

Love or Lust?

STAFF WRITER
JILLIAN STEVENSON

Freshman Christine Isselhard said she didn't necessarily go to the Love or Lust event on Feb. 12 in the Campus Center to learn anything about sex.

But she could have and organizers were banking on the promise of free manicures and chocolate to lure students into the possibility of actually picking up some information about safer sex.

Orchestrated by the Wellness Center, the Wellness Advisory Committee and the Student Athlete Mentors organization (SAMS) as part of Sexual Awareness Week, the goal of the event was to promote sexual awareness and healthy behaviors.

Maureen Niche, director of the Wellness Center, said Love or Lust, or something like it, could become a yearly tradition and a bigger deal.

"We try to incorporate things like hand massages and manicures because we don't have a good turn out for just an educational seminar," Niche said.

Senior softball player Katie Bitkins, a member of SAMS added, "It's basically a way for people to come in and be in a social setting, and get some free stuff and some information. I know I'd rather do this than go to the Wellness Center and talk to someone."

The Shear Ego School has lent its services in the past, for events like December's Taste of Relaxation and the Wellness Fair. Fran Romanowski, a teacher at Shear

Ego, was surprised at the poor turnout.

"We were mobbed at the Relaxation event," Romanowski said.

Students who did attend could decorate a square for a quilt to be hung outside the Wellness Center, or make Valentines for loved ones. They could also sign a life-size bed, complete with sheets and pillows.

Next to the bed covered with signatures hung a sign that read, "If this looks like a comfy place to be, sign on me."

The point of the bed, on display in the Campus Center for more than a week, was to illustrate how quickly students signed without taking into account who else had signed the bed, or figuratively, who else their partner has been with.

Participants could visit tables set up by Planned Parenthood and AIDS Rochester Inc. (ARI). Planned Parenthood provided information about its Rape Crisis offerings and quizzed students about oft-misconstrued facts about sex.

ARI was offering free Rapid Human Immunodeficiency Virus tests, which are conducted by taking a cheek swab with results in about 20 minutes.

Kaletra, the medicine taken by Magic Johnson, is very effective at prolonging the lives of those with HIV.

Kevin Diego-Roman, a counselor with ARI, said Rapid HIV tests are always available and free at the Health Outreach Center located at 416 Central Ave., down-

town. Testing takes place Monday through Friday, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

ARI, located at 1350 University Ave., provides free services for the disadvantaged, along with a free lunch every day. They participate in a needle exchange and distribute both male and female condoms.

An outreach truck cruises downtown streets looking for those at high risk for STDs and HIV.

Diego-Roman said that counseling begins as soon as a person takes an HIV test. The individual is taught about the risks of unprotected sex and the options available to those who are HIV-positive.

Asked if he'd ever had to tell someone they were HIV-positive, Diego-Roman said, "That's horrible. But I don't like to tell people, when I'm educating, about the medicine that's available today, because then they think they don't have to worry about the disease."

Sarah Menter, a sophomore and an employee of the Wellness Center said the goal of the event was clear.

"It's important that everyone know what's going on so they can make the right choices, and stay protected."

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Snow day comes as surprise to students, Rochester



Brad Waters

The Valentine's Day snowfall beat the 1960 record of 18.4 inches.

CALENDAR EDITOR

MELISSA MOSGELLER

St. John Fisher students received an unexpected Valentine's Day gift this year: a snow day.

"I was surprised. Fisher never closes," senior nursing major Wendy Leyland said. "However, it would have been better if I did not have work all day."

Students awoke to a day off due to record snowfall in Rochester. Within a 24-hour period, just over 20 inches of snow were recorded at the Rochester airport, according to the National Weather service. This beat the previous snowfall record for Valentine's Day of 18.4 inches, set in 1960.

"I was excited to sleep in," senior management major Danita Mann said. "I didn't expect it. It was a nice surprise."

Staying in seemed to be the common theme of the very snowy Feb. 14.

"I stayed home all day and did some cleaning and studying," Heather McGrane, a junior psychology major said. "Then I took a nice nap."

"I usually don't have classes on Wednesday anyway," said junior Robert Patterll. "But it was nice

to stay home anyway."

At certain points throughout the day many accidents and road closing were reported. Interstate 490 East was shut down at around 4 p.m. from the Troop Howell Street Bridge to the Penfield Road exit due to numerous accidents caused by poor road conditions.

The snow even forced the Eastview Mall to close early.

"I closed my store at 6:30 p.m.," said Rachel Raab, a junior who is a manager at Victoria's Secret in Eastview. "The roads were horrible on my drive home."

With snow keeping many people in, Allison Petruczok, a senior who is a Resident Assistant in Founders, wanted to go out and play in the snow.

"No one would go out with me. I tried to get people to help me build a snow man but no one would venture out with me to do it," Petruczok said. "So I settled in and watched movies instead."

With all the snow and cold weather Rochester has experienced this winter, maybe there is still another opportunity for more snow days to come.

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