

Kaposi's Sarcoma

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concerned about, and regularly checked for syphilis and gonorrhea. However, he did kindly provide us with the information to draw up the chart on page 4.

Please keep in mind that these splotches occur in only half of the gay men seen so far.

SPECULATIONS

What is there in gay men's lifestyles that makes them more likely to contract this disease? No one knows yet.

MCC Notes:

RALEIGH—The past few weeks have seen changes taking place in St. John's MCC, Raleigh and MCC-Fayetteville. To some it may be a "game" called "Pastors' Musical Chairs," but to those involved in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, it is serious business.

St. John's MCC's founding pastor, the Reverend Willie White, has departed to begin a new study group in Rochester, NY. The Rev. June Norris, who has served both St. John's and MCC-Fayetteville since June 1st, has now been elected by the congregation to become St. John's first full-time pastor. Sean Mathias, student clergyperson from Charlotte, is acting as Fayetteville's Worship-Coodinator.

Rev. Norris has been affiliated with the UFMCC since 1971, was a licensed minister in 1973 and ordained to the lifetime position in 1974. She served as associate minister in the "Mother Church," (MCC-LA) in Los Angeles

However, Ron Vachon, Sexually Transmissible Disease Clinics Coordinator for The Caucus of Gay Public Health Workers, the American Public Health Association, tells us that the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has established a task force to investigate the unusually large number of cases of this rare disease in gay men. The National Cancer Institute had called a conference on Kaposi's sarcoma, which was held in Washington, D.C. on September 15, 1981.

It has been speculated that these men have lowered immunity to this disease. What lowers their immunity?

until her move to Fayetteville in May 1980. She was among the original student clergy who received their training in the Fellowship's Seminary, "Samaritan Theological Institute" in Los Angeles.

Rev. Norris is available for counseling by appointment. Call the church's new number 834-2611 Monday through Thursday 1-6 PM. Sunday worship services are at 7:30 PM (3PM December, January & February) at the corner of Wade Avenue and Dixie Trail. ALL are welcome!

ASHEVILLE—ON Saturday, September 12, the Metropolitan Community Churches of Asheville, N.C., Johnson City, and Knoxville, Tennessee held a picnic at the Rock Creek Park in Tennessee. The gathering, the first of many outings planned, was viewed by the churches as a success. Many people turned out for the gathering, which allowed the comrad churches to discuss and exchange ideas on their mutual concerns of problems facing the adjacent gay communities.

POPPER? Probably not, if they are lucky enough to get real amyl. Patients who use amyl for angina do not have a higher incidence of this disease. But what about butyl nitrite or its contaminants which may be found in Rush, Locker Room, etc. These substances have no quality control in their manufacturing that is required by the Food and Drug Administration. Many organic chemicals (chloroform, benzene, etc.) are known to be cancer causing or decrease the ability of the bone marrow to produce the blood cells involved in the resistance to disease.

EXCESSIVE DRINKING OF ALCOHOL AND RELATED MALNUTRITION? Probably not. If so, alcoholics would have an increased rate of KS.

IS IT CONTAGIOUS? Dr. Tomsick says that he is 95% sure that it is not communicable. Although three of the NYC patients had been sexual partners.

LARGE NUMBERS OF SEXUAL PARTNERS? Maybe related in some way. Some of the gay men who have had KS were known to have 30-50 different sexual partners in one week. This seems to be a large number only attainable in metropolitan areas. However, I have been told that 32 per week has been achieved at Hart's. "Is ten safe? Are 15 too many?"

Women who have multiple sexual partners are known to have a higher rate of cancer of the cervix and uterus.

SUGGSTIONS FOR PERSONAL ACTION

In spite of the current sea of relative ignorance of the causes of Kaposi's sarcoma, I



"I told you. . . he's mine, I found him, and I'm going to keep him!" (from "Prince of the City")

want to make the following suggestions until more information and more specific recommendations can be made:

1) Avoid or minimize the use of all "recreational drugs" of unknown purity, especially "poppers" (Rush, Locker Room, etc.) That is—decrease our exposure to chemicals that may lower our resistance to bacteria and viruses.

2) Minimize our number of sexual partners. Monandry (only one male partner) may become the fashion! That is—decrease our exposure to CMV.

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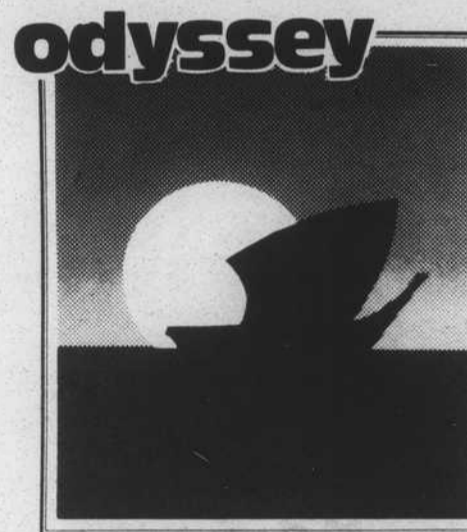
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