

Teen-Agers Said Responsible for About Half Of All Venereal Disease Reported in Nation

Editor's Note: Is venereal disease conquered? Far from it. From a conference here last week, from a congressional investigation, and from a recent nationwide survey, one big fact emerged. Despite the miracle of penicillin, VD is on the upswing in this country. This situation is summed up in the following dispatch.

By MICHAEL J. O'NEILL
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—An alarming number of careless American teen-agers are playing Russian roulette with venereal disease—and losing.

The Public Health Service says about 200,000 teen-agers are now getting syphilis and gonorrhea every year. That's nearly half of all the cases reported in the nation.

Until recently, the venereal disease rate was declining sharply under the impact of effective treatment and control programs. Now it has started to climb.

Professional prostitutes were once the chief source of infection. Now it is the teen-age armateurs, the casual pickup date, so-called "respectable" people in every walk of life.

These facts were reported here last week at the first International Symposium on Venereal Diseases. They also figure prominently in a Senate investigation of juvenile delinquency and in a joint statement issued by the nation's leading VD-fighting organizations.

Penicillin is an almost sure-fire cure for VD. Ironically, it also is one of the chief reasons for the current slump in the campaign to wipe out one of man's greatest scourges.

The wonder drug has proved so effective that much of the nation's elaborate VD control machinery has been dismantled. And, more important, it has removed much of the fear which once applied a heavy check to

sexual promiscuity—particularly among teen-agers.

Dr. Abraham Gelperin, health director of Des Moines, Ia., told the venereal disease conference that teen-age cases of gonorrhea have increased so sharply that the "15-19" age group now must be considered the key to any control program.

"No longer dare we restrict ourselves to the prostitute," he said. "Promiscuity is somehow accepted as a natural part of growing up. . . our youth does not learn, is willing to take the chance, is grossly misinformed, or is contemptuous of gonorrhea."

Some Important Facts
Gelperin said a detailed study of the teen-age problem in the Des Moines area showed that broken homes were only "an infinitesimal factor" in VD cases. Far more incriminating, he said, were such facts as these about young people who contracted VD:

"Practically all the parents interviewed did not know where their sons or daughters were or what they were doing at any time other than school."

Sex education was obtained "anywhere but home."

None of the infected teen-agers attended church, except occasionally, or belonged to any church group.

There was often a certain lack of "mutual respect" among the various members of the family.

Gelperin — and other VD

fighters — called for long-term community programs to alert teen-agers to the dangers of VD and to steer them into wholesome and healthy channels.

Dr. C. A. Smith, head of the Health Service's venereal disease program, also urged a nationwide physician cooperation program to help health officers track down and treat VD contacts to prevent the disease from "spreading unnoticed in the community."

For a variety of reasons, most VD victims are now going to private physicians instead of to public clinics. This has made control, investigation and treatment of contacts more difficult.

In a joint statement in February, the state health officers and the major venereal disease associations called for a big federal aid program to help maintain a permanent, nationwide control program.

Better methods of treatment and diagnosis still are being sought. There is even hope that science may some day be able to develop a vaccine against the venereal diseases.

At the VD symposium here, however, Dr. Harold J. Magnuson of the Health Service said there is little immediate prospect for an effective vaccine.

Magnuson and his aides have been able to boost the immunity of a victim of late syphilis with injections of killed treponema pallidum, the micro-organism which causes the disease. But the vaccine seems to provide no immunity to persons with early syphilis or no syphilis at all. For some reason the blood antibodies which defend human beings against viruses do not seem to help much against syphilis.

Magnuson said, however, that there has been considerable progress in developing better diagnostic tests for syphilis. The trouble with most tests is that they produce a number of "false positives" which cause considerable trouble — and embarrassment — for both physician and patient.

A new test — the treponema pallidum complement fixation (TPCF) test — seems to be more accurate. It uses a chemical fraction of the syphilis germ to detect the presence or absence of the germ in a person's blood stream.

"Today we are under constant attack by these virulent diseases," Smith said. "Haphazard vigilance and a token attack

offer only a false sense of security. Our only real security will come from world-wide vigilance on a concerted attack. Instead of merely containing these diseases, we must conquer them, or pay tribute year after year."

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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VACATIONING IN RUSSIA, American pilot Gari Ketcham (left), of Trans World Airlines, was asked by Soviet Captain Boris Bugaev (right), at Moscow Airport if he'd like to fly new Red jet airliner TU-104. Ketcham enthusiastically accepted and became first American to pilot late-type Russian plane. (International Soundphoto)

Nunley Committee Election Expenses Reported To Be \$536

Salem —(U.P.)—The Oregon Kefauver committee, with William L. Josslin, co-chairman, spent \$3,488 on the Democratic presidential hopeful's Oregon campaign, reports submitted to the State Elections Division showed today.

Other primary expenditures included:

John Merrifield for national Republican committeeman, \$3,795.

C. Girard Davidson for Democratic national committeeman, \$1,183.

Pat Dooley, for Democratic national committeeman, \$148.

Committee to elect Pat Dooley, \$983.

Jess Gard, for delegate at large to Republican national convention, \$191.

Fred H. Cockell, delegate to Republican national convention, \$233.

Robert G. Ingalls for delegate committee, \$430.

Kathleen N. Bash, for delegate to national convention, \$180.

Walter H. Dodd, for delegate to national convention, \$564.

Kenneth S. Groves, for delegate to national convention, \$148.

Wayne Stewart, in behalf of Dan Thornton for vice-president of the United States, \$1,590.

Elmer Deetz, Republican candidate for U. S. senator, \$1,047.

Woody Smith, Democratic candidate for U. S. senator, \$1,187.

Phil J. Roth, Republican for Congress, \$1,664.

Grant county keep Elmo Smith governor committee, \$663.

Mark Hatfield, Republican for secretary of state, \$500.

Sig Unander, Republican for state treasurer, \$320.

Walter T. Nunley for Jackson county district attorney committee, \$536.

Ted R. Gamble, in support of various Republican candidates, \$1,100.

Grant Girl Named Portland Rose Queen

Portland —(U.P.)—It's Queen Sharon I.

Thousands of subjects of the realm of rosaria waited breathlessly at Multnomah stadium last night until 10:20 p.m. when the dark haired princess from Grant high school stepped out to acknowledge the plaudits of the crowd and the best wishes of her regal court, made up of seven lovelies from seven other city high schools.

Queen Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Frey. Sharon, the tallest of the 1956 court, stands 5-feet 7½ inches. A crowd of 15,149 braved cool, threatening weather to witness the annual queen selection, traditionally one of the highlights in the week-long pageant.

Princess Margaret Attends Theater

London —(U.P.)—Princess Margaret went to the theater Wednesday night with Billy Wallace, less than 24 hours after dancing till nearly dawn with another highly eligible bachelor, Margaret and Wallace, stepson of American writer Herbert Agar, went with four friends to a charity performance of T. S. Elliot's "The Family Reunion" at the Phoenix Theater.

Night before last—the pretty princess danced until 3 a.m. at the American Embassy with Dominic Elliot, handsome son of the Earl of Minto.

But Wednesday night she was

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Henry Pfaff, no operator's license, \$5.
William David Baize, excessive noise (pipes), \$10.
Guy Ray Page, failure to yield right of way, \$10.
Joe F. Tremble, failure to yield right of way, \$10.
Ernest Harrison McKee, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Susan Jean Brill, excessive noise (pipes), \$10.
Robert Merton Jones, excessive noise (tires), \$10.
Thomas Elliott Spatz, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Tommy Joe Norton, excessive noise (tires), \$10.

DISTRICT COURT
John Wesley Kerns, overload, \$61.
Carlton Ellsworth Morrison, overload, \$67.
Roy George Purrel, overload, \$62.
David Elmer Robertson, overload, \$61.

Klamath Falls—(U.P.)—A meeting is scheduled in Washington, D.C. next week to iron out any possible objections remaining against a proposed interstate compact on use of upper Klamath Basin water.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Daniel Peter Fix, Grants Pass, and Linda Ann Wittgen, Phoenix.

James Byron Spencer, Rogue River, and Ruby Mae Hicks, Rogue River.

'Hiroshima Maidens' Said Rehabilitated

Honolulu —(U.P.)—Fifteen "Hiroshima maidens," who return to their homeland next week, have been "physically, emotionally and mentally" rehabilitated during their stay in the United States, according to one of their physicians.

Dr. William Hitzig, in a letter to Hickam Air Force officials here, described the results of the plastic surgery the girls underwent to correct the horrible disfigurement they received during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in World War II.

In his letter Hitzig said the girls have shown "remarkable cosmetic and functional improvement" as a result of the series of operations they underwent in the United States.

"Many of the faces have been repaired so they have taken on a humanized appearance," Hitzig said. "Many contractures of their tendons have been released and they again can functionally use their limbs, thanks to the remarkable reconstructive surgery."

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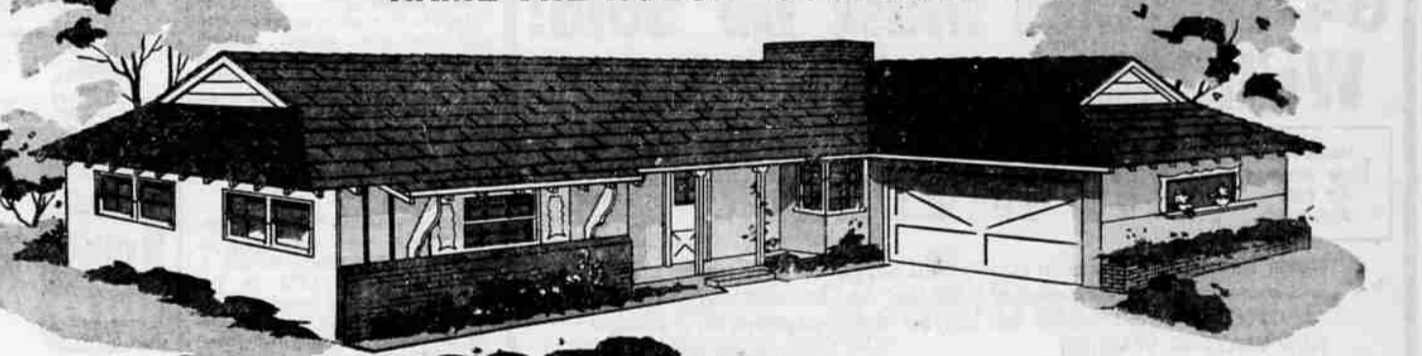
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