

By 2000, AIDS cases will reach 30 million

By CATHY SNOVEL

A seminar dealing with AIDS was held in the Lecture Hall on Tuesday, April 4, 1995, from 7-9:00 p.m.

Dr. Edmond P. Hogan, Ph.D., chairman of the Human Services Department at WCC facilitated the event.

Dr. James N. Atkins, a local physician and leading expert on AIDS, spoke about the medical aspects of the virus and the impending epidemic due to hit Eastern North Carolina.

Atkins said, "Since 1981 over 1/2 million people have been diagnosed with AIDS in the U.S. and about 250,000 have died from it. More will die from it this year than from the casualties of the Vietnam War."

The origin of AIDS is thought to have been from the Equatorial region of Africa where a breed of monkeys transmitted a virus to the human population in one of 4 ways: bites, clubbing of monkeys, the eating of raw

monkey brains (considered a delicacy), and the injection of monkey blood into humans during puberty rites. The virus gets into one's DNA by making its own DNA and infiltrating it into the cell structure. The resultant infection lasts a lifetime.

Health care workers and scientists do not have the technology to separate the altered DNA from the real DNA in the cell structures and toss it out of the body.

If they did, they could solve a lot of other diseases such as Downs Syndrome, Sickle Cell and Tay Sachs.

The AIDS virus destroys helper cells such as the suppressor cells, the B cells and the lymphocytes (white blood cells), all of which function to produce antibodies against various foreign substances and germs.

Without the natural defenses to fight this virus, it seems to have free rein to kill the patient.



AIDS panelists pose after the Seminar: (l to r) Dr. James Atkins, Frank, Diane Duncan, and John David Duncan. PHOTO: CATHY SNOVEL

Atkins said that a majority (1-10 million) of AIDS-infected individuals remain symptom-free without any problems until the end of their lives.

A large number of infected persons are unaware they have AIDS and continue to infect the rest of the population.

In May 1992, AIDS was the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. The total number

of cases in Wayne County is 97.

Of the 14,000,000 cases worldwide, 14% are female and 86% are male.

By 2000, that number will increase.

Of the people who become infected with HIV in 1995, only 10% will have developed full-blown AIDS by 2000.

continued p. 14

Lecturer discusses eating disorders

By CATHERINE GERRINGER

Can you remember a time in your life when weight wasn't a problem?

This was the question Dr. Mary Louise Bringle asked on March 14, 1995, when she began her

presentation, "The Cult of Thinness," a seminar the Diversity Task Force sponsored for Women's History Month.

Annette Hawkins, math instructor and chair of the Task Force, introduced Bringle to more than 120 Faculty, staff, and

students who met in the Lecture Hall to hear Bringle.

She is the Jefferson-Pilot professor of religion and Chair of the Humanities and Fine Arts division at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg.

Dr. Bringle showed pictures dating from as early as 30,000 BCE, (Before the Common Era) to the 20th century to depict how societal images of women have changed. She said, "From 30,000 BC until about 1950, fat was pleasing."

She cited several factors as influences in our equating feminine beauty with being thin: mass produced clothing with standardized sizes instead of homemade clothes, the development of charts with ideal weights, and the invention of the household scales.

Bringle presented several statistics to support her theory that women are inordinately concerned about their weight.

She stated that 65 million Americans are dieting on any given day and that 75 percent of adults who are within their ideal range of weight for their height still think they need to be thinner.

She also said 66 percent of women reported in a survey that one of their greatest worries is getting fat.

About 42 percent of women in the same survey would rather lose 10 to 15 pounds than to find success in their relationships or careers.

This same survey revealed that 33 percent of all female college students habitually use laxatives, vomiting techniques, and diuretics.

continued p. 14



Diversity Task Force members Diane Price (l) and Annette Hawkins (c) confer with Dr. Bringle (r) before her presentation. PHOTO: CATHERINE GERRINGER