

NOTICE RUSSIAN FLU STUDY VOLUNTEERS

**Blood Serum Sample -
\$10.00**

**Tuesday and Wednesday
Health Center, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Commons Lounge,
9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.**

Doctor's report shows a link between some birth defects, miscarriages, mother's smoking

United Press International
HILTON HEAD, S.C. — A new study shows a mother's smoking significantly increases the risk of miscarriage and crib death, but does not affect a child's intelligence or long-term growth.

"There's no reason for mothers with children who have school problems to be blaming themselves for smoking during pregnancy," said Dr. Richard L. Naeye, chairman of pathology at Pennsylvania State University's Hershel Medical Center.

Naeye said that some of his findings, based on a four-year analysis of the records of 53,518 pregnancies, were so new they were not included in the surgeon general's new report on smoking.

Naeye released his findings Tuesday at an American Heart Association meeting saying that there is no question that women who smoke have an increased number of miscarriages, and he said there was no doubt their offspring had more major birth defects.

"The most controversial area is the relationship of cigarette smoking to congenital anomalies (birth defects)," he said. "We found a very strong relationship between cigarette smoking and congenital anomalies."

But Naeye said the societal impact of these major birth defects was not great because most of the affected infants died before or immediately following birth.

After eliminating a variety of other factors that might have a role in miscarriages, Naeye said he and his co-workers determined that smoking independently increased

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the risk of three disorders that cause miscarriages.

These include premature separation of the placenta (increased by 65 percent by a mother's smoking), a blood incompatibility known as Rh disease (up 81 percent by smoking) and major birth defects (up 43 percent).

The placenta is the organ that connects the fetus to the uterus.

Naeye said a mother's smoking history also influences a disorder in which the placenta implants in the wrong place on the wall of the mother's uterus. This can cause hemorrhaging affecting both mother and fetus.

He said smoking also increases

the chance that large vessels in the placental tissue will separate during pregnancy, affecting the nutrients flowing to the fetus. While premature separation of the placenta is directly related to the amount of smoking during pregnancy, Naeye said other factors affecting the placenta are also influenced by a mother's smoking practice.

"This raises the possibility of chronic changes in the blood vessels of the uterus which are supplying the placenta," he said.

As far as crib death is concerned, Naeye said many factors may play a role in this ailment. Infants die without warning and test at that a mother's smoking during pregnancy increased the risk of the problem, also known as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, he said.

But despite the fact that studies have placed great emphasis on findings indicating that smoking affected a child's growth and development, he said these findings were not able to eliminate factors that could have been responsible. His study did not consider

"We have now finished our detailed studies on this and we are clear that we do not find evidence that the cigarette smoke is having any permanent effect on either the child's growth or development, or school performance or mental and motor development," he said.

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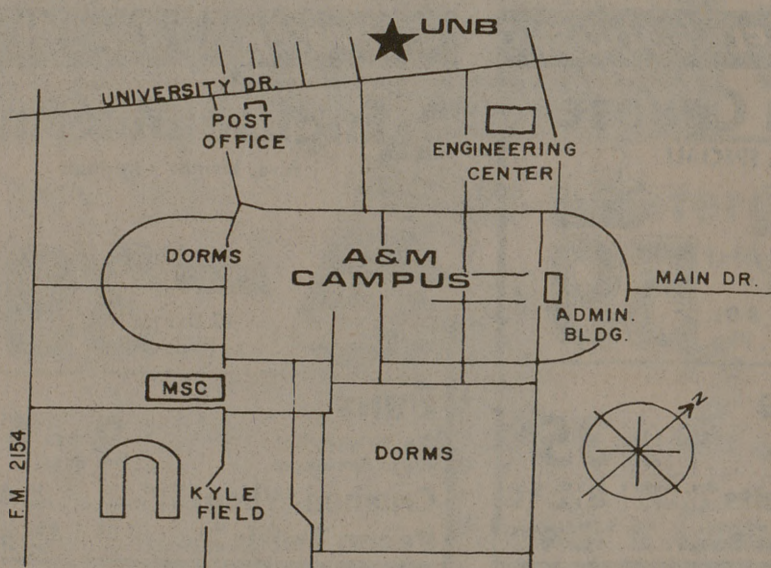
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8 p.m.
Rudder Theater