



WORTHY OF RESPECT—*Rhus radicans*, more commonly known as poison ivy, is out in force in the spring woods in every state east of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. J. Lamar Callaway, professor of dermatology, says scratching the dermatitis the plant causes in many people will not spread it, but it's important to wash thoroughly after contact. (Photo by Thad Sparks)

Go Ahead and Scratch

By David Williamson

When you were little and a walk in the spring or summer woods gave you poison ivy, did your mother tell you not to scratch it?

Did she say the itchy blisters would spread if you yielded to the temptation?

Well, medical science can't replace the love and concern a mother offers, but it can set the record straight on some misconceptions about poison ivy and warm weather skin care.

Contrary to popular belief, once poison ivy appears, scratching won't cause it to spread any further, according to Dr. J. Lamar Callaway, professor of dermatology.

Scratching Won't Hurt

As a matter of fact, scratching poison ivy does no harm at all, unless you go overboard, break the

skin and cause the same kind of infection that can result from any cut or scratch.

"Oil from the plant, its stem or its root causes the dermatitis," the past president of the American Academy of Dermatology said. "If you get the oil on your hand and then touch your neck or your leg before washing, you can get it on the neck and legs also.

"But once you take a bath, you can't spread poison ivy any more," he said.

The fluid that "oozes" and "weeps" from poison ivy blisters does not cause additional blisters to form any more than the fluid from a blister raised by a hot coffee burn would cause more blisters to form, the dermatologist said.

Appears To Spread

The reason poison ivy appears to spread is because parts of the body most exposed to the oil develop a rash sooner than those parts that receive only a slight exposure, Callaway pointed out.

Oil from the plant, or from others like poison sumac and poison oak, is not really a poison at all, he said, but rather it is an allergen.

"A given person may be sensitive to any plant. It's unusual for someone to be allergic to roses, for example, but it's possible, and the dermatitis would be essentially the same," Callaway noted.

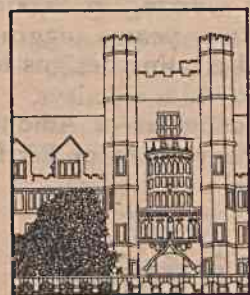
Avoid It

He said there are a lot more people who think they are immune to poison ivy than are, in fact, immune. Some people become sensitive to the plant only after many years of periodic exposure, so it is a good idea for everyone, even those who like to boast they don't get it, to avoid poison ivy.

Poison ivy with its three shiny leaflets is found in every state in the continental United States except California and Nevada, Callaway said. Poison oak grows only in the Pacific Coast states, and poison sumac can be found in most states east of the Mississippi River.

An oak leaf form of poison ivy flourishes in the southeast, he added.

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Intercom

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

For Successful Transplants

Kidneys Flown to Copenhagen

By Joe Sigler

It was a busy Sunday and Monday for the Duke-UNC organ procurement team, but before it was all over their work became international in scope and made some history as well.

It all began early Sunday when the program's coordinator, Duke Physician's Associate Mike Phillips, received word about an accident victim at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville whose family had consented to donate his kidneys for transplant.

Cape Fear is one of a growing number of community hospitals in the South East Organ Procurement Foundation (SEOPF) network that are cooperating in an educational program to interest people in becoming future donors and to encourage the families of accident victims in particular to consent to removal of organs for transplant.

Life-Saving 'Harvest'

In their specially equipped van to transport kidneys and other human

organs, Phillips and his assistant, Physician's Associate Corbin Peterson, and Steve Wallenhaupt, a fourth-year medical student from Bowman Gray School of Medicine who is rotating at Duke, went to Fayetteville and assisted a surgeon remove, or "harvest," the kidneys.

The kidneys were from a person in the rare AB blood group, which Phillips said includes only about five per cent of the population. Kidneys must be matched, donor-to-recipient, by blood group or the recipient's body will reject the transplanted organ. Even matching identical blood groups does not assure the success of a transplant.

For the next 10 hours after returning to Duke, the team plus Leon Hudgins, who operates the SEOPF computer here, made calls throughout the United States and to Canada and to Mexico attempting to locate kidney patients awaiting transplants who were immunologically compatible with the available kidneys.

Finding a Recipient

None was found, so they contacted Eurotransplant in the Netherlands, the organ procurement network for Europe. A suitable recipient was located in Iran, but appropriate transportation to get a kidney there could not be arranged.

Two compatible recipients also were located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

While a transplant technician in Copenhagen named Leo

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Message from the Administration

In the past few weeks a small group calling itself Duke Workers Organizing Committee (DWOC) has been passing out propaganda in front of the hospital.

This group has no official standing with the Union and, as near as we can determine, is simply a new cover for the old "Tell It Like It Is" Communist Workers Committee.

Duke has no intention of answering all the statements printed in their propaganda. They so obviously misuse the truth that it is an insult to everyone's intelligence.

They also seem to want credit for everything positive Duke University does. The reinstatement of Buddy Taylor is a good case in point. DWOC stated they "forced" Duke to take back Buddy Taylor. Actually, Buddy Taylor was returned to work because under Duke Policy he was erroneously terminated. His reinstatement gives further credibility to the employee grievance procedure, not to DWOC.

—Medical Center Administration



THE MED STUDENTS' CHOICE—Dr. Linda A. Clayton, obstetrics-gynecology resident, proudly shows colleagues her Golden Apple Award. Congratulating her at left is Dr. Charles B. Hammond, associate professor of obstetrics-gynecology. Golden Apple Awards also went to Dr. David C. Sabiston, professor and chairman of surgery, and Dr. Bernard F. Fetter, professor of pathology. See p. 3 for the story. (Photo by John Becton)