

### Student Medical Services

The Student Health Service has a policy whereby students are charged for laboratory expenses and prescriptions. Students are not required to pay for the services of the physicians. There is conflicting data, though, which would indicate a discrepancy in this policy--a discrepancy which discriminates against women.

A gynecology clinic was developed by the Health Service in the fall of 1971, to facilitate the increasing gynecological needs of the women on campus. Although this clinic does deal with other female sex-related health needs, its main purpose is to handle the increase in preliminary examinations necessary to dispense "birth control pills."

The charge for the clinic is ten dollars, but this is where the question arises. At the time of the initiation of the clinic, conflict arose because women were told they were being charged five dollars for laboratory services and five dollars for "physician's services". An explanation given by Dr. Gail Proffitt, Director of Student Health Services, on an evening KPGY radio program was that these services were not curative, but only preventive medicine, therefore, the Health Service felt justified in its additional charge. Presently, the Director of Health Services contends that the entire ten dollars is for laboratory expenses. This explanation differs with the woman's examining doctor as to how much a woman student is actually charged for the initial examination. Follow-up exams (required for renewal of oral contraceptive prescriptions), which involve the same tests as the initial examinations cost five dollars.

Recommendations: The student medical services need to be examined. Treatment for women's sex-related health needs must be considered valid medical services, not "additional services". The fees for such services should be based according to the general policies of the Health Service in such a way that women are not being discriminated against for "being a burden" to the Service.

*Fees for women who patronized the gynecology clinic of the Health Service should conform to the basic general policies of that service*