Page 6 THE BATTALION

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### Cases reported increase each year

## Doctor upset by students' view on VD

by CINDY GEE Battalion Reporter Jane Doe walked into the doctor's office and told him she thought she

had VD. She wasn't worried. She had had it before, had taken her penicillin and had forgotten ab-

out it. As long as she took her birth control pills, she felt safe. It didn't matter if she picked up a disease or passed it to someone else along the

Dr. C.B. Goswick Jr., director of the Beutel Health Center at Texas A&M University, said this is the atti-tude of many of the four or five students a day that the center treats for

venereal disease. 'Most of the students seem to take it in stride," he said. "It's a little bit disturbing. They don't seem to get too upset about it.

'The basic problem that we're dealing with is students are more permissive in their sexual behavior. They're more active sexually. I imagine some people say, 'Look, I'm doing this for my own pleasure anyway. If I get something, I know it's treatable. I'll go over there to the health center.

Goswick, who has been at Texas A&M for seven years, said the Uni-versity does not have any more of a problem than other universities its size, but there is still a definite problem

D.L. Wilson, a public health technician for the Brazos County area, said people don't think gonorrhea is very dangerous because it's so common. He said gonorrhea cannot kill a person like syphilis, but it can cause many problems if untreated.

In addition to gonorrhea and syphilis, there are 12 other sexually transmittable diseases including: non-gonococcal urethritis, trichomoniasis, genital herpes, genital warts and lice.

A recent article in the Consultant Medical Journal said seven of these

"The basic problem that we're dealing with is students are more permissive in their sexual behavior. They're more active sexually," said Dr. C.B. Goswick Jr., director of Beutel Health Center.

have reached epidemic proportions.

Non-gonococcal urethritis is espe-cially dangerous because women can have it without showing any symptoms, and often spread it unknowingly to men. In men, however, it usually produces pain during urination and a clear, watery mucous discharge. It can lead to pelvic-inflammatory disease and infertility in women, and infection of the prostate gland in men if untreated.

Goswick said he usually finds out about a woman having NGU from a male experiencing the symptoms who says he has had contact with her.

It has about a 95 percent cure rate. Genital herpes, characterized by small, painful blisters in the genital area, has no known cure and can cause serious reproductive complications and affect newborn infants.

Some women don't have any symptoms with trichomoniasis, but many experience itching, pain during urination and a grayish dis-charge. Yet, men seldom experience the symptoms, Goswick said.

Gonorrhea is nothing new; it seems to be an everyday thing, he said. The increasing popularity of oral sex, however, has created an increase in the occurrence of gonococcal pharyngitis, an article in the Con-sultant Medical Journal said. Gonococcal Pharyngitis is the re-

sult of someone having oral sex with a male who has gonorrhea. Kissing a person who has gonorrhea or syphilis sores on the lips or oral cavity will transmit the disease as well, the article said.

Perhaps a reason for the increase in venereal diseases is that more women are using birth control pills, which provide no protection against venereal disease. A condom is the only way to prevent skin to skin contact

Wilson, who interviews people in this area with venereal diseases to find out who they've had contact with, said syphilis has risen steadily in Brazos County from 18 reported cases in 1976 to 63 in 1979. And this year, he said he has already seen an increase

mononononononononono.

Wilson said more and more people are going to public health clinics to be treated because of rising medical costs. As a result, he said it costs the state about \$7 to treat each case. That would mean the state spent about \$2,500 to treat the 453 reported

cases of gonorrhea in Brazos Cour last year. Patients can usually be cured one treatment, he said,

must return in a week for a tes make sure. At that time, they interviewed to find out who they've had contact with.

Wilson said in 1950 there only 3,000 reported cases of syp in the United States. Now, he there are 6,000 cases in the stat Texas alone. "Maybe it's bec people have more sex partners now he said.

It is hard to make any assum about venereal disease statistic cause the population has grown better records are kept now. Rec for the Brazos County areas syphilis has increased steadily, w gonorrhea fluctuates.

From 1976 to 1979 there has b a 10 percent increase in popu and a 65 percent increase in gon rhea.

Goswick said the student heat center has particular problems fi

In 1950 there were only 3,0 reported cases of syphilis in the United States, said D.L. Wilson a public health technician Brazos County. Now, he said there are 6,000 cases in the stat of Texas alone. "Maybe it's be cause people have more s partners now," he said.

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"We get them in and say L one of you has gonorrhea and didn't just spontaneously general he said. "We ask them who's h messing around.

"We don't try to preach," head "because it could turn them of, a gent b Tuesda throug mode o of the his De Jim Hi At th aboard free sex" atitude of many, peop boardin whistle Tuesda greater. However, if contracted they can be treated easily and re tively inexpensively.

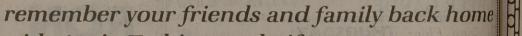
Goswick said he would like to vey to the students that vener eases are preventable with l effort. But students who sus they have a venereal disease sho get it treated right away.

they might fail to get treated theme time. You can't be too strong jud them. You've got to sort of think like they think and realize their basicatt tudes are different from yours." With the increased use of bir control pills among women and the must be aware that their chance contracting a venereal disease

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