

Drugs lethal to preparers

United Press International
NEW YORK — Cancer experts warn nurses and other health professionals to follow strict safety precautions in preparing anticancer drugs because the substances have caused malignancies and birth defects in laboratory animals.

Dr. Roy B. Jones, Robert Frank and Terry Mass of Mount Sinai Medical Center said Monday that little is known about risks to people in working contact with many anti-cancer drugs. In the

absence of definitive data, they advised following procedures similar to those recommended for laboratory workers exposed to hazardous substances.

The warning was in a report published in "Ca," a journal of the American Cancer Society. Jones is assistant professor of neoplastic diseases; Frank, oncology pharmacist; and Mass, oncology nurse coordinator.

At Mount Sinai, they said, the drugs usually are prepared in an area protected by a vertical lami-

nar air-flow hood. Anyone mixing anti-cancer drugs outside that safety port is required to wear gown, gloves, mask and safety glasses. The working area is covered with a disposable, plastic-lined towel.

The cancer specialists said the problem nationally is made more difficult because most cancer chemotherapy, which is known to cause abnormalities in laboratory animals, is administered in doctors' offices.

"Increased risk, if it does exist, should be of great concern to those handling antineoplastic agents," the specialists said, recommending the following precautions already in effect at Mount Sinai Medical Center and some other institutions.

They suggested training workers in safety procedures, transferring pregnant workers, and covering exposed skin surfaces with long-sleeved gowns and throw-away polyvinyl gloves. Where large volumes of drug preparation take place, they recommended using a vertical laminar airflow hood, or a mask and safety glasses in absence of hood. Hand-washing before and after handling drugs is mandatory.

To maintain environmental safety, they advised keeping drugs in containers to minimize atmospheric and surface contamination, and incinerating waste materials or handling them as biohazardous waste. To prevent aerosol formation, they warned against clipping needles from syringes after use.

Thieves steal Picassos

United Press International
CORPUS CHRISTI — Police said Tuesday they had no suspects in the theft of two Picasso paintings valued at more than \$900,000 from the Art Museum of South Texas.

The stolen paintings were identified as "Tete De Femme", a 1946 piece of work valued at \$550,000, and the 1949 "Buste De Femme" worth an estimated \$360,000.

The works were part of a multi-million dollar temporary exhibit of Dali, Miro and Picasso paintings on loan from a New York gallery. The exhibit had been on display since Aug. 25.

Police said the thieves threw a cinder block through the 3/4-inch thick glass double doors to the

main lobby shortly before 4 a.m. Monday to gain access. The pictures were hanging on a wall directly across from the entrance.

Police said they believed the robbers were looking specifically for those two paintings, since a Dali painting worth an estimated \$2.1 million and a third Picasso, "Femme Se Coiffant," were left behind.

Both of the stolen paintings were vertical oil depictions of women from Picasso's realistic period.

A silent alarm went off, but the robbers escaped before police arrived. Authorities said early Tues-

day they had no suspects in the case.

Jim Edwards, the museum's curator, said both paintings are well documented and will be difficult to sell in the legitimate market. However, museum officials feared the theft could hinder future major art exhibitions in the city.

Last March, thieves used a similar cinder block to smash through the glass at the nearby Corpus Christi Museum and stole jewelry.

"By their actions, the burglars have compromised the integrity of the museum and the integrity of the community," said museum director Ric Collier.

Terminations surveyed

United Press International
AUSTIN — Absenteeism is the chief reason most people are fired and someone with a history of jobhopping stands the best chance of being rejected for a job, according to a survey of Texas employers.

The survey of 5,000 Texas

employers by the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas drew 1,143 responses. They were asked to base their responses on only those entry level jobs that required less than a bachelor's degree.

Horse abuse trial to begin

United Press International
MARSHALL — A northeast Texas rancher accused in the deaths of several wild horses and a banker who helped obtain the animals through a federal adoption program will be tried Oct. 31

on federal conspiracy charges. Joe Corbett, of Pittsburg, pleaded not guilty Monday to conspiracy and six counts of inhumane treatment of wild horses. He was released on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond after pleading not guilty.

Thomas Clemons also entered a not guilty plea to conspiracy and charges he made false statements on papers filed by Corbett with the wild horse adoption program. Clemons, an officer at Pittsburg National Bank, also was released on bond.

Corbett was tried earlier this year in state court for cruelty, but the case ended with a deadlocked jury. Clemons testified during that trial and later was charged with conspiracy for allowing Cor-

bett to use the horses for collateral on a loan even though the federal government held title to the animals.


Corbett, who got the horses for \$25 each under the adoption plan designed to protect the animals, was arrested after officials 25 dead horses at his ranch last November. Another 23 died later of malnutrition and other causes.

The rancher has maintained many of the animals were in bad health after they traveled from Palomino Valley, Nev., to his land in northeast Texas.

If convicted of the conspiracy count, each man could face up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Corbett also could receive up to

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