

Naming names necessary part of VD treatment

Third of a series

A 27-year-old businessman entered a public health clinic and complained of the typical symptoms of gonorrhea — a burning sensation when urinating, and a discharge. The attending physician performed tests for gonorrhea, which proved to be positive, and the patient was treated with penicillin. Before the patient left the clinic, a VD contact interviewer told him about the disease he had, its ramifications if not properly treated, and the urgent need to refer or bring in sex partners to medical facility for examination. The patient named two sexual contacts, only one of whom could be traced. Tests performed on the contact were positive, and she was appropriately treated. The businessman returned to the clinic three weeks later with the same complaint, and tests for

gonorrhea again were positive. Further questioning by the contact interviewer revealed that the patient was married and was having regular relations with his wife. His previous gonorrhea had "ping-ponged" back to him from his wife, whom he previously had infected. Simultaneous treatment stopped this infectious cycle. Venereal disease epidemiology — the process of seeking out the source and spread of individual infections — has developed into a highly sophisticated science. The contact interviewer's role is essential to this process, as the above case history demonstrates. The prime goal of the contact interview is to elicit from the patient the names of his sexual contacts, and information that will enable the interviewer to locate those persons rapidly. Most patients respond either by

bringing their contacts in for treatment or by assisting the interviewer in identifying and locating the contacts. But many are reluctant to accept the idea that their steady sex partner could possibly be infected and will only name one-time or occasional contacts. Therefore, when the patient stops giving names, the interviewer asks specifically for the name of the patient's steady sex partner. The ignorance, fear, and shame surrounding venereal disease are obstacles with which the VD contact interviewer must deal constantly. The patient may be nervous, hostile, unconcerned or uncommunicative. The interviewer tries to put the patient at ease and to demonstrate his competence and understanding of the patient's particular problems. At every stage, the patient is reassured that all of the services available

to him are completely confidential and that his sexual partners will be taken care of discreetly and tactfully. The interviewer never assumes that a patient is heterosexual. If an attempt to elicit the names of homosexual contacts is not made, the interviewer may be doing only half of the job. It is a never-ending task, beginning and ending with the names of infected individuals. Speed is critical: There is a direct relationship between the speed with which contacts are located and the effectiveness of a VD control program. This is especially true for gonorrhea because this rapidly spreading disease has a short incubation period (usually 3-5 days), is contagious throughout the course of infection and can be asymptomatic. Because of the large number of gonorrhea patients and the small number of health workers, patients

often are asked to refer personally their contacts to a private physician or a public health clinic. The longer incubation period of syphilis (10-90 days) gives the contact interviewer adequate time to search out all contacts. A specific blood test for syphilis and a medical history and examination enable health experts to determine how long the patient has had the disease, and when he could have caught as well as spread it. All patients with "early" syphilis — infections of less than one year — are interviewed to elicit the names of those sexual partners who were exposed during this infectious stage of the disease. For patients with infections of more than one year, the steady or marital partner is examined and treated. The interviewer must provide the patient with real, logical reasons for giving names of contacts. Most of the

best reasons concern the patient's own well-being, such as the possibility that the patient will be re-exposed to his sex partners and re-infected with the disease. When the patient understands that what the contact interviewer is asking him to do is in his own best interest, and that of his friends, he is usually willing to cooperate. VD continues to spread the best efforts of contact interviewers and other state and public health workers. According to figures reported by local Texas health departments, 636,407 patients were screened for VD, 184,498 were admitted to medical service, and 280,086 were treated by public health workers.

Aggie, Maggie dolls part of crafts fair

Need an Aggie doll? A crafts fair will be held this Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center mall. Local artists will be displaying and selling their work, which includes everything from string art and needlepoint to pottery and liquid silver necklaces. There will also be drawings and paintings in the fair. All of the objects of art will be handmade by the person selling them. Half of the artists are students at A&M. One lady will be selling personalized dolls. These are made from a photo of the person to be immortalized. The artists will capture the person's personality and even match the clothing. If that doesn't

strike one's fancy, she is also Aggie and Maggie dolls. Most of the articles in the fair will be priced between \$10 and \$20. For more information, call 845-2611. **For Battalion Classified Call 845-2611**



KANM offers variety of music

If you are bored by listening to the same song played three times during the hour on your present radio station or if you are disgusted by the many deodorant, burger, and pimple prevention commercials interrupting what little music is broad-

cast, then turn your FM dial to 89.1 and treat your ears to KANM Student Radio. KANM broadcasts 24 hours-a-day over both area cable companies. It is staffed by volunteers, who work 4-hour shifts, and caters to its listen-

ing audience. Station Manager Phil Williams says that the station will play any request, provided the tune is not obscene and it is contained within the station's music library. The programming at KANM is progressive, which means the listener will hear a variety of different types of music. A disc jockey at the station said this will vary according to the music preference of each DJ and the type of requests people make.

Electronic 'Letters to the Editor' will be initiated in the fall, Williams said. A tape recorder will be placed somewhere on campus for students to say what they want to about the station. These comments will be aired every hour on KANM. Williams said that he presently needs DJs to fill vacancies on his programming schedule. He emphasized that persons are needed for the two weeks between the second summer session and the fall semester. He said that any person able to work one or more 4-hour shifts during these two weeks or during the fall semester can contact him through the station (846-1612). So, if you're hungry for good listening, tune in to KANM Student Radio, 89.1 on your FM cable. You can eat it with your ears.

Two A&M grads in church work

Texas A&M graduates Notie H. Lansford Jr. and Clyde E. Schulz Jr. have gone to work abroad as Southern Baptist missionary journeymen. Schulz is employed as an agronomist in Brazil. Lansford went to Kenya as an agricultural teacher. Both are 1976 A&M graduates. Lansford, of Corizzo Springs, and Schulz, from Wharton, were commissioned among 94 new journeymen last week at Bon Air Baptist Church in Bon Air, Va. Theirs was the largest of 12 groups sent out by the Southern Baptist Convention. Journeymen are college graduates no older than 26 who work for two years alongside career missionaries in specific job assignments overseas.

Scholarship awarded

John M. Weston, 21, of Bryan, was awarded a \$500 Ray Y. Gildea Scholarship in conservation for 1976-77 Friday, July 16, during the annual conference of the Texas Council Chapters of the Soil Conservation Society of America. Weston is one of 22 recipients from throughout the nation. The scholarships are provided by Dr. and Mrs. Ray L. Gildea Jr., of Columbus, Miss., to encourage qualified students to complete their undergraduate training and pursue a

career in conservation-related fields. Weston is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. John Weston and is a senior in range science at Texas A&M. He is married and has a son. The student had an early interest in range science and taught conservation and nature classes at Boy Scout summer camps during his high school years. He currently works part-time on a brush control research project for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station to support his education and family. He also has served as a summer trainee with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and hopes to continue work with that agency after graduation. The Soil Conservation Society of America is a private, nonprofit association of professional conservationists dedicated to advancing the science and art of good land use. It has over 14,500 members in the United States, Canada and 80 foreign countries. The Texas Council of Chapters Conference was held on the A&M campus July 15-17.

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