

Health center tries to quell AIDS fears

'If something is happening around you, you get involved. You can't just put your head in the sand.'

**— Oscar Battle,
SJSU health educator**

By Paul Ruffner

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Student Health Services may soon have a plan for the campus community concerning its policies on AIDS.

"Within the next two weeks we will come out with a plan of some sort as to how we can best inform our population at SJSU," said Oscar Battle, campus health educator.

"It is also important that we clarify AIDS as a disease and dispel all the myths."

Battle said he has worked closely since August with Dr. Robert Latta, associate director of the health center, and the pair plans

to continue studying the AIDS issue before releasing information to the public.

The center's decision to come up with such a plan derived from a need to respond to the paranoia it has seen in society as a whole toward the issue and to join forces with other local and national institutions studying the problem, he said.

"There's no reason to wonder, 'Should we do it?'" Battle explained. "It's justified because we feel it is our role to somehow provide that information that our students are seeking."

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you have to get involved. You can't just put your head in the sand."

Last Tuesday, the center's staff attended a campus AIDS training session, sponsored by the Santa Clara County Health Department. The chief concerns of health professionals who attended the session seemed to be diagnosis, treatment, transmission and the history of AIDS, Battle said.

"Some people are saying there are no dangers," he said. "Others are saying 'I bet it is (dangerous).' We're talking about the conflicts which are going on."

Battle said he and other staff members intend to keep abreast of the AIDS situation and hope to come up with a plan which will inform not only students but the entire community.

He said he was interested in knowing how city and state officials such as School Superintendent Ramon Cortines are handling the AIDS dilemma.

Cortines said Friday that his San Jose Unified School District staff is preparing an AIDS policy statement that his staff will present at the meeting with the Department of

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