

Friday, November 10, 1989

## UT doctor explains difficulties of coping with AIDS

By Melissa Naumann

The Battalion Staff

If a group of the world's brightest scientists had been asked to get together ten years ago and think of the worst possible disease, they would not have been clever enough to think of AIDS, a doctor from the University of Texas Public Health Center in Houston said Thursday.

Dr. Richard Grimes said all the elements of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) combine to produce a disease that is virtually impossible to deal with.

In a presentation sponsored by the American Medical Students Association, Grimes reviewed the facts about AIDS to explain the difficulties in coping with the disease.

Because one way of transmitting AIDS is sexual, it is difficult to study accurately the behavior that spreads it, he said.

"Everyone lies about their sex lives," Grimes said.

Plus, people like sex, so they are

# AIDS

not likely to modify their behavior, he said.

This sex element of AIDS, Grimes said, makes it difficult for people to agree on how much information on AIDS should be disseminated.

"We will never get a community consensus on what information to give out on AIDS," he said.

AIDS also is spread through blood, making infants susceptible if their mothers are infected. It is the ninth leading cause of death in one- to four-year-olds in the United States, Grimes said, holding up a headline from the August issue of *The Nation's Health* that said, "AIDS May Be One of Top Five Killers of Children in Four Years."

Grimes said one out of every 64 babies born in New York City in 1987 was the child of a mother who tested HIV-positive, and half of these children will develop AIDS.

The mortality rate of people with AIDS can make some doctors hesitant to treat patients with the disease.

"I mean, how many of you came to medical school to learn how to help people die?" he said. "A friend

"I mean, how many of you came to medical school to learn how to help people die? A friend of mine in Houston has treated 1,000 patients with AIDS and 600 of them have died. I don't know how he stands the grief."

— Dr. Richard Grimes

of mine in Houston has treated 1,000 patients with AIDS and 600 of them have died. I don't know how he stands the grief."

Since AIDS is a viral disease, researchers are likely to be discouraged, Grimes said. No specific cure has ever been developed for a viral disease and viruses are subject to rapid mutation, he said, making the development of a vaccine nearly impossible.

The medical expenses of a person who has AIDS can be as much as \$80,000, a Blue Cross-Blue Shield report said — expenses most victims face without medical insurance, Grimes said. As someone with AIDS loses his health, he is likely to lose his job and therefore any medical coverage he might have had.

Grimes said AIDS affects the "pariah" classes, meaning homosexuals and drug users, both of whom often are involved in illegal activities. This is yet another factor that hinders the

study of AIDS.

"The first thing I have to do is get people to admit they've committed a felony," he said. "Drugs are illegal in all states, and sodomy is illegal in most states."

More men than women have AIDS but the rate of growth of the disease is the same in each category, Grimes said, looking at a graph representing the statistics.

"When I look at these curves, I see the same epidemic going on — I just see one starting later than the other," he said.

The same is true when the victims of the disease are categorized by race and risk groups, he said.

Out of 254 counties in Texas, AIDS cases have been reported in more than 150, Grimes said.

"This is not just a big city problem," he said.

## NOTIS lets Mac enthusiasts use library's computer catalog

By Selina Gonzalez

The Battalion Staff

NOTIS, the Sterling C. Evans Library computer catalog, soon will be accessible to Macintosh computer users, Hal Hall, head of the Evans Library's Learning Resources Department, said.

"We have developed a system, called MacNOTIS, that is really friendly to Macintosh users," Hall said. "It is exactly what they expect to see."

"It deals with all the screen formats and the ways of using Macintosh that they're familiar with."

The system, developed by officials of Evans Library, Texas A&M's Computer Services Center and Apple computers, is funded with a \$100,000 grant from the federal Department of Education, Hall said.

Students could have access to computer catalogs of other libraries throughout the nation that have

NOTIS systems, he said. Field tests are planned for the libraries at Rice University in Houston and Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

The current NOTIS system provides the researcher with a limited number of options, but the new system would increase these options, Hall said.

"The key options to MacNOTIS are down loading to disk and easy printing," he said. The NOTIS system has a few printers but the MacNOTIS offers better options on what to print.

"We are playing with the idea of even saving the information in specific formats such as a bibliography package which would allow you to write a kind of bibliography," Hall said.

MacNOTIS will allow researchers to search Evans Library holdings for listings by author, title, key words,

subject areas or other options, he said.

An advantage of MacNOTIS is the on-line context sensitive help which provides help information for the researcher, Hall said. The key-word searching instructions are user-friendly to Macintosh users.

Another advantage of the MacNOTIS is a map-logging feature which would inform the researcher of the exact location of a particular book, he said. A map of the exact floor and area will flash indicating the location of the book.

The grant will run from October 1989 to September 1990 and at the end to the period a final copy of MacNOTIS will be in the library, he said.

"If at all possible, the MacNOTIS will be free of charge except for maybe the cost of a disk," Hall said. "We are not looking to make money off this."

## Cancer Society out to crush smokers with "Kicking Butts in '89" theme

By Pam Mooman

Of The Battalion Staff

It's time for smokers to "leave the packs behind" and start "kicking butts in '89."

These are the themes for the weeklong Great American Smokeout, starting Monday. The Smokeout, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, encourages smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours in hopes they will quit for good.

The Great American Smokeout was observed nationally for the first time in 1978. Last year, almost 37 percent of the nation's 50 million smokers participated in the Smokeout. Bryan-College Station groups are getting involved, too.

"The purpose (of the Smokeout) is to increase awareness about the risks of smoking, gather as much attention as possible to the problem and decrease the number of smokers," Demetria Chester, Texas A&M Cancer Society publicity chair, said.

The Brazos County American Cancer Society will send a letter to College Station City Hall to attempt the adoption of a smoke-free city ordinance, Chester said. Bryan and A&M already have such ordinances, she said.

Chester said "smoke-free" refers to buildings where people cannot smoke except in designated

areas.

The A&M Cancer Society will visit elementary and high schools with filmstrips.

"Elementary kids don't smoke," Chester said. "For them, it's mostly prevention."

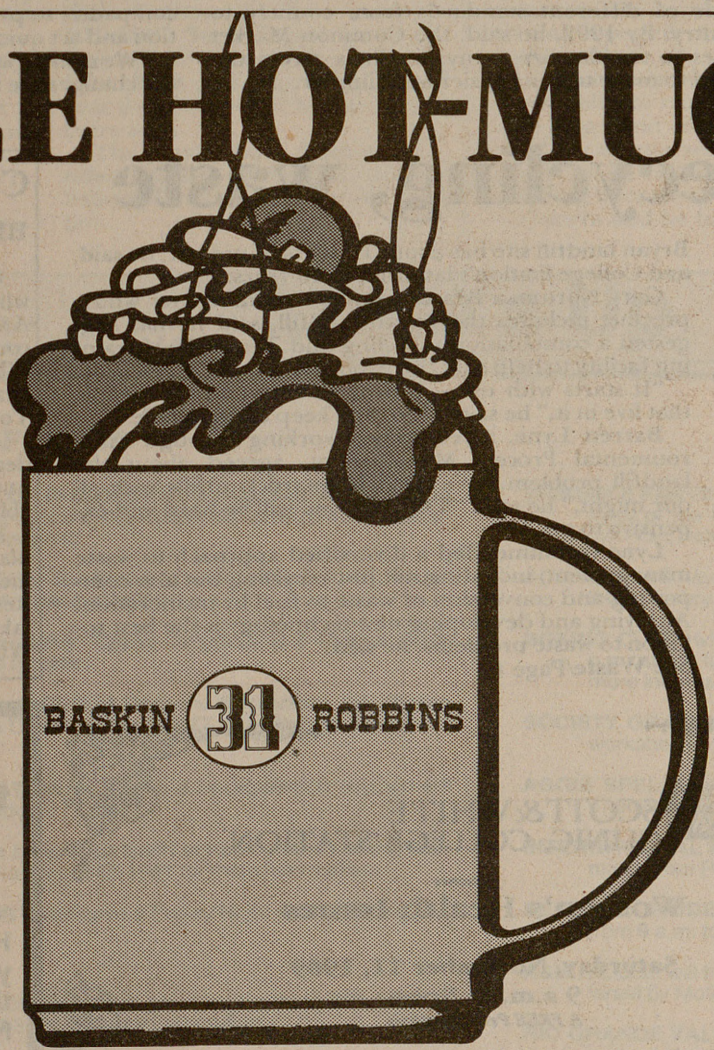
Nov. 16 is the Great American Smokeout's Adopt-a-Smoker day. On this day, Chester said, people should help individual smokers not to smoke for 24 hours by giving them gum and goodies as well as moral support, she said.

Americans are starting to realize that the pleasure of smoking does not outweigh its risks. From 1976 to 1987, the ratio of adult male smokers (20 years and older) dropped from 42 percent of the population to 33 percent, and women smokers decreased from 32 percent to 28 percent.

But the bad news is that on the average, those Americans who do smoke are smoking more heavily. Between 1976 and 1985, the proportion of adult male smokers using 25 or more cigarettes daily increased from just over 30 percent to 32 percent, while the proportion of women smokers using 25 or more cigarettes daily increased from 19 to 21 percent.

The A&M Cancer Society will man informational tables in the MSC during the week of the Smokeout. Certificates to award to smokers who quit for a day will be sold. T-shirts also will be for sale.

# FREE HOT-MUG



Purchase a Hot Fudge Sundae or any other Ice Cream or Yogurt Sundae and take home a HOT-MUG FREE.

BASKIN ROBBINS Express Drive-thru

BASKIN ROBBINS Treats

603 Villa Maria Manor East Mall Bryan, Texas

601 University Dr. Northgate College Station, TX

© Baskin-Robbins Inc. Printed in USA

Offer good while supplies last.

Sally Field Dolly Parton Shirley Maclaine Daryl Hannah Olympia Dukakis Julia Roberts



# Steel Magnolias

TRI-STAR PICTURES presents RASTAR production HERBERT ROSS "STEEL MAGNOLIAS" starring SALLY FIELD, DOLLY PARTON, SHIRLEY MACLAINE, DARYL HANNAH, OLYMPIA DUKAKIS, JULIA ROBERTS. Music by ANDREW STONE. Screenplay by GEORGES DELERUE. Directed by PAUL HIRSCH. Produced by GENE CALLAHAN, EDWARD PISONI. Executive Producer JOHN A. ALONZO, A.S.C. Produced by VICTORIA WHITE. Screenplay by ROBERT HARLING. Music by "STEEL MAGNOLIAS" RASTAR. Directed by HERBERT ROSS. (PG) PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED. (TM) & (C) 1989 RASTAR PICTURES. All Rights Reserved.

## FREE SCREENING

Brought to you courtesy of

Liz Claiborne COSMETICS

RASTAR

AGGIE CINEMA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 8:00 PM

RUDDER AUDITORIUM

Sponsored by MSC AGGIE CINEMA

Texas A & M University

Seating is on a first-come, first-admitted basis. Please arrive early to ensure seating.

The Advantage is yours with a Battalion Classified.

Call 845-0569