

## Cold sore, the English term for pandemonium, doesn't mean Herpes

This is the story of Nancy. Nancy is the Spanish name for Nancy. She was 22. She was given cheap champagne on her 20th birthday. By the time she was 21 and a half, she had done it all . . . seen the slope, almost made it to the mountain, but stopped at the gradual incline. She had been half way around the block and made it to second base four times in her life. She had seen the back of a Fury Plymouth and more.

But this fall morning, Nancy arrived at the bathroom in sweat pants, a unicorn T-shirt, thongs and a, well, small cold sore at the corner of her mouth. Nancy, the French name for cold sore . . . cold sore, the Latin name for Herpes . . . panicked.

The Time magazine article she had read. The precautions she had taken. The times she had held it till she got



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home. The times she had priced Lysol. The pains she had taken to place single squares of toilet paper on the rim only to have them blown off, and now this, this, a cold sore in the corner of her mouth.

She slammed the bathroom door, pulled the shades and stood in the corner of the dry, porcelain tub, her mind racing.

When? Where? Why? How come? What for? Says who? You're kidding? Oh, Lord!

She was branded, a marked woman.

A voice came from outside the bathroom door. "Nancy? Nancy are you in there? Are you standing in the tub again? Come on, open up. Please?"

Make-up, of course make-up. Nancy rushed to the sink pulled open the top drawer on the right, gathered four shades of Cover Girl and threw them on the counter.

"Nancy, come on, I gotta go, Mother Nature's calling, you know? Listen, it doesn't bother me if you're in there, I mean, you know, if it doesn't bother you. I just have to go OK?"

Nancy quickly shook and opened the "Brown Dark" Cover Girl. She dabbed it on the, a, well, small blemish and opened the door.

"Thanks, Nancy."

Nancy moved her hand away from her mouth, "Morning."

"Oh, wow, aren't cold sores a hassle?"

The door slammed behind her. There, alone in the hall, Nancy died a thousand deaths. If only it were just a cold sore.

It was probably the john in Oldfather. A woman who wrote things on the bathroom wall would more than likely spread social things. If only she hadn't been late for class that day, if only she hadn't been in such a hurry.

She needed help. She stood in the closet and dialed. "Hello, Family Planning. Can we help you?"

"Yes, I have a kind of cold sore."

"Could you speak up, please?"

"A . . . a . . . my name is Sally. I have a, you know, cold sore on the corner of my mouth."

"This is Family Planning."

"I know, but, I mean, I read the Time magazine article, you know, Herpes . . . I have a cold sore."

"Well, Sally . . ."

"It's Nancy."

"Well, Nancy, do you have a husband or boyfriend?"

"No."

"What makes you think you have Herpes?"

"Well, it's right there in the corner of my mouth, besides I went to the bathroom in Oldfather and a woman who writes things on the bathroom wall . . ."

"Nancy, Nancy, isn't that the Russian name for idiot?"

"What?"

"Listen, what you have is probably a group of blisters appearing in or about the mouth and caused by a virus, not anything else."

"Oh, what a relief, I mean I thought for sure I . . ."

Click.

"Hello? Hello?"

Nancy stepped out of the closet. The bathroom door was still closed. She spoke to the crack, "You know, you're right. Cold sores are a hassle. But all they really are is a group of blisters appearing in or about the mouth and caused by a virus . . . nothing else."

The john flushed. Nancy, the German name for slow girl, returned to her bedroom. She promised herself she would buy Lysol that afternoon and never ever write on another bathroom wall.

This was the story of Nancy. It could be your story . . . but probably not.



Illustration courtesy of Sheldon

## Films portray post-WW II Poland

Krzysztof Zanussi, a prominent Polish film director, will highlight "The Cinema of Moral Dissent: Films from Poland" series with a personal appearance at Sheldon Film Theater. He will address questions from the audience at the screenings of two of his films, on Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30.

"The Cinema of Moral Dissent" in an in-depth study of the quality, philosophy, history and influence of Polish cinema, as well as its relation to Polish history and culture.

The series begins with post-World War II films and ends with recent films that were a part of the Solidarity movement. The core of the series is the screening of 18 films, each of which will be shown at least twice.

**Tuesday:** "Kanal" 11 a.m.; "A Generation" 1 p.m.; "First Day of Freedom" 3 p.m.; "Barrier" 5 p.m.; "Everything for Sale" 7 p.m.; "The Passenger" 9 p.m.

**Wednesday:** "The Passenger" 1 p.m.; "Everything for Sale" 3 p.m.; "Barrier" 7 p.m.; "First Day of Freedom" 9 p.m.

**Thursday:** "A Woman's Decision" 1 p.m.; "Camouflage" 3 p.m.; "A Woman's Decision" 7 p.m.; "Camouflage" 9 p.m.

**Friday:** "The Contract" 3 and 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday:** "The Constant Factor" 3 and 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 21:** "The Wedding" 1 p.m.; "Man of Marble" 3 p.m.; "Workers' 80" 7 p.m.; "Provincial Actors" 9 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 22:** "Workers' 80" 1 p.m.; "Camera Buff" 3 p.m.; "The Wedding" 5 p.m.; "Man of Marble" 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 23:** "Workers' 80" 1 p.m.; "Provincial Actors" 3 p.m.; "Camera Buff" 7 p.m.; "Man of Iron" 9 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 24:** "Man of Iron" 7 and 9:30 p.m.

"The basic set of problems — corruption and falsehood, moral chaos and spiritual emptiness — is similar all over the world. I have no reason to merit myself in any particular way, but I think that within recent years the Polish cinema — especially in its trend called the cinema of moral anxiety — provided an honest testimony of Poland's growing crisis."

Krzysztof Zanussi

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