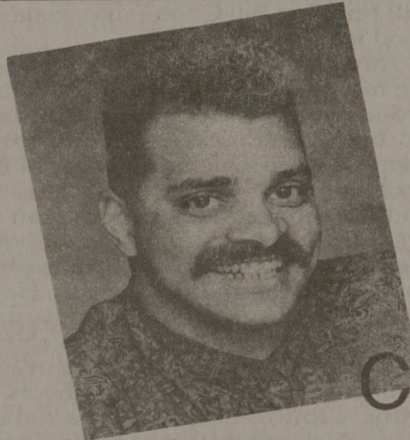


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# Greeks No aspirin warning label cause of deaths, report says

Continued From Page 1

their apologies to the Texas Tech University community and the groups affected by the incident." Community service has been suggested as discipline for the fraternity, but that punishment "is not going to suffice by any means," Ms. Myles said.

"We have a campus of over 24,000 people, and this is 1992," she said. "Anything like this that can go on is atrocious. Something more should be done than just a slap on the hand."

"In my opinion, with people praising the Grand Dragon — that is justification for them being thrown off the campus completely."

Judi Henry, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students, said according to the code of student conduct, sanctions could range from a reprimand to probation to suspension. Groups were holding an Open Forum Thursday night to discuss the incident, she said.

Joshua Mora, assistant dean of students, said an investigation is being conducted, but no disciplinary action has been taken.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A five-year U.S. government delay in requiring warning labels on aspirin led to the needless deaths of 1,470 children from Reye's syndrome, according to an analysis being published Friday.

"These 1,470 deaths were especially tragic, because they were, typically, healthy children who never recovered from viral infection or chicken pox," the report's authors wrote.

The deaths provide a dramatic example of the potential harm in easing public health regulations, said one of the authors, Patricia Buffler, dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley.

"The Reagan administration and the Bush administration have been marked by a commitment to deregulation," she said. "When it occurs in an area where it has a health impact, the consequences are profound — profoundly adverse."

Dr. Thomas Bryant, chairman and president of the Aspirin Foundation of America in Washington, D.C., said the report's authors "have got an interesting argument, but they overstate it." The foundation is a trade association of aspirin makers.

He said voluntary public information campaigns by the aspirin industry had already led to a drop in Reye's syndrome before warning labels were required.

Reye's syndrome often strikes children who are about to recover from the flu or chicken pox. They sud-

denly take a dramatic turn for the worst, become lethargic and quickly sinking into a coma. Many die within a few days. Others recover but are left with severe brain damage.

The report by Buffler and Devra Lee Davis of the National Academy of Sciences appears in Friday's issue of *The Lancet*, a British medical journal.

It notes that Reye's syndrome deaths dropped sharply after warning labels were required in 1987. In 1987, 103 deaths were reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In 1987, the figure dropped to 36. Taking into account that the reported deaths represent only a portion of actual deaths, the researchers calculated that 1,470 lives would have been saved if labels had been adopted in 1982.

Doctors had already reached a consensus in 1982 on the use of aspirin to treat flu and chicken pox because of the cause Reye's syndrome, Buffler and Davis said. They noted that the Centers for Disease Control recommended warning labels as early as November 1981.

In September 1982, President Reagan's secretary of health and human services, Richard Schweiker, proposed regulations requiring the warning labels, Buffler and Davis said.

Yet five years passed before labels were required.

Bryant, of the Aspirin Foundation, said the link between aspirin and Reye's syndrome was not clear until 1981.

# Police delay search for bodies at border ranch

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATAMOROS — State judicial police on Thursday temporarily suspended their search for as many as four bodies they believe are buried on an isolated ranch east of this border city.

Heavy rains in the area made it too difficult to dig at the site near the Rio Grande, where police unearthed three victims of drug-related slayings earlier this week,

said police Commander Sergio Gonzalez.

The search for other victims that may be buried at the ranch will resume as soon as the weather clears, police said. Authorities also will use a scuba diver to search some cars found in the river.

"We have to conduct a good search until we exhaust all our options," said Gonzalez.

Police began digging Sunday after two suspected drug traffick-

ers who were arrested during the weekend admitted to killing several people and disposing of their bodies at the ranch.

The two, identified as Jesus Guajardo Lopez of Matamoros and Victor Gilberto Rivera of Brownsville, were being held on murder charges Thursday in the Matamoros prison, said Gonzalez.

Rivera also is wanted by the Brownsville Police Department in the Aug. 12 slaying of a Brownsville man.

Guajardo and Rivera are believed to be part of a drug trafficking organization based in Matamoros.

Authorities are searching for other men who may have been involved in the slayings.

The first two victims, whose names were not disclosed, were identified as Neftali Juarez Salinas and Heriberto Ruiz, Matamoros students who had been missing several months.

# Drug could lower breast cancer risk, researchers report

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Government researchers Thursday said exposing thousands of healthy women to a drug with dangerous side effects is worth the risk if it performs as hoped and prevents 20 percent of breast cancer cases.

"There are things we don't know about tamoxifen," Dr. Beatrice Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health, testified before a House panel.

There have been indications that tamoxifen can cause cancer of the uterus or liver, blood clots, blindness or birth defects.

NIH and the National Cancer Institute were criticized for the \$68 million study that will give the drug to 8,000 women to see if it prevents breast cancer. It has been used for 30 years to treat breast cancer.

"In the last year, new research has been published about the dangers of tamoxifen, and new concerns about the study have been raised," said Rep. Donald M. Payne, D-N.J., chairman of the House Government Operations subcommittee on human resources.

"In fact, Public Health Service experts have long believed the study could expose women to risks that outweigh the likely benefits," Payne said.

Healy and her colleagues disagreed with that, saying the drug shows promise in preventing 30 percent to 40 percent of breast cancer cases.

"No intervention is totally without risk, and tamoxifen does have some potential side effects," said Dr. Peter Greenwald, NIH's director of cancer prevention and control. "The likely benefits are a reduction in breast cancer, in heart disease and maintenance of bone density."

This study is somewhat unusual because it is using people who are not sick, rather than the more usual study in which an experimental therapy is tried on someone whose only alternative may be to die.

Women volunteering for the study are screened to ensure they are healthy but considered at increased risk for developing breast cancer.

Some 30,000 women have already gone through the initial screening process.

"For women long under-represented in many studies on disease prevention and all too often the unwitting subjects of unproved therapies, there is often a fundamental issue of trust," Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, president-elect of the American Public Health Association, said in testimony for the hearing. "This is particularly true in low-income women and women of color."

Although Greenwald testified that women participating in the study were being given complete information, another witness said that wasn't the case with her.

Sybil Fainberg of Chevy Chase, Md., who has had three breast biopsies and whose twin sister recently developed breast cancer, said she was interested in being part of the study and attended a two-hour meeting at Georgetown University.

"One-and-a-half hours were devoted to general information about breast cancer which I and probably many others present already knew; only the last 30 minutes dealt with specific information about tamoxifen," she said in her written testimony. "I was away feeling that I was not provided with enough information to make an informed decision on whether to participate in the study."

"Nevertheless, I placed myself on the list as a possible study participant," she said.

The study will track 16,000 women for 10 years. Half of them will be given tamoxifen, and the other 8,000 will get a placebo, an unmedicated preparation used as a control in testing the efficacy of a medicine.

Tamoxifen has long been a breast cancer drug. It was picked for further study as a preventive therapy because it was noticed that women who took it for treating localized cancer in one breast had a 40 percent reduction of new cancers in the opposite breast.

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