

Health educator advocates testing, prevention of AIDS to students

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this time, they are giving it to every person they have sex with."

Health officials estimate by the end of 1992, 365,000 Americans will have AIDS. In Brazos County this year, 35 cases of AIDS were reported. Thirty people have died from the disease.

Anderson said those deaths are just the cases that have been documented.

"You don't think of AIDS happening in small towns like Bryan and College Station," Anderson said.

A person can contract AIDS by having sex with someone who is infected with the AIDS virus, or by sharing drug needles and syringes with an infected person.

Anderson said there are three main groups of people who come to the health department to get tested for AIDS.

The first is IV drug users. She said most of them have come off a bad trip, and they are worried because they shared a needle with someone they did not know.

"You would be very surprised how many IV drug users there are in this area," Anderson said.

The second group are young adult men who are scared they

have AIDS because they have had sexual contact with a homosexual.

"Homosexual experiences run parallel with AIDS," Anderson said.

The third group is young adult women who discover their boyfriends are IV drug users, bisexual or have had multiple sex partners.

"A lot of people have the attitude of 'Why should I get tested? There is no way I have AIDS, and if I do, I don't want to know because I am just going to die anyway,'" Anderson said.

The Texas health department offers free testing for STDs and distributes free condoms. The testing is confidential at the health department as well as at the campus health center.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center offers presentations in residence halls on forms of contraception and STD prevention.

Women who want to start a birth control program through the health center must attend the presentation.

The presentation informs students about what STDs are, what the symptoms are, how STDs can be prevented and what will happen if the diseases go

untreated.

"Some universities include only the subject of condom use in their birth control presentations," the former director of the health center Erika Gonzalez-Lima said. "A&M has gone a little bit beyond that."

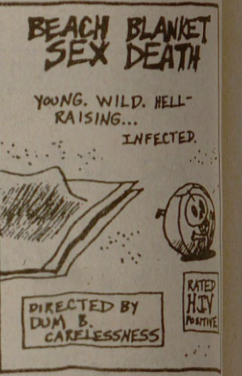
The presentation stresses the fact that everyone is susceptible to STDs. Gonzalez-Lima said if students know how to prevent STDs, incidences of contracting diseases will decrease.

If STDs go untreated, serious long term health problems can occur. One of the reasons STD cases do go untreated is 80 percent of women with STDs have no symptoms.

"Some people do have symptoms, but they are too scared to find out if they do in fact have a STD," Gonzalez-Lima said. "People must face the problem. If someone has symptoms, see a doctor immediately."

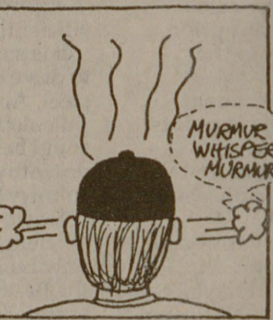
"Get to know your sexual partners," she added. "The idea is that STDs grow globally. If you prevent one, you are preventing all of them. The way to prevent is very simple — know who you are sleeping with."

WARD



by Scott McCullar ©1991

Ph.D



by Michael Mogan

Senate study reports rural crime 'plague'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Small-town America is suffering a "plague of violent crime, drug trafficking and drug abuse," according to a Senate chairman whose staff documented major increases in murders, rapes, robberies and assaults in some rural states.

The study released Tuesday showed rural criminal violence "growing at an astonishing pace," Senate Judiciary Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., said.

Montana suffered the biggest percentage increase, 23.4 percent, among rural states in the number of violent crimes re-

ported to police last year, according to the report based on figures provided by 15 of the country's 19 rural states.

Rural states, for the purposes of the report, are those with population densities of 50 or fewer people per square mile.

Court upholds \$5 M award to former lover of Rock Hudson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appeals court upheld a \$5 million award to the onetime lover of actor Rock Hudson, ruling the sum isn't too large to compensate for "the ultimate in personal horror," the fear of developing AIDS.

The California 2nd District Court of Appeal rejected arguments by the actor's estate that Marc Christian failed to show a likelihood he contracted the AIDS virus during sexual relations with Hudson.

A jury ruled in February 1989 that Hudson was guilty of "outrageous conduct" for concealing his AIDS diagnosis from Christian, his lover for two years. Christian said he didn't learn of the actor's illness until a few months before Hudson, 58, died Oct. 2, 1985.

Although Christian didn't contract AIDS and tested negative for the presence of the virus, the Superior Court jury and a judge found he deserved damages. Hudson's estate appealed.

"In the case at bench, we deal with the ultimate in personal horror," the appeals court said. Its decision was filed Thursday but released Monday.

Attorney Marvin Mitchelson, who represented Christian in the appeal, said the ruling sends a cautionary message to couples everywhere that "this is a fatal disease and you should be honest with your partner."

"I think it sends a very strong message that should be heeded by everyone before they engage in sex," Mitchelson said. "People need to be honest and disclose to their partners where they stand."

Explorers search for sunken ship

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years since, the ships might actually lie under dry land.

However, he added, the researchers are almost certain that the ships are underwater because measurements indicate that no more than 300 feet has been added to the beach since the failed voyage.

Columbus Caravels Project researchers returned to St. Ann's Bay earlier in June to continue their work.

A location A&M scientists are now investigating lies underwater about 270 feet from where the proposed shoreline was. Ship timbers recovered from that site and charcoal and fish bones from a nearby underwater refuse pile have been traced back to the early 1500s through the use of carbon dating. Archaeologists also say the shape of the wreckage suggest it could be two ships side-by-side.

The INA group hopes to locate the vessels before the 500th anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to the New World.

Legislature overrides Gov. Roemer's veto of state's tough anti-abortion legislation

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—The Louisiana legislature voted Tuesday to override Gov. Buddy Roemer's veto of a tough abortion bill that would jail doctors who perform the procedure.

Opponents of the legislation said they would immediately move in court to stop enforcement. Supporters of the bill said they hoped the court challenges would lead to reversal of the 1973 Supreme Court decision

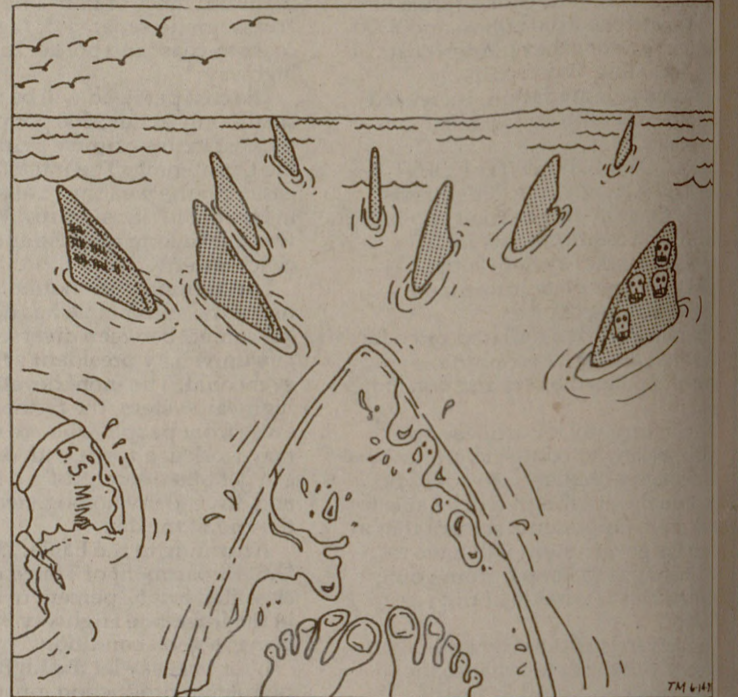
that established abortion rights.

The House voted 76-25 to override the veto after suspending rules that would not have allowed debate to begin until Wednesday.

The Senate's 29-9 vote earlier in the day came as a surprise since the upper chamber sustained Roemer's veto of similar legislation in 1990 despite the House's overwhelming vote to override.

Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



HERBERT PICKS THE WRONG DAY TO GO SURFING

Insurance reform may result in lower prices

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for consumers with questions about their policy and also has a "plain English" requirement.

McDonald said this requirement might mean more to consumers than any other part of the bill because policies must be approved by the OPIC based on their clarity and readability.

Keck compared the consumer hotlines to the advertised toll-free numbers for anonymous callers to report ways state tax dollars could be saved or are being wasted.

"The hotline is advertised, but no successes are heard of," he said. "It (the OPIC) may be similar to that, but it remains to be seen."

Keck said the market is the best sender of change.

"People will gravitate to the insurance company with the best deal," he said. "Price is not the only factor, but it leads the way."

John Opperman, chairman of the Texas Senate's Finance Committee, said the reforms will "tighten up" the insurance industry.

Opperman, also former chairman of the joint committee on insurance reform, said an exemption to the Texas antitrust laws had allowed insurance companies to work together.

But it also might have given way to price-fixing in the indus-

try, he said. Insurance companies are no longer exempt under the bill.

Opperman said the insurance industry, which was represented in the reform negotiations, decided it "wasn't worth the fight" to try to keep the antitrust exemption.

The bill goes a step further addressing insurance fraud and solvency problems, but the reforms might not be complete, Opperman said.

"To some extent this is an experiment," he said. "We may go back next session to do some fine tuning."


The bill has other major provisions for the industry.

A timely payment plan sets a time limit in which insurance companies must pay claims or face an 18 percent interest payment along with the claim.

A non-cancellation plan states that an insurance company cannot cancel a policy without prior notice to the policy holder.

A bank draft agreement allows insurance companies to withdraw payments directly from policy holder's checking account. Previously, this payment could increase or decrease without the policy holder's knowledge.

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