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The disreputable promiscuity of campus life has for so long been regarded with such lighthearted amusement that its severity is often completely overlooked. The University of New Brunswick is no exception to the rule. STD's are a serious problem on our campus—a problem which is getting progressively worse. Carol Green, Head Nurse and Health Education Co-Ordinator of the Student Health Centre, urges all students to be aware of the reality of venereal disease, and to link this reality to sexual promiscuity which is its cause. The danger, Green warns, does not lie in how sexually active one is, but rather in one's choice and number of partners.

The best protection from contracting any sexually transmitted disease is to have only one sexual partner who in turn is not sexually active with anyone but you. The spread of STD's is only possible through direct sexual contact with an infected person (with the possible exception of Herpes.) Thus as long as neither person has outside sexual relations, a couple is free from the threat of STD. If however, you suspect that your partner may have been exposed to an infection, or is sexually active with other people, regular checkups with your doctor are advisable. This is particularly important for women who very often have no signs and symptoms indicating that they are infected.

Of the reported diseases on campus, *Chlamydia* is the most common, very similar to *Gonorrhoea* which is also present. In the case of both these diseases, signs and symptoms may be completely absent in women, although *Gonorrhoea* may be recognized by a burning irritation, vaginal discharge, fever or stomach pain. (All medical information obtained from the March of Dimes pamphlet entitled "Sexually Transmitted Diseases"). Men may experience an itching or burning when urinating and a whitish discharge. Although *Syphilis* is not common on campus, cases are occasionally reported, and it is present in the city. This disease is usually recognized by painful sores on the mouth or genitals which may disappear and return in cycles, along with fevers, sore throats, and rashes. *Herpes* is also recognized by sores or lesions which eventually break open. Direct contact with these sores may spread the infection to others people, and even indirect contact (eg. via a toilet seat) is not considered free from risk. This disease is also accompanied by fevers and headaches and is commonly reported on campus.

Pamphlet information on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and their prevention is readily available, on request, from the Student Health Centre on campus. In addition, Nurse Carole

Green makes the rounds of campus residences each year with an informative talk, educational films and a discussion session on the issue. For those living off campus, information and personal counselling can be sought at Planned Parenthood, (749 Charlotte St.) where appointments may be made by phone (454-6333) or in person. Joanne McBride of Planned Parenthood has very flexible hours, and will try to be available at a time convenient for you. All appointments are confidential and free of charge. The Reproductive Health Clinic, located in the Old Hospital, (453-5800), provides brochures and educational films dealing with the subject of STD. Here too sufferers may seek support and personal counselling, as well as

treatment for their disease. Once again, the service is confidential and free.

PLEASE - do not hesitate to see your doctor if you think you may have, or may have been exposed to, a sexually transmitted disease. If you are pregnant, the health and even the life of your unborn baby depends on the speedy diagnosis and treatment of your disease. Delay in recognition of the disease, and failure to commence appropriate treatment immediately could result in permanent damage to your reproductive system and even sterility. Untreated STD's can cause arthritis, heart disease, blindness, paralysis, cancer, brain damage, and even death. Be safe not sorry, protect your health.

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