

## US military study could have left Indians sick

RED LAKE, Minn. (CUP-LNS) -- Hundreds of sick Chippewa adults and children on the Red Lake Reservation in recent years have either been unknowingly subjected to experimental treatments or often have had diseases left untreated while they were being observed for experimental purposes.

A study financed by the Department of Defense and undertaken by the University of Minnesota Medical School, provided the military with data on the spreading and control of impetigo and nephritis, diseases that have immobilized U.S. troops in Southeast Asia.

The researchers chose the Red Lake Reservation because its poverty, overcrowding and poor health care—conditions they judged as similar to a Vietnam battlefield—create the environment for the spread of the two diseases. Troops in the Mekong Delta, for example, were commonly disabled by impetigo epidemics.

Impetigo is a skin disease caused by streptococci bacteria. It produces boil-like sores on the face, legs and other exposed parts of the body which can itch, burn and bleed. The disease spreads rapidly if untreated and can infect a whole family. A certain strain of the

bacteria that causes impetigo can lead to nephritis, a far more serious disease. Nephritis is an inflammation of the kidneys, and can cause kidney failure if not properly treated. Impetigo can be cured with penicillin but nephritis often requires hospitalization.

One 1970 study traces the appearance and spread of strep bacteria in different parts of the body and their relation to impetigo and nephritis. A Chippewa woman and her two five-year-old twins all developed impetigo sores from which a certain strain of strep bacteria was detected—one of the few strains of the bacteria that can cause untreated impetigo to develop into nephritis.

The doctor in control of the experiment allowed mother and children to develop nephritis. The mother developed the disease nine and 12 days before each of the twins and only after that period were they hospitalized and given treatment. They stayed in the hospital about 10 days.

In this study the twins, along with their sisters and brothers who also had impetigo, were monitored three times per week but not treated, even though accepted medical practice orders prompt treatment. The doctor allowed nephritis to develop unchecked in

order to determine how much time it would take for nephritis to develop from the appearance of the first impetigo sore.

In January 1966, 100 Indian children in the Headstart program were checked weekly for the presence of streptococci. The following July, the investigation began to pay off—the doctors detected four cases of acute nephritis. Forseeing a nephritis epidemic (which would also help their research) they decided to look for cases of sub-clinical nephritis (not detected by obvious symptoms) among the children.

They found 15 cases of children small amounts of blood in their urine but who did not display any of the more obvious signs of the disease. The children were then taken to the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis for a biopsy of the kidney. None of their parents had asked for their children to be transported to Minneapolis for the biopsies.

This examination of the kidney tissue can be very painful—the skin around the hip is anesthetized and a long needle is pushed into the kidney. A sample of the tissue is taken out and analyzed for the presence of abnormalities. Evidence of kidney damage was reported in all 15 children.

All the results were tabulated, including data on kidney biopsies, a typing of the bacteria strains found in the impetigo sores, amounts of blood and protein in the urine, swelling of the face and limbs and high blood pressure.

The Red Lake children however, did not benefit from the studies. Not one of them were treated. But a 1971 issue of "Military Medicine" pointed out the importance of the studies to military medicine, especially concerning the extent of damage expected from nephritis outbreaks.

Writers for the magazine Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action, who brought the studies to public attention concluded:

"Our health, like those of Red Lake residents, is sacrificed for the interests of the agencies funding the medical programs. The impetigo study at Red Lake is not merely an atrocity calling for token reparations, but a pointed illustration of the general medical policies that hurt all of us.

"We see that a fight against the underlying causes of racist health care is in the interest of all of us."

## All female staff wanted

MONTREAL (CUP) - Women students at McGill University have submitted a proposal in an attempt to win the editorship of this year's Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS) paper, the Free Press. They want the papers to be run exclusively by women.

Laura Benny, a member of the group, said that the paper would not be a radical feminist paper, but would deal with women's issues that can't be treated in depth by other newspapers. She also said that articles would deal with issues of general importance and that material from male writers would be accepted.

Two other proposals for the Free Press editorship have been submitted to ASUS President Mark Chodos. According to Benny, these two proposals were very sketchy and "sent by individuals who wanted to run the paper because they thought no one else wanted to."

Chodos has delayed in making a decision because he hasn't been able to contact the individuals who

submitted the other two proposals. "In the interest of fairness these people should have the opportunity to elaborate on their proposals."

Benny said the women's group became convinced that there was discrimination involved against them when two of the ASUS executives asked if the group was taking Professor Marlene Dixon's Women's Liberation course, offered by the Sociology Department. Benny said that although the idea to run the Free Press was a class project, the women plan to run the paper all year even though Dixon's course only lasts the first semester.

According to Chodos, the ASUS would like the Free Press to be "an ASUS organ and also a free forum for different student opinion." On the women's group however, Chodos said, "I was put off by their tactics. They seemed to be taking a very aggressive and offensive stance. And I don't know if it would be right to exclude men from something like the Free Press."

## Summer work scarce for girls

PETERBOROUGH (CUP) - Statistics released by the Peterborough Canada Manpower Centre (CMC) reveals female students are less likely to find summer employment than are male students.

Summer jobs were found for 55 per cent of the men registered with CMC in Peterborough while only 37 per cent of the female job hunters were placed.

Employment reserved for women concentrates in the category of "personal services" which Marg Miron, manager of CMC's summer employment program said usually pays at near minimum wage levels. Men had more opportunities to work in other, higher paying categories.

Miron cites one instance in which women were sent by CMC to apply for a job painting. "The employer wouldn't hire them even though the girls could paint and in fact they had done it before."

"We try to re-educate employers however. We ask: why not hire a woman?"

The Manpower official also suggested female students themselves might have contributed to their low job placement rate. Some, although not all women seemed unwilling to undertake employment traditionally reserved for men.

"Other women coming to us may not have wanted a job at all. Maybe female students still aren't aggressive enough to go out and look for a job."

Some job discrimination against women students may be justified. Employment involving heavy lifting and physical exertion is beyond the range of most females although Miron said the criterion for employment might better be strength than sex, since some men would also be incapable.

"The need for a chauffeur's licence also tends to eliminate women from job consideration and this will remain a valid argument against women until more of them acquire a chauffeur's licence required for some jobs."

Last summer the Peterborough CMC registered 1,400 male students of which 875 were placed in jobs. Only 1,100 women registered although the lower total may reflect their relative likelihood of success—only 375 female students found jobs through the Peterborough CMC.

More students were working than CMC's average 50 per cent placement figure would suggest. Miron maintained students registered in Peterborough often leave the city to seek jobs elsewhere. Others find work in Peterborough on their own or else study at summer school. Nevertheless, women were no more likely to fall into these categories than were men, actual proportion of male to

female students working probably resembles CMC's 55 per cent to 37 per cent ratio of placing men and women in summer jobs.

Slightly less than half of the students, registered with Canada Manpower in Peterborough were university and college students; the rest were from high school.

### PREMEDICAL SOCIETY

#### NOTICE

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. F. Nicholson, Dean of Admissions, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University.

Topic: Alcohol vs. Soft Drug Problems.

Wednesday  
October 23  
7:30 p.m.

Room 26, SUB

An opportunity afterwards for all prospective medical students to meet with Dr. Nicholson over wine and hors d'oeuvres for informal discussion.  
Open to Members and General Public.



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( 8:30 - 11:30 )