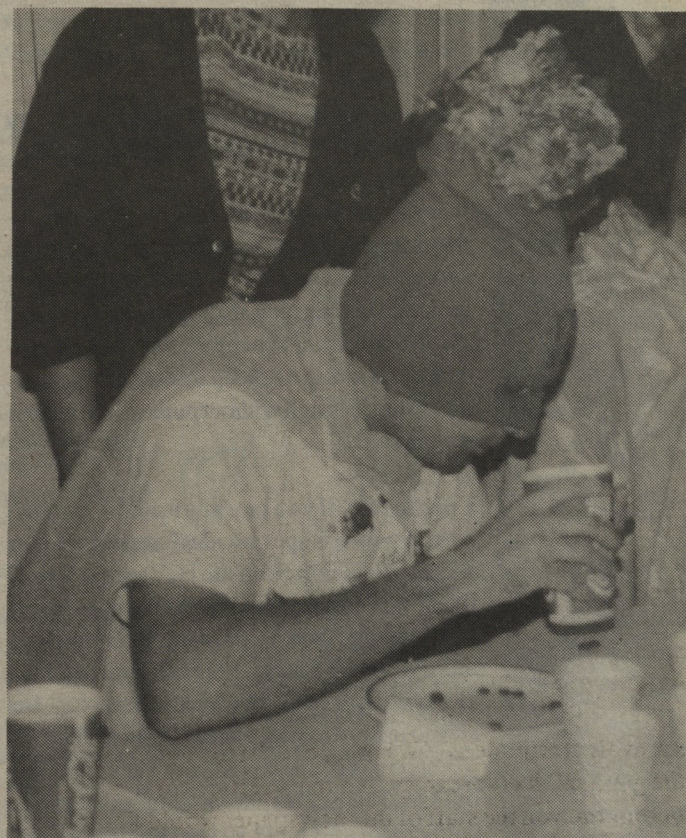


Cervical Cancer

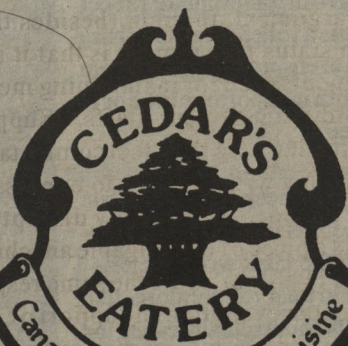
Cervical cancer is the third most common cancer of the female reproductive system. Although the causes are unknown, several factors have been related to the development of cervical cancer. These are frequent intercourse at a young age (under 16), multiple sex partners, multiple pregnancies, and herpes virus II and other venereal infections.

There are two types of cervical cancer -- preinvasive and invasive. Preinvasive cancer is curable 75% of the time with early detection and proper treatment. Unfortunately, preinvasive cervical cancer has no symptoms or apparent changes. A pap smear can detect cervical cancer in this stage before it moves on to the invasive stage. This stage's symptoms in the early part include abnormal vaginal bleeding, persistent vaginal discharge and post-coital pain and bleeding. In advanced stages, the symptoms include pelvic pain, vaginal leakage of feces and urine, anorexia, weight loss, and anaemia. In this stage, the cancer can spread to pelvic structures nearby or to distant structures through the lymphatic system. Invasive cancer of this kind usually occurs between the ages of thirty and fifty, rarely does it occur under twenty.

Treatments for the two types of cancer differ greatly. Preinvasive cancer can be treated with a biopsy (removal of the lesion), cryosurgery, laser destruction, or rarely, hysterectomy. Invasive cancer may be treated by hysterectomy and internal and/or external radiation therapy. All of these treatments should be followed up by frequent pap smears. ■



Students at the second annual M&M-athon. Do they really melt in your mouth and not in your hand? (What a stupid joke. God, it's late.)



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