



# Capital Times

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## Education Needed to Halt Spread of AIDS

By Jan Travers

"The safety of the heterosexual community is largely an illusion."

This was one of the conclusions of a report on AIDS recently released by Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Long thought to be a drug addict or homosexual disease, AIDS, which is spread by the exchange of body fluids, is beginning to appear in heterosexuals. The report projects that within five years as many heterosexuals as homosexuals could carry the virus.

Presently there are 36,058 reported known cases of AIDS in the United States, with an estimate that 1.5 million people carry the virus. Of these, 20,849 have died as of June 1, 1987. There is no cure at this time and according to the National Academy of Science, there is not a cure in the immediate future.

Pennsylvania has 984 cases of AIDS. Experts predict that by 1991, 16,000 Pennsylvanians could have the disease. The danger lies in the situation that most of those infected with AIDS have no symptoms and therefore may unknowingly be infecting others.

In an August speech given locally by Dr. Steven Bowen, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control's Center for AIDS Prevention Services, he said the best tool against the spread of the deadly virus is education.

According to Jerry South, assistant provost for student affairs, Penn State is planning programs to heighten people's awareness of the disease. "College students do not appear to be taking it [AIDS] seriously. For this reason, Jean Kresge (coordinator of nursing services) is in the process of choosing speakers to make our students better informed," said South.

### Clearing Up the Misconceptions

There are many misconceptions about AIDS. In an attempt to make information available to you, we are reprinting the following taken from a pamphlet of the American Social Health Association.

#### What is AIDS?

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a condition that breaks down part of the body's immune system, leaving the body defenseless in fighting off infection.

The first AIDS cases in the nation were reported in 1981. Since then, AIDS cases have doubled roughly every year. AIDS has been fatal in more than 50 percent of reported cases and over time the fatality rate is expected to reach 100 percent. So far, no one diagnosed with AIDS has recovered.

#### How do people get AIDS?

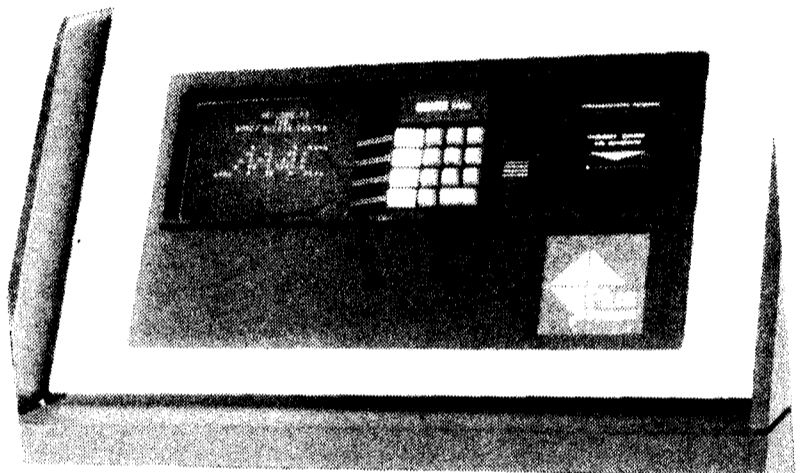
AIDS is most commonly passed from person to person through sexual contact as are other sexually transmissible diseases (STDs). AIDS appears to be transmitted primarily through exposure to infected semen or blood, and possibly through vaginal or cervical secretions, urine and feces. Although the virus has been isolated in saliva and tears, there is no evidence that AIDS is spread through these fluids during casual contact. There is some concern that saliva might be capable of transmitting the virus during intimate sexual contact.

#### Can AIDS be spread through casual contact?

No! AIDS is not spread through activities such as working in a group setting, eating in restaurants, swimming in public pools, shaking hands or hugging. There has never been a case reported in which AIDS was acquired from casual contact.

(Please see box on page 8 for more information.)

## Snap Your Mac at Cap



During this past summer an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) was installed in the Bookstore. Anyone with a MAC card will be able to draw funds from his or her account. With the addition of the ATM, the check cashing services previously available in the Finance Office have been discontinued.

Students are being advised by Don Plourde, financial officer, to consider establishing an account with a local bank which provides MAC card service because typically area banks have not cashed personal checks unless the individual has established an account.

Arrangements have been made with the Jamesway Plaza Branch of the Homestead Bank to cash student payroll checks. The Finance Office will validate student payroll checks for this purpose.

Other ATM locations are: Commonwealth National Bank, Brown & Union Streets, Cash Stream; Hamilton Bank, Giant Plaza, MAC; Homestead Savings, Jamesway Plaza, Cash Stream.

## Graduates Finding Tight Job Market

By Jan Travers

On the average, most college graduates across the nation are not landing jobs in their major within the first five months after graduation, according to a study released in August by the College Placement Council (CPC).

Peg O'Hara, coordinator of career services at Penn State Harrisburg agrees with this assessment. "A few years ago I never thought I'd see the day when engineers would find it hard to get jobs," she said. O'Hara says that while civil and structural engineering graduates are finding jobs relatively easily, electrical and mechanical engineers are not.

In addition, business majors are having a more difficult time finding jobs within their field of expertise. However, business majors are able to overcome this because they have more options than other majors, said O'Hara.

O'Hara offered some advice to overcome the tight market. "Prepare yourself in the best way you can by getting experience while still in school. Try to get a job in the area you are headed while still a student," she said.

The importance of getting a job in your field while still in school is demonstrated by looking at the internship program. "Interns fare better in the job search almost every time," summarized O'Hara.