

STUDENT LIFE

STDs prominent on college campuses

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In light of the AIDS crisis that is affecting the entire world, I am going to write on another serious subject.

There is an epidemic that is sweeping across colleges nationwide. In 2000, 30,000 new HIV infections were contracted through sexual intercourse. Half of those infections were contracted by 15-24 year olds. These are your peers. These are your best friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, brothers and sisters.

AIDS is not the only epidemic spreading across campuses; chlamydia is the most prominent bacterial sexually transmitted disease and Human Papalova Virus (HPV) is the number one most prominent

viral STD. Chlamydia is curable with antibiotics; however, HPV is not. It is treatable though, and outbreaks can be suppressed.

College students make up the largest age group when it comes to contracting STDs. Guys and gals, if they won't wrap it, then you shouldn't tap it. Keep in mind that condoms are not a foolproof method of prevention. Abstinence is the only 100 percent way of making sure that you do not sexually contract any kind of diseases. We all know that abstinence is not a very realistic concept for our peers. The best measures we can take to ensure prevention of STDs and AIDS is to use protection every time, monogamy and testing, not only HIV testing, but also STD testing. It is also key in a sexually active relationship to discuss methods of prevention.

The Health and Wellness Center does free anonymous HIV testing.

On a lighter note, you readers are my peers, and I would hate to see any of you in any kind of pain, physically or emotionally. So please, keep yourselves protected. Talk about things you wouldn't normally find yourselves discussing and, most of all, use your judgment. If you're going to sleep with someone who's slept with 25 people, you probably shouldn't be the twenty-sixth.

And also, so you know, if you are trying to prevent STDs and HIV, do not use a condom lubricated with spermicide, they can cause irritation and lesions. These lesions and open skin irritations can allow fluids to get in and infect you.

Bottom line: No glove, no love.

If you're gaming for love...

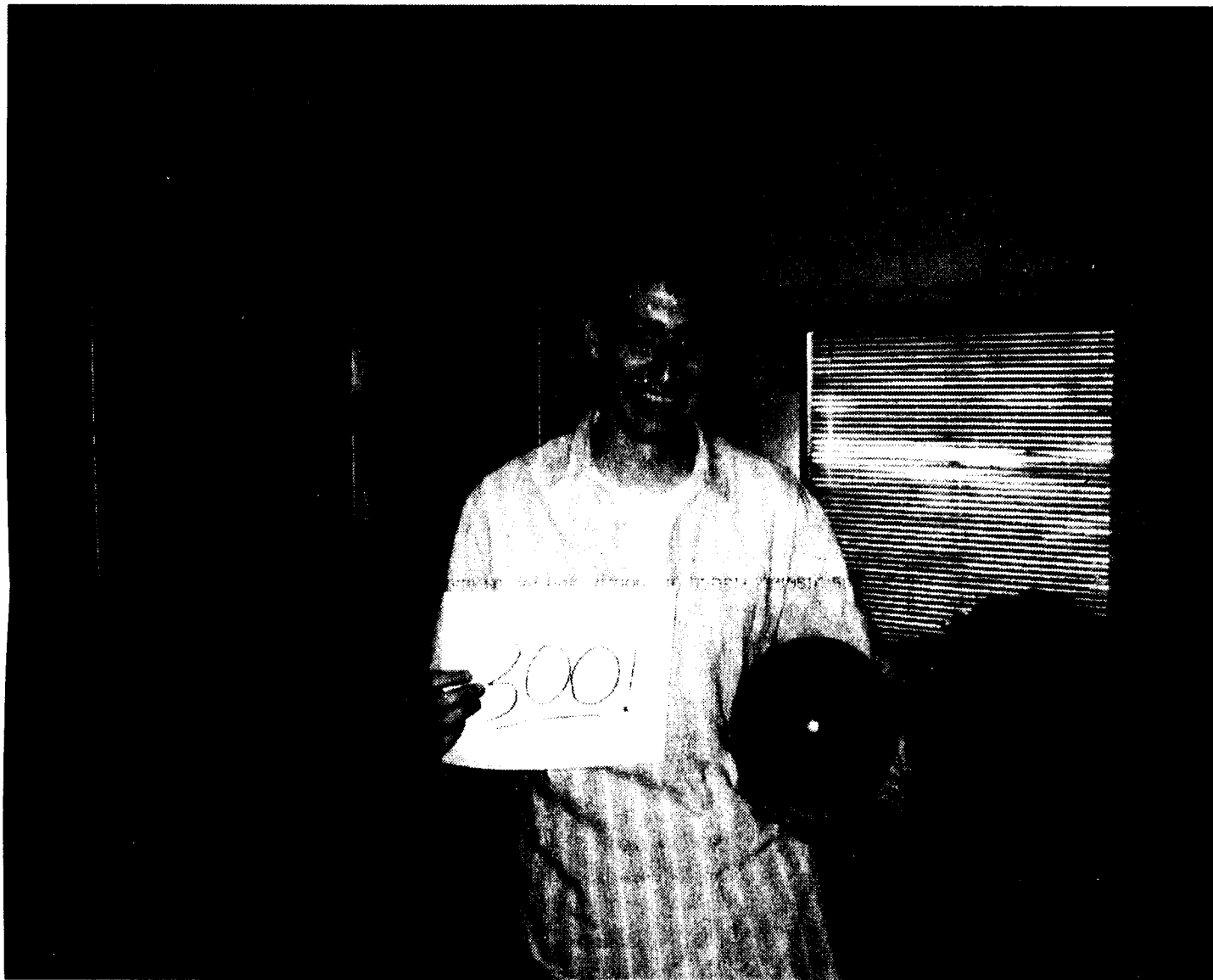
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People can meet in strange ways, but the realm of online worlds create a whole new meaning. Popular MMOs (Massively Multiplayer Online games) such as World of Warcraft, The Sims Online, The Matrix Online, Everquest II or City of Heroes are played by hundreds of thousands. One of the attractions of these online games is the ability to fall into a story and potentially roleplay. Another important aspect is the ability to customize a character, toon or avatar's appearance or visual representation in the game's world.

One of the perks of participating in an online roleplaying game is the ability to adopt a persona that might be different from real life. Players get to interact with other people from around the globe. Some use the computer and the anonymity of hiding behind the monitor. Sexual predators, evangelical ministers and other outspoken voices choose popular online games to spread their agendas.

While some MMOs push the unique gameplay and groundbreaking graphics engines, others market the social aspects. The Sims Online, Habbo Hotel and Second Life all rely on there being interesting people to talk to at all times. Called glorified chat rooms by some, these digital planes are required stomping ground for those using MMOs to find true love.

Love isn't the only thing that can be found. Take the Alphaville scandals of the early days of the Sims Online. Many opportunistic personalities landed at the Alphaville server. Mafias and brothels seemed to blossom overnight. Working girls that offered adult chats made their pimps millionaires in the game's currency. Although the game's designers could have never foreseen what would have occurred in the supposedly family-friendly world, it suggests that more people are interested in using MMOs to find lust and not love.



David Lowery / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Focal Point

Kyle White, a junior Math major, bowled a perfect score of 300 in his bowling class this past Thursday morning. Kyle's no stranger to bowling though. He's been bowling in a league for three years, and he's participated in the sport consistently since the age of 8. His previous high score was a 287. Congrats!

If you have newsworthy content and would like to be featured in a Focal Point, email us!

What's with wireless? Ask ASCII

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Dear ASCII,

I just got a wireless router, so I can connect with both my desktop and laptop. What's the difference between the 802.11 a, b, and g? And is there anything special I need to do to set it up?

- CordFree AtLast

Dear CordFree,

The only special setup that you're required to do is set your region to USA. Different countries use different frequencies for their wireless networks, and if you set your region to another country, you may be violating FCC regulations about the frequencies on which you are allowed to broadcast.

Frequency is also the difference among the three types of wireless. 802.11b was first. Then they came out with 802.11a, which works on a different frequency, one with less interference so you can get more range out of it. Unfortunately, a isn't backward compatible with b, though it is about five times faster. So, 802.11g was made as a compromise; it works at

the same speed as a, and is backward-compatible with old 802.11b equipment, but it doesn't get the range boost from working on a clearer frequency like 802.11a does. Most new cards support both b and g, and the better ones support all three.

If you don't want people connecting to your network, you should set up encryption. On the router, you define a key which works like a password. Anyone who knows the key can connect to your network, and those who don't know it can't connect or even

walking up and down the halls with a laptop. I discovered that the only unencrypted networks were ones which didn't allow a connection to the Internet. So students in that hall, at least, know what they are doing... or had friends to help them.

According to the Connection Agreement at ResCom's website, "You may not connect hubs, routers, print servers, terminal servers, or other networked devices... You may not use a wired Ethernet port to bridge the connection to or from a wireless port like an airport device." So you are not actually allowed to do what these students are doing in the dorms. But Rescom goes on to explain, "Wireless Ethernet communications is prohibited in the residence halls due to security concerns. Residence hall users have been easily compromised in the past due to wireless Ethernet connectivity." Because they are secure, they are in keeping with the spirit of the rules, though violating the letter. There is a big list of other things you're not allowed to do, so if you care you may wish to read the rest of the document on their website.

Signal Graph		Guest	Signal	Noise	SSI
Secure	managed unencrypted, 1 swt		26	0	0
Secure	managed CopycatSpork		32	0	0
Secure	managed test		26	0	0
Secure	managed linksys1		44	0	0
Secure	managed linksys		20	0	0
Secure	managed @mashnet		26	0	0
Open	ad-hoc Guest		22	0	0
Secure	managed My Router		34	0	0
Secure	managed Dondoggo		42	0	0
Secure	managed MXg0d		31	0	0
Secure	managed FCT		32	0	0
Secure	managed		34	0	0
Secure	managed yourmom		35	0	0
Secure	managed Whisp		50	0	0
Secure	managed linksys		34	0	0

Logan Stack / THE BEHREND BEACON
This list of networks shows how popular using wireless has become.

You probably will not notice the speed difference if you buy cheap, old 802.11b equipment. It's about 12 times faster than a DSL line, so unless you are using it to transfer files to someone else on the wireless network, you will still have to connect through the (comparatively) slow connection.

read the data passing through the space between your router and laptop.

I did a brief survey of wireless networks in a dorm to see if anyone had an unencrypted network. If they did, it would have allowed other students to connect to their network and steal their bandwidth. After

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The Student Life section is looking for fiction, poetry, and/or non-fiction writers to contribute to a new column. If you are interested in having your work published, don't hesitate to e-mail us at SLeditor@psu.edu.