

Taking 'pill,' smoking too? FDA warns it's dangerous

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration Tuesday ordered the nation's druggist to tell women using birth control pills not to smoke because it substantially increases danger of heart attack or stroke.

The warning will be carried in a brochure and a leaflet which must be given each patient every time a druggist dispenses the

pill. The rules take effect April 3.

"The use of birth control pills by healthy women who do not smoke doubles the chance of suffering a heart attack," the FDA said. "But the combination of birth control pills and smoking, especially heavy smoking, presents a far greater risk of heart attack and other circulatory diseases.

"Pill users who also smoke are three times more likely to die of a heart attack or other circulatory disease than women who take the pill but do not smoke, and are 10 times more likely to die of a heart attack or circulatory disease than women who do not use the pill and do not smoke," it added.

Drug committee encourage physicians to be selective

By TERESA HUDDLESTON
Final goals for the drug abuse prevention plan in the Brazos Valley area were discussed Tuesday by the Regional Drug Abuse Advisory Committee.

Debbie Calaway, regional drug abuse coordinator, presented her goals to the committee in a two-phase plan. One deals with preven-

tion and education of drug abuse and the other with treatment and rehabilitation.

One of the committee's goals is to encourage physicians in the Brazos Valley region to be more selective in prescribing habit-forming drugs. They want to make physicians aware of the extent of the drug abuse problem by having data more available

and by encouraging physicians to limit the number of patients on prolonged drug therapy of the habit-forming type.

Another committee goal is to increase awareness of accidental poisonings of children in the Brazos Valley area by making data on their drug overdoses available to the public through the news media. This

goal came in response to six who have visited the hospital past year due to taking pills or drinking poisonous

Other goals include treating alcoholic women and caring for children while the women are receiving treatment.

The goals will be sent to the Department of Community for final approval. The department will then decide on funding program.

The Brazos Valley Region several agencies where a with a drug problem can treatment or counseling to these agencies are the Brazos Mental Health-Mental Health Center, the Bluebonnet Prison Center and The Answer. The City Mission offers help for men.



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50.00	418	6,665 to 1	2,221 to 1	1,110 to 1
25.00	1,681	1,657 to 1	552 to 1	276 to 1
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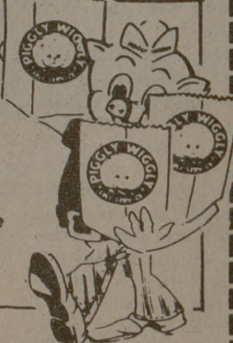
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Firm profits on hot checks

United Press International
HOUSTON — It's getting harder and harder to write a bad check these days. And a few firms are getting richer and richer making them harder.

One of the newest is Gal Houston Checking Service, doing business as Texachek, a affiliate of Telecheck Services, a nationwide firm operating in metropolitan areas.

"We provide to the merchant a service by which they can completely get out of the bad business," says John Chaney, check president and chief holder.

The system works this way: present a check to a merchant with one of 106 acceptable identification. The merchant Texachek and gives them name, identification and the amount of the check.

"Within 25 seconds of the we receive the call, we'll go him with either approval or approval. On an approval, if that is returned as a bad check, we that check from the merchant our warranty limit."

Chaney says the warranty depends on the business individual contract — but it cally a \$400 per check warranty. They are making money.

How do they do it?

"We are accessing a large puterized date file of bad writers," Chaney says. "Our ceeds half a million people nationwide. We will not approve body's check who is in our data build that data file. We're trying that to reduce the cost of bad to merchants and consumers."

"A major account — which remain nameless — lost \$250,000 last year in bad checks. The cost of our service plus that they do not call in — case, that is other than high should be reduced to \$100,000.

But Chaney says tightened tection against bad checks, a percentage of which surface in growing areas like Texas, will everyone money.

"Everybody who spends pay for the cost of bad checks says. "The American Bankers association estimates it costs about annually per head in the U States."

Electronics have made Texas and other firms, including book Telecredit in California, post Chaney said.

"Five years ago, the big m probably had no alternative said. "They probably had a ca

"The big reason that we re do this — and we couldn't t any great sophistication 10 y — is the electronics industy helped us with computers.

"You couldn't have instan access to half a million records until just recently."

Chaney says that Texachek's reputation is lished, just the decal logo store window will keep pntes bad check writers out.

And it's big business.

"We have 600 subscribers June 1 startup," Chaney says. does not include most of the department stores," Chaney of those later.

Where does it all lead? Citize ally, Chaney says, to a cashi ety. "It's a step toward ely funds transfer, which is v difficult to put a date on. But the merchant will no longer concern himself about a bad

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