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Travelers need vaccinations

Editor's Note: The Battalion will run a weekly column on better health habits provided by the education department at A.P. Beutel Health Center.

By Andrea Beshara
 Special to The Battalion

With summer less than two months away, all students are encouraged to review their vaccination needs if they plan to travel abroad, said Dr. Kenneth Dirks, director of the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Travel provides opportunities to foster understanding between people and culture. However, travel to foreign countries exposes individuals to unusual organisms for which they have no natural or acquired immunity.

For this reason, some health planning is essential to assure a safe and healthy vacation or study time abroad, although your particular travel medical needs will depend on your overall physical condition, destination and activities.

"With students flocking to areas where they will come into contact with people from all over the world, vaccinations are the student's best protection against contracting a number of diseases," Dirks said.

Students needing immunizations should come by, not call, the health center to discuss their specific needs.

Each case is handled individually, said Ethel Melendy, a registered nurse at the health center.

She said students should bring their shot records and plan to spend about 20 to 30 minutes discussing where they are going and what they will be doing.

Students who never have been immunized for travel should visit the health center at least two to three months before they plan to leave.

Those who already have received some immunizations before travel can come in one month prior to departure. The cost of immunizations vary.

Depending on where students plan to travel, the following lists specific diseases and what the protection against the disease might be:

- Malaria** — Preventative medication is recommended for those traveling to any developing countries. Malaria is caused by several species of organisms, one of which has developed resistance to many of the formerly useful antimalarial medications.
- Yellow fever** — Immunization is advised for visitation to any country in the tropics. The vaccine is good for 10 years and requires 14 days to provide protection. This vaccine is available only at CARE PLUS Medical Center or the office of Dr. George McIlhenny.
- Cholera** — The vaccine is worthless, but is required to cross certain borders le-

gally. It is best to take it prior to the trip to reduce the chances of having to take a shot at the border where reusable needles and syringes might be used.

- Typhoid** — There is a high incidence of typhoid in Mexico, especially Puerto Vallarta, and other developing countries. The vaccine comes in injection and pill form.
- Rabies** — You should receive the vaccine if you will be traveling in regions where this disease is endemic and you will be located three days or more away from the closest hospital or clinic.
- Hepatitis B** — If you are going to be sexually active with the residents of developing countries or working with children, get the Hepatitis B vaccine. It is expensive but worthwhile.
- Hepatitis A** — You should receive a gamma globulin injection no more than one week prior to departure to prevent the disease.
- Tuberculosis** — BCG vaccine is not recommended, but you should get a Mantoux skin test for tuberculosis on your return.
- Meningococcal meningitis** — This vaccine is recommended for those traveling to India, sub-Sahara Africa, South Asia and all developing countries. It is especially recommended for people working in health professions or working with small children.

What's Up

Thursday

- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** General discussion at noon. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY:** National Library Week Davis Scholarships and Longevity Awards Ceremony at 2 p.m. in 204C Evans Library.
- AGGIE BLOOD DRIVE:** At the Commons, Sbis, Academic Plaza, Medical Science Lab. Call Dawn at 847-1808 for more information.
- CLASS OF '94:** Pick up Class of '94 chairperson applications at the SPO front desk.
- STUDENT Y:** Program director applications will be available through Thursday in the Student YMCA office in 211 Pavilion. Call Christie at 845-0690 for more information.
- ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** General discussion at 6 p.m. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- STUDENT AFFAIRS:** Table for information on position openings within the Department of Student Affairs for summer positions and potential fall positions for students from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Pavilion.
- TEXAS A&M TRIATHLON CLUB:** Final meeting, wrap up and plan party at 7 p.m. at Double Dave's on Harvey Road. Call Ken at 696-5661 for more information.
- STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** Table with information on study abroad opportunities at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC.
- ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION:** Fourth general meeting and officer elections at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Call Peppe at 693-0317 for more information.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 200 HELD.
- TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION:** Forest Committee meeting at 8 p.m. in 205-206 Engineering Physics Building. Call Wallin at 847-6460 for more information.
- OCA:** Spring Banquet at 7 p.m. at Sante Fe Steakhouse. Call Brian at 845-0688 for more information.
- CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD:** Weekly group that meets to discuss contemporary Christian issues from 9 to 10 p.m. in Lounge D. Call Jo Anne at 693-1703 for more information.
- FOURTH DAY:** Meeting for all those who have made an Aggie Awakening at 6:15 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. Call 845-5717 for more information.
- PLACEMENT CENTER AND LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT COUNCIL:** Employment information and networking seminar for all liberal arts majors from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder. Call 845-5139 for more information.
- DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES:** Eighth annual new officer workshop at 6:30 p.m. on 2nd floor of Rudder. Call 845-1133 for more information.

Friday

- PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION:** Rush forum for all Texas A&M women planning to participate in Fall Formal Rush, from 6 to 9 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Call 845-1133 for more information.
- BETA ALPHA PSI:** Professional meeting with Ernst & Young at 6:30 p.m. in the College Station Hilton.
- AUDUBON SOCIETY:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in College Station Conference Center, 1300 George Bush Drive Dr. Gerald Lieberman: "Thousands of Texans Disappear Without a Trace: Texas Endangered Species." Call Joan at 845-2351 for more information.
- NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS:** Rap Session at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY: National Library Week book sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on south side of Evans Library.

AGGIE BLOOD DRIVE: At the Commons, Sbis, Academic Plaza, Medical Science Lab. Call Dawn at 847-1808 for more information.

CLASS OF '94: Pick up Class of '94 chairperson applications at SPO front desk.

COLOMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Last general meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. in 200 Kieberg. Call Juan at 775-0645 or 845-3545 for more information.

ISA GOURMET CLUB: Caribbean Gourmet and Awards night at 7 p.m. in the MSC. Call R-Jan at 846-2717 for more information.

MANAGEMENT 481: Jim Harris, Sr. Vice President, Engineering at Compaq Computer Corporation will be speaking on the growth and philosophy of the corporation at 10 a.m. in 114 Blocker. Call Cindy at 764-7448 for more information.

CLASS OF '92: Applications for director positions now available in the Guard Room, 2nd floor of the Pavilion and 216 MSC. They are due April 19th by 5 p.m. Call Jennifer at 845-1515 for more information.

MSC FORSYTH CENTER GALLERIES: Janie Chester Young speaking on "Tiffany Corderand Shirley: The English Genii of the American Art Glass Movement" at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC. Call Timothy at 845-9251 for more information.

BRAZILIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Monthly BBQ or general meeting at 6 p.m. in Hensel Park. Call Fabiana at 846-1331 or Lara at 696-5595 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: Informational meeting for Finance and Accounting Majors to study in Italy for Spring '92 from 2 to 3 p.m. in 330 Blocker.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

Jurors find woman innocent in case involving child death

AUSTIN (AP) — Jurors acquitted a North Texas woman Wednesday in the death of her child who was given a lethal dose of bourbon during a party.

A Travis County jury took 10 hours over a two-day period in finding Patricia Ann Griffin innocent of felony injury to a child in the Feb. 23, 1990, death of her 5-year-old son, Tinky.

When she heard she had been acquitted, Griffin fell back into her chair and wept. She had no immediate comment.

Griffin had faced up to 99 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted of not seeking medical attention for the boy.

Jurors also rejected two lesser charges, reckless injury to a child and misdemeanor criminal negligence to a child.

In Advance

Motorcyclists host 'Run for Wheels' charity

Run for Wheels, an annual charity event held by area motorcycle riders, is scheduled for this weekend at Yankee's Tavern at Lake Somerville.

Event proceeds will benefit the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center and Rock Prairie Elementary School's handicap class. Entry fees are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.

Admission fees include beer, a barbecue dinner, non-alcoholic beverages, live entertainment and overnight camping. Run for Wheels T-shirts also will be sold for \$11. On Saturday, a rodeo will be at 3 p.m., with other events following.

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