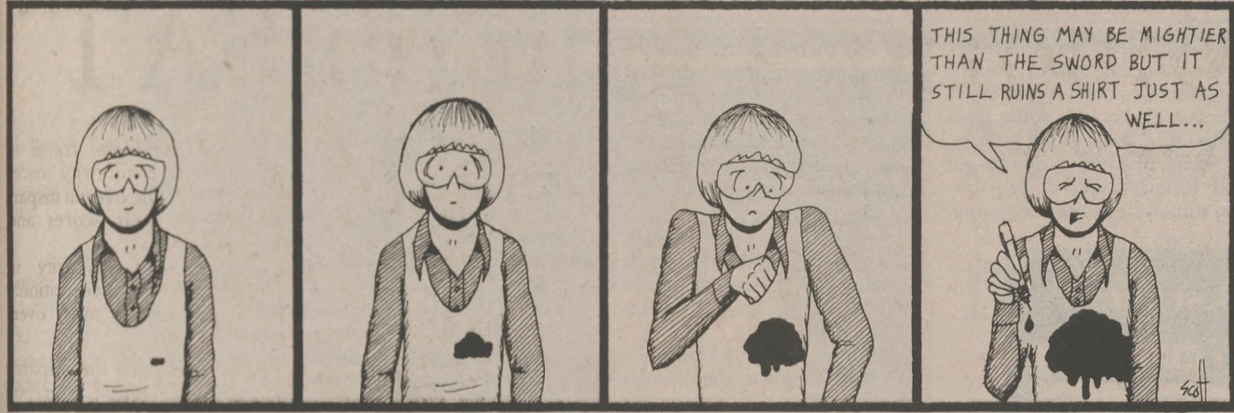


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Profit taking pushes average back down

United Press International
NEW YORK — Wall Street's powerhouse rally ran into profit taking today that pushed the Dow Jones industrial average down from a 17½-month high but left it above the 1,000 level. Trading was heavy.

Despite some early selling, brokers predicted the market would meet the challenge as long as interest rates continue to decline.

The average, which climbed 11.4 points Wednesday, was off 4.41 to 1,010.67 at 11:30 a.m. EDT. Wednesday's close of 1,015.08 was the highest since it finished at 1,016.93 on April 28, 1981.

The closely watched average, which soared through the 1,000

level for the first time in 15 months Monday, had risen 238.16 points since the rally began Aug. 13 and 111.47 over the previous seven sessions.

Many analysts predicted the Dow will challenge its all-time high of 1,051.70 set on Jan. 11, 1973, if it can establish 1,000 as a floor.

Doctors to test public for herpes

United Press International
ATLANTA — Thousands of people nationwide will join one of the largest studies ever of genital herpes in an effort to find out who has the painful, recurring viral ailment and who is likely to catch it, researchers say.

The five-year investigation by 35 medical detectives will be funded by a \$1.78 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — the largest grant ever made by the institute.

Researchers said the main goal of the study announced Wednesday is to determine who is most susceptible to genital herpes and the extent of the sex-

ually transmitted disease.

"At the end of the study we should know which people are most likely to have herpes—and have a clearer idea of how many of them do," said Dr. Andre Nahmias, professor of pediatrics and chief of infectious diseases and immunology at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Genital herpes is a highly contagious viral infection that occurs around the sexual organs, manifested by painful blisters. No cure has been found for it.

Medical authorities agree the disease has reached epidemic proportions in this country but

disagree on its prevalence. Estimates range from 4 million to 20 million cases. The NIAID places the figure at 5 million, with 300,000 new cases added each year.

Nahmias is considered one of the world's leading authorities on the disease and has been working for years to develop a vaccine for the ailment. In addition to 20 investigators from Emory, the study will involve 15 researchers from the national Centers for Disease Control, the University of South Carolina and the state health departments of Ohio and California.

Nahmias said part of the study will look at the distribution

of genital herpes cases. Blood studies will be performed on samples of the national population to determine how widespread the disease actually is.

Dr. Harry Keyserling, a colleague of Nahmias', said the study has many objectives, including looking at individuals infected for the first time to determine how many do not have clinical symptoms of the disease.

"Many people don't have any symptoms," he said. "That's something most people are not aware of. That's scary because

they can shed the virus and don't even know they have it.

"We hope to find out if that is a significant reservoir of potential infection or a very minor one."

Smaller but more involved studies will look specifically at certain groups of people — 5,000 members of a health maintenance organization in the Atlanta area, 800 students at the University of South Carolina in Columbia and more than 1,000 pregnant women.

Death risk increased by mild hypertension

United Press International
BOSTON — Many of the 32 million Americans with high blood pressure may be increasing their risk of fatal strokes or heart disease by ignoring mild hypertension in the early stages, government researchers said Thursday.

A five-year study showed patients with mildly elevated diastolic blood pressure levels put on a program of diuretics and blood-pressure drugs had a 20 percent lower death rate than patients referred to their private doctors, who often do not treat mild hypertension.

"Therefore, any attempt to reduce substantially excess mortality from cardiovascular disease due to elevated diastolic blood pressure must include emphasis on the group with so-called mild hypertension," the study said.

The research, conducted by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Md., examined nearly 11,000 Americans regarded as mildly hypertensive — those with blood pressures ranging from 90mm to 104mm.

Doctors are more likely to treat only patients with diastolic pressures of 105mm and above, the study said. The diastolic pressure is the second, lower figure given in a blood pressure reading.

The researchers found patients, many already suffering heart damage, who were taking anti-hypertensive drugs had 20.3 percent fewer deaths and heart-related diseases during the study.

Those patients who had no evidence of previous heart damage and were receiving no such

drugs when the study began had 28.6 percent fewer deaths.

The American Heart Association estimates 2 million Americans suffer from either high diastolic pressure or systolic pressure — the upper figure on a blood pressure reading. A total of 30,600 victims died in 1979, the most recent figures available, the association said.

If doctors are to cut the death rate of high blood pressure sufferers, the study said, they must treat mild hypertensives because most people are in that range and, therefore, more deaths are in that group.

"The present data suggest if maximal reduction in mortality is to be achieved, the goals for anti-hypertensive therapy need to be critically re-examined," the study said. "These findings support a recommendation that in patients with mild hypertension, treatments should be considered early, before damage to end organs occurs."

The 10,940 people, aged 30 to 69 — recruited from 14 U.S. cities — were divided into two groups and followed for five years. Half were referred to their physicians, who were told the patients suffered from hypertension. Judgment on

treatment was left to the doctors.

The other half were treated in five stages with diuretics and common blood-pressure pills at institute clinics.

The institute-monitored group averaged blood-pressure readings of about 4mm lower than the referred care group at the end of the study. But the researchers said the difference is significant.

"These observations indicate the importance of small increments in blood pressure in large groups of people may not be sufficiently appreciated," they said.

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Small quake wakes valley

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — A moderate earthquake struck the Los Angeles San Fernando Valley early today, shaking residences and awakening slumbering occupants, but apparently causing no damage.

Dennis Meredith, a spokesman for the California Institute of Technology, said the tremor measured 3.6 on the Richter scale and struck at 2:57 a.m. Its epicenter was one mile west of Canoga Park, a section of the valley.

Various police divisions in the valley received many telephone calls from startled residents.

Lt. Jon Ains of the Simi Valley Police Department in suburban Ventura County, northwest of the valley, said: "it was a very minor, but noticeable tremor like we're used to in Southern California."

Startled residents were less