

## Something We Should Know

Magic Johnson. Freddie Mercury. Ryan White. These names are familiar to everyone as those of victims of the AIDS virus. Although almost everyone recognizes the famous names and faces of those afflicted, many people are not aware of exactly what the virus is and how it can be contracted.

For this reason, the Student Assistance Advisory Council sponsored an AIDS Awareness Week March 16-20. The council designed a number of ways in which to inform the school. The members of the club all wore T-shirts emblazoned with the logo, "The future of society is in our hands: It begins with only one." The student body could also purchase a shirt.

The highlight of the week was an assembly for each grade. The assemblies, planned by junior Michelle Levy, brought in speakers from AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, (A.V.O.C.) an organization started in 1985 to promote AIDS awareness around our area. Education Specialist Meg Deedrick spoke to the students about methods of contracting the HIV virus, how long it takes to be detected, and where to go to be tested (the Cincinnati Health Center.) Bob Garre, a volunteer with A.V.O.C., gave a heart-rending personal testimony to the students.

Senior Anne Sherman commented, "I think he gave a really strong message that anyone

can contract the AIDS virus, through no fault of our own. It is not only homosexuals and intravenous drug-users who are at risk."

That is exactly why the council felt it was necessary to provide Sycamore with the opportunity to learn more about AIDS. Advisor Terry Delaney emphasized, "Everyone in this building is at risk of acquiring the disease!"

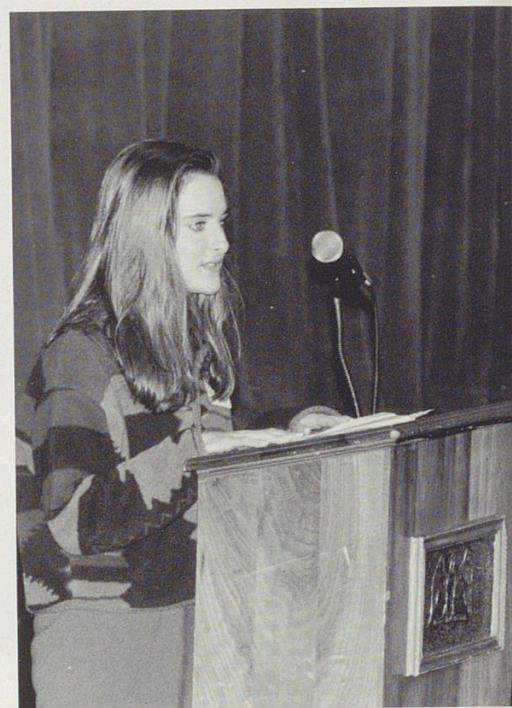
Science teacher Mary Rettig said, "I feel it is very important for everybody to be informed about the disease, so we do not have to deal with unnecessary and avoidable fears and prejudices. If people are correctly informed as to how they can and can not get the disease, we will make society a much more liveable place for those who suffer from it."

There were a few major points that Delaney felt that students should have received during the week, "First, that they are at risk! Also, that their age group is one of the populations in which the disease is spreading the fastest, that the disease is preventable, and that there is absolutely no room for close-mindedness or prejudice."

The council's main hope is that through that week of AIDS education, irrational fears were dispelled and students came away more informed about a very real threat to modern society.

by Courtney Shackelford

Junior Michelle Levy introduces education specialist Meg Deedrick at the A.I.D.S. assembly. Levy coordinated the whole week's activities, including the speakers.



## Peer Counseling

**Front Row:** T. Amazon, S. Beck, A. Howard, M. Levy, A. Orringer, M. Keller, E. Seeskin, S. Wasserman. **Middle Row:** S. Hertzman, A. Rothman, S. Stauffer, H. Sunkara, J. Fox, N. Bajwa, T. Williams, M. Better. **Back Row:** A. Faust, A. Rosel, C. Honsaker, B. Rosel, M. Shuller, J. Shaul.



## S. A. D. D.

**Front Row:** S. Beck, A. Howard, R. Mayes, D. Mason, S. Hamilton. **Middle Row:** H. Tillipman, S. Stauffer, H. Sunkara, D. Bebout, S. Tekulve, K. Springer, S. Miller, U. Haq. **Back Row:** K. Brown, M. Gannon, J. Brown, J. Fox, T. Williams, M. Better, A. Mills, L. Niehaus.

