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Graves, Robert A., "Plans for TB Testing Policy Announced by Dr. Graves" (1962). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 658.

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Plans for TB Testing Policy Announced by Dr. Graves

By DR. GRAVES

Tuberculin testing will be done on all students who plan to return next fall, at the same time I.D. card photographs are taken at Wingate Hall during the weeks of May 7th and May 14th. This is an attempt to minimize the risk of tuberculosis among the student population.

In the past, the tuberculosis control program has consisted of screening entering freshmen and all employees involved in food handling. The two cases of tuberculosis we have had in the past two years have both been found in upperclassmen. There is no evidence to suggest these infections were contacted on campus. Nevertheless, students have a right to expect the University to attempt to maintain a safe and healthful environment in which they may live and study, and these two cases illustrated the shortcomings of our attempts to maintain the control of tuberculosis in your environment. Accordingly, we have instituted a massive program of detection involving not only the students but also the faculty and all other employees on campus.

As far as we know, this has not been attempted on this scale anywhere, and we hope to prove significant advantages to the students. Other than the environmental control of tuberculosis, we expect to be able to treat active disease in stages early enough so that

the length of disability is a matter of weeks instead of years.

We may be able to prevent tuberculosis by the treatment of students who have recently had a conversion in their tuberculin test from negative to positive but who do not have any evidence of active disease. This treatment would consist of taking pills daily but would not require hospitalization or even interruption of any activities. Finally, in cooperation with local TB and Health Associations, we hope to be able to trace at least some of these conversions back to a source of active tuberculosis either here or in the student's local community.

Students who will receive their degrees in June are not necessarily included in this program. However, many seniors, especially those planning to teach, will require evidence of a recent tuberculin test or chest x-ray as a condition of employment. These seniors may have a tuberculin test done at Wingate Hall at the same time I.D. card photographs are being taken. Any others who wish to have a tuberculin test done for their own satisfaction may do so. This is highly recommended.

Unless these tests are read two days after injection, the whole effort has been wasted. So please remember to report to the infirmary when you are asked to do so. The testing will be done at Wingate, but the reading of the tests will be done at the Infirmary two days later.