

Dammit, use condoms. . .

Hey kids. . . Safe sex tips save lives!

TORONTO (CUP) — Herpes was once proclaimed the scourge of the '80s, but chlamydia, a little-known sexually transmitted disease, is now posing a much greater threat.

Chlamydia is the most common STD in Canada, with 425,000 cases diagnosed annually. The actual number is probably three times as high because there are often no symptoms in women.

If left untreated, the bacteria can cause infertility and infections of the throat and eyes.

"One type of chlamydia is the leading cause of blindness in the Third World," said Margaret Galamb, a nurse educator at the University of Toronto.

And Galamb is increasingly frustrated by the spread of a disease that is largely preventable: "Dammit, don't they hear me out there saying, 'use condoms'? Don't they hear me?"

In 1987, chlamydia comprised

45 per cent of all diagnosed STDs in Toronto. Gonorrhoea was second at 38 per cent, and syphilis followed at 16 per cent. Chlamydia is also the number one STD to be diagnosed in sexually active 15 to 19 year-olds.

Doctors at U of T's health services have seen a significant increase in the number of infected women and men since about 1984, said Galamb.

Women with any abnormality in their annual Pap smear are tested for chlamydial infection. This is usually the only way women are diagnosed, because there isn't an odorous vaginal discharge to tip off health officials, as there is with gonorrhoea. Men usually experience a burning sensation during urination and a discharge from the penis.

Students aren't really aware of the dangers of unprotected sex, said Galamb. They continue to have multiple sexual partners and engage in sex without using

condoms or dental dams.

"If they're ignoring protection for STDs, they're ignoring protection for AIDS," she said. "I'm concerned about all STDs and I'm concerned about AIDS."

Anne Moon of the Toronto department of public health said young women with chlamydia often go undiagnosed because of their reluctance to discuss sex with doctors.

"Often a doctor can see a nice young thing from U of T, wearing her Roots sweater, and she can be harbouring a really wicked case and not mention anything about her sex life to the doctor."

Moon said sexually active people should get checked out every six months for signs of STDs.

Chlamydia bacteria can travel through the uterus into the fallopian tubes leading to inflammation and eventually to scarring. This prevents women from conceiving and carrying a fetus to term.

Bacteria reaching the Fallopian tubes and the ovaries can cause pelvic inflammatory disease. Tubal scarring from PID can lead to an ectopic pregnancy, a potentially life-threatening situation. The embryo becomes implanted in a fallopian tube and if not promptly diagnosed and treated, the tube can rupture and trigger hemorrhaging.

Galamb said the disease isn't usually that far advanced in undergraduate women. It is once women decide to have children

later on in life that they discover they have a fertility problem.

"Women are putting off having their babies until the age of 35, 36, 37" said Galamb. It is at this point they discover they will not be able to have a child, she adds.

Fortunately, once diagnosed, chlamydia is relatively easy to treat — if it hasn't reached an advanced stage. The antibiotic tetracycline is usually prescribed for a seven to 14 day cycle. Health care officials emphasize the importance of having an infected person's sexual partners tested and treated if necessary. Otherwise individuals can become re-infected.

Lech from Atlantis

TORONTO (CUP) — A University of Toronto professor has been banned from a swimming pool by the school's sexual harassment review board.

In its first decision, the two-year-old U of T board banned chemical engineering professor Richard Hummel from the pool for five years after female swimmers complained he leered at them.

"Prolonged and intense staring can create a hostile environment in any setting, but especially in and around a swimming pool," reads the board's decision.

Hummel wore goggles and flippers, and the complainant said the professor stared at her through his mask and used his flippers to catch up to her when he fell behind.

The professor "appeared to be in the pool for the sole purpose of watching the women as they swam," the student, whose name has not been released, wrote in her complaint.

Hummel said he intends to appeal the board's decision, and

will ask for an open hearing.

"I know at one point this person (Hummel) came to us for advice," said U of T faculty association president Fred Wilson. "I certainly know that people around the campus have been talking about it."

In her complaint, the woman said she had talked to several other swimmers who "are also extremely bothered by his presence. We feel objectified and victimized by his degrading behaviour."

"I do not consider that I leer," Hummel said, adding that his unorthodox swimming gear helps a bad back.

Heather Henderson, a celtic studies professor who testified at the hearing, said while she thought the allegations were probably untrue, she could understand people getting angry at Hummel's swim style.

"He swam with those bloody great flippers and he swam in unusual strokes. You used to almost be sucked in behind. He was an irritating man to swim beside."

Lewis berates universities

MONTREAL (CUP) — Canada's "capricious policy" on visa students has brought a decline in the number of international students studying here, says former ambassador to the United Nations Stephen Lewis.

"Canada is the only country accepting fewer international students," Lewis recently told a group of Concordia University students. "There is no other country in the Western world where that is true. It's a shockingly capricious policy."

Universities and politicians must remove the obstacles international students face and create a "coherent public policy", he said.

According to former Concordia University international student advisor Elizabeth Morey, the number of foreign students at the

school has dropped from 2,000 to 800 this year.

A Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) report released in November shows that despite a small total enrollment increase this year — of 0.6 per cent, — international student enrollment in Canadian universities has been on the decline since 1975. In 1987-88, there were 23,333 full-time international students enrolled at university, down from a high of 30,850 four years earlier.

Lewis urged universities to begin accepting students from developing countries, which he said are underrepresented. He said this would inject a "consciousness raising dimension" to university life.

"To have a larger number of international students means a

greater understanding of the world," Lewis said.

"It (accepting students from developing countries) allows the university to become the throbbing hub of dissent, criticism and social change," he said to thunderous applause from the audience.

"That's what universities are supposed to do."

According to Lewis, most of Canada's foreign students come from the U.S., Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Singapore. "Less than 20 per cent come from the developing countries of the world," he said.

Before discussing foreign students, Lewis reflected on his "traumatic" days as a Canadian diplomat at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

"At the UN, they're engaged in self-infatuated diplomacy."

It was there, Lewis said, where he surprisingly met many diplomats who graduated from Canadian universities with nothing but the utmost respect for Canada. This raises the profile of the university, he said.

"International students by their very presence enhance standards," he said. "Without a strong number of them, the university would atrophy."

Tuition fees for foreign students vary according to school, province and program from \$1,458 to \$26,886. Newfoundland and Manitoba are the only provinces that do not charge higher fees for international students.

Median living expenses are around \$7,000 per year.

In February 1988, the federal government finally allowed international students to work on-campus while studying.

But working international students will still face prohibitive income tax, unless they can prove they receive no money from outside Canada.

"If you make it this kind of experience," CBIE researcher Colin Stewart said, "how likely is it going to be that people are going to recommend Canada to their friends?"

MSVU

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breach of labour laws over this directive.

Incoming student union president Cheryl MacKenzie is displeased by the approach faculty has taken to contract negotiations. "Faculty see students and exams as bargaining power in negotiations," she says, adding that some professors are already withholding assignments.

Provincial minister of labour Ron Russell has asked conciliator Gordon Keeler to schedule another meeting between faculty and the board of governors for March 31. Both sides have agreed to attend.

According to Paul Card, negotiations will produce nothing, because the additional funding for salaries isn't there. "Both the Board of Governors and the faculty are right," he says. "The Nova Scotia government is underfunding Mount St. Vincent. We've reduced ourselves to fighting over meager funding."

Classes end April 7 for the university's more than 3,800 full and part-time students with examinations scheduled to begin April 10.

B.Ed program

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B.Ed students should concentrate more on the mechanics of teaching, rather than on essays and assignments.

Next week, this year's model of B.Ed will enter the classrooms of Halifax and Halifax County schools. Many of these students say they feel unprepared or simply too tired to successfully complete the year with the enthusiasm with which they entered the program. They say they will automatically fall in line behind students such as those from the University of Ottawa, whose program included related assignments which forced students to complete a resume as a class assignment due in January. The placement rate for jobs at the University of Ottawa is 100%.

Perhaps the more immediate question which the survey attempted to answer should be "Who were the 17.6% who would recommend the program?"

Dan Demianiw is the president of the Dalhousie B.Ed Society

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