

Syphilis test urged

Official says prostitutes, clients should be checked

Prostitutes and men who have had sex with them should be examined and should have their blood tested for syphilis, Marion County's health officer says.

Dr. Beverly Olsen said those services are available from doctors' offices and from clinics specializing in sexually transmitted diseases. The clinics include the Salud Medical Center, 347 N. Front, Woodburn, and the county health department clinic, at 3180 Center St. NE, Salem.

Both clinics use sliding-fee scales, and Olsen said the county clinic does not turn away people who can't pay.

Clinics and doctors' offices also provide antibiotic treatment that is highly effective, Olsen said.

Syphilis starts out benignly enough, but it can cause severe damage years after it enters the body.

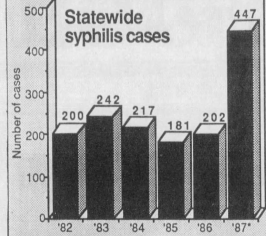
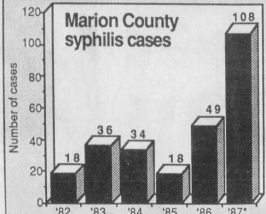
The first indication is a small sore on the genitals about three weeks after infection. The sore disappears about three weeks later.

A rash, fever and sometimes other symptoms, again lasting several weeks, may appear six weeks to six months after the genital sore disappears.

The disease then enters a latent stage during which victims may have no symptoms for years.

Eventually, however, the syphilis organism, called a spirochete, may cause heart disease, deafness, blindness, paralysis or insanity.

Syphilis cases increase



Source: Oregon State Health Division

Additional information about the disease and its treatment is available from the health department at 588-5342.

Epidemic

Continued from Page 1A.

It is unclear, however, whether the epidemic reflects an increase in prostitution activity, a greater degree of infection among prostitutes, or both.

Olsen and others said a distinct possibility is that drug addiction is compelling increasing numbers of women to enter prostitution.

"They need to find a source of income for the drugs," Veronica Gagne, nursing supervisor at Woodburn's Salud Medical Center, said. "And the migrant workers, they are alone, and they carry cash."

Harger said that in some cases, mainly in Portland, women sometimes simply trade sex for drugs.

In Marion County, he said, interviews with syphilis patients often reveal contact with prostitutes in Salem — along Portland Road NE or at State Street at Lancaster Drive — or in the northern part of the county.

In northern Marion County, he said, the prostitution often involves Hispanics, who have accounted for 53 percent of this year's syphilis cases. Health officials long have said that prostitution thrives in the northern part of the county, sustained largely by field workers.

However, Lt. Ken Wright of the Woodburn Police Department said he had yet to see proof of that, at least in Woodburn.

"What looks to someone like prostitution may be something else. Maybe it's just hanging out on a street corner."

Lt. Ron Freshour of the Marion County Sheriff Department said his agency doesn't have the resources to monitor prostitution.

Officer Dennis Engel said the Salem Police Department's street crimes unit has stepped up patrols along Portland Road NE since October, reducing the number of prostitutes working there.

However, law enforcement and health officials agreed that police crackdowns generally can do little more than temporarily scatter prostitution.

Beyond the sheer numbers of cases involved, the current epidemic also has health officials puzzled about a matter of timing. In past years, syphilis incidence in Marion County has been highest in the summer, when the most field workers were present.

But this year, Olsen said, "It's going on now, in December, as strong as it did in the summer."

Officials said this change may indicate that syphilis is entering new segments of the population, that more former migrant people are staying in the area, or both.

Although syphilis in adults is easily treated with antibiotics, children born to infected mothers may suffer birth defects and in some cases may die. The current epidemic has produced six cases of congenital syphilis, including three in Marion County, according to the Health Division.

Although no babies have died, Olsen said, some have serious health problems. Olsen, a pediatrician who has practiced since 1955, said he had never seen a case of congenital syphilis before this year.

He also said that more congenital cases are on the way.

Syphilis tests and treatments are available at doctors' offices and at clinics.

However, health officials said they have had trouble reaching people who need treatment or disease-prevention education.

Language has been one problem, although health officials hope they have eased it. Harger said the Health Division recently hired a Spanish-speaking specialist in sexually transmitted disease and assigned him to Marion County.

That specialist is undergoing training at the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and is expected to return this month, Harger said.

Another problem, he said, is suspicion of government agencies. That problem may have been compounded by controversy about federal legislation offering amnesty to some immigrants.

Olsen said the disease's link to prostitution and drug abuse also keeps some people away from help, especially the prostitutes themselves.

"We have two illegal activities there, and people aren't apt to come in to a public agency or even a doctor's office for help."

The combination of drug abuse and promiscuous sex raises another fear among health officials — fear of the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Some AIDS experts have suggested that drug-using prostitutes eventually might provide a route for transmission of the virus to large numbers of heterosexuals.

"Anyone who has been exposed to syphilis has possibly been exposed to AIDS," Olsen said, "because you get it the same way."

Clowns

Continued from Page 1A.

"It's not only good for the kids — it is a reunion for the clowns," Ocasio said.

He and a fellow clown, Buster, also known as Mike Bednarek of Salem, are graduates of the Ringling Brothers Clown School.

Bednarek said they started the holiday event to make Christmas more fun for youngsters from low-income families and to introduce them to the people behind the painted smiles.

The party for the 6-, 7- and 8-year-olds was at the Chumare Comfortel plaza.

At first, Josie Siemieniczuk, 7, a second-grader at Four Corners School, refused to have anything to do with her companion, Sunny, played by Sharon King of Salem.

"I think it was too much for her," King said. "It can be a bit

overwhelming to see clowns surrounding you."

But Josie recovered from her initial surprise, bowing her head to the task of coloring a paper cut-out of a Christmas star.

"I'd like a doll for Christmas," she said, barely above a whisper.

Katrina would not reveal what she wanted for Christmas to just anybody.

"I'm going to tell Santa," she said. "He's coming later, right?"

Ocasio assured her that Santa was coming, with presents.

The party was for children whose younger brothers and sisters are enrolled in Salem Head Start. The federally funded program prepares 3- and 4-year-old children for school, but those children are too young to participate in a full day of singing, coloring and merriment, Bednarek said.

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Greenpeace scuttles Rainbow Warrior

MATARI BAY, New Zealand (AP) — The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior went to a watery grave Saturday.

It was deliberately scuttled by Greenpeace members 2½ years after French spies sank the vessel in Auckland's harbor.

The patched and rusting ship was towed to Cavalli islands off New Zealand's northern tip. It was sunk in 60 feet of water to become an artificial reef and symbolic diving memorial.

"It's a fitting end for a ship that tried so long to protect the environment," a Greenpeace spokesman said.

The converted 400-ton fishing trawler was surrounded by a flotilla of spectator craft as it slipped below the waves.

In 1985, the French government ordered the ship sunk to prevent it from leading a protest flotilla to a French nuclear testing site in the South Pacific. French divers used mines to tear apart the ship's hull as it sat in Auckland's harbor. A Greenpeace photographer was killed.

The episode triggered a major diplomatic row between France and non-nuclear New Zealand. Two French agents involved were captured and convicted of sabotage.

Maj. Alain Mafart and Capt. Dominique Prieur were ordered jailed for 10 years. They later were released to French custody in exchange for \$10 million, an apology and the lifting of a trade ban on New Zealand imports.

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Salem man sails in gulf

His ship helps in tanker rescue effort

By Theresa Novak
Of the Statesman-Journal

Marvis Markee of Salem says she often worries about her son, David, who is stationed aboard the USS Chandler in the Persian Gulf.

But she said her worry turned to admiration and relief Saturday, when her daughter Becky called to tell her that the Chandler was involved in the helicopter rescue of 40 people from a burning oil tanker.

"I've been glued to the television set ever since," Markee said. "It is kind of a funny feeling to watch his ship and know he's on the other side of the world."

David Markee, 26, has been stationed aboard the Chandler since early 1985. He is a quartermaster second class, serving as a navigator, she said.

Marvis Markee said she hasn't heard from him since he came home to visit for a few days in October.

She said she knows little about his activities in the gulf.

"If you ask too many questions, he just kind of shrugs and says, 'I can't talk about that, Mom. It's classified information,'" she said.

A 1979 graduate of Sprague High School, David Markee was born in Portland and grew up in Salem, she said. After graduation, he went to college in Ashland for a



David Markee, foreground, serves as a navigator.

while but decided to join the Navy.

In March, he received a letter of commendation from S.G. Smith, commander of the Chandler, for his expert navigation during maneuvers in San Francisco and the Persian Gulf, she said.

Her feelings about her son's service in the Persian Gulf are mixed: "Sometimes I don't know if they should be there. Other times I think there must be a reason for

it. They must be doing something important."

The Chandler is part of an 11-unit Middle East Force that protects U.S.-flagged commercial vessels as they sail through the gulf.

"Most of the time, though, and that is it is hot in there and dull," Markee said. "Not anymore."

She is hoping for peace in the gulf so she can welcome home her son on his scheduled leave in April.

Nicaragua expects invasion

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Defense Minister Humberto Ortega on Saturday said the Sandinista government plans to more than double its military forces in about seven years because of a possible U.S. invasion.

Speaking at an assembly of Sandinista labor leaders, he said the military will increase its personnel from 250,000 to 300,000 within the next few months and, conditions permitting, to 600,000 by 1995.

"With what we have now, the gringos have something to think about," he said. "This is not Grenada. Here it will not be the same."

Ortega referred to the U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada in October 1983.

Meanwhile, Maj. Roger Miranda Bengeochea, who defected from Nicaragua, said that the Sandinista government planned to increase its armed forces to 370,000 by 1990 and to 500,000 by 1995. About 90 percent of that will be in reserves and militia, Miranda said.



Humberto Ortega

This force would represent one of the most powerful armies in Latin America, Miranda said in Washington last week. It was the first time he had spoken publicly since his defection Oct. 25.

Ortega said the defense person-

nel figures include regular military troops, reserve forces, militias and security units.

He said conditions for an increase to 600,000 include the nation's economic capacity and population growth. The current population is estimated at 2.5 million.

Ortega said Nicaragua also plans to upgrade its military equipment with new interceptor warplanes and other arms. He did not elaborate.

Government leaders have been insisting since late 1981, when rebels began fighting the Sandinistas, that the United States plans to invade their nation. The United States provides aid to the Contra rebels.

U.S. officials have repeatedly denied that an invasion is planned. They accuse the Sandinistas of building their military establishment, with Soviet and Cuban help, into the biggest force in Central America and beyond in Nicaragua's defense needs.

Waldheim says he only knew of reprisals

CHICAGO (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused of participating in brutal Nazi reprisals against Yugoslavian partisans during World War II, said that he knew about the reprisals but denied he was involved in carrying them out.

"Orders to carry out reprisals existed," Waldheim, a former United Nations secretary general, said. "They came from the highest war office in Berlin."

"That was well-known by everyone. . . . I was not involved in it."

Waldheim's comments were published today's by the Chicago Tribune.

The comments came as an international commission of military historians is studying his war record. The commission is expected to make its findings public next month.

Waldheim described himself as the victim of a "defamation campaign against me by all kinds of circles." He said he has no intention of resigning.

Earlier this month, Stern magazine, one of West Germany's largest news weeklies, reported that Yugoslav military documents showed that Waldheim and other members of his German army unit were directly involved in World War II atrocities while serving in the Balkans.

Dying rocket puts on a show in sky over West and Midwest

The Associated Press

A rocket body burned up as it entered the Earth's atmosphere Saturday night, putting on a spectacular light show over a broad area of the West and Midwest, officials said.

The dying rocket lit up the sky over Fort Worth, Texas, about 6:45 p.m. PST. It left a fiery trail as it headed north across the night sky, Maj. Alex Mondragon of the U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said.

People from Texas to Montana called police or the news media, saying they saw vivid colored streaks.

The display was caused by a Soviet rocket body used in the launch of the Raduga 21 satellite Dec. 10 and tracked by the space command since then, Mondragon said.

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Private firms put
public data to use
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PSU is runner-up
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War on drugs
Officials count
few wins in year
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Sunday

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Shultz favors deterrence

Conventional arms urged

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz urged U.S. allies Saturday to increase spending on conventional

forces now that intermediate-range nuclear missiles are to be scrapped.

"It's up to all of us to increase our contributions to NATO," Shultz said after meeting Denmark's foreign minister, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization has kept the peace in Europe for 40 years, Shultz said, "and it is undoubtedly due to the deterrent capability."

He is expected to repeat the view when he travels to Norway today and West Germany and Britain later in the week. Shultz's trip to Western Europe follows the signing by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev of a treaty banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

His remarks had particular meaning for Denmark, where government and opposition parties

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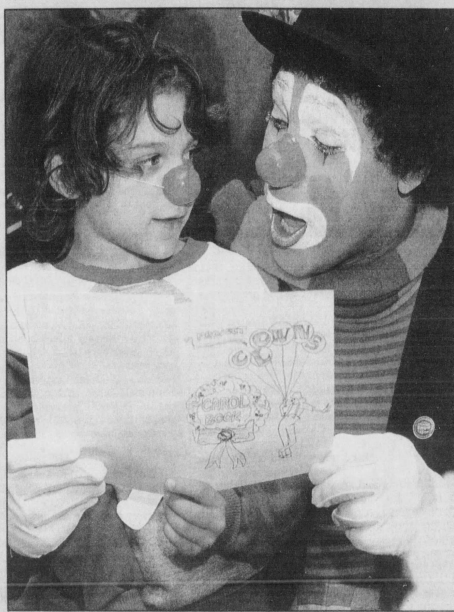
are arguing about whether to increase military spending. According to Foreign Ministry figures, Denmark spends 2.2 percent of its gross national product on defense. That compares with 6.8 percent in the United States and an average of 4 percent among NATO nations.

U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci was quoted Saturday as saying that NATO's first priority following the treaty signing should be to upgrade conventional forces.

"The planned improvement and modernization of our conventional weapons will now become especially important," he was quoted as telling a West German newspaper. Officials of the NATO nations and its Soviet counterpart, the Warsaw Pact countries, are trying to arrange talks about reduction of conventional weapons.

"You need long-term programs to stay strong while you negotiate these lower levels," an administration official said.

Negotiations to set a formula for the talks are under way.



Katrina Crawford and Willy the Clown (Angel Ocasio), practice singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Clowns and kids got together for a day of fun Saturday in Salem.

Clowns, kids make magic

Everyone was in the nose

By Theresa Novak
Of the Statesman-Journal

Katrina Crawford and Willy the Clown had something in common Saturday when they sang *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

Each had a very shiny nose. Katrina, 6, a first-grader at Bush Elementary School, wore the fake nose as part of a celebration that was like Christmas and a day at the circus, all in one.

The event was the seventh annual "Christmas Love Opens a World of New Smiles" — C.I.O.W.N.S.

Twenty-two Salem children were paired with their own clowns for a day.

The 22 clowns helped the children paste together paper chains and color Christmas ornaments to decorate a tree. Together they sang carols at the Lancaster Village retirement center. And they were visited by Santa Claus, who passed out dolls, robots, pencils and stickers.

When not wearing a holly-decked top hat, tuxedo jacket and striped stockings, Willy is known as Angel Ocasio, a 31-year-old restaurant manager who lives in Tigard.

He and Katrina talked about everything, from her favorite subject in school — math — to whether she had a boyfriend — no.

Amid the conversations Saturday about school, friendships and Christmas, one topic kept resurfacing: "I can't wait for Santa," Paul Howey, 7, told his clown companion, Stardust, as he fidgeted on the floor waiting for the caroling to start.

The clowns made faces for the children, waddled like ducks and exchanged small talk. Turn to **Clowns**, Page 2A.

Navy, CBS rescue crew

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Crews of a U.S. Navy warship and a TV helicopter rescued 40 terrified people Saturday from a burning supertanker in the southern Persian Gulf.

The *Pivot*, a 232,164-ton Cypriot oil tanker, was hit by rockets from an Iranian frigate.

The chartered helicopter with a CBS television team and smaller helicopters from the destroyer USS *Chandler* lifted the crew from the tanker.

No one was hurt in the attack or the resulting fire, which was brought under control after five hours.

The captain and three other officers refused to abandon the *Pivot*. It will be towed to Dubai.

The *Chandler* is part of the 11-unit Middle East Force that protects U.S.-flagged commercial navigation. It was the first time that a U.S. warship on patrol in the gulf undertook a major rescue mission.

It was also the first time that journalists were involved in a rescue mission in the so-called tanker war. Iranian and Iraqi military both have regularly attacked foreign ships in their 7-year-old war.



AP photo

The Cypriot tanker *Pivot* burns after being hit by Iranian rockets while the destroyer USS *Chandler* steams across the tanker's bow.

Salem man serves aboard destroyer USS *Chandler*

Page 2A

Syphilis epidemic puzzles experts

By Dan Postrel
Of the Statesman-Journal

Health officials report little success in stemming — or even explaining — a syphilis epidemic that has hit Portland and Marion County this year.

By the end of November, 447 syphilis cases had been reported in Oregon in 1987, up from 202 in all of 1986, according to the state Health Division.

Marion County accounts for almost a quarter of the state's cases — 108 as of Nov. 30. The county had 49 cases last year.

The Health Division's Doug

Harger, an expert in sexually transmitted diseases, said the epidemic has struck hardest among Portland blacks and Marion County Hispanics.

The outbreak also has brought back infant syphilis, a potentially fatal or crippling condition that had been virtually unheard of in Oregon for years.

Harger and other officials said the epidemic clearly is linked to prostitution. Dr. Beverly Olsen, Marion County's health officer, said interviews with male syphilitic patients in the county show that half or more had visited prostitutes.

Turn to **Epidemic**, Page 2A.

Senate adopts spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate approval Saturday of a record \$606 billion spending bill moves this year's budget struggles into the final round.

The remaining task is to find compromises between the two chambers and the White House so that the first session of the 100th Congress can end.

House-Senate conferences on the two bills will begin their work this

Nicaragua plans to increase military

Page 2A

week. They hope to finish this week, too.

The House and the Senate have approved different versions of the budget package. It covers virtually all government spending priorities for fiscal 1988, which started on Oct. 1.

Helping hand comes back minus cash

Gannett News Service

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Julius William Hart has little to show from his holiday enterprise.

Hart, 62, said he tried to help a young man but was robbed of more than \$12,000 and his truck.

Hart left his 25-acre Oregon ranch a week ago. He drove a load of 2,000 Christmas trees to San Bernardino and set up tree lots.

A young man on a bicycle rode up to his tree lot Thursday afternoon. The man said he had no money and no place to stay. He pleaded for a job.

Hart bought the man lunch and let him help with the trees. Then he left the man alone and went to check on his other tree lot.

When he returned after dusk, Robert was gone. So were Hart's truck and the money, which he had locked inside the truck.

Hart feels betrayed, but he isn't embarrassed by his trust of the young man. "I'm a soft-hearted person. I trust people."

Inside World

Study seeks family planning

A new study by the Worldwatch Institute urges industrial nations to help reduce global birth rates.

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Nation

Court nominee meets Senate

Senate hearings start Monday for Anthony Kennedy, the third Supreme Court nominee this year.

Page 7A

World

Protests mark South Korean campaign

Opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung waves to supporters while aides protect him with plastic shields. The campaign for the South Korean presidential election is in its final days.

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Region

Bells ring for holiday drive

Bells are ringing for the annual Christmas Kettle Drive conducted by the Salvation Army.

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Weather

Morning fog, then clearing

Morning fog and afternoon clearing today; high near 40. Increasing clouds tonight; low near 32.

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