

# A faraway fairy tale of Pinderella and Lord Cysf

Once upon a time in the mythical banana republic of Yorkyou there lived a powerful lord named Cysf who had a number of ugly wicked sons and one stepson. The wicked sons were named Sliverheart, Head-dim, Munchkin, Empty and Chopitoff. They were indulged by their father. They did as they pleased and spent most of their time plundering the poor serfs and cutting their budgets. The stepson was named Pinderella. He spent most of his time working in the Bog and helping the poor serfs.

One day Lord Cysf decided that he would hold an election. His son,

Head-dim, was tired of ruling the banana republic. Chopitoff was voted most likely to succeed. But Pinderella also dreamed of becoming president. He knew that he could do a better job than Chopitoff. Lord Cysf supported Chopitoff. Pinderella's campaign was supported by those serfs who were as mad as hell and could not take it anymore.

At last the day of the nominations arrived. Chopitoff, assisted by Empty and Munchkin, mounted the golden podium that had been prepared for the event, and threw his fifty dollar fedora into the ring.

There was polite applause.

"Well," said Lord Cysf, "that settles it. I guess no one else is going to run. Chopitoff, you are acclaimed..."

"Wait!" cried a voice from behind the podium, "I, Pinderella, would also like to run for president!"

"You?!" exclaimed Lord Cysf and his sons scornfully. Chopitoff laughed so hard that he fell off the podium.

"Yes," cried Pinderella, "This state has been a banana republic for too long! We are tired of self-serving governments that concern themselves with trivialities while the serfs are deprived of necessary services. Now is the time for a democratic

system that will be responsible to the people!"

"Ha, Ha!" roared Lord Cysf, "You can't be president. You were born in the territory of Bethune. Only serfs born in a province belonging to this banana republic can run in this election. And I have the computer printout to prove it."

"No," uttered Pinderella, "This is a mockery of justice! I left Bethune long ago to become a citizen of Calumet province. And I have a council of wise elders to verify my claim!"

The wise ones stepped forward. "What Pinderella says is true," they declared, "Only a government without humanity would honour the words of a computer over those of human beings."

"Be that as it may," retorted Lord Cysf, "Our divine computer still has the final word."

"I don't recall a rule like that," protested Pinderella. "That's because I just made it up," replied Lord Cysf.

Poor Pinderella was extremely sad — and angry. He sat down to ponder his fate while his evil

stepbrothers laughed their way to the nearest pub to celebrate their carefully contrived victory. Suddenly, before the eyes of the dejected Pinderella, a vision appeared in a puff of smoke.

"Who are you?" cried Pinderella.

"I am your Merry Godmother," uttered the mysterious creature, "And I am here to help you."

"But what can you do?"

"I will run in your place. We will put up posters all over this banana republic announcing that 'A Vote For Merry Godmother Is A Vote For Pinderella'."

And so it came to pass that the election was fought between Chopitoff and Merry Godmother (on behalf of Pinderella). If we lived in a world where justice and equality were considered more valuable than power, then this story might have a happy ending. But happy endings are for fairytales and this story represents reality. In the end Chopitoff was elected president. And thus, Yorkyou was fated to remain a banana republic.

Ann Onymous

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**Harbinger's  
Column**  
by Jay O'Hill



Veneral disease is going modern. It's changed its name to sexually transmitted disease (STD).

The same diseases, syphilis, gonorrhea, trichomonas, to name but a few, still persist, not only with the same old problems, but with some newly emergent ones. A good example is seen with gonorrhea.

Gonorrhea is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and is increasingly prevalent; in 1974 three million people in North America were recorded as having gonorrhea. These figures fail to underscore the whole problem. In some communities 10 to 20 per cent of the young people have gonorrhea. In addition, Canadian health officials estimate that gonorrhoea occurs "nearly as frequently as the common cold."

Many people have grown accustomed to the name VD. For many it conjures up thoughts such as "a quick shot of penicillin and all is cured," or "it won't affect me." It is precisely this sort of attitude, combined with public affrontery at the very mention of VD that allows the continued existence of these diseases. And diseases they are - even "lowly" gonorrhoea can cause arthritis, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and sterility.

Most people, who have some knowledge of VD, believe that a male will readily know when he is infected with gonorrhoea. Unfortunately, one new development with gonorrhoea is that many males infected do not show obvious symptoms, yet these individuals may still infect their partners.

Some 50 to 60 per cent of women infected with gonorrhoea, do not show symptoms or obvious discomfort. Invariably, the infection begins within the body and is thus rarely observed.

The treatment of gonorrhoea is generally straightforward, but not without its problems. Usually penicillin is injected deep into the muscles of the buttocks. The treatment, which used to involve massive doses of penicillin, are traditionally known to be very painful. Nowadays, with the use of smaller needles, the treatment is less uncomfortable.

Moreover, some clinics use oral antibiotics eliminating the need for shots. Gonorrhoea, however, is found to be increasingly resistant to penicillin. The dosage required for complete elimination is increasing. Not only are some strains of gonorrhoea totally resistant to penicillin treatment, but some strains appear to thrive on the penicillin.

An insufficient dosage of penicillin can lead to the disappearance of symptoms giving the false impression of cure. The infected person may then transmit gonorrhoea to their partner. This, combined with the fact that insufficient penicillin actually encourages the development of penicillin-resistant gonorrhoea, is why self-treatment is not recommended. Fortunately penicillin-resistant strains can be treated with other drugs (tetracycline) but we are now seeing strains that are resistant to both penicillin and tetracycline.

As with most diseases, prevention is better than cure. The condom has long been used to prevent transmission of VD. It does not, however, provide absolute protection.

New evidence indicates that spermicidal jellies or creams will inhibit the growth of gonorrhoea bacteria and other STD's. Vaginal contraceptives, when used in conjunction with the condom, in addition to providing almost 100 per cent protection against pregnancy, also provide protection against gonorrhoea. Clearly methods for gonorrhoea protection and treatment are widely available.

Why then is gonorrhoea reaching epidemic proportions? Many would suggest it is because of greater sexual freedom. While this undoubtedly plays a role, the attitude of the public to VD plays a greater one. As a result of ignorance or fear, many people who suspect they have a 'social disease' do not seek immediate attention. They may therefore pass the disease on to their partner (s) before seeking treatment.

While receiving treatment for gonorrhoea people are asked to refrain from sexual activity. But how many will continue to infect other people because they feel they have been cured?

A doctor cannot tell, if you are cured unless you return for a checkup. VD clinic staff would like to trace all those who had contact with an infected person.

Only by locating and treating all infected partners can the chain of infection be broken. The health department treats all the information given with tact and confidence in order to avoid harm or embarrassment to the contacts. It is theoretically possible to eradicate STD's completely with our present technology. However, only when people are willing to overcome ignorance, fear, indifference and public prudery - and are willing to take responsibility for their own bodies - will diseases such as gonorrhoea be eliminated.

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### Sunday, March 26

*Naim Kattan* author, critic, head of writing and publications section, the Canada Council  
Another Dimension: the Sephardi Imagination  
8:00 p.m. Adath Israel Synagogue, 37 Southbourne

### Monday, March 27

*Solomon Gaon*, Sephardic Studies Programme, Yeshiva University, New York, Hacham of the British Commonwealth *The Background to the Development of Jewish Philosophy in Arab Spain*  
9:00 a.m. York University, Glendon Campus, York Hall, Room 151.  
*Naim Kattan*, Jews, Arabs, and Other non-French Writers, Their Impact on Modern French Literature  
10:00 a.m. York University, Steeles Campus, Vanier College, Room 118

*Solomon Gaon*, Sephardic Studies Programme, Yeshiva University, Hacham of The British Commonwealth  
*The Origin of Sephardi Liturgy*  
8:00 p.m. Petah Tikva Congregation, 20 Danby

### Tuesday, March 28

*Jane Gerber*, City University of New York  
*Is There An Arab Tradition of Toleration for Jews?*  
11:00 a.m. York University, Steeles Campus, Ross Building, Room S205

*Jane Gerber*,  
*Arabs and Jews: New Light on an Old Relationship*  
1:00 p.m. York University, Glendon Campus, Fireside Room, 3rd floor, York Hall

*Howard Sachar*, George Washington University, author, *A History of Israel*  
*The Arab-Israeli Embroglio: a Scenario for Peace*  
8:00 p.m. Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst

### Wednesday, March 29

*Howard Sachar*,  
*The Seeds of Conflict: Lebanon's Christians and Muslims, Israel's Jews*  
4:00 p.m. York University, Steeles Campus, Ross Building, Room S872

All lectures are open to the public and free of charge. For information, phone 667-3189.