

# Social Diseases Increase In College-Age Group

By Rich Meier  
Jr. Staff Writer

Gonorrhea and syphilis are the third and fourth leading communicable diseases in our country.

According to a pamphlet published by the Public Affairs Committee, a nonprofit educational organization, the nationwide increase of VD, syphilis and gonorrhea, has been alarming.

There has been a three-fold increase in infectious syphilis since 1957. Gonorrhea has also increased over the past years.

These increases have come at a time when most people thought VD had been conquered.

More than half of all reported cases of syphilis—the worst venereal disease—occur among teenagers and young people under 25. Among persons under 20, infectious syphilis increased 227 percent between 1956 and 1963.

According to Larry Parrish, Federal Public Health Advisor in the Communicable Disease Control branch of the State Department of Health, in Nebraska there were 6 cases of reported infectious syphilis in 1958, in 1963 there were 63. And this is only new, reported cases, and is not anywhere near the total number of cases.

There are several types of venereal disease. In the United States the two most common are syphilis and gonorrhea.

Syphilis is caused by a germ called treponema pallidum. Millions of people have syphilis. It has been causing insanity, paralysis, blindness, deformity, deafness and death all over the world for hundred of years.

Gonorrhea, sometimes called "Clap," is caused by a germ called gonococcus. Every year about a million people in the United States get it. It is far more common than syphilis.

Syphilis is spread from person to person by sexual relations or, in very rare instances, by kissing. It is not spread from toilet seats, or drinking glasses, or towels or door knobs, as some believe.

Treponema pallidum is inviable. It cannot live outside of the human body for more than 2 or 3 seconds.

The first sign of infection is a sore at the point where the germ entered the body. It is usually found on the sex organs, though it may appear on the fingers, lips or breasts.

It will probably show up sometime between 10 and 90 days after infection.

This sore is called a chancre (pronounced shanker). Three fairly common characteristics of the chancre are: (1) it is an unusually clean looking infection, (2) it is almost always painless, (3) the tissue surrounding the chancre is hard, making the chancre feel somewhat like a button. It may look like a pimple, a blister, or an open sore.

Sometimes the sore is so small or hidden that it isn't noticed. This is often true in girls.

This sore is full of germs, making it very easy to pass the disease on to others.

When a person has such an infection, he or she is said to have syphilis in its primary stage.

This chancre soon disappears even without treatment. The germs now invade every part of the body, increasing in number and spreading throughout the entire system.

Three to six weeks the second signs appear. At this time the disease can imitate many other diseases.

Symptoms may appear such as a rash or skin eruption that may resemble the rash of measles, scarlet fever, ringworm and many other diseases. Pimples or acne do not indicate that a person has syphilis.

One may have a persistent fever, sore throat, and/or a headache, or swollen lymph glands, particularly in the groin region. The appearance of grayish-looking mucous patches on the inside lining of the mouth, and the loss of hair in patches are other signs.

This is the secondary stage of syphilis. Sometimes the signs are slight. They may not be noticed and they will go away without treatment. In this stage and afterwards positive identification requires a blood test.

The primary and secondary stages of syphilis are the most infectious ones.

By now the disease is established in the body and if it is not treated it begins to attack the heart, brain and spinal cord.

After all the outward signs have disappeared, the syphilis is said to be latent or quiet.

Syphilis is considered more dangerous than gonorrhea because of the complications that can arise if it is neglected.

Over 3,000 persons die of syphilis yearly, although medical progress has made this unnecessary. Survivors of untreated syphilis can become blind, insane or victims of serious heart disease. Over 20 percent of blindness in the United States is due to untreated syphilis. \$48,000,000 a year is still being spent for those made mentally ill by untreated syphilis.

Among untreated syphilitics, the Public Health Service estimates that 1 in 200, will go blind, 1 in 50 will become insane, 1 in 25 will become crippled, and 1 in 15 will develop heart trouble.

In the early stages of syphilis a doctor can take scrapings from the sores. He examines these samples under a darkfield microscope and can see the syphilis germ. Otherwise the only way to tell is to have a blood test. It is important to have just such a test at least once or twice a year, just to be sure, according to the Nebraska State Health Department.

Gonorrhea is spread from person to person in the same way as syphilis. Gonorrhea is not a strain from lifting heavy things, it is not caught from toilet seats, or towels, and it is not hereditary as some believe.

A baby's eyes may become infected with gonorrhea during the birth if the mother has the disease. It is required by law in most states that drops of silver nitrate be put in all newborn babies' eyes to prevent a gonorrhea infection. Nebraska does not have such a law, according to the State Department of Health.

The common symptoms of gonorrhea are: (1) a painful burning sensation during urination, (2) a discharge of

pus from the genital organs.

Because of severe pain, a male who is infected with gonorrhea will usually seek medical attention. The symptoms of gonorrhea in the female are difficult to detect as infected females rarely have any burning sensations during urination and any discharge often goes unnoticed. For this reason, gonorrhea is often not discovered in the female until it has caused serious damage.

It is never easy to tell if a woman has gonorrhea. There is no blood test for it, and even the laboratory test is rather difficult, takes several days and may not even be positive.

Gonorrhea, if untreated, may cause sterility by damaging parts of the reproductive system. Scar tissue caused by the infection can block the tubes through which the sperm and egg pass. It may cause blindness by destroying eye tissue. It may eventually reach the joints and cause arthritis.

Both syphilis and gonorrhea can be completely cured by penicillin, and there are other antibiotic drugs for those sensitive to penicillin according to Parrish. There is no immunity from either disease, one can become reinfected over and over. Both can be cured at any stage, but the damage done by the late stages can never be repaired. This is why it is so important to receive treatment for venereal disease as soon as possible.

"The only way we have to eradicate VD, syphilis and gonorrhea is to break the chain of infection," Parrish said.

When a person contracts VD he is interviewed for all previous contacts in the past three months. "These interviews are in the strictest confidence, and are connected in no way with any police or disciplinary action," Parrish said.

In Nebraska the total number of syphilis cases reported in 1958 was 198, in 1963 it was 397. There were 936 cases of gonorrhea reported in 1958, in 1963 this was 1,015. These are only reported cases. Parrish feels that only about one-fourth of the total cases are reported to public health.

The findings of a national study of VD incidence, carried out by the American Social Health Association, indicated that only about 30 percent of VD cases were reported. From these findings, experts estimate the actual number of cases treated at 100,000 for infectious syphilis and 1,000,000 for gonorrhea nationally.

During and after WW II, large amounts of government money were spent to control VD. When the disease was no longer considered a serious health problem, public health department budgets were cut back severely.

After a low was reached in 1957, incidence of VD began to rise sharply, especially among young people.

"There are several reasons why VD has made this alarming comeback," said Parrish. "There is an increased mobility of the population. Attitudes toward sex are changing. There is an increase in the appearance of homosexuals in the chains of infection. The failure of the physician to recognize and diagnose correctly."

There is a lack of VD education in the schools." By far the largest problem in control of VD is a lack of education.

The only way VD can be eradicated is to follow the chains of infection. Without public support, this becomes impossible, according to Parrish.

Dr. Leona Baumgartner, former New York City health commissioner, has pointed out that many Americans—especially the new generation of young people who have come along since the mass media ceased to publicize the VD problem—are "almost unbelievably ignorant" about syphilis and gonorrhea.

Celia Deschin, PH.D. and writer for the Ladies Home Journal said, "Accurate sex and health education in schools could help protect children against VD. The more accurate information a child has, the less likely he is to get into trouble. True knowledge does not corrupt, it protects."

At the University of Nebraska, according to Dr. S. I. Fuenning, Medical Director of Student Health there are only five courses in public health. Public Health 11 and 12, which are oriented for the teacher, and three handled by the Physical Education Department.

Dr. Fuenning said, "The information is not getting out as it should in all areas of public health to the general student. There is a pitiful lack of information on the part of the student."

"To eradicate syphilis there must be the education of the members of society, the cooperation of the members of society, people must report early signs and symptoms. It will take a very good education program to control VD," he said.

"The knowledge and techniques are available. VD can be eradicated. It is now up to the public and the community to apply what is known."

## Women Song Leaders To Meet Wednesday

A meeting for all song leaders or substitutes from women's living units intending to participate in the Ivy Day Sing will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. in 232 Nebraska Union.

Representatives are requested to bring a \$3 check payable to AWS for the entry fee. Preliminary tryouts will be held Apr. 14.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

Male roommate to share four room apartment for summer 1 1/2 blocks south of campus. Call 432-0285 evenings.

College Students who will be in Lincoln or surrounding area this summer. Full or part time work. Car necessary. Call 477-4862, Wednesday 2:00-4:00 p.m., Thursday 4:00-6:00 p.m., Friday 3:00-4:30 p.m.

### FOR RENT

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Grand Duchy of Luxembourg—You can still get a summer job in Europe and a travel grant through the American Student Information Service. ASIS is also giving every applicant a travel grant of at least \$250. Wages are as high as \$450 a month. Such jobs as resort hotel, office, sales, factory, farm, camp and shipboard work are available. Job and travel grant applications and full details are available in a 36-page booklet which students may obtain by sending \$2 (for the booklet and airmail postage) to Dept. R, ASIS, 22 Ave. de la Liberté, Luxembourg City, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

## Campus Calendar

TODAY

STUDENT ASSISTANTS INTERVIEWS — Alpha Group, 9 a.m. and noon, 232 Nebraska Union.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS INTERVIEWS — Omega Group, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., 235 Nebraska Union.

MADRIGAL SINGERS REHEARSAL, 11:30 a.m., Ballroom, Nebraska Union.

LADIES OF THE LEGISLATURE, 12:30 p.m., 240 Nebraska Union.

Y.W.C.A., 3:30 p.m., Auditorium, Nebraska Union.

PANHELLENIC, 4 p.m., 332-334 Nebraska Union.

BUILDERS — Campus Promotion, 4:30 p.m., North conference room Nebraska Union.

TASSELS, 4:30 p.m., 232 Nebraska Union.

UNION SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE, 4:30 p.m., 235 Nebraska Union.

INTER VARSITY LADYBUG, 5:30 p.m., 334 Nebraska Union.

U.C.C.F., 5:30 p.m., Ogallala room, Nebraska Union.

TOWNE CLUB, 6 p.m., Pan American room, Nebraska Union.

SIGMA DELTA TAU, 6 p.m., 241 Nebraska Union.

UNICORNS, 7 p.m., 232 Nebraska Union.

PHI CHI THETA, 7 p.m., 235 Nebraska Union.

KOSMET KLUB, 7 p.m., Ballroom, Nebraska Union.

PHI MU, 7 p.m., 240 Nebraska Union.

TOMORROW

AIR FORCE, "Film Of The Week," 3:30 p.m. 203 M and N Building.

WAA INTERVIEWS, 7 p.m. Grant Memorial Hall. Board positions available.

ALPHA ZETA, 7 p.m., 304 Keim Hall.

## 'Heartbreak House'

To Run Again Tonight

"Heartbreak House," produced by the University Theatre, will be held over for a performance tonight at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are available by phone at 477-8711, Ext. 2072. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

## Group Plans To Bring Chamber Music Here

A newly-formed organization under the leadership of Professor Robert Narveson is attempting to bring a series of chamber music concerts to the Lincoln area.

The organization, known as The Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music, wishes to bring both outside and local chamber music groups to perform in the Sheldon Art Gallery.

Members of the organization estimate that by selling 300 season tickets at \$10 apiece, they can raise funds sufficient for at least three and possibly four, concerts. They are now almost halfway toward reaching this goal, having secured nearly 150 pledges of support.

It is imperative that interested parties pledge their support immediately. Most nationally-known ensembles

are rapidly filling up their calendars for the 1965-66 season, and the organization cannot enter into contractual obligation without being sure that the money is forthcoming.

The group points out that a university community the size of Lincoln can surely afford an additional series on this relatively modest scale. They also said they can not imagine a more nearly perfect home for chamber music than Sheldon.

Students and faculty who want to pledge their support are invited to give their names now either to Professor Narveson, Department of English, extension 2547, or Lawrence Poston at extension 2541 or 2542.

## Former Teacher Dies In Accident

Dr. B. Clifford Hendricks, 81, of Longview, Wash., retired professor of chemistry at the University was killed in a car accident Thursday at Longview.

Dr. Hendricks taught at the University 30 years until his retirement in 1951. Previous to that he was on the Peru State faculty for ten years. He has also taught school at Brock, Nemaha and Pender.

Dr. Hendricks received his Bachelor of Science and doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska and his master's degree from the University of Chicago.

He was a member and past vice president of the American Association of University Professors, past president of the American Chemical Society and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a past president of the local chapter of Sigma Xi.

Dr. Hendricks was also a member of First Christian church in Lincoln where he served as an elder, and the Nebraska Christian Foundation for students at Nebraska colleges.

## Football

Continued from Page 4.

could be in the thick of the linebacking scrap. Junior.

Right guard LYNN SENKHEIL (6-3, 211) ... Like Albers, Senkheil developed rapidly last fall and did a fine job toward the end of season when called upon to spell McGinnis. He may get a full-time job if Bernie goes to offense. Junior.

Right tackle GARY RICHACKER (6-1, 228) ... Played well at times and has fine potential. Junior.

Left tackle JIM BROWN (6-2, 251) ... Jim's play has lacked consistency in the past, but he has turned in some fine games. Senior.

BACKS

Quarterback WAYNE WEBER (6-3, 179) ... Injuries hampered his soph season and he didn't see action after being hurt in opener. Fine passer and runner, he can quickly move into contention. Sophomore.

Left halfback RON KIRKLAND (6-2, 201) ... Tough, hard runner. Ron backed up Kent McCoughan as a 1964 soph. Also did NU's punting. He kicked 43 times for a 32 average. Junior.

Right halfback KAYE CARSTENS (6-1, 194) ... Fine offensive runner (he averaged 29.1 as a Fresh). Kaye was limited to infrequent play as a soph by co-captain Bobby Hohn and blossoming of Harry Wilson. Good speed and "elusiveness." Blocking improved last fall, and he'll be in the thick of the spring battle. Junior.

Fullback PETE TATMAN (6-1, 223) ... Netted 95 yards and 2.9 average as a soph in 1964. Has the size and ability to be a top fullback, but logged most of his time on defense when Huskers elected to go with scabbard Frankie Solich at the fullback spot. Pete had a good day, defensively, in the Cotton Bowl and may join the "Black Shirts." Junior.

POSTSCRIPT

Quarterback FRED DUDA (5-11, 186) ... Broken leg wrecked his junior year after he starred as Defense Charlie's backup man as a soph in 1963.

Duda sparked a great Husker comeback against Minnesota by tossing two TD passes in the final seven minutes. While a returning starter, Churchich did bulk of season's work. Duda is slated to be okay for fall. No plans.

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