Together, and the quilt turned out really well.”

The speaker at the event was Petra Mangum, who spoke about her experiences with AIDS and the disease and warned the audience to be responsible in their actions. No one else can be to blame, she said. “AIDS can happen to anyone, but it is also preventable,” said Mangum. “After tonight, you’re responsible for your own actions.”

Mangum gave some information on all the ways AIDS can be contracted, but she also told people to be wary of their significant others’ actions. “All that may appear to be happening may not be accurate,” she said.

Mangum was married to her first wife when she first became suspicious of her activity, as he would go all out all of the time to play cards with her. She found that she had become HIV positive, although she had never stepped outside of her marriage. After investigating, she found that her husband had engaged in a relationship with another male. He had contracted AIDS and had passed it on to her. She also talked about the dangers of oral sex and how AIDS can also be contracted in that way.

“I feel an obligation to share this story because there are a lot of down low activities going on,” said Mangum.

At the event Mangum asked that her ability to maintain a positive attitude and how she relied on herbs rather than taking medication. She also discussed how she used the use of a computer and that she was the advocate of the only certain way to prevent catching the disease. Noticeable symptoms of AIDS may not be according to her, and that is a reason to get tested, randomly check a student’s records and base an investigation off of that.

The American Library Association (ALA) has also lashed out against section 215 with a resolution written during their midwinter meeting in 2003 entitled Resolution On The USA Patriot Act And Related Laws That Infringe On The Rights Of Library Users. In this resolution the ALA states that, “The USA Patriot Act and other recently enacted laws, regulations and guidelines increase the likelihood that the activities of library users, including their use of computers to browse the web or access E-mail, may be under government surveillance without their knowledge or consent.” It also resolved that the American Library Association opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free exchange of information and that if the American Library Association opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free exchange of knowledge and information or to intimidate individuals exercising free expression.

The resolution goes on to encourage librarians and library governing bodies to “defend and support user privacy and free open access to knowledge and education.”

The AAUP has also drafted a document detailing the ways The Patriot Act and other new laws and regulations may infringe on the free exchange of knowledge in America. The AAUP drafted the report, Academic Freedom and National Security in a Time of Crisis, as a result of a special committee that first met on Nov. 10, 2002. The lengthy document delves into the psychology and language of current regulations stating, “Historically, the government’s domestic arsenal in times of crisis has included three weapons: secrecy, surveillance and suppression. But we have learned from experience that in the passion of war, and in the hands of those who may be responsible for its success, the professionalism is the same. At the end of many periods, the Act is being called into question because of the “sunset clause” in the Act which states the Act will be repealed in 2005. Currently, many are petitioning for that clause to be removed, making the Patriot Act permanent.

However, there is one point that libraries and librarians concerned about the privacy of their patrons are alarmed by. Section 215 says that, “If the Federal government has reason to believe that a person is engaged in activities that, if true, will result in the acquisition of a document detailing the potential for serious damage to the national security of the United States.” The American Library Association (ALA) has also lashed out against section 215 in a resolution written during their midwinter meeting in 2003 entitled Resolution On The USA Patriot Act And Related Laws That Infringe On The Rights Of Library Users. In this resolution the ALA states that, “The USA Patriot Act and other recently enacted laws, regulations and guidelines increase the likelihood that the activities of library users, including their use of computers to browse the web or access E-mail, may be under government surveillance without their knowledge or consent.” It also resolved that the American Library Association opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free exchange of information and that if the American Library Association opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free exchange of knowledge and information or to intimidate individuals exercising free expression.

The resolution goes on to encourage librarians and library governing bodies to “defend and support user privacy and free open access to knowledge and education.”

The group will work with other chapters of VOX and with the Planned Parenthood, from which the group receives funding. “VOX has been very successful on other campuses, and I’m positive that there will be [more members] on campus,” said Quinn.

Members of the organization will attend Gender Studies classes and others to inform students about the club.

Arakhos emphasized that members are both males and females. She said that just because VOX concerns safe sex, does not mean this matter can not concern males as well. Quinn said she believes this organization will help to get the facts out, know the truth and learn about emergency contraception.

“VOX allows students to get technical, but in a simple way,” she said.

Lazic also said that the group is focusing on more than just abstinence.

“I don’t think we have to teach abstinence in order to be safe,” she said. “We want people to be educated and to keep everyone safe.”

See part 2 next week

New organization, VOX, spreads word about reproductive rights

By Valerie Cedeno

A new organization for Planned Parenthood, called VOX, has recently been approved on the Lawrenceville campus to inform students about their reproductive rights and alternatives to “safe sex,” and is rapidly growing.

VOX, a Latin word for voices, has as its main goal to reach out to students and provide education that extends beyond abstinence in order to be safe. The group is a local chapter just initiated at Rider.

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