

All you wanted to know about VD

Venereal disease is a term which simply means a variety of sexually transmitted infections, the most common of which are gonorrhoea and syphilis. Any discharges, ulcers or sores on the genitals can be symptoms of VD in people who have had sexual contact, including, but not restricted to intercourse.

If a sexual contact develops VD, it is important to be tested even if no symptoms are present. This is especially true for women who often show no symptoms of VD and can only know of its presence if told by their contact.

VD can be dangerous to women because it is often not detected in the early stages and thus it can often lead to sterility or serious pelvic diseases. If you think you may have VD, contact a VD clinic immediately (Harbinger has lists of them). Also, tell your sexual contacts so that they can go for

testing and treatment if necessary.

GONORRHEA

The symptoms of gonorrhoea in men are discharge from the penis and a burning sensation during urination. The symptoms in women may be discharge from the vagina, or a burning sensation. But sometimes women exhibit no symptoms at all.

To test a man for the presence of gonorrhoea, a sample of discharge is taken from the tip of the penis, also from the anus and the throat when necessary. For women, a sample of discharge is taken from the cervix (mouth of the uterus), from the urethra (opening to the bladder) and from the anus and throat when necessary.

Gonorrhoea is largely centralized in the reproductive system, but the danger in women of the infection spreading up into the fallopian tubes and ovaries

can produce irreversible damage such as sterility.

SYPHILIS

The disease syphilis is ultimately spread through the bloodstream, enabling the infection to spread to the body's vital organs (heart, brain, etc.) and cause irreversible damage or death. Syphilis shows different symptoms in each of its three stages.

The first stage of the infection is primary syphilis. The symptoms of this stage are small open sores on the genitals. In women, this sore may be inside the vagina and not visible without an internal examination. The sore is painless but highly infectious, and will go away in about a week. This does not, however, mean that the disease has gone away, only that it has gone inside the body and has entered the bloodstream.

The symptoms of secondary syphilis include a variety of skin

rashes on the hands and feet as well as a possible sore throat and fever. These symptoms may last a year or so, then disappear, leaving the infection, in the bloodstream and internal organs.

The third or tertiary syphilis involves damage to the internal organs, and may result in brain infection and mental illness. Spinal cord damage may result in crippling, blindness, heart disease and death.

Syphilis is diagnosed by a blood test. This test is usually not accurate until three to six weeks after the initial appearance of a sore.

As with gonorrhoea penicillin is the preferred treatment for syphilis. The important thing to remember is that any appearance of genital sores should be examined and any possible contact with someone who may have syphilis should be tested immediately.



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More letters

Bobbing on a doughnut in a sea of coffee

How to become a blimp without really trying? Attend York University. Everywhere you look there are posters, newspapers, bulletins, all blaring "FOOD". There are at least two places to eat in every college, and vending machines in those buildings less fortunate. And there are all those hours in between classes.

People who don't smoke have it worst of all. Smokers can light up a cigarette with their coffee, while non-smokers usually succumb to the pastry. I mean, how can one have a meaningful conversation over coffee without a doughnut?

All the talk lately about high prices and low quality hasn't seemed to deter people from eating. In fact, it has merely served to whet their appetites.

And coffee, that's the killer. After every cup (usually half a dozen a day) I swear I will never drink the stuff again. Then comes the break in my three hour seminar and where does everyone, including myself, head? To the nearest eatery for another cup.

Suppose you have decided once and for all to overcome the temptation. You are determined this

time not to give in. You will avoid food at all costs — even to the extent of studying instead of eating or talking to friends between classes.

So in lieu of heading for a coffee shop you direct yourself to a study room, common room or even the library (where supposedly eating is forbidden). Just as you get involved in your book — crunch — the man in the carroll behind you you is munching potato chips — or slurp — the woman beside you is biting into a juicy peach.

Pretty soon there won't be any people, only calories, walking the hallowed halls of York. HELP. It's everywhere, I'm drowning in a sea of coffee and the only thing to grab onto is a doughnut.

Judy Nyman

Library club

Recently I've come across a great number of individuals who, in the security of their groups of friends, show an indefatigable thoughtlessness for anyone else.

Playing one's stereo at full volume in residence at two in the morning is all very well, but to keep the door open seems just a little selfish. However my present grumble is focused on another area of the university.

This is a personal and, doubtless, selfish appeal to those people who frequent the third floor galleries of the Scott library. While I would agree that the social facilities at this university are in most respects lacking, I nonetheless can't help feeling that the library isn't adequately designed to cater to the throngs of people (presumably

student) who treat it as a social club.

I therefore earnestly ask that you go somewhere else to chat. Some deviants are trying to work.

James Brennan

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