

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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## Women, AIDS subject of awareness talk

By Tracy Connor

Women should understand that there is no danger of contracting AIDS from casual contact and that the use of condoms during sexual intercourse can prevent transmission of the disease, Laura Pinsky, a clinical social worker at the University Health Services said last night.

Pinsky spoke to a group of eleven last night as part of AIDS Awareness Week at Columbia.

An advisor to the campus Gay Health Advocacy Project, Pinsky discussed the general causes, characteristics, and risk groups involved with AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), which she said over 29,000 people in the United States have.

“Condoms stop the spread of the virus. That is to say that as long as it doesn't break, latex is an effective barrier,” Pinsky said.

“If you don't know your partner's history, you have to consider him an infected person. If you don't know his sexual history, then you had better use condoms as part of safe-sex,” she said.

Pinsky emphasized that “safe” sexual practices were essential in the prevention of AIDS. “You should not let someone ejaculate in your mouth,” she said.

Women need to get over their fears of buying condoms and asking their partners to use them, Pinsky said. "Go with a friend and buy condoms," she urged. "Learn to get over it."

Putting her entire hand inside a condom, Pinsky said, "See? So if a partner tells you he can't use condoms because he's too big, don't believe it."

Thus far, she said, 1,990 women have been diagnosed with AIDS, seven percent of the total AIDS victims.