

Medical advice

State disease case rate considered

The homosexual community in the Portland area may number as high as 100,000, or one-tenth of the area's population.

They have their own unique life style of multiple partners, which contributes to their own unique predilection toward disease. Sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea, hepatitis B, syphilis, venereal warts, herpes and now the rare kaposi's sarcoma (KS) cancer, all have higher incidence rates among this community.

One recent case of KS was a young male homosexual in his late 20s who has contracted hepatitis B, recurrent episodes of Herpes Simplex infections, syphilis, and recurrent yeast infections, all in this last year.

He may have had an immune deficiency to have gotten this many diseases in a year's time but the organisms that cause these diseases are in large numbers in the homosexual population to begin with.

Toxic shock syndrome (TSS) had been reported to be 30 cases in Oregon for the year 1980. The exact cause is still a mystery but with the

removal of the super absorbent tampons the rate for Oregon is almost zero, though last year in Portland a young girl died as a result of TSS.

It seemed that leaving in the tampons longer, because they worked so well, plus the absorbent chips were abrasive to the skin, allowed for the bacteria staphylococci to multiply and then enter the bloodstream through micro tears in the vaginal wall.

Once the staphylococci entered the blood it produced toxin that led to shock and death in numerous cases. This is only a possibility as to the cause.

Campylobacter is now the number one cause of diarrhea in the state. It is caused by the campylobacter bacteria that has just been found in the past few years. As with other diseases, like Legionnaires disease, the bacteria always has been around causing illness but was always called by another name and so was never truly diagnosed properly.

Health departments now have the techniques to identify these bacteria. Campylobacteriosis (the name of the

disease) causes grossly bloody, and watery, stools. Two famous (or infamous) outbreaks in the last two years involved raw milk purchased from specific herds in Oregon. The rate in 1980 was 109 cases. Now, because physicians are looking for this bacterium, campylobacteriosis is being reported at 70-80 cases per month, a dramatic increase.

It is found in puppies with diarrhea (it's the number one cause), 91 percent of chicken carcasses, and baby ducks and chicks harbor the bacteria as well.

Tetanus, the disease that is called "Lock Jaw," is the dread of mothers with active little children. There have been two cases in Oregon in the last five years. The reason it has been so low is because of childhood immunizations, the awareness and concern of parents and individuals, as well as the sophistication of treatment now available to prevent tetanus in real dirty wounds.

Remember, a booster is needed but once every five to 10 years.

One polio case was reported in 1980. This low rate was again due to

effective immunization programs. An interesting case occurred where the infant was immunized, came home, and the father changed the infant's diaper. The father contracted polio and died. This was an extremely rare case and in no way should speak against immunizations.

Hepatitis B, the most deadly hepatitis, and which has a five percent mortality rate, has been steadily rising over the years from 302 cases in 1975 to 406 cases in 1980. This is most likely due to the steadily rising influx into Portland of the homosexual community.

Other diseases of interest are tuberculosis. There were 194 cases in 1975 with an increase to 218 in 1980.

There were two cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) reported in 1980. Pertussis was part of the measles outbreak in 1977-78, during which 364 cases were reported.

Again, immunizations prevented a possible epidemic.

Rubella showed up 73 times in 1980 and should still be of concern to pregnant women. Pregnant women should shy away from any child with



Dr. Paul Guilleux

a rash. There were 174 cases in the epidemic year 1977-78.

Dr. Paul Guilleux, D.O., will answer medical questions. Mail them to The Sandy Post.

Dealership to make restitution

The owners of "Wheels 1," an automobile dealership in Milwaukie, have agreed to make full restitution to automobile owners involved in their consignment sales program.

According to the Consumer Protection and Services Division of Oregon's Department of Justice, the firm has agreed to voluntarily clarify vehicle title questions or refund money due customers within 30 days of court filing.

An investigation was launched by the Division following numerous complaints filed by customers from throughout the Portland area.

Complaints charge that purchasers cannot obtain title to vehicles after making full payment and consignment sellers allege receiving no proceeds from sales.

As a result, the ownership of many of the vehicles is currently in question.

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