

CAMPUS

Research grants available for undergraduate students

Mary Jane Thompson
Capital Times Staff

Undergraduates now have the opportunity to receive grants of up to \$500 to do research through the Penn State Harrisburg Undergraduate Research Program. Research will be done in collaboration with a faculty member. "There should be a meeting of the minds

between the faculty member and the student," said Howard Sachs, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

Since this is the first program of its kind, the program has stirred up excitement among the faculty.

"Such a good opportunity will disappear if students don't take advantage of it," declared Mehdi Khosrowpour, Chairman and Assistant Professor of

Information Systems.

Khosrowpour has been a member of the Capital College Research Council for seven years.

"I'm a true believer in undergraduate students," said Khosrowpour, "I've worked with some of the most talented undergraduates here."

Dr. William Mahar, Humanities Division Head said, "Penn State Harrisburg has a lot of confidence in the abilities of the undergraduates."

Sachs said "M.I.T. has a similar program. About one-third of the students participate in M.I.T.'s program."

The faculty affirms the benefits will be numerous for the students who take part in the research program. Khosrowpour said the program will be beneficial to students' careers.

"Graduate schools will be more interested in a student that participated in a research program," Sachs.

Along with these benefits, students may be eligible for academic credit. This can be done by registering for a course such as 496, Independent Study. It may even be used to satisfy a senior project for EET majors, states Jerry F. Shoup,

Chairman of the EET program.

Sachs encourages students from all divisions to participate. "This program is designed to be quite open," stated Sachs.

"We're hoping to award ten or more grants," Sachs said.

He added that he would like to see more proposals than money available.

"This way, a division may become excited enough about the program that they may also contribute some money," Sachs said, adding that the committee is optimistic about the program.

Grant applications are available in room W-203. Proposals should be submitted by November 10, 1989.

Getting AIDS is no treat

By Mary Lee Schnable
Capital Times Staff

Free condoms and penny candy were the "treats" given out at a recent seminar in the Gallery Lounge, but according to Dr. Tom Small, AIDS is playing the "tricks" and all college-aged males are the most likely targets.

Six percent of the American population are affected with aids or the HIV virus, Small said, and while heterosexual cases of the disease were rare until two years ago, now the fastest growing group at risk are males between 18 and 25.

"People are blowing this off like it doesn't matter," he said. "We should be panicked."

A group of about 15 people gathered for the Resident Life program "Tricks and Treats" planned by Resident Assistants Tara McKinstry and Gary Kiernan. As though to validate the it-won't-happen-to-me attitude that many people have about the disease, the final minutes before the one o'clock starting time were spent in a mad scramble to round up at least a few people for the speakers to address.

It is projected that within ten years the death rate from AIDS will be higher than from cancer, and the disease will have already killed more people than the two World Wars combined. All ethnic groups and all cultures are susceptible to the virus, and every country in the world has at least one reported case.

According to Small, as of now the only way to combat the disease is through education, as scientists still do not understand how the virus works, and are no closer to a cure now than when AIDS first appeared.

Americans need to "practice the art of reaching into the night stand, pulling out the packet, and putting on the

prophylactic," Small said.

Part of the problem with AIDS education, according to Small, is that Americans like to keep sex in the closet, even though one in six teenagers has contracted a sexually transmitted disease, and one in six high school females have had four different sexual partners.

"Every time you make love to someone," Small said, "you've had sex with everybody they've had sex with." If current trends continue by the year 2000 the average person will have had sex with 30 percent of the population, from an epidemiological perspective.

The candy, condoms and literature on safer sex were from Barbara Nissley of SCAAN, the South Central Aids Assistance Network.

SCAAN runs support groups for people affected with and by AIDS, and also maintains a "bucket" of money to provide financial help in some cases. Another activity that has met with less success is that of holding "Safer Sex Nights" in local bars. Nissley said that many owners, when contacted by SCAAN, say that "we don't want to offend our customers."

"Only one bar will allow it--Spanky's in Hummelstown," Nissley said, happy to provide the plug.

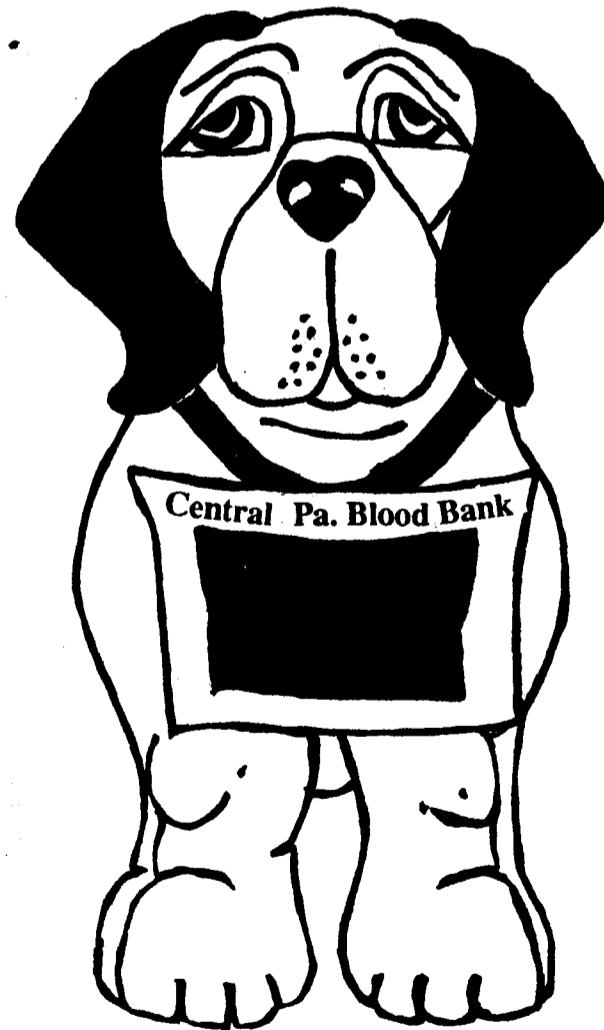
Small said that AIDS is only number four on the list at the National Institute of Health, which is not even considered a priority. Researchers don't want to study it because its so frustrating--a foe they can't conquer.

As long as no cure is in sight, men need to put aside the notion that condoms are somehow "unmanly." The time to think about the problem is not when you're in an emotionally charged situation, but now, when you can decide to form a "safer sex" habit.

"You can prevent AIDS in your life," Small said.

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COME TO THE RESCUE GIVE BLOOD !



The XGI Blood Drive is Monday October 30, from a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Gallery Lounge. The Hershey Medical Center Life Lion will make a special visit, too. This year's blood drive represents a competition between Penn State Harrisburg and other local Penn State campuses to see who will give the most blood.

** STUDENT NOMINEES WANTED **

FOR TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS ON THE

COMMISSION ON RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Any full-time undergraduate student is eligible for nomination. Final selections will be made by President Jordan.

All nominations must be made on the provided form. Forms may be obtained by calling Ngoc-my Guidarelli 948-6070.

All nomination forms must be returned to 405 Old Main no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 1989.

For more information about the Commission, contact Ann Shields, Chair, at 814/863-0621 or Network: 8-433-0621.