

Health center tests report no HIV carriers at A&M

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"Presumably there have been students who have tested positive in other tests, but never in one of ours," Dirks said.

Dirks added that the health center cannot keep accurate records on the campus HIV rate since disclosure laws prohibit the health center from getting such information.

"We have no idea what the (A&M) rate is," he said. "What data that is available is aggregated at the County Health level."

"The law states that the cases

be reported by number and not name, so we can't really tell how many are students and how many are not," he continued. "Our impression is that we have a very low incidence."

Andrea Beshara, assistant health education coordinator at A&M's health center, said she believes the health center is doing all it can to track the problem.

"We are not saying that there are no HIV carriers on campus," she said. "But there is no way to predict actual numbers."

Dirks said he does not believe the University can do any more to gain access to campus infection rates.

Tracy Anderson, a health educator with the County Health Department who conducts HIV tests, agreed, saying there is no way for A&M to keep accurate HIV statistics.

"I'm not at liberty to find that information out myself," she said, referring to whether the people she tests are students.

Anderson said she has heard several erroneous reports that

the Wadley Blood Center had received several positive tests during its last blood drive on campus.

Dirks said students participating in health and contraception seminars on campus are given one condom on completion, but condoms are not made accessible to all students since they are readily available at off-campus locations, without a prescription.

Dirks added that the number of health and awareness seminars will probably be increased during the next year.

Regents announce finalists for chancellor

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planning and research and interim chancellor;

Dr. Eddie Davis, deputy chancellor for finance and administration;

Dr. Herbert Richardson, deputy chancellor for engineering, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and dean of A&M's College of Engineering;

Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Thomas Richards of San Angelo.

Margraves said the names were given to the Texas Secretary of State's office Friday and the Board can name a new chancellor after the 12-day waiting period.

The Board's next meeting at College Station will be Sept. 10 and 20.

Thirty percent of University vehicles must use alternate fuels by 1994

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The body of the G-Van is built like gas-powered vans, but the motor and all parts under the hood are built by a Canadian manufacturing firm.

"What goes under the hood confuses every mechanic that's ever seen it," Craven said.

The G-Van was designed to seem like a gas-powered vehicle, Craven said.

In gas-powered vehicles, the first turn of the key will produce enough power to work the radio, lights and windshield wipers. The next turn starts the car and then the key springs back.

In electric-powered vehicles, the first turn of the key is needed, but the second step was added.

"The designers bent over backward to make it seem like a gas vehicle so people would be more comfortable," Craven said.

After the van has been started, the only sound heard is the motor for the power steering and power brakes. Craven said eventually even this slight humming noise will be removed.

Electric companies and con-

sumers are in a "win-win" situation with the electric-powered vehicles, Craven said.

The G-Van does not produce any pollution so it does not need a tail pipe, he said.

The consortium also researched how much extra pollution was produced by utility companies as a result of needing to produce more electricity to recharge vehicles.

"We looked at how much pollution was emitted for every mile you drive and compared it with

how much pollution was emitted in a gas-powered car," Craven said. "Electric vehicles produce less than 2 percent of gas emissions, and even added to the emissions from electric companies the result is still favorable."

He said utility companies also bear more of the burden of controlling pollution than car manufacturers. Utility companies are checked by the federal government to keep pollution emission under control.

"Their (utility companies) requirements are more stringent," Craven said. "There are full-time

people keeping things under control."

A state law adopted by the 71st Legislature requires public schools — including A&M — operating 50 or more buses to have 30 percent of the buses and other vehicles operating from alternate fuels by 1994.

By 1996, schools must have 50 percent of their vehicles operating on alternate fuels. And by 1998, 90 percent must use alternate fuels.

Another benefit is the availability of electricity. Craven said natural gas, coal, solar power

and even burning garbage provide necessary power.

"Who knows what you use in the future," he said, "once the electric vehicle is on road its infrastructure will have to be changed to adjust new fuels."

Craven said consumers of electric-powered vehicles expect to have a higher electricity bill, but they will save money.

"You're trading your gas for an electric bill," he said. "That's still much less than you pay for gas every month."



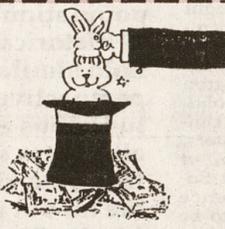
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