

STD

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He said STDs in women have been linked to pelvic inflammatory disease, fertility, ectopic pregnancies and cervical cancer.

"It's important to remember that while biological factors heighten an individual's chances of becoming infected and exposed

to a STD, the risk of infection is primarily affected by personal behavior," Reitano said. "Men and women who practice abstinence or are in a mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner are not at risk of infection."

"While individuals who have multiple sexual partners have an increased risk of encountering a person who is infected with a STD."

Heidemarie Boas, a women's health care

nurse practitioner at Scott and White Clinic, said abstinence is the only sure way to protect oneself from contracting a STD.

"I wish young people would practice abstinence until they know how to have adult relationships," she said.

Although many times people with a STD show no symptoms, burning during urination, a discharge from the sex organs and sores or itching in the genital area are all possible signs that a STD is present.

Griffith said while bacterial infections like gonorrhea and chlamydia are curable, infections like herpes, HIV and Human Papillomavirus are only treatable.

Anyone concerned about possible STD infection or other health issues should contact Beutel or their physician.

"Viral infections are incurable," she said. "What you do today to protect your sexual health or not protect your sexual health can affect you the rest of your life."

HEALTH

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"It takes the body about three weeks to build up immunity from the flu shot, so get it early," Griffith said.

If students have any questions, a registered nurse is available 24 hours a day through the health center's Dial-A-Nurse program at 845-2822.


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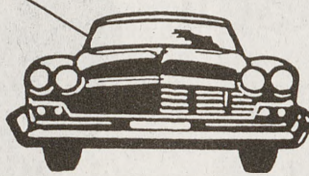
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