

# Caffeine linked to defects

United Press International  
SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Caffeine, one of the most widely consumed substances in the world, has been positively linked to birth defects in animals by a Food and Drug Administration scientist, the Morning Union reported Tuesday.

In a copyright story, the newspaper said Dr. Thomas Collins of the FDA's Division of Toxicology in Washington, D.C., has confirmed that defects in the offspring of laboratory animals are directly related to large doses of caffeine given by scientists.

The birth defects in animals caused by caffeine in some of the tests reviewed by Collins include cleft palates, digital defects, joint defects, absence of a jaw, unusual smallness of the lower jaw, blood tumors and club feet.

Collins' previous research brought the ban on the food coloring Red Dye No. 2.

The paper said Collins' study on the effects of caffeine, a natural ingredient of coffee and tea, will be released in a month. Caffeine also is

added to other beverages and found in many over-the-counter drugs, like aspirin.

Caffeine stimulates brain and heart activity and may produce excessive gastric acidity and nervousness.

It has been listed in the Code of Federal Regulations as a multi-purpose food substance generally regarded as safe.

FDA spokesmen have said the agency is considering a proposal requiring caffeine products to carry a

warning to pregnant women, similar to the one now mandated on all food and drugs using saccharin, the paper reports.

Beverage industry officials are preparing their own studies and trying to defuse the FDA report by arguing that Collins study shows that massive amounts of the substance must be administered for any effects to be noticeable.

"It's going to be controversial, to say the least," said Collins, leader of the division's Mammalian Reproduction and Teratology Team.

# Current space probes feared to be last for U.S.

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Every week or two, the United States gets a message from Mars.

The Martian correspondent reports on the weather at its lonely outpost called Chryse and sends back a picture of the rocky, desert neighborhood.

The observer is the Viking 1 robot that landed on Mars July 20, 1976. The space agency has it programmed to continue automatic operations through 1990 and engineers expect its nuclear generators to keep it going even longer.

Viking 1 is just one of seven American planetary spacecraft still in operation. Some are working well past their designed lifetimes, providing the United States with valuable scientific dividends.

The Viking 2 lander and one of two Viking Mars satellites also are working, but the satellite is expected to run out of control gas around June and when it dies, the Viking 2 lander will be silenced because it relies on the orbiter to relay communications to Earth.

The major planetary project now underway centers on two Voyagers which made one discovery after another when they photographed Jupiter and its largest satellites last year.

Voyager 1 is expected to repeat its spectacular performance in November when it cruises past Saturn. Voyager 2 will rendezvous with Saturn in August 1981.

Dr. Thomas Mutch, associate NASA administrator for space science, said it now appears that Voyager 2 will continue to work and become the first manmade probe to explore Uranus in 1986. He said there is a possibility that Voyager 2 will last long enough to reach Neptune in 1989.

Other planetary spacecraft still working are the Pioneer-Venus satellite around Venus, the Pioneer



10 spacecraft heading out of the solar system and Pioneer 11 between the orbits of Saturn and Uranus.

The next big planetary mission is called Galileo. It consists of an atmospheric probe and a surveillance satellite to be launched in February and March 1984 to follow up on Voyager's successes at Jupiter and explore the giant planet and its big moons in more detail.

Galileo is the last planetary mission currently planned by the United States and Mutch told a Senate subcommittee last week he was "very concerned about the long-term future of planetary science."

NASA had asked President Carter for funds in fiscal 1981 to begin work on a satellite to survey Venus with a powerful imaging radar system, and money to start work on an solar-electric rocket system that would enable a spacecraft to rendezvous with Halley's comet in 1985 and the com-

et Temple 2 in 1988.

Both requests were denied. NASA hopes to try again on the mission next year with a launch, but it will be too late to start the comet explorer's electronic to carry out the dual comet mission.

Mutch said NASA hopes to fund next year to begin a comet mission to Halley alone.

But he said it takes several years of preparation to begin a planetary exploration project, said NASA has little hope of doing the go-ahead on such projects in the near future.

"We have, of course, lost a lot of momentum," Mutch said in a reply to Sen. Harrison Schmitt, N.M., who asked if NASA was able to capitalize on its successes.

"I think there is a surprise in this situation," Mutch said.

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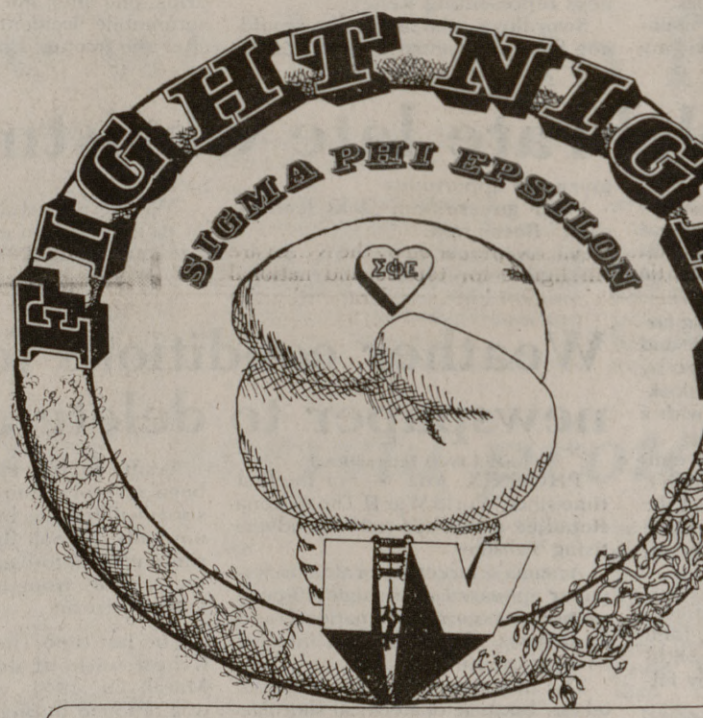
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