AIDS panel comes to Lafayette for discussion

by Melissa Lennox

Lafayette students and concerned Easton residents filled the Reverend Calhoun Chapel Tuesday night to participate in a panel discussion about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

The Chapel was packed with people listening to, and asking questions of, Ms. Alice Clark, from the medical profession, and Reverend Calhoun, who helps AIDS sufferers deal with the disease and David, an actual AIDS victim. Most questions asked by the audience were directed towards David.

The actual way or time he was contracted AIDS was difficult to pinpoint. Besides the generally well known ways of contracting the disease, by sexual, vaginal or anal intercourse with an infected person coming in contact with the blood of an infected person, all the panel members talked about high risk behavior such as drinking and experimenting with drugs.

Ms. Clark was especially concerned with high school and college-age people because of the lack of education on the facts about AIDS and its transmission. David reiterated the need for increased education. He also stressed throughout the program that AIDS patients are people too. He explained that it is not actually AIDS that kills, but the disease that one contracts because of the deficiency in the immune system that actually constitutes the illness.

David had twice before been hospitalised for pneumonia. This, he said, was very frightening, because of the treatment he received. The doctors and nurses were masks and gloves when confronted Boy — you never know). Of course, perhaps neither candidate is that wonderful. There's always 1987. There's also 2083 if you're willing to wait for the Straight Edge Guy. A columnist can dream, can't he?

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AIDS crisis has to do with well known ways of contracting the disease. For example, the blood of an uninfected person coming in contact with the blood of an infected person, all the panel members talked about high risk behavior such as drinking and experimenting with drugs.

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