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Infected repeaters plague clinic

So you think you may have venereal disease. What do you do, who can you turn to, where will you go, what will you do. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The answer is not a TV jingle for travelers checks, but the Brazos County Health Department, which diagnoses and treats VD. The best part is, the service is both free and confidential.

Unlike travelers checks or the American Express card, you can't leave home without VD if you have it. And the only way to lose it is by treatment and medical care. That is available at three separate one-hour VD clinics at the Brazos County Health Department.

Approximately 45 persons a week

partment, which operates the VD clinics, is funded mostly by city and county taxes. It is staffed by one doctor, three registered nurses, an investigator, two secretaries and sev-

eral lab workers. Although the clinic treats about 15 people a session, Dr. George R. McIlhaney believes the clinic is treating only a small portion of the people infected with VD in Brazos

"Our population seems pretty stable," McIlhaney said in reference to the number of patients treated. "I think we're seeing only the tip of the iceberg here. Most people are still not coming in for a million different

'Some think their problem is gone because the obvious signs are gone, such as a sore or discomfort, but that's when the disease gets worse. Others are too embarrassed and ashamed because of the stigma attached to VD."

The workers at the VD clinic face many problems that they cannot overcome, such as embarrassment, patients telling lies about their sexual partners' names, and the problem of return cases. Because there is no charge for treatment, there are a

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Soon: The Only Way Out

go to the clinic, where the entire procedure from doctor to investigator takes less than 30 minutes.

The Brazos County Health Determine The Brazos County Health Determine The Clinic may account for many results. the clinic may account for many re-turnees, but it also makes it easier for the person going for the first time who is truly concerned about his or

her health. Upon entering the clinic, a person fills out a card with his name, age, race, and address. The card also asks whether he has been to the clinic before and how many times, why he came in and who, if anyone, referred him to the clinic. He returns the card and is given a number to insure anonymity and waits to be called in

Once he is called in, he goes to the doctor who first asks why the patient came in and finds out if there are any obvious signs of VD such as a rash, chancre or sore of some kind.

'We get a pretty standard response when people come in. That is, most people know they have VD when they come in," McIlhaney said. "Most people come in here inside of a week after they think they have contracted VD.

"I spend very little time with the patient, actually. I check the males and our (female) nurses check the females for obvious signs and if there are none, I send them on to the

nurses for some tests. After talking with the doctor, the itive reading, the person is given penicillin pills and sent on to the investigator, who tries to find out who the patient's contact was so that he

may get in touch with him or her. Everyone who has a positive reading is supposed to come back for a recheck to make sure the medicine worked and they are cured," said nurse Betty Strength. "Some people don't come back because they feel fine. A lot of these people that don't come back could still have VD and are spreading it because they have been in so many times that the penicillin has no effect on the VD."

This is where the investigator enters the picture. Once someone has come into the clinic and named a contact, the investigator either goes to the contact's house or calls him or Dallas. They are so related to the contact of the and tells him he may have VD. The tell the truth. contact is asked to come to the clinic

for a checkup.

Most people do not know that it is against the law to knowledgably spread a communicable disease. The investigator can ask the police to arrest pick up a known VD carrier who even care because they known refuses to come to the clinic. The can come back whenever the police can pick up the infected per- to. They're not embarrassed son and quarentine him or her in jail until the Health Department can treat the patient.

According to McIlhaney, in the people being treated are but more white student-age

VD's no treat, get it treated freen patient goes to the nurses who take a blood sample. If the test shows a pos- just refuse to come in until

warrant out for their arres brings 'em in. But getting the names is not always easy. Most pe

unwilling to give us the n actually don't know. 'We've had guys give lots as addresses for girls," Mills. "You wouldn't believe cuses we've heard. People here and think we don't kn

we're dealing with. But all th have been here at least 10 w Girls will come in here they've been raped or something guys have told us that they from lifting heavy objects. had guys say they just picke girl in a bar and don't evenk

The most discouraging to seeing the same people o over. We think that a person be allowed to come here many times and then have to many people come in here and

treat the patient.

"We've had a few people put in are coming in recently.

"The reason that we are

nantly treating blacks could most other people may be g their regular physician or just being treated," he said. I don't treat very many

VD in my private practice. T see it, VD is a fact of life and can't wipe it out. The only can do here at the clinic is to try and educate people about they will tell others and not be

themselves.
"There has been an increase education at the Bryan and Station schools and for the fin there was a decrease in the of patients we treated in the age group last year.

"A lot of people we tree very well educated so when

them they have syphilis it mean much," Strength so when we tell them they blood it really scares them get it taken care of.' Once an infected contact

identified, his or her name Austin where all contacts kept in order to aid other h partments around the state

Priscilla didn't marry for his money — Cull

United Press International FORT WORTH — Million Cullen Davis testified Tuesd estranged wife, Priscilla, f derstood the contractual agreement she signed and time, said she didn't care ho money Davis had.

Davis said he and his se Fern Frost, explained the ment to the then-Mrs. Wil motel room. He said she as what he would do if she did and Davis testified he told would not marry her. He said she then sign

agreement and began cry 'I don't care if you've go dollars, I want to marry quoted her as saying.

Mrs. Davis has testified tricked into signing the agn and that the document sho considered in the curren suit. Mrs. Davis has testifie trials that Davis told her document would do is give

Supreme Court in military case

WASHINGTON — In 1974, Frank Huff and several Marine Corps

other Marines, gathered signatures on a letter to then Sen. J. William They were arrested for unauthorized distribution of petitions. Huff

was court-martialed and sentenced to 60 days at hard labor, forfeit of

half his pay, and demotion to the lowest enlisted rank.

Monday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the government's appeal from lower court rulings holding unconstitutional Navy and Marine Corps regulations requiring all petitions to be cleared in advance by the commanding officer.

All I was trying to do was to get the most out of the civil rights that

I did have" in the Marines, he said. David Addlestone, lawyer for the National Veterans Law Center,

icemen," Addlestone said, noting that in the last eight years the court has sided with the government in every case challenging such mili-

communication with their congressmen.

rules, noting that the "very system of prior restraints" for distribution of materials on-base during off hours "is unconstitutionally restricted. off hours is unconstitutionally restrictly of First Amendment freedoms." An appeals court agreed and held the prior approval requirement invalid under the 1951 law.

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to hear appeal

buddies at an air station in Iwakuni, Japan, decided to circulate a petition to protest U.S. involvement in South Korea. Standing outside the base's main gate, Huff, then 20, and several

Fulbright protesting U.S. support for the Seoul government.

The high court also will review a case involving an Air Force officer who distributed a petition protesting military hair-length standards. Huff, who was discharged and works as a repairman, said he was

said the court's action indicated it "is interested in giving a narrow interpretation to the (1951) statute." The Supreme Court has erased First Amendment rights for serv-

The government took the case to the Supreme Court when three lower courts held unconstitutional prior approval rules and found they violated a 1951 law ensuring military personnel unrestricted

The District Court barred military officials from enforcing the

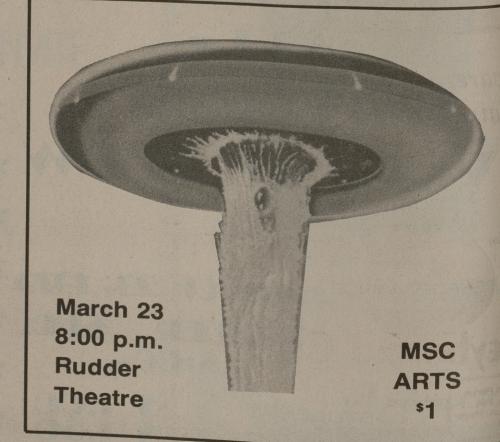
The government argues that the right to review petitions in advance of circulation is "essential to the discipline, readiness, and morale of the armed forces" and to the nation's security.

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