



The Decree

VOL. 4, NO. 6

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1988

AIDS threat grows on campuses

As many as three out of every one thousand college students may have AIDS, the preliminary results of a nationwide study involving 20 campuses show.

The results, if they hold up when the full study is completed in February, would indicate students are not paying much attention to efforts to get them to change their sex habits and mean a significant portion of the American student body is at risk of catching — and dying — of AIDS, observers say.

"If the figures hold up, there is more concern than we had anticipated," said Dr. Rolan Zick, director of the University of Colorado health center. "If there is an infection rate in that range then students will simply have to start paying more attention to educating themselves."

"At this point, the numbers are so preliminary it's practically meaningless," cautioned Anne Sims of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC.) "Meaningful estimates" won't be proper until the study is finished in

February.

The CDC, along with the American College Health Association, is gathering and testing 1,000 blood samples drawn from students on 20 campuses for other medical reasons to see how far AIDS has spread.

Few know which 20 campuses are in the study, but Tulane and Rutgers universities as well as the universities of Colorado, Maryland and Georgia have acknowledged they're participating.

AIDS (acquired immune defi-

ciency syndrome) is caused by a virus which destroys the body's immune system. The virus is most typically contracted by having sex or sharing intravenous needles with an infected person, or by contaminated blood products. There have been more than 76,000 cases reported in the United States since 1981, with 43,000 fatalities.

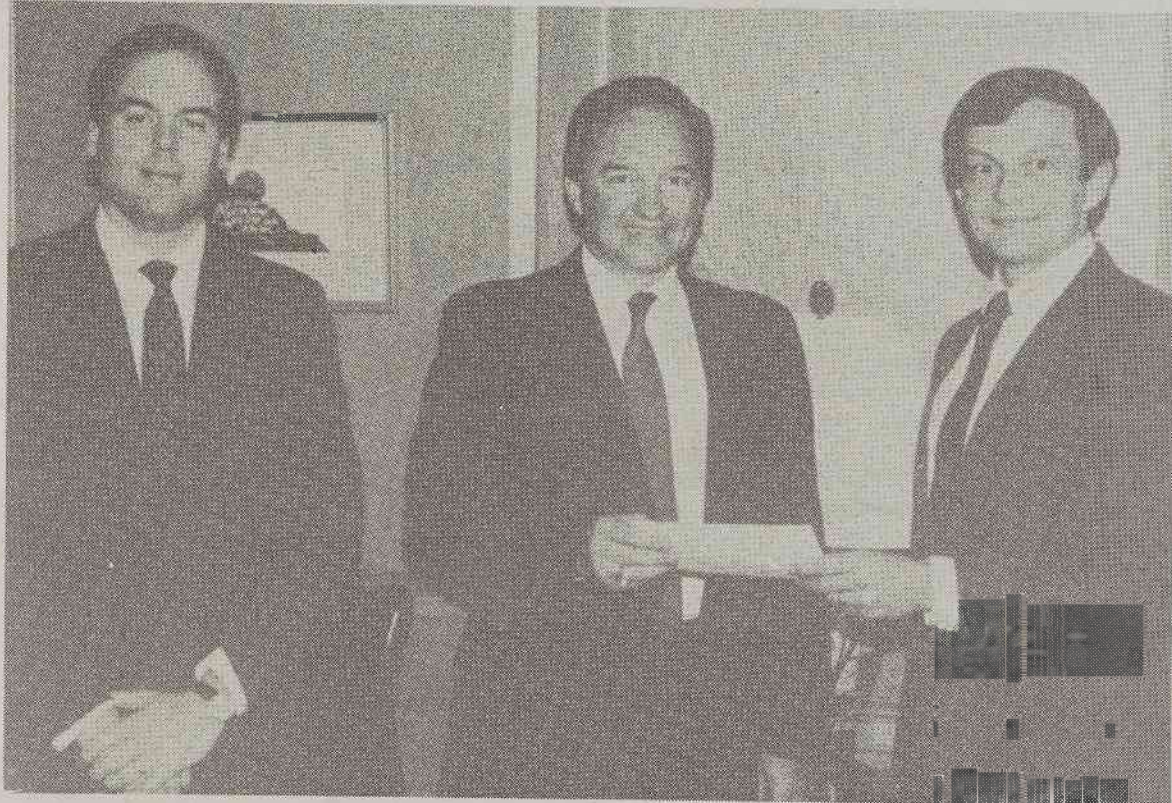
Campus lifestyles, health administrators believe, leave students especially vulnerable to the disease.

"Students are a sexually active

group," said Dr. Florence Winship of the University of Georgia health center. And because they tend to be young and inexperienced, "they feel immune, even when they know the problem's out there."

Many students objected to the CDC study when it was proposed last spring, noting they would never know if a blood sample they gave at their clinic was being tested or if, in the end, they tested positive for the

(Continued on Page 4)



MAJOR DONATION — A check for \$24,570 for the endowment fund was recently presented to North Carolina Wesleyan College from the Independent Insurers. Frank Wilson (center) with the Frank Wilson Agency presents the check to Wesleyan President Leslie H. Garner, Jr. At left is Reid Rhodes of Mixon Insurance and Realty.

Marron says no to condom dispensation

By TERRIE ROBERTS

Dr. Joseph Marron, Dean of Student Life, decided that condoms will not be dispensed at North Carolina Wesleyan due to the college's "legal liability if someone contracted V.D., AIDS, or got pregnant and sues the institution."

Marron said he does not know where Janice Stump, the college nurse, received permission to dispense condoms last year. But Marron, who is in his first year at Wesleyan, said he is "ultimately responsible for health services and takes full responsibility for the decision." He also believes the United Methodist Church would have the same views on the issue. He stated that he went to the administrative council and told them what he wished to do.

Stump states that she was notified by Marron that health services would not be selling condoms on campus. She is disappointed with Marron's decision but, "will abide by the rules of the college." She also stated that she will "continue to educate anyone to make them aware of the need to use (condoms,) and added that she hopes that "students will go out and buy them on their own."

According to Stump, last year the condoms were "available in the R.A. offices of two dorms as an experiment to see if they would sell." The condoms were sold at cost and Stump



DEAN MARRON

said they "always sold with no problems."

Michelle House, a student, believes that the condoms should be available on campus because "it helps the students out and the school should not be held liable if a student catches a disease or becomes pregnant." Another student, Michael Miele, believes it is "definitely wrong" not to have condoms dispensed on campus. "College is a place where they are needed because many (college) students are not ready

(Continued on Page 4)

Computer lab user-friendly

Initially, some students are leery as they approach the newcomer. Although it does not appear threatening, its powers far exceed the limits of the human mind.

However, once introductions are made, students find the newcomer to be extremely friendly. To be exact, the new arrival is "user-friendly," for it is the recently-installed Novell network system which is now in place in the computer lab on campus.

"Within five minutes, students are familiar enough with the system that they can feel comfortable to work independently," said Dr. Alex Koohang, assistant professor of

Computer Information Systems (CIS).

"The system is easy to use," said Ronnie Rogers, a freshman who plans a career in the business sector. "There are a lot of students in and out of the lab, and everybody seems to be working on something different. Some are writing papers and somebody else might be writing a program in BASIC."

Student response to the updating of the lab has been positive, but there are always those who doubt their own ability to establish a good working relationship with the computer. The CIS department strives to make it as

easy as possible for these wary students to overcome their disquiet. The department is achieving its goal by implementing two ideas: simplicity and ease-of-use.

"We have tried to make access simple; our students learn from us and from each other so that they can work independently and still feel at ease," said Koohang.

The computer lab is open for use by all students and faculty 80 hours a week.

Students use IBM computers centered on the Novell network system.

(Continued on Page 4)