

Physician discusses how to avoid AIDS

By Libby Ramsey
Staff Writer

Despite a dramatic increase of AIDS in the past five years, no one is exactly sure where or how it originated.

"It likely originated in central Africa in the mid-1970's -- exactly how is unclear. There was no evidence of cases in the United States prior to 1978," said Dr. Bruce Kelly, outgoing director of UNCA's health services, in a faculty forum Tuesday.

"The introduction of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) into the United States has a Haitian connection," according to Kelly.

After its introduction in the United States, AIDS cases have continued to increase. Thirty-one cases of AIDS were reported in 1981; 1,500 through the summer of 1983; 12,000 through summer of 1985 and 27,000 cases through November.

Kelly reported that 55 percent of people with AIDS (PWA's as they prefer to be called, rather than victims) are already dead with a mortality rate of 75 percent within two years acquiring of the full syndrome.

At least 1,000 new cases are reported monthly. Medical estimates show that as many as two million people in the United States have contracted the virus.

Despite this number, UNCA students have not reported any AIDS-related illnesses.

"No cases of AIDS have been reported on our campus although we are capable of treating a PWA in

the initial stage only. When hospitalization became necessary we would still participate in their care," said Kelly.

College students, according to Kelly, are more susceptible to contract the virus only because of their lifestyles and age group.

Last week the "Banner" reported the ways in which AIDS is transmitted. Kelly dispelled some of the myths surrounding this transmission.

There is no evidence of transmission through ordinary day to day contacts such as coughing, sneezing, light kissing, food or insects.

These steps are offered to prevent contracting AIDS: know your sexual

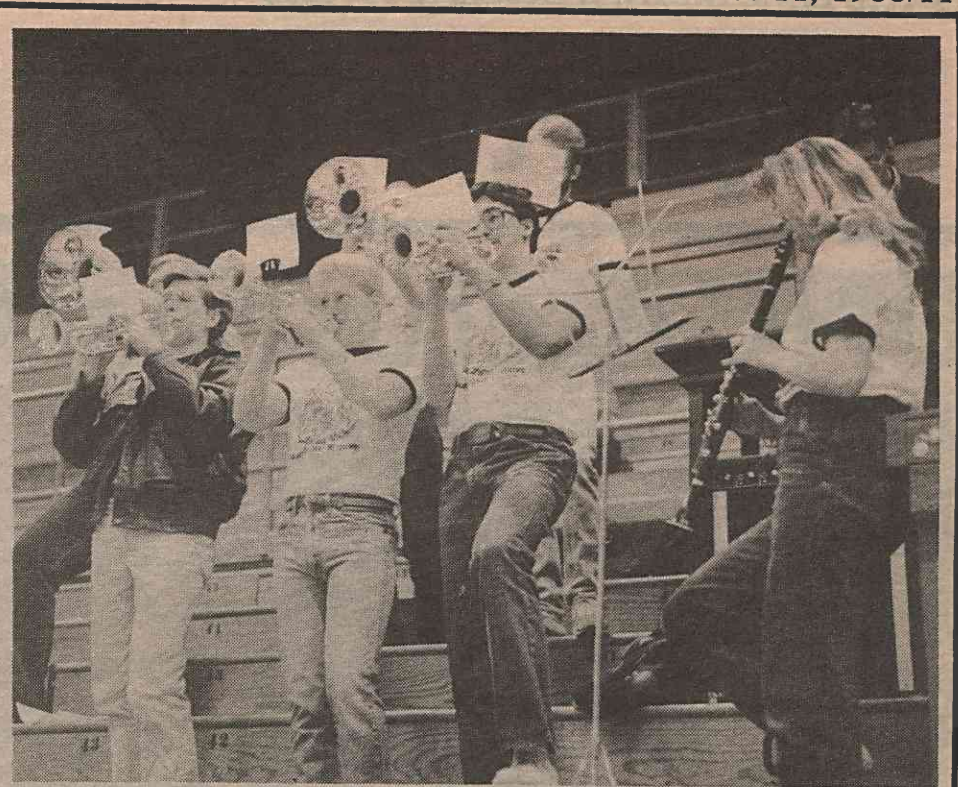
"No one who hasn't been exposed to the AIDS virus needs to get it with the education and knowledge available today."

--Dr. Bruce Kelly

partners; avoid random sex and reduce the number of partners; avoid sexual contact with high risk groups; and, use condoms if having sex outside a monogamous relationship.

Also, avoid the use of alcohol and recreational drugs as these may alter the immune system and impair judgment; do not share or reuse needles; and do not share razors or toothbrushes.

"No one who hasn't been exposed to the AIDS virus needs to get it with the education and knowledge available today," Kelly said.



Staff photo--Sarah Gottfried

Pep power

The pep band performed at the men's basketball game in Justice Center. The Bulldogs defeated Barber-Scotia College 86-65 for their fifteenth consecutive home victory.

GRAND ILLUSION



A war film without a single battle scene, Grand Illusion focuses on French prisoners during WWI. Renoir's anti-war classic succeeds as both gripping adventure and a meditation on the passing of military honor.

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Cast: Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay
French with English subtitles

Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

Monday, December 15 at 4 p.m.

Humanities Lecture Hall

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