

Pot as bad as booze for pregnant women

United Press International
EL PASO — Pregnant women who smoke marijuana might be running the same risk of having babies with birth defects as pregnant women who drink heavily, a drug expert said Thursday.

Sidney Cohen, M.D., a clinical psychology professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, said recent studies by Boston City Hospital show that more women who used marijuana during pregnancy had children with fetal alcohol syndrome than women who drank.

Speaking at the 10th annual Institute on Addictions at the University of Texas at El Paso College of Nursing, he said use of marijuana, most common among adolescents and young adults, will one day be con-

sidered as dangerous as alcohol. "Cannabis is as much a possible cause of changes in the fetus as alcohol," he said, adding that further studies should be made for more conclusive findings.

Cohen was one of the first to study the effects of LSD on the brain, working in the area before the drug hit the streets in the 1960s.

He said death rates in people 15 to 25 years old have increased during the past 20 years, while the rates have decreased for other age groups.

"These happen to be the ones heavily into drug and alcohol abuse," Cohen said. "This is the healthiest group of all. Yet,

they're dying at a rate greater now than 20 years ago. The major causes of death are accidental death, homicide and suicide."

Research shows more accidental deaths occur from car accidents in which the driver is using marijuana. The research also indicates use of marijuana causes lung problems.

driver is using marijuana. He said the research also indicates use of marijuana causes lung problems and that marijuana impairs mental functions.

He said a person who is "stoned" may see moving objects that aren't moving and may be in a relaxed and dreamy state. And, he said, recent memory may also be impaired.

Cohen said that young people who use marijuana are not learning to interact with others or how to cope with stress and are not "learning about life." By using marijuana, the person is "avoiding life," he said.



Enjoy your breakfast staff photo by John Makely

Bethalyn Williams, of Sbsa Food Services, gives Newt Watson his change at the new food stand by the fountains in front of the

Chemistry Building. The stand will be open five days a week for breakfast and lunch. Watson, is a junior electrical engineering major.

Whooping cranes on the road again

United Press International
CIMARRON, Kan. — Two whooping cranes were sighted in western Kansas Thursday as they migrated from their summer home in Canada to their winter home — Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Corpus Christi.

The birds' migration path is narrow. Nearly all of the birds will fly through Kansas on their flight from Canada.

A farmer spotted two adult cranes in a wheat field about 10 miles north of Cimarron, said Joe Kramer, a wildlife supervisor in Dodge City. Game warden Mike Ehlebracht and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent Terry Tarr confirmed the sighting.

The large white crane, which is named for the whooping sound it makes, was nearly extinct less than a decade ago. Ab-

out 120 whooping cranes are in existence today.

The birds are about 5 feet tall and have about a 6-foot wingspread. They have white feathers with black wingtips.

Kramer said he watched the birds for about an hour late Thursday morning.

'When they move around they look like they're walking on stilts in the wheat fields'

"Because they are so rare and they're followed a lot, they're actually used to people watching them — to the vehicles and so forth," Kramer said. He advised people who spot whooping cranes to keep their distance, however, and to report the

sighting quickly to the fish and game commission.

"They're a large bird and they are interesting to watch because they're of the crane family, and birdwatchers like them because of their long legs," he said.

"When they move around they look like they're walking on stilts in the wheat fields."

Thursday was the third time the birds were reported in Kansas during October. Two young whooping cranes were sighted at Wilson Reservoir on Oct. 13, and two adults were spotted on the same day at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms, a state wildlife area near Great Bend, are the most popular stopping places for the birds, said Marvin Schwilling of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission.

Man to repay aunt's \$9,000

United Press International
HOUSTON — A former bank vice president who pleaded guilty to misusing his elderly aunt's money to support a Christian bookstore was sentenced Thursday to five years probation.

U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald ordered Ronnie Dale Archer, 32, of Humble to complete 500 hours of community service and to repay all of the misused funds during his probationary period.

Archer, who formerly worked for the Allied Humble Bank and operated the Living Word

Christian Bookstore in Humble, pleaded guilty Aug. 17 to one count of embezzlement.

He originally was indicted by a federal grand jury on five counts of embezzlement in which the bank lost \$24,856. Prosecutors said he sold his bookstore and has now repaid the bank.

Archer is repaying his aunt \$9,000 in monthly installments, officials said.

"I'm truly sorry for what happened and I've done everything I can to undo the wrong," Archer told the judge.

U.S. oil situation misleading

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Mack Wallace warned Thursday that the United States is facing an energy crunch that could be compared to the crisis caused by the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

"I believe we are in an equal, if not worse, situation today," Wallace said. He added that Americans have been deluded by repeated references to "oil glut" and "natural gas bubbles."

"The fact of the matter is at this very moment we do not have enough oil and gas for our own national security," he said, speaking at the commission's monthly oil and gas hearing.

Wallace said he recommended in a letter to President Reagan that a bipartisan national energy conference be called to address the nation's energy problems.

As example of the nation's energy weakness, Wallace said, the 350 million barrels of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would last only 10 weeks if foreign oil were shut off.

Sound Waves

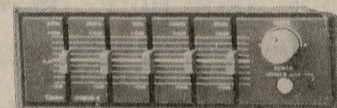
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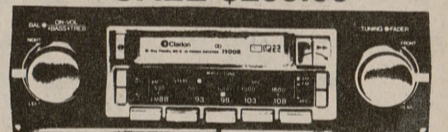
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