

Doctor says preventive medicine needed

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Robert Tingley, the University of New Brunswick's fulltime doctor, said possibly 40 per cent of UNB's female population are not using adequate contraception.

Statistical studies at other Canadian universities indicate approximately 80 per cent of Canadian female students have sexual intercourse and "I feel half of them aren't taking the proper precautions," said the 32-year-old doctor in an interview.

Birth control tops the list of student concerns which point to a need for the development of preventive medicine based at the campus Health Centre, said the UNB graduate.

Preventive medicine he defined as "early detection and subsequent treatment of disease and adopting measures to prevent disease from appearing later in a

patient's life."

Tingley said it could be practised with the use of media exposure, group discussion but the effective way is with one-to-one consultation. "Preventive medicine," he said, "is basically practised in the doctor's office."

Birth control is the most serious problem, he said, but venereal disease, irresponsible drinking habits, malnutrition and lack of physical fitness also plague students.

Despite what he suspected was a widespread ignorance of birth control, Tingley said there has not been a relative number of consultations made with him. He reasoned it is a personal subject and women are thus reluctant to visit a doctor for guidance. He warned, however, this is dangerous and should be overcome.

An outgrowth of birth control ignorance has been an upsurge in abortion rates. Tingley said he does not advocate abortion outright—he prefers to see the

stress placed on prevention—but wanted to see it decided by the individuals involved.

"The attitude is," he said, "that emphasis should be on the prevention of pregnancy. However, some will occur. If it does, the students must decide for themselves."

Once she has discussed the problem with her boyfriend, minister, doctor, councillor or whomever—and she still feels the same—the medical profession should see she gets a safe abortion.

He said obtaining an abortion is not difficult; although there was usually an expense of approximately \$350 involved, including the twelfth week operation and expenses. "It's very easy. All you have to do is go to New York. They will arrange one on demand."

Tingley said it is imperative counselling be involved before the decision is made. A woman undergoing the operation without conviction could suffer "tremen-



Photo by The Phantom Photog

Many UNB students are 'irresponsible social drinkers'

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