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"But someone for whom pregnancy poses a special threat is advised to see a doctor, who may prescribe two methods," says Lynn Yates of Herbert Farber and Associates. "It's an individual decision." To be on the safe side, we suggest a second application. It has to be used every single time you have sex."

Yates says the U.S. research was done by a major facility, which refuses to release the results before publication in a major medical journal this spring.

"Of course there will be some pregnancies. Why they occur we don't know," she says. "When someone says they feel they've used it correctly that may be just their interpretation of the directions."

"I've had two patients pregnant that were using it — I know two women who wouldn't recommend it," says Dr. John Cockrell of the Women's Clinic. "The directions say you must wait 10 to 15 minutes for it to take effect. That's the problem — who waits?"

Yates shies away from quoting percentages for Encare effectiveness. "It would be misleading," she says. "The FDA has set a guideline for what constitutes the right method of study. Right now the ranges depend on which study you read. The product has a method effectiveness that's highly reliable, but it depends on the user."

The only real advantage to suppositories is their application, says Margaret Leonard, a Women's Clinic nurse.

"They're not as effective as the company would have us be-



Photo by Dennis Hickok

While early ads rated its effectiveness at 99 percent, several local experts claim common usage of Encare Oval may produce much lower results. Most recommend using the suppositories with another birth control method.

lieve. Another suppository (Semicid) is following in its (Encare's) coattails, which is basically the same thing. It's being compared commonly to the pill — there's no comparison."

If the choice is between Encare and no care, nurse practitioner Linda Paseman would rather see women use the suppository. But the University Health Center nurse recommends it be used with condoms.

"The advantage is that it's available without a prescription and it does have effective spermicide," she says. "Anything would be better than nothing — we have to be open to offering alternatives to people because they all have drawbacks."

Encare's advertised "effervescent action" is produced by bicarbonate of soda and tartaric acid, says Yates, which allows it to produce foam intervaginally rather than by shaking a can. The active ingredient, spermicide nonoxyl 9, is used in most foams on the market.

"It should be harmless systemically," Paseman says. "Tartaric acid is what's in cranberry juice. But it's not the world-wide panacea it claims to be."

However, while cranberry juice is often used for partial treatment of vaginal infections, Paseman says the tartaric acid found in Encare Oval tablets won't have that effect. And Cockrell says women who have infections,

are most likely to experience the "burning" side effects sometimes associated with Encare use.

Encare is among the bottom percentage of contraceptives sold at the University Bookstore, says supply manager Bob Spencer.

"Some people tend to be leary of it because it's not very widely known," he observes. "The prophylactics tend to be the going thing."

Encare sales are probably less than 10 percent of the market, estimates Hiron's pharmacist Jack McMillan.

"That's just a guess. We still sell an awful lot of jellies and creams. Our (Encare) sales seem to be increasing in both stores."

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This was no small effort since she was on crutches.

She hobbled from one side of the board to the other, and then headed back again for another lap. Every time she said something about deficientary transvectors described by long root groups associated with isotropic points, the audience nodded.

This would prompt her to do encores on delta non-degenerate vector space.

Unitary and orthogonal root groups was rivdled only by the Locust Methathoracid Flexor Tibiae, a big social event in the biology department. Flexor Tibiae fans turned out by the dozen to sip tea, eat cookies and discuss their favorite topic.

Generalized recombination in bacteriophage lamda proved popular among science fans. Few of the some 75 who turned out were drawn by the subject. It was the plot. "I like to keep up on what's happening in biochemistry," said doctoral student Chris Russel after the performance. "I didn't know what it was about, but it sounded simple."

Were it not for its popularity, the dissertation might have disappeared long ago. Yet few can explain why it caught on. "The tradition came from North European countries, and Scandinavia in particular, explains Brown. "There, the doctoral student spends four or five years on the research. By the time it's finished, the student is a master of the field. People attend to get exposed to a piece of research."



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