

Influenza

Student Health Center receiving more than 200 flu victims daily

By PAMELA BARNES and LISA PEDERSEN
Reporters

Have a headache? Fever? Sore throat? Aching muscles? Are you coughing, sneezing and generally feel like you've been hit by a Mack Truck? Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the Student Health Center, says with these symptoms you probably have the flu.

Texas A&M's annual influenza epidemic has hit rather early this year and left an estimated 200 to 250 flu victims a day visiting the health center, Goswick says.

Most of the cases diagnosed last week were a new variant of the type A Russian strain of influenza, he says.

Because of the fast outbreak it seems that this is the type of epidemic that goes sky high in just a couple of weeks and subsides just as quickly, Goswick says. If this is the case, this week (Jan. 30 to Feb. 3) may be the worst part of the epidemic.

"We usually expect the flu season to start after Christmas lasting until spring break," Goswick says. "This year it's hit fast and hard."

If you do have the symptoms mentioned, accompanied by possible nausea and heavy congestion, Goswick recommends aspirin or an aspirin substitute for fever and discomfort, but if aspirin doesn't help, the health center can give something more potent.

In addition, he recommends plenty of fluids and rest.

"It's necessary to drink lots of liquids to prevent dehydration," Goswick says. "The best things to do are get lots of rest, (and) don't go to class, if possible."

The good news is that the illness usually lasts only 24-48 hours, depending on the individual case, Goswick says. "The students that fight this thing will have symptoms for a longer period of time," he says.

Reasonable treatment and an early diagnosis speed recovery and keep complications, like pneumonia, to a minimum, Goswick says.

"We haven't seen many complications yet, but it is still an early stage for an epidemic," Goswick says. However, there is no definite treatment.

"You just have to let it run its course till it goes away."

The bad news is prevention is difficult, Goswick says, but being in good physical condition, eating right, and getting enough rest help to avoid getting the flu.

In addition, Goswick recommends staying far away from those who are sick. The virus is easily transmitted through the air by sneezing or coughing.

If your roommate or close friend has the flu and is unavoidable, Goswick says, take precautions like wiping the phone before use and staying on your side of the room.

The health center has about 40 hospital beds for those flu victims that are running high temperatures and feel too sick to be at home. At the beginning of the week all beds were full but as patients recover and are released more beds are available, Goswick says.

Goswick attributes the rapid epidemic to the low tolerance of the new variant of the virus. "No one has been exposed to it yet and the tolerance is low," Goswick says.

U.S. envoy, Saudi mediators continue talks amid skirmishes

United Press International BEIRUT — Amid renewed skirmishes in the capital, U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld and Saudi mediators worked Sunday to break a three-week impasse on a plan to separate Beirut's warring factions.

Druze Moslem leader Walid Jumblatt and Palestine Liberation Organization rebels, who drove PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and his fighters from Lebanon, met in Libya with Abdul Salaam Jalloud, leader Moammar Khadafy's top aide, state Beirut radion said.

Libya supplies arms to the Syrian-backed Lebanese opposition.

As sporadic fighting sounded throughout the capital Sunday, two Lebanese soldiers were wounded by Shiite Moslem militiamen who opened fire on their patrol on the road leading to Beirut airport, state-run Beirut radio said.

Other army troops exchanged mortar and rocket fire with Druze Moslem militiamen near the villages of Souk el Gharb and Aramoun in the Druze-held Shouf mountains overlooking the capital.

After nightfall, mortar and

artillery shells fell along the length of the mountain ridge between the two forces, Beirut radio said.

Rumsfeld returned to Beirut after a day of talks in Amman with Jordan's King Hussein, and Beirut radio said he postponed a shuttle to Damascus scheduled for Sunday.

"There is nothing dramatic, but the talks are continuing," said a U.S. source. "The United States continues to be interested in the security plan."

The security plan for Beirut

and a region south of the capital calls for a disengagement of warring Moslem and Christian militias, and deployment of Lebanese army troops into some power vacuums.

It could allow for at least a partial withdrawal of the 1,200 U.S. marines at Beirut airport.

U.S. officials would not give details of Rumsfeld's latest talks, but Lebanese officials said the envoy met no government figures in Beirut Sunday and was waiting to travel to Syria, possibly by way of Egypt.

Student reportedly raped by two men

By Sarah Oates
Staff writer

A Texas A&M University student reported early Friday morning that she was raped after being abducted by two men who identified themselves as football recruits outside a fraternity house.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic for the University Police, said that "there were no football recruits at all at Texas A&M (Thursday) night," and that he does not believe the men were football recruits.

Texas A&M police department Wednesday night received a report that a woman was harassed by two men in a car near Rudder Tower. She fled from them.

The car described by the assault victim Friday morning is similar to the one described in the Wednesday night incident. The Texas A&M and Bryan police forces are working together on the case. Wiatt said the Texas A&M police have a few leads.

Spending plan discussed

United Press International WASHINGTON — Members of Congress from the region will turn their attention to the budget this week with the arrival of President Reagan's proposed spending plan for the fiscal year beginning Nov. 1.

Reagan's budget is expected to seek \$924 billion, including a 13 percent hike in real defense spending.

In past years, members of Congress got a look at the budget a few days in advance, usually over a weekend. This year however, the administration wants to wait to brief members until a day or two before Wednesday's official release of the fiscal 1985 spending blueprint.

And tucked into the massive budget volumes will be plenty of projects of interest to the region, many of them the so-called "pork barrel" items that members of Congress work so hard to protect from budget cuts.

Among the categories sure to be of interest to the region will be the Army Corps of Engineers proposals, Department of Interior spending that includes dams, forests and park acquisitions and military construction funding.

Reagan also has told Congress he is proposing accelerated work on hazardous waste cleanup — an important topic to the entire region — and will seek \$50 million more this fiscal year for the Superfund program and ask for \$640 million for the next fiscal year.

The Senate this week plans to continue consideration of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act while the House is expected to debate — and possibly vote on — the Agent Orange and Atomic Veterans Relief Act and a resolution to establish state commissions on teacher excellence.

Although this will be only the second week of congressional

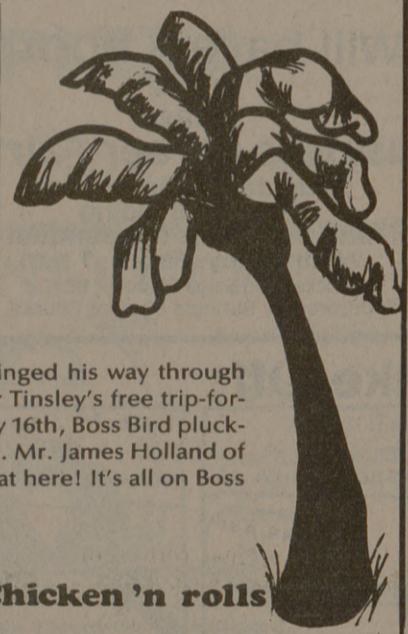
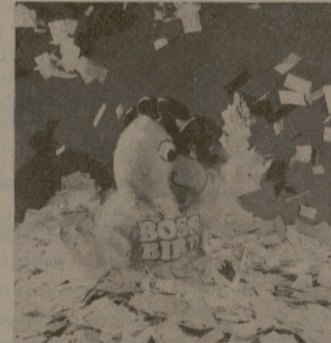
activities in 1984, congressional committees and subcommittees have numerous hearings scheduled to deal with subjects left over from the first half of the 98th Congress. After Wednesday, however, they will start turning their attention to the sections of Reagan's budget under their jurisdiction.

Among the hearings of interest to the region is a daylong session scheduled Thursday by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Rural Development, which will look at how the Farmers Home Administration has been administering economic emergency and disaster loan programs.

Also this week, former Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas, will be in Washington to give the keynote speech at a National Prayer Breakfast. Jordan currently teaches in Austin.

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