

LETTERS

Mandatory HIV tests can stop AIDS virus

To The Editor:

AIDS is a disease that is rapidly spreading to all parts of the world. Once, it was thought that the AIDS virus was limited to three groups: IV drug abusers, homosexuals, and Haitians; however, today that assumption or belief is incorrect. We have heard and learned that anyone can get the AIDS virus, from heterosexuals to any person of any race or ethnic background.

We must put a stop to this disease. Therefore, testing for the AIDS virus should be mandatory.

Mandatory testing for AIDS would inform people who have the virus that they now are infected. Magic Johnson, for example, has the HIV virus that causes AIDS. He found it out when he had the test for AIDS. He never would have known that he had the virus without having taken the test. As a result, this made him aware that he has the virus that causes AIDS. This clearly shows that it is necessary to have an AIDS test, especially if you are sexually active or on drugs.

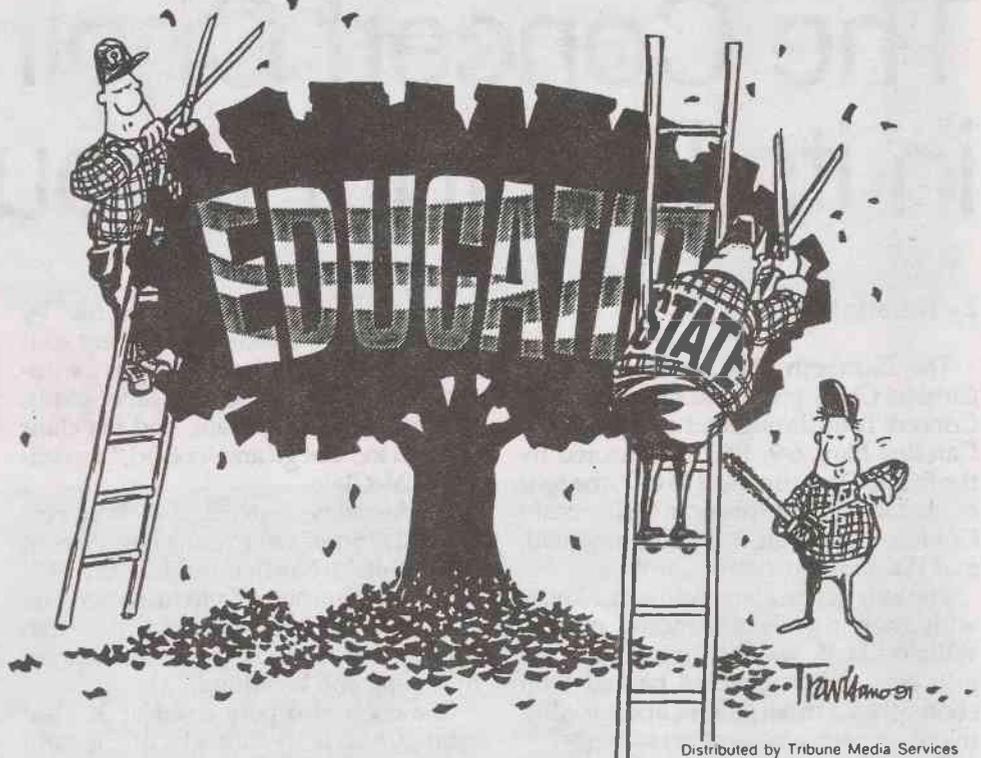
When Magic told the American public that he had the virus that causes AIDS, the public was shocked, but eventually they realized that anyone could catch AIDS and that AIDS should be tested for more frequently.

If you don't know that you have the virus, you could be passing the disease on to people without knowing that you have it. For instance, Magic's former sexual partner evidently did not realize that she had AIDS and as a result infected Magic with the virus. She could be still passing the disease on to other people unless she has been tested for the virus. Our society does not need this chain reaction.

Some people think that testing for the AIDS virus should not be mandatory because many authorities say they cannot guarantee the confidentiality of test results. Opponents to mandatory testing argue that carriers of the virus could be exposed to discrimination by employers, landlords, insurers, and by their immediate family. However, testing for the virus could prolong their lives and who knows, the community may accept them and help with the AIDS virus.

In short, AIDS testing should be mandatory in all aspects of society—from donating blood to the Red Cross to applying for a job. You don't have to be an IV drug abuser to get the AIDS virus. You could simply be a normal teenager who did not know your partner were carrying the AIDS virus. So we should all work to make testing for AIDS mandatory.

Kimberly White



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Students' hopes high despite recession's woes

(CPS) The good news is that there are jobs out there for recent college graduates. The bad news is that the economic downturn has enabled employers to hold the line on initial salary offers, the College Placement Council found in its annual salary survey.

Another survey shows students are optimistic that they will find employment in a short time and expect that the beginning salaries will range from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

The council's fall 1992 salary survey also found that some employers were not able to place graduates in positions that they had been offered. The survey "shows that though the recession did not provide for an abundance of employment opportunities, not all graduates' employment prospects were affected by it," the Bethlehem, Pa.-based council said.

Broken down by major, the council's survey showed the ups and downs graduates can experience in beginning wages:

Nursing: Graduates received starting salary offers 10 percent or more higher than last year, up to \$32,597. Allied health graduates' salaries jumped 7.2 percent to an average of \$31,568.

Chemical engineers: The average starting salary increased 4.6 percent to \$39,216. Electrical engineers had initial salary offers average \$34,033, and mechanical engineers received offers of \$34,546.

Civil engineers: The average initial offer fell slightly to \$29,600. Offers from state and local governments for civil engineers rose.

Liberal arts: Most disciplines lost ground, the survey found.

Accounting: Starting salaries for recent graduates rose 2.7 percent to an

average offer of \$27,351.

MBA graduates: Those with non-technical undergraduate degrees gained 2.4 percent for an average offer of \$36,096. Those with technical undergraduate degrees had an average offer of \$40,195 up 4.2 percent.

The survey was made of offers extended to students graduating between Sept. 1, 1991 and Aug. 31, 1992.

Meanwhile, a survey done by Philadelphia-based Right Associates found that despite the ongoing recession, college students expect a relatively short job search, starting salaries between \$20,000 and \$30,000 and a promotion within one to two years.

Right Associates surveyed 325 students nationwide during career seminars for the annual survey, which measures career preferences and goals, job search and career expectations and attitudes about future career advancement.

This year 65 percent of the students surveyed expect beginning salaries to top out at \$30,000, and five percent expect to receive more than \$35,000. There is some concern that these high expectations may be out of line with the reality of the current job market.

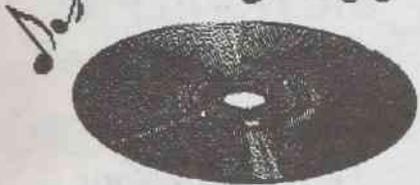
"It is important to ensure that students' expectations are in sync with the realities of the marketplace," said Stanley Tilton, president of Right Associates. "If they are not, employers will have a lot of unsatisfied employees on their hands."

A majority—91 percent—of students are still optimistic about their future career plans despite the sluggish economy, and 75 percent expect to have the same or better standard of living as their parents, the majority of whom hold professional positions.

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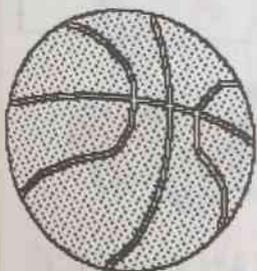


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