

AIDS telethon raises money — and awareness

by Buzz Bourdon

station, have been busy organizing the World's Longest Day, a 60-and-a-half hour telethon they hope will heighten AIDS awareness and raise \$40,000 for two Montréal community groups.

The telethon got underway Tuesday and ends at 12:30 a.m. tonight.

"We hope to provide a forum to help promote, publicize and support a number of community groups who deal in AIDS edu-

cation" said History student Colin Kish, who is producing the telethon.

The entire telethon is being directed by one person, English student David Jedeikin. That personal marathon will land Jedeikin in *The Guinness Book of Records* for the longest continuous TV transmission under a single director. The old record was 48 hours.

About 90 music, dance and comedy acts, most of whom are local talent were booked

to perform during the telethon. The show can be seen on public access channel 9 for CF Cable subscribers and on channel 49 for Vidéotron subscribers, which was specially set up for the telethon.

Proceeds from the telethon will go to AIDS Community Care Montréal (ACCM), which works with people living with AIDS, and Cactus Montréal, a needle exchange programme operating in the heart of downtown Montréal.

There's still time to help fight AIDS and to set a record.

For the last six months, the people who run CUTV, Concordia's student television

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1. See your undergraduate advisor in your department. Every undergraduate in Arts and Science has a departmental advisor. Make an appointment with the departmental secretary.
2. See the 1992-93 Undergraduate Calendar, "Academic Performance Requirements," page 57.
3. See a professional advisor in the Office of Student Affairs, Arts and Science. Drop by the library (SGW - Room 689) or the Administration Building (Loyola - Room 328). You can also dial 848-2101 or 848-2098.

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PHOTO: Edmund Wong

MA student Danielle Comeau finishes up work on the interactive educational AIDS/HIV video which she hopes will be put to use all over North America to teach youth about protecting themselves against the deadly virus.

When the pilot project is completed later this fall, users will be able to activate questions, answers and choices by either touching the computer screen or by using a computer mouse. Designed on the powerful Commodore Amiga 2000 computer, Comeau is able to use high quality sound including music and text, as well as clear, crisp images.

It is a long process. Comeau first videotapes images she wants to have appear on screen, such as syringes and bleach. She then feeds the images into the computer using a frame grabber and a scanner. Comeau then records music and transfers it into the computer. She does the same with an oral text and proceeds to assemble the computer program.

Information sessions

Comeau is designing three information sections: the first, on HIV and needle use; the second, on safe sex and condom use; and, the third will answer the question, what is HIV?

"I've been a long-time AIDS activist and I produced a documentary video on AIDS and Québec women last fall," Comeau said. "I had all this information on HIV and AIDS, so I married AIDS education with modern technology at Avista."

The project potential is enormous if

Comeau can get it off the ground, said Jon Baggaley, Chair of the Education Department and a consultant for the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

"The Centres for Disease Control recently made educating young adults about HIV a number one priority," Baggaley said. "I have never seen a computer program like Danielle's, which is so easy to use, and fun. I'm bringing the program with me to Atlanta later this year because no one there has any educational tool that comes close to this one. It is a unique and powerful way to educate youths."

Helen Bambic Workman, the head of MITE Avista, said Concordia's support for the project speaks volumes.

"The support we're getting shows Concordia's commitment to AIDS education and student innovation. We can now finish this pilot and begin looking for corporate sponsorship."

Comeau would like to see her computer program distributed to educational institutions on an interactive compact disc format. But her greatest ambition is to see the program on video games in arcades.

"What better way to inform teenagers about HIV than on their own turf using a fun multi-media format, with no parent or educator breathing down their necks?" she asked.