Do it the way a true photographer would Watch that tray! Ted Hontz '91 balances a cafeteria tray on his nose during the IFC talent show. The show is a performance by IFC freshman pledges.

AIDS-AWARE
CONCERN ABOUT AIDS: Part III
Understanding the AIDS Virus and Types of Infection

Are you at risk for acquiring AIDS? or an AIDS-caused disease? Although it is not possible to determine the exact number of people infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), it is estimated that one in 100 United States adults carry the virus and are potentially transmitters of infection. Could you be one of these people?

There are two major groups at risk for AIDS: Homosexual and bisexual men and heterosexual women. In the United States, these two groups make up approximately 90% of AIDS cases. Some transmission of HIV also occurs from mother to child and through transfusion or injection of blood or blood products.

Transmission of blood and blood components is much less common now since all blood for transfusions has been tested for the AIDS virus since 1985. There is a decreased risk that a unit of blood with AIDS antibodies could pass through the testing process without detection. The risk for this is about one out of every million units tested. Research, with the numbers of those who have normal blood products, suggests that the risk of transmitting AIDS through blood should be less than .05 per million.

Transmission of some blood borne viruses, both against scientific practice, remains a very important risk. The final major risk group is children born to a mother with AIDS or a partner infected with HIV. This obviously does not affect any MIT students now since the first cases of AIDS infections were detected a decade ago.

If you and your sexual partner are not members of any of these four major risk groups, are you at risk or have you been?

Yes, the answer is yes. AIDS is a potentially devastating disease in individuals and society, and many authorities in the U.S. are concerned about the spread of the virus from high risk groups to the heterosexual population. Let's take a closer look at each of these risk groups and see what we can do to reduce the risk for each group.

1. Men who have sex with men (MSM): This may also account for the high prevalence of the virus in gay men. Intravaginal intercourse, is thought to be the likely mode of transmission of the AIDS virus in approximately 15% of Massachusetts adults. This also accounts for the high prevalence of the virus in gay men and women (although female sexual partners can contract AIDS).

2. Intravenous drug abuse (IVDA): This mode of transmission in gay men.

3. Heterosexual transmission, which occurs when there is exchange of blood between individuals due to use of shared "brand" (or equipment) is thought to be the mode of transmission of the AIDS virus in approximately 15% of Massachusetts adults. This also accounts for the high prevalence of the virus in gay men and women (although female sexual partners can contract AIDS).

Intravenous drug abuse, where there could be exchange of blood between individuals due to use of shared "brand" (or equipment), is thought to be the mode of transmission of the AIDS virus in approximately 15% of Massachusetts adults. This also accounts for the high prevalence of the virus in gay men and women (although female sexual partners can contract AIDS).