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For now, herpes is incurable. There are several drugs that act to minimize the physical discomfort during outbreaks, according to Roger Rohloff, a salesman for Burrow-Welcome pharmaceutical company. Acyclovir is a drug that requires a prescription but has been shown to shorten the duration of lesions of first outbreaks. After initial outbreaks, the drug does reduce pain slightly, Rohloff said.

There are several other drugs "in the mill" that may reduce the pain and frequency of outbreaks. But once a person has contracted the disease, there is no cure, said Health Center practitioner Bailey.

The medical community hopes for a herpes vaccine to be out within five years, Simon said.

There are several groups set up locally and nationally to help people come to terms with

the emotional and physical aspects of herpes. Katy Babcock is the director of research and program development at the Herpes Resource Center in Palo Alto, Calif.

"We distribute information and education in the form of a hotline, newsletter and pamphlets and audio visual equipment," Babcock said.

The center also sponsors support groups throughout the United States.

Research and updated material is aquired through a network of herpes researchers throughout the United States and a medical advisory board, Babcock said.

For more information about the disease, contact:

•Herpes Information and Support Group, Sharlene, 683-2095 or Carolyn, 343-3013. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month from 7 to

9 p.m. in Conference Room 5 Main, Sacred Heart Hospital.  
 •Herpes Resource Center, P.O. Box 100, Palo Alto, Calif. Phone (415) 321-5134 or 328-7710.  
 •V.D. Hotline, 1-800-227-8922 (toll free) for information and referral.  
 •U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease Branch, Venereal Disease Branch, Atlanta, Georgia, 30333.

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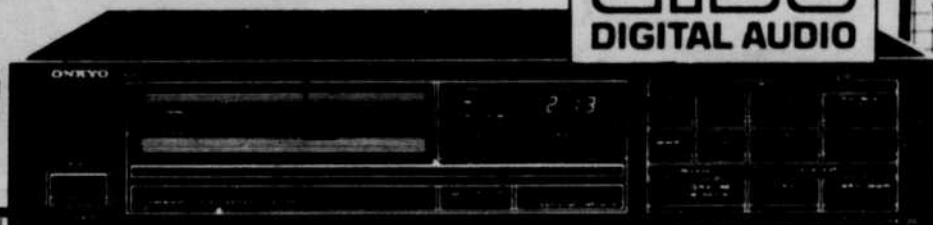
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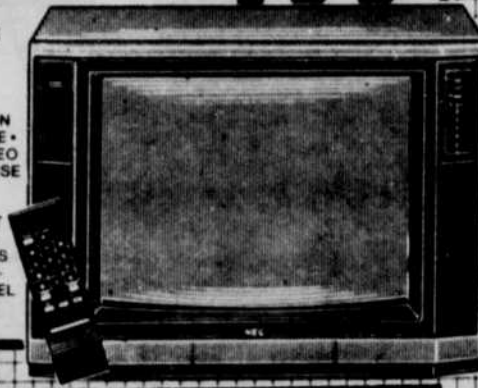
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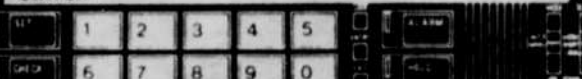


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