



Valerie Hoeppner/Press & Dakotan

Featured speaker Patrick Scully talks about the lack of education and "The Problem With Safe Sex..." Scully was diagnosed as being HIV positive six years ago and travels around the Midwest, talking to groups about the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS benefit held at USD

By COLLEEN O'NEILL
P&D Staff Writer

Patrick Scully slowly smeared a handful of mud over his chest, arms, neck and face. He was trying to make a point.

Scully tested positive for the HIV virus nearly 6 1/2 years ago. He was the guest performer Wednesday evening at the University of South Dakota's 3rd Annual AIDS Benefit Variety Show.

He said he hoped that his message came through — that advertising must get to the point, and that marketing must get "dirty" to educate the public more effectively.

Scully showed slides of ads, many of them government-funded, to prove his point.

"When you talk about America, one thing you must understand is marketing," Scully said. "The message I dealt with tonight was how do we do AIDS education?"

"Many times, AIDS education appears as if it does not predominantly effect the gay community. It's important that the gay community not be ignored," he said.

Scully said that especially in the midwest, there are lack of role models for those who test positive or have acquired AIDS.

"I think it is real important to have events like this, where people have the courage to say, 'I am HIV positive,'" Scully said. "This isn't something from the newspaper or TV — this is real."

USD President Betty Turner Asher gave opening remarks at the benefit, sponsored by the USD AIDS Task Force and proceeds from AIDS-related benefits on campus.

Turner Asher's voice broke as she spoke about a close friend of hers who had gone to Japan to die of AIDS. He felt he had no acceptance

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from close friends or family.

There were several acts in the 2 1/2 hour program, including ones by area female impersonators and a Strollers Act by fraternity Sigma Nu

and sorority Pi Beta Phi.

Scully, a performing artist from Minneapolis, said he hopes to eliminate the hate and misunderstanding that surrounds the disease, one which still has no known cure.

"The frustration, the imagery that

surrounds this epidemic often times is fear-monguring and hate-monguring at worst," Scully said.

"My hope is that present truths not shared before encourage people to think critically."

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