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### College problems shared

## Doctors help students

United Press International  
BALTIMORE — College students who have trouble dealing with school-related problems — grades, money, loneliness, fear of the future — are receiving help from Johns Hopkins University psychiatrists.

Dr. Chislaine Godenne, Hopkins' director of counseling and psychiatric services, said today's students are more serious than their carefree predecessors. Many are worried about getting good grades in order to make graduate school and feel guilty because their parents are sacrificing to pay enormous tuition bills.

In addition, she said, they face the same problems as others of their age group — loneliness, frustration and a fear of what the future holds.

"Students are much more serious than they were when I went to

school," said Dr. Godenne, a native of Belgium who attended the University of Louvain in the 1950s.

"I tell them it is better sometimes to go out and play sports than it is to spend the entire weekend studying."

Dr. Godenne has a staff of more than 40 psychiatrists working either full or part time available to serve the university's 5,000 students. While most schools provide counseling for students, few do it on the scale Johns Hopkins does.

Under a program established in 1973, a student can receive attention, usually less than 24 hours after requesting an appointment. During the counseling clinic's peak periods — the three weeks prior to final examinations — there is sometimes a 48-hour wait.

"An urgent problem, of course, never waits," Dr. Godenne said.

Students are never referred to a private psychiatrist. In fact, many have weekly appointments at the clinic for their entire college career, she said.

"The university can only function optimally if all its members function adequately," she said.

"A graduate student struggling with financial problems, a senior frightened by the prospect of leaving school, a faculty member having problems with his son — all affect in lesser or greater degree the harmonious atmosphere of the university."

Faculty members and their families are eligible for the service, but students represent the bulk of the patients. They have changed through the years, according to Dr.

Godenne. "There is a terrible emphasis on learning," she said. "When I was in school, we learned. Here, you study to grades."

Dr. Godenne said there is a concern for the stress on grades. Students know there is greater competition to be accepted into law and other graduate schools receiving bachelor's degrees.

A breakdown of the first 500 students the clinic this year showed 8.6 percent freshman and sophomore, 10.5 percent of the juniors and 9.5 percent seniors. Almost twice as many women seek help as men.

"The first six months, students are often lonely, used to the studying and the need to leave," said Dr. Godenne. They can stick it out for the year, they will usually come back the next year."

If one topic is mentioned as grades, it is money. "It almost always comes up because their parents are spending a lot of money to send them to school."

There are other problems, incompatible roommates, John letters and sexual frustration.

Dr. Godenne said the group counseling is popular because many students come here when they are the only ones with the problem. Once they are in the group they find others with similar problems — and that often helps solve theirs."

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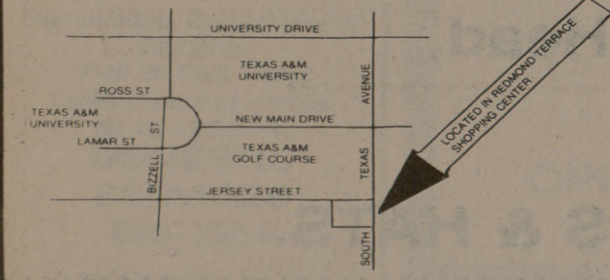
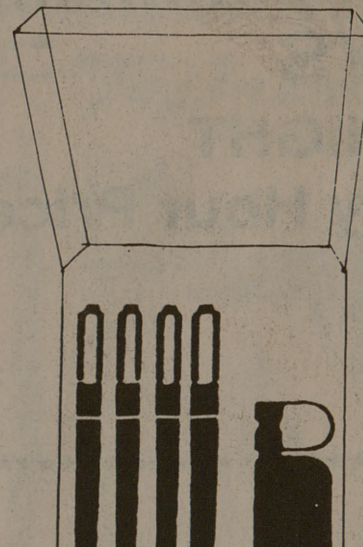
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## Security code may cut computer crime

If it makes you feel any better, a Texas A&M University mathematician trying to crack one of the world's best secret codes has found fewer than a dozen messages that can't be broken.

Computer crime bilked Americans of \$300 million in 1977 and the future of electronic mail and large corporate transactions relies on security of codes.

G.R. Blakley mixes theory and calculation looking for a weakness in the best of these codes, the public key cryptosystem that involves 200-digit figures, long division and prime numbers.

The code, says Blakley, is like a numerical version of a two-volume English-French dictionary. In only rare cases will the "word" be the same in both languages and thus impossible to code.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University researchers came up with the idea of tearing the "dictionary" in half, giving everyone else a copy of the English-to-French part.

It makes it easy to code a message by simply translating into French one set of numbers.

But it's hard to decode since one would have to go through word-by-word to find the meaning of the French word.

In the next decade, when home computers are no longer toy stores, storing shopping lists and family budgets, such fail-safe codes will be important to keep personal and business transactions safe from prying eyes.

Someone will probably break the public key cryptosystem, Blakley, as has happened with most earlier codes.

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