

VD —

How to Detect it and Where to Go

BY TAD SIMS AND MARK SIEBER

The two most prevalent venereal diseases are gonorrhea and syphilis. In an effort to increase an awareness of venereal disease, we have compiled a brief list of relative data. The following is a summary of VD symptoms and treatment. This information is taken from parts of an article on venereal disease in the *Birth Control Handbook*. We have also included a listing of local treatment centers.

"Symptoms of most sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are more obvious in the male than in the female. The infected male with obvious symptoms is in a position of heavy responsibility; it is his immediate duty to inform his sexual partner(s) of what is usually their common infection.

Gonorrhea and Non-Gonococcal Urethritis:

"Throughout the western world there is an epidemic of gonorrhea. Its principal cause is the increasing resistance of the gonococcus (gonorrhea bacteria) to penicillin.

"In the male, acute urethritis usually develops 2 to 5 days after sexual intercourse with an infected person. There is pain and burning during urination, frequent urination, and a thin discharge escaping from the meatus at the tip of the penis. The discharge soon becomes thick, yellow or yellow-green. The lips of the meatus become red and protrude from the tip of the penis. The first half of urine that is passed is hazy. A slight painful swelling of the lymph glands in the groin sometimes occurs.

"If the infected male is not treated, complications develop. Glands in the urethra can become severely infected, causing abscesses and swelling of the penis. The disease can spread back to Cowper's glands, prostate gland, bladder, seminal vesicles, vas deferens, and epididymis.

"When gonorrhea is suspected in the male, a sample of discharge is examined microscopically. The characteristic gonococcus is usually obvious. Standard treatment for the male is one injection of procaine penicillin G. For resistant cases, more penicillin is used. Ampicillin, tetracycline, erythromycin, and spectinomycin have all been used successfully to treat gonorrhea.

UNC-G and Guilford Arts Series Performances

The touring production of the Broadway play *Shenandoah* will be at Aycock Auditorium on Saturday, November 20, at 8:15 p.m. It is the musical story of a pacifistic family faced with the horrors of the Civil War, and has been acclaimed by viewers and critics alike. Tickets for the production are available at Founders Information Desk.

The UNC-G Dance Company, long known for its exhilarating professional performances, will be at Aycock on Thursday, December 2, and Friday, December 3, at

8:15 p.m. The company's skills and enthusiasm for dance is impressive, and should not be missed. Tickets are at the Information Desk, and are free for Guilford Students.

The acclaimed play *Clarence Darrow*, starring John Chappell, will be at Dana Auditorium on Wednesday, November 17, at 8:15 p.m. Clarence Darrow is the lawyer who represented John Scopes, and worked tirelessly against capital punishment, racism, and religious bigotry. The performance is free for Guilford students and faculty.

The Community Senate meeting will be held this Wednesday evening, November 17, at 6:30 in the conference room, 2nd floor Founders. (Note: the meeting is scheduled

for 6:30 in the conference room instead of 7:30!). All members of the Guilford College are urged and welcome to attend.

"In women, gonorrhea is usually symptomless. The bacteria lodge in the cervix and urethral opening and slowly spread into the reproductive system and bladder. Unless informed of her infection by a male partner, the woman usually goes without treatment until complications develop. Salpingitis, infection of one or both Fallopian tubes, is a common complication, causing disruption in menstrual cycles, severe pain in the lower abdomen, nausea, vomiting, and fever. Unless treated, salpingitis twists the Fallopian tubes with scar tissue, leaving the woman sterile. Diagnosis of gonorrhea in women is difficult, since direct microscopic examination of cervical or urethral discharge is usually inconclusive. In women, gonorrhea is usually diagnosed on the basis of medical history (i.e. an infected partner) and a culture: samples taken from cervix and urethra are put onto a special medium that supports bacterial growth. After a few days the cultures are examined for presence of gonococcus. Since infection in the woman is usually of longer duration, larger doses of penicillin are needed to accomplish a cure.

"Gonorrhea can also infect the anus and rectum. In men this usually results from anal intercourse with an infected man, while in women it is more commonly caused by drainage of bacteria-containing vaginal secretions to the anus.

"There is a rapidly increasing incidence of a less serious urethral disease, or group of diseases in men called non-gonococcal or non-specific urethritis (NGU or NSU). Symptoms are similar to early male gonorrhea, although the discharge usually remains thin and watery. The cause(s) of NGU/NSU can not always be determined, although certain viruses are suspected. Only broad spectrum antibiotics, such as tetracycline, are effective treatment. Complications are rare, the disease being mainly a nuisance and not a danger. A corresponding disease in women has not been discovered.

Syphilis

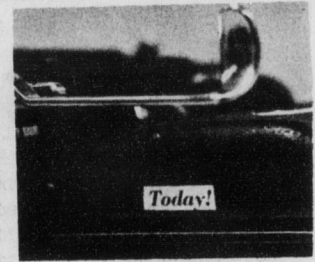
"Syphilis, caused by a microorganism called *T. pallidum*, is the most dangerous STD. The disease usually goes through 4 stages: primary, secondary, latent and late. Primary stage symptoms are more obvious in the male. About 2 to 4 weeks after sexual intercourse with an infected person, a single, small, oval, red spot appears on the penis. This spot rises, becoming a chancre, a painless swelling that eventually ulcerates (opens). Painless swelling of the lymph glands in the groin often occurs. In 50% of uncircumcised men, the chancre develops under the foreskin, making retraction impossible. In women, the chancre usually develops on the cervix and is not obvious except during speculum examination. Microscopic examination of fluid squeezed from the chancre usually reveals *T. pallidum*.

"Even if the disease is not treated, the chancre soon disappears. Within a few days of months the rash of secondary syphilis appears on the chest, shoulders, abdomen, and around the anus. At first, the rash consists of smooth, reddish or colorless areas; soon the spots become raised and copper or brownish, spreading to the face, palms and soles. Definite diagnosis in the secondary stage is made on the basis of various blood tests.

"If secondary syphilis is not treated, the symptoms usually disappear in 3 to 9 months. The disease enters the latent stage, which can continue for a few years to 50 years. During this time *T. pallidum* insidiously attacks one or more of several susceptible body tissues. When results of this prolonged, steady destruction become obvious (e.g. heart attacks, paralysis, insanity etc.) the person is said to have late syphilis.

"Treatment for all stages of syphilis is penicillin. *T. pallidum* is extremely sensitive to this antibiotic. Tetracycline is also effective. Antibiotics completely cure primary and secondary syphilis, and can stop the destructive processes of the latent disease."

If you suspect that you display symptoms of venereal disease, we strongly urge you to undergo the necessary concusive tests and treatment if required. The Guilford County Health Department at 301 N. Eugene St. offers treatment free of charge at their VD Clinic. The Family Planning Center at 201 S. Spring St. also gives free treatment. In addition the Guilford College Infirmary insures personal, confidential treatment for a slight fee.



Recollections at the Typewriter

BY RUTHANNA HAINES

"You really ought to write some stories about your parents. They sound like such funny people. I'd love to read something like that for a change."

When I heard that, I thought, they really aren't such colorful people. It's just the way I look at them and remember the past. It's always more fun to look at the past than to look at the droll present. So I think of the good times and the humor of the bad.

Like the time my mother was in the bathroom doing the wash. We didn't have one of those baths with only tub, bowl, and basin. We had one of those created for the true farm family, made for the dirty farmer who wants to undress, throw his filthy clothes in the washer, take a shower, dry off, take the clothes out of the washer and put them in the dryer, shave and manicure, bandaid the fresh cuts of the day, take the warm clothes out of the dryer and get dressed, just in time for overcooked beef and green beans and frazzled wife.

Anyway, about my mother doing the wash. She was in that big bathroom there doing the wash, and for some reason, (perhaps that she found some money in one of Daddy's pockets which has always been rare) she yelled in her most piercing voice, Jiminy Cricket Cakes!

Now I knew that she wasn't just faintly annoyed, because in that case she would have merely exclaimed Good Grief! And I knew that she wasn't just mad, because then she would have cried Jiminy Crickets! This time she was totally discombobulated. I knew this because of that added word Cakes.

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