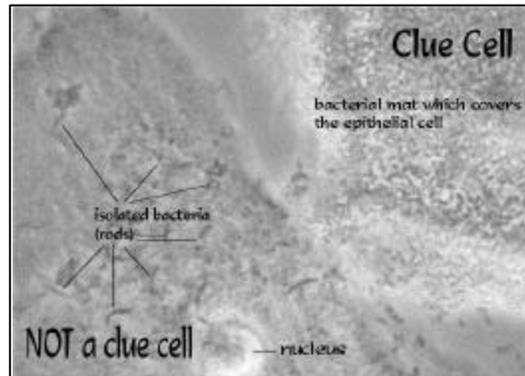
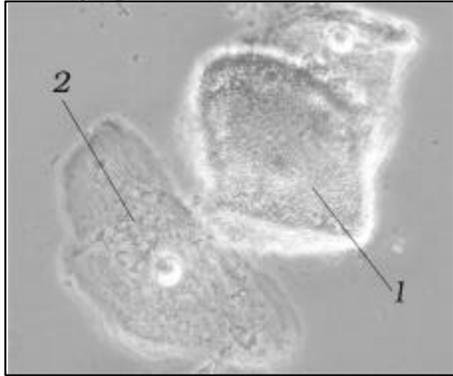


Wet Mount Proficiency Test 2002 A – Critique ^{MSTV}

As these micrographs were taken with phase contrast microscope, the contrast is higher than would normally be observed with brightfield. Furthermore, the specimen was suspended in Diamond's medium which resulted in lush growth of the organisms, particularly the Trichomonads which are larger than commonly observed in fresh specimens. Nevertheless, the morphology is sufficient typical that *most* objects are readily identifiable. In the future, we will add the magnification for each micrograph so size can be better evaluated.

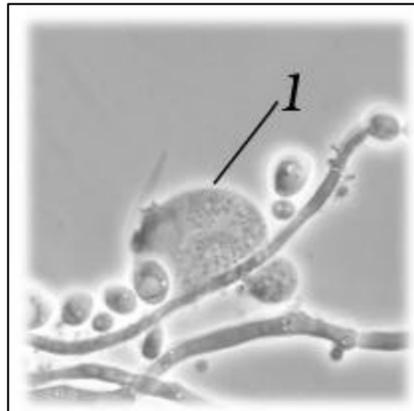
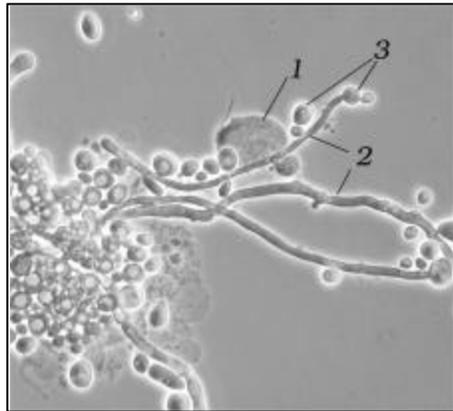
Micrograph A



Item 1 in this micrograph is a classic clue cell; a squamous epithelial cell that is totally covered by bacteria - the intracellular details and edge of the cell are obscured. Item 2 in this micrograph is an ordinary squamous epithelial

cell and not a clue cell - all intracellular details and edges are quite clear. Before a squamous epithelial cell is considered a clue cell, it has to have a sufficient bacterial cells to obscure intercellular details.

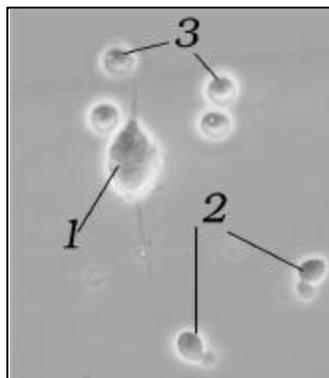
Micrograph B



In micrograph B, item 1 is a Trichomonas; note the flagella at about "10 o'clock". Item 2 are classic pseudohyphae with budding yeast cells. Item 3 are individual budding yeast cells. The Trichomonas is fatter than usual, granted, but its morphology is unlike anything else that one would normally see. This micrograph also demonstrates that one can have more than one infectious agent

in the same vaginal discharge specimen. *Since there was little consensus regarding B1, it will be considered an 'ungraded educational challenge'.*

Micrograph C



Micrograph C was more difficult for many. Item 1 is a Trichomonas with flagella at the "12 o'clock" and "6 o'clock" position. Item 2 are budding yeast cells. Item 3 are yeast cells that are not budding; not red blood cells. Red blood cells tend to be circular with a dimple in the middle giving them the appearance of a miniature donut.

Since there was less than 50% consensus on Item 3 - most people thought they were RBCs - we will consider this item an 'ungraded educational challenge'.