

Early detection of STDs key to successful cure

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Genital warts affect about 3 million Americans each year. Often, this STD does not cause noticeable symptoms. Signs include small bumpy warts on or around the genital area.

Chlamydia and genital warts can be treated and cured.

Genital herpes, however, is one of the two STDs that is incurable. The other is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Genital herpes is a viral infection that produces flu symptoms with some sores in the genital area. These symptoms usually last one to three weeks.

"Herpes has a cyclical activity," Gonzalez-Lima said. "Once the first critical episode passes, it can remain dormant for six months, one year or more."

"Certain triggers can make the herpes reappear," she added. "It can be stress, poor nutrition or an abnormally fast and unhealthy lifestyle."

Syphilis is a STD that, much like herpes, begins with an initial outbreak and then can remain dormant for several years.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection which enters the bloodstream, infects the entire body and goes through several stages.

The first stage is a sore on the genitals called a chancre. It can occur on the inside of the body and go unnoticed. The chancre disappears within a few weeks, but the disease will progress if not treated.

The second stage, a skin rash which might cover the entire body, usually appears two to 12 weeks after the chancre disappears.

The rash, however, might not appear until three to five years

after the first stage.

If syphilis goes untreated beyond the second stage, it can lead to blindness, heart disease, brain damage and death.

The Texas State Department of Health in Bryan has a disease intervention specialist who, when people test positive for syphilis, obtains a list of their sexual partners.

The specialist then notifies the sexual partners and tells them they need to come in for testing.

"He has a very rough job," said Health Educator Tracy Anderson of the Texas State Department of Health. "Some people can't remember all of their sexual partners in the past month."

After years of being on the decline, syphilis is reported to be on the rise again. In 1989, the number of reported cases of syphilis in the United States rose 17 percent, to about 101,000 cases.

Gonorrhea, though it is still common, is the one major STD that reportedly has decreased, falling 10 percent to 700,000 cases in 1989.

Gonorrhea is a bacterial infection of the sexual organs, rectum, eyes and throat.

Symptoms are a burning sensation when urinating, discharge from the vagina or penis, swollen joints, fever and pain in the pelvic area. Gonorrhea also can lead to PID.

Gonorrhea can be cured, but strains of gonorrhea have been found that will not respond to the treatment, Anderson said.

"Some people come in who have had gonorrhea five or six times," Anderson said. "After having the disease that often, the treatment begins to fail on that person."

Hickman: A&M needs more emphasis on arts

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difference here if you're willing to work. That's not true everywhere."

One thing Hickman would like to see change at A&M is the establishment of a school of fine arts. Though he believes the College of Architecture produces artists, the area needs many more.

"The University suffers greatly from a lack of artists," he said. "This community needs them. They give us alternative visions of the world, which the sciences and even the humanities don't always do."

Hickman, who chews cigars much more than he smokes them, is an avowed workaholic. He teaches several classes each semester, usually about the philosophy of technology.

He is a fourth-year faculty senator, member of the Senate's Executive Committee, and has served on committees active in drafting the University's AIDS policy and improving the library. Hickman also writes a quarterly opinion column for a local newspaper and still is active with GLSS.

When he is not doing any of that, he spends time at home

with his wife, gardens or plays handyman around the house.

"It has always struck me that academics tend to concentrate on one thing to the detriment of others," he said. "To stay healthy, one has to stay balanced in his work."

Hickman, who spent his youth in the Rio Grande Valley, quickly learned about life's disadvantages. He picked cotton with migrant workers for several years for pocket money, but his Hispanic counterparts toiled in the fields for a living.

That experience and many others in the valley made a great

impression on him.

"A lot of the reason I stick to for people comes from the Rio Grande Valley," he said. "From the time I was a boy, Hispanics were heavily discriminated against. It was an eyeopener of that kind of racial prejudice there."

Hickman recognized early how the system is weighed against society's minorities. Dewey's lessons of action incorporated with thought are the philosophies Hickman maintains today.

"Dewey believed thinking was to some end," he said. "It's that admirable."

U.S. should side with Yeltsin, A&M expert says

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"They realize the army could step in and take control, but the question they ask is whether or not they can keep it," he said. "If the entire country shuts down in a general strike, there isn't much the army can do. The army may have the guns, but the democrats have the power of the people."

Hatchett said dealing with the Soviet Union will require a new diversity in policy.

"We will have to find a way to communicate with more than one faction," he said. "For the

long term, however, we don't want to be caught backing the side that finds itself out of power. We can't pour money to Gorbachev if he ends up losing power despite his position.

"The era of a strong American presidential tie with Gorbachev has drawn to a close," Hatchett said. "We now need to draw toward the democratic element found in the Yeltsin camp."

Hatchett said the Yeltsin people admit Gorbachev is a reformer but not one working toward democracy and a free market economy.

"Gorbachev wants to create a human face for socialism," he said. "He wants to find a way to make it work better. He wants to keep state ownership and retain set market prices."

Hatchett said some of Gorbachev's chief economic advisers complained their advice was not being taken. They label Gorbachev a socialist reformer, not a democrat, he said.

"We have to listen to more than one faction now," he said. "Not only Gorbachev, but the

U.S. as well, must consult with Yeltsin and others in nearly all their dealings with the Soviet Union."

As a result, Hatchett said the United States must be careful how funds are given to the Soviets.

"The funds can't be put into black hole," he said. "The money needs to be put somewhere it can help the average citizen, and to do that we must negotiate with these factions. The we can decide how to best help the Russian people."

Living conditions remain poor despite reforms

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Neighborhoods, hospitals, property ownership, parks, beaches and many other facilities have been legally desegregated.

But many blacks, faced with widespread violence in black townships and a 2-year-old recession, feel their living condi-

tions have worsened despite the political reforms.

The right to live in an affluent white suburb means little when most blacks cannot afford homes even in poor black neighborhoods. Black townships and schools are overcrowded and poorly financed. Good hospitals

are far away.

Critics also complain about loopholes in desegregation.

White public schools may now be integrated, for example, but only if 72 percent of white parents at a school vote to accept children of other races. About 100 schools in Johannesburg,

Cape Town and Durban are accepting blacks, but nearly all schools are still segregated.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher welcomed the appeal, calling it a historic moment for South Africa.

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