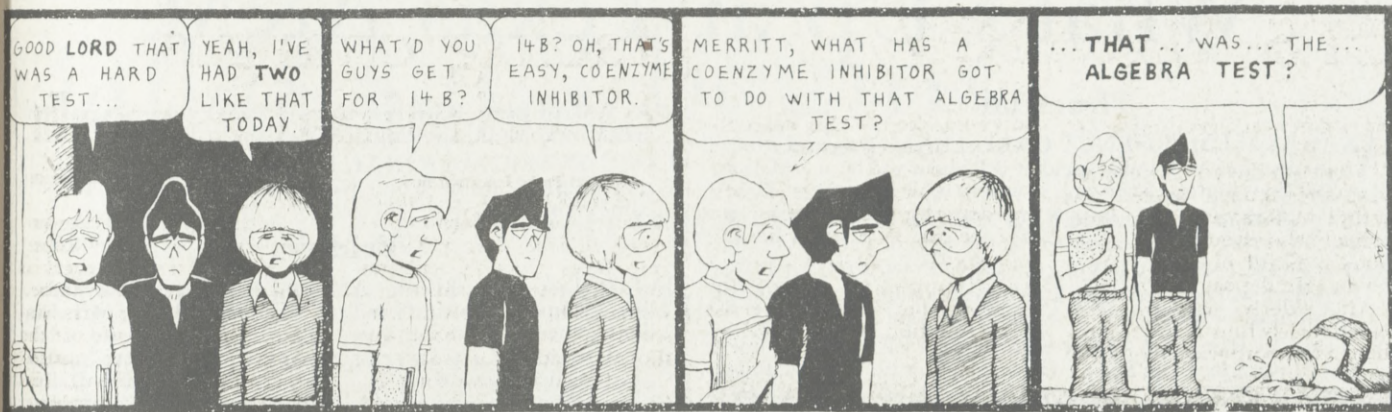


Warped

By Scott McCullar



Fewer girls get pills; afraid clinics will tell

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Some birth control clinics report the number of teenagers visiting them has dropped in recent weeks because girls mistakenly believe the administration's proposed parent notification rule already is in effect.

Various organizations have voiced criticism claiming the proposal will cause more teenage pregnancies and venereal disease.

The Reagan administration formally proposed last month that parents be told within 10 days when girls under 18 receive prescriptions from federally funded clinics, and receipt of the notification be verified. Nationally, 1.5 million girls visit family planning clinics.

The public has 60 days to submit comments, which by law must be taken into account. Even if the rules are approved, a lawsuit will likely be filed to delay them.

Since word of the proposal leaked out in December, Planned Parenthood clinics in San Francisco saw drops in their teenage clientele, the critics said. The drop in San Francisco was 50 percent in the first three weeks of February. "If it isn't (related), it certainly is an interesting coincidence," spokeswoman Shahnaz Taplin said.

After the clinic began airing public service announcements saying the rule was not yet in effect, the dropoff slowed to 30 percent, she said.

Mildred Wurb, Washington office director of the Girls Clubs of America, said: "We are troubled by a proposal that attempts to drastically change public policy without evidence of any benefit and, indeed, only the potential for harm."

Dr. Elizabeth Johns of the Na-

tional Council of Negro Women said: "The so-called 'squeal rule' would tell parents their adolescent has been responsible enough to seek contraceptives; it would not prevent, and it might well lead to more unintended pregnancies."

The administration argues the rule will encourage families to talk, and parents should have a say in potentially risky drugs and devices given their children.

Birth control pill risks for teenagers are small and much less than the risks of pregnancy, said Dr. Allan Rosenfield of Columbia University's Center for Population and Family Health.

Scientists plan lab launch to go with space shuttle

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL — Scientists from America and Europe have teamed up to send a \$1 billion laboratory into space next year, enabling them to conduct dozens of experiments not possible in Earth's atmosphere.

The lab is called Spacelab, a 13-foot diameter cylinder that will be housed in the cargo section of America's space shuttle Columbia.

So far, four missions are planned for the European-built laboratory, including two to de-

termine the effect of the lack of gravity on animals.

Michael Saunders, director of the Spacelab flight division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said the first Spacelab mission is set for September 1983. Three other flights are scheduled by the end of 1985.

"The first one will be the most complex of the menu," Saunders said. "If we get through the first,

we will get through any mission. I am told. It's going to be a real challenge."

The first mission calls for the laboratory to spend seven days in space, where scientists will conduct experiments in astronomy, solar physics, Earth observations, space plasma physics and life science.

One American and one European scientist will fly on the mission along with the commander and pilot of the shuttle and two NASA astronauts called mission specialists.

On the third mission, scientists hope to send four squirrel monkeys and 24 rats into space to determine how the animals will live away from gravity.

After the four initial flights, American scientists plan a mixed cargo mission where civilian customers can pay for use of Spacelab to conduct their own experiments.

"This is the largest cooperative space project ever undertaken," said Vice President George Bush, who unveiled the laboratory at the Kennedy Space Center in February.

"Spacelab represents a bond, not just of transatlantic cooperation and friendship, but of a cooperation and friendship that will extend, even beyond the Earth, into the heavens."

The laboratory, designed and built by the European Space Agency, consists of a cylindrical pressurized module and an unpressurized platform in which

scientists — known as payload specialists — will work on experiments requiring direct exposure to space. The lab will remain in the shuttle's cargo hold

"Spacelab has been built for peace. Its purpose is for experiments and it will be used as a peaceful tool to scan outer space." — Dr. Johannes Ortner, chairman of the space program board for ESA.

"It will open up new prospects in the fields of fundamental applied research and will also prepare tomorrow's space techniques."

"Spacelab has been built for peace," added Dr. Johannes Ortner, chairman of the space program board for ESA. "Its purpose is for experiments and it will be used as a peaceful tool to scan outer space."

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at all times, exposed to space through the hold's open doors.

ESA and the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., will manage the first Spacelab mission. Marshall will oversee the other three test missions, which are NASA only.

Under the program, NASA is receiving free an engineering model and a complete flight version of the laboratory, associated ground support equipment and some computer software.

NASA is buying a second Spacelab flight unit for about \$300 million and may buy some more later.

"Spacelab will help us to discover the earth," said Michel Bignier, director of Space Transportation Systems of ESA.

Salted baby food blamed for rise in blood pressure

United Press International
CHICAGO — Salt added to homemade baby food and canned products containing salt can increase the chances that infants will develop high blood pressure, a new study says.

A Canadian study on the long-term effects of salt on infant nutrition said milk and milk products alone provide enough sodium to meet the recommended level of intake for infants up to 18 months of age.

Nutrition experts David L. Yeung, Jacquelyn Hall, Marie Leung and Murray D. Pennell, found children whose families have a history of hypertension are more likely to develop the condition themselves.

The researchers, reporting in the March edition of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, found salt intake from homemade foods was relatively low in the first six months of infancy but there was a marked increase from six to eight months and a sharp increase thereafter.

The jump was attributed to the use of table foods, which had been prepared for consumption

by the household in general.

The Food Protection Committee of the Food Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences, recommended in 1976 that commercial baby food

manufacturers stop adding salt to their products. Since then, the researchers said, commercially made baby food has had some 10 times less salt than the homemade variety.

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