Page 16 • Thursday, September 16, 1999

Study break



Curt Proske, a sophomore engineering major, plays his guitar while taking a break from studying in front of Rudder fountain vesterday afternoon.

Agency: Africa needs to act against All

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — AIDS, not war, has turned Africa into a "killing field" and will wipe out enough adults to create 13 million orphans in the next 18 months, the United Nations children's agency said vesterday.

Such cataclysmic statements at the 11th international AIDS in Africa conference were aimed at prodding African gov-ernments — which spend more on defense than on health — to act against the scourge of the continent.

Africa is home to two-thirds of the world's 31 million HIV-infected people. Last year, AIDS killed 2 million Africans, outstripping deaths from armed conflicts on the continent 10-1, said UNICEF, the children's fund.

In 15 years, AIDS has killed 11 million Africans, more than 80 percent of the world's AIDS deaths.

'By any measure, the HIV-AIDS pandemic is the most terrible undeclared war in the world, with the whole of sub-Saharan Africa a killing field," UNICEF ex-ecutive director Carol Bellamy said on the conference's third day.

Ninety percent of the world's AIDS orphans live in Africa and most suffer 'alarmingly higher rates of malnutrition, stunting and illiteracy," UNICEF said. 'They often die of neglect and are victimized by the stigma surrounding the disease

The number of child-headed households is rising sharply, the UNICEF report said.

"The HIV-AIDS pandemic is the most terrible undeclared war in the

- Carol Bellamy **UNICEF** executive director

In many southern African nations up to 25 percent of adults are infected with the AIDS virus - the highest prevalence in the world. In Zambia alone, 90,000 AIDS orphans have been left to fend for themselves on the streets.

Bellamy said decades of gains for child survival and development are being wiped out by the disease.

Lack of AIDS education is part of the problem, the group said.

More than a quarter of women south of the Sahara most at risk from infection w virus that causes AIDS of any effective way of avo ease, research has shown Africa, more than 30 pe women felt a healthy-lo could not be a carrier.

The threat has been lamy said, by the lack of from political leaders to f amounts to a "conspiracy hide the seriousness of the cr dinary people, she said. The United States spends \$

fighting about 40,000 new All year. All of Africa spends about ence and tes lion fighting 4 million new cas and only one-tenth of the e comes from governments, Be

She said African gover mobilize community educati priority. She called for them for the year 2002, including.

 making adolescent won how to protect themselves. • giving up to 70 percent of

women access to voluntary dential testing.



State prosec

iday • Septer



ensic path