

Photo: Gregg Benson

*"If you feel you can accomplish good things, you should stick with it and weather the storm."*

—CSUN Vice President Joe Mills, reflecting on the tumultuous last year enduring heated relationships with former student government leaders John Pida and Pat Smith, and defending himself against impropriety.

## Study: 10-minute HIV test accurate, Could help boost AIDS counseling

By Erich Smith  
Associated Press Writer

A 10-minute test accurately shows whether a person has HIV, much quicker than the standard four hours, and researchers hope it will help get more people who test positive into counseling.

In addition to usual hours-long delays, some hospitals run test samples only twice per month, according to a study in a recent issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Faster test results would lead to almost immediate counseling for patients found to have HIV, the AIDS-causing virus. Typically, many patients who get tested never return to learn their test results, let alone get counseling.

"Rapid tests ... could make a big difference in controlling this worldwide epidemic," said study author Dr. Kathleen Irwin of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Only one reliable rapid HIV test is available to U.S. labs, although 14 have been developed in the United States, according to an editorial accompanying the study.

The cost and time of winning regulatory approval from the Food and Drug Administration, the difficulty in obtaining patents and the

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—Dr. Kathleen Irwin, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

editorial said.

"Manufacturers ... should be encouraged to seek approval of their products in the United States so that two rapid HIV tests could be used in combination to allow for more precise counseling," the editorial said.

In the study, the rapid test was compared to a standard test on 837 patients at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center in New York from 1992 to 1994.

Both tests found 45 positive results. Although the rapid test found seven "weak" positives later determined to be negative results, researchers still consider the rapid test very accurate.

Of the study patients, just 57.5 percent returned to learn their test results. Researchers were not able to measure how many patients would have stayed for counseling if rapid test results had been reported to them immediately.

Even if the results could have been reported, a second test would be needed to confirm the positive results, Irwin said.

"But the advantage of using the rapid test is that people testing positive can be counseled that this is the result of a preliminary test, and they are more likely to come back for the results of the confirmatory test," she said.

perception of a small market have discouraged manufacturers, the

## SHOCK,

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Her enthusiasm waned when she found it difficult to adjust. "UNLV is far from making me feel at home," she said. "I feel I have to just get my degree and go back to the land of beauty."

Hardigree estimates less than one percent of international students leave before finishing their degrees. Only about 35 percent of full-time UNLV students graduate in six years, making international students among the most tenacious.

"We lose (some) domestic students because they can't afford school or they get tired of it," Hardigree said. "An international student doesn't have that option."

Archibald has had doubts. "Al-

most every month I think about quitting. UNLV is literally a new world to me (but) I feel I have to do right by my family."

Harewood is optimistic. "I never felt like I wanted to quit and go home because I came here with a specific purpose and I intend to fulfill those goals."

## MILLS,

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icipates in various multicultural organizations including the Student Organization of Latinos. He said his ethnically diverse upbringing in New Jersey makes it quite natural for him to be a member of many different, ethnically-centered organizations.

Upon graduation, Mills aspires to manage a hotel or resort. He said he's also considering designing resorts.

Many students have only seen Mills in his capacity as vice president, but he has many interests outside of the CSUN office. He has been active in fencing and track since childhood. His prowess as a gardener earned him the second- and third-place spots at a York York agriculture contest this summer.

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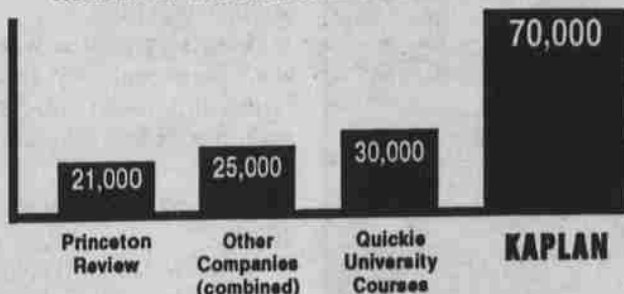
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