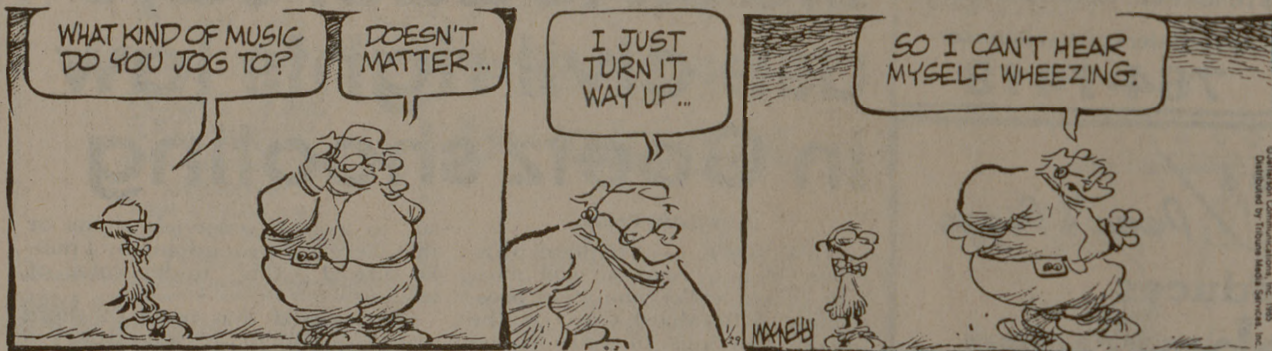


WORLD AND NATION

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



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Treatment approved for herpes

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The government Tuesday approved the first drug designed to treat or suppress recurring outbreaks of painful herpes sores among the 5 million to 20 million Americans who suffer from genital herpes.

The Food and Drug Administration approved a capsule form of the drug acyclovir, which will be marketed under the trade name Zovirax by Burroughs Wellcome Co. It is expected to be on pharmacy shelves in mid-February, available by prescription only.

While it does not cure herpes, the drug does reduce the severity of recurring outbreaks of herpes sores and speed their healing time, the FDA and the company said in separate announcements.

In addition, the announcement said, the drug also suppresses outbreaks in many people, offering the possibility that people who now are virtually disabled by severe cases of the disease may regain control of their lives.

"The drug provides no guarantee that the virus will not be transmitted to the partner," said Dr. Sam Lehrman, of Burroughs Wellcome, at a news conference in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Acyclovir ointments have been available for more than two years. Treatment of initial herpes outbreaks, and intravenous acyclovir has been available in hospitals.

But both of those are only for a first exposure to herpes; neither has been found effective in cases where the herpes virus recurs repeatedly, sometimes as often as 12 times a year. Nor do they suppress later outbreaks, as oral acyclovir does in patients, the FDA said.

"The patients can take control of their disease," said Dr. Ron Koenig, medical adviser to Burroughs Wellcome on the drug. "The disease is not in control of them."

Zovirax is expected to be in pharmacies in about two weeks. The price for an acute outbreak of herpes sores — five capsules a day for five days — is expected to be about \$15 to \$18, Koenig said.

The FDA said warning information with the drug will caution against taking acyclovir during pregnancy unless the potential benefits of the drug outweigh a possible risk to the fetus.

Although animal tests did not show birth defects, the FDA said there have been no scientifically valid studies of pregnant women.

Union president wants test

National teacher exams

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, called Tuesday for creation of a tough new national examination that all new teachers would have to pass, just as doctors and lawyers must pass licensing tests.

Shanker, in an address at the National Press Club, said his 600,000-member union would eventually ban new teachers from membership unless they passed such an exam.

Shanker said most current teacher licensing exams "would be considered a joke by any other profession" because they usually are minimum competency tests that seek to bar only the worst candidates from entering the profession. In Florida, he said, prospective math teachers are tested at the sixth-grade math level.

"This would be the equivalent of licensing doctors on the basis of an exam in elementary biology," or testing accountants on their knowledge of elementary math, he said.

Shanker said he would ask education leaders, college presidents and leaders of other professions to join him within six months to create a national board, possibly called the American Board of Professional Educators, to decide what teachers need to know and how it can be measured.

Shanker has been a strong supporter of requiring entry-level teachers to pass exams on their general competence and knowledge of the subject they aspire to teach.

Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the 1.7 million-member National Education Association, said in a statement: "NEA believes that it is the basic right of the states to determine who's qualified to teach. Successful classroom performance should be determined by a number of criteria. The score of a test might be one aspect of a comprehensive state teacher evaluation program."

The NEA in recent years has softened its once strident opposition to all standardized tests, but it still

maintains tests alone should not determine whether a person is hired to teach. NEA

Howard Carroll, a spokesman for NEA, said the union favors stricter standards for both admission to and graduation from teacher training programs and better internships.

Shanker said the federal government should not have anything to do with running the test or the new teacher board, just as it stays out of the business of licensing doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Shanker said the exam should test prospective teachers' knowledge on the subjects they will teach, and also their knowledge of how to teach and how to make judgments that will affect instruction.

Also, new teachers would be required to serve an internship of one to three years and pass muster by standards set by the national board, he said.

Prosecutor wants death for captain involved in Solidarity priest's murder

Associated Press
TORUN, Poland — A government prosecutor demanded the death penalty Tuesday for a secret police captain he said was guilty of carrying out the premeditated kidnapping and murder of a pro-Solidarity priest.

Chief Prosecutor Leszek Pietrasinski, in closing arguments for the state, said Capt. Grzegorz Piotrowski's two subordinates were manipulated into taking part in the slaying of the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko. He said the two lieutenants should be sentenced to 25 years in prison, but that their lives be spared.

Execution in Poland is by hanging.

The prosecutor accused the fourth officer charged in the killing, Col. Adam Pietruszka, of conceiving and planning the attack and asked

the court's five judges to sentence him to a 25-year prison term.

Piotrowski appeared stunned as the prosecutor spoke. He supported his head in his hands, then threw his body into his chair, leaned back and stared ahead. Tears streamed down the face of his subordinate, Lt. Leszek Pekala, and Lt. Waldemar Chmielewski buried his head in his lap. Pietruszka listened impassively.

The prosecution's final arguments came on the 22nd day of the trial in this northern Polish city near where Popieluszko was abducted and slain Oct. 19. The decision by a Communist government to conduct a public trial of security police in the death of a dissident was also unprecedented.

Pietrasinski said the testimony in the trial had shown the killing was an isolated act that damaged the repu-

tation of the Interior Ministry and did not have high-level ministry support. The ministry controls all Polish police.

But he told the court the trial had neither "confirmed nor excluded the existence of instigators."

"Perhaps we are talking here about specific persons, but one thing is certain, the higher-ups are not in the Interior Ministry," Pietrasinski said.

He said the possible instigators perhaps are people either inside or outside the Polish government who oppose the policies of Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Pietrasinski's remarks seemed to indicate no other officials would be charged, but left open the possibility of changes in the government or Communist Party leadership.

Authorities issued 10 passes to

Western correspondents to attend the trial but denied access to The Associated Press. Reporters in the courtroom provided the AP with their notes and the AP has protested its exclusion from the trial.

Piotrowski, 33, and Lt. Chmielewski, 29, and Pekala, 27, were charged with kidnapping and murdering the popular priest, who was an outspoken supporter of Solidarity trade union.

Pietruszka was charged with aiding and abetting them. The charges carry a maximum sentence of death and a minimum penalty of eight years in prison.

On Wednesday, the court was expected to hear final arguments from Roman Catholic lawyers acting as auxiliary prosecutors, followed by summations from the defense lawyers.

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