school equivalency diploma.

Lucio also said he would work to ensure the bill would not conflict with the compulsory attendance law, which requires students to attend school through the year of their 16th birthday.



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\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME STUDY											
\$100	Wanted: Symptomatic patients with physician diagnosed Irritable Bowel Syndrome to participate in a short study.										\$100
\$100	\$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.										\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
ASTHMA STUDY											
\$200	Individuals who have regular asthma to participate in an asthma study. \$200 incentive for those chosen to participate.										\$200
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200

\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
SORE THROAT/STREP THROAT STUDY											
\$100	For individuals 12 years and older with sore throat willing to participate in a study to treat strep throat. Diagnosed strep throat welcome. \$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.										\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
CEDAR/WINTER ALLERGY STUDY											
\$100	Looking for mountain cedar allergic individuals to participate in a short allergy study. \$100-\$200 incentive for those chosen to participate. Free skin testing available to determine eligibility.										\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
ACUTE BRONCHITIS/PNEUMONIA											
\$100	Do you have any of the following? 1. Productive cough 2. Fever 3. Rattle in chest. Call for information about a three week antibiotic research study with close MD supervision. \$100 incentive for those who qualify.										\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
PEDIATRIC SORE THROAT STUDY											
\$50	Children 2 to 12 years with sore throat pain to participate in a currently over-the-counter available pain relief medication study. No blood drawn. Free strep test. 2 hours in the office-4 hours at home. \$50. for those who qualify.										\$50
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50

\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY											
\$300	Individuals with high blood pressure medication daily to participate in a high blood pressure study. \$300. incentive for those chosen to participate.										\$300
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300

PAIN STUDY											
Do you take at least one over-the-counter pain reliever per month for any reason? If so, you may be eligible to participate in an at-home analgesic study. Monetary incentive for those chosen to participate.											

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