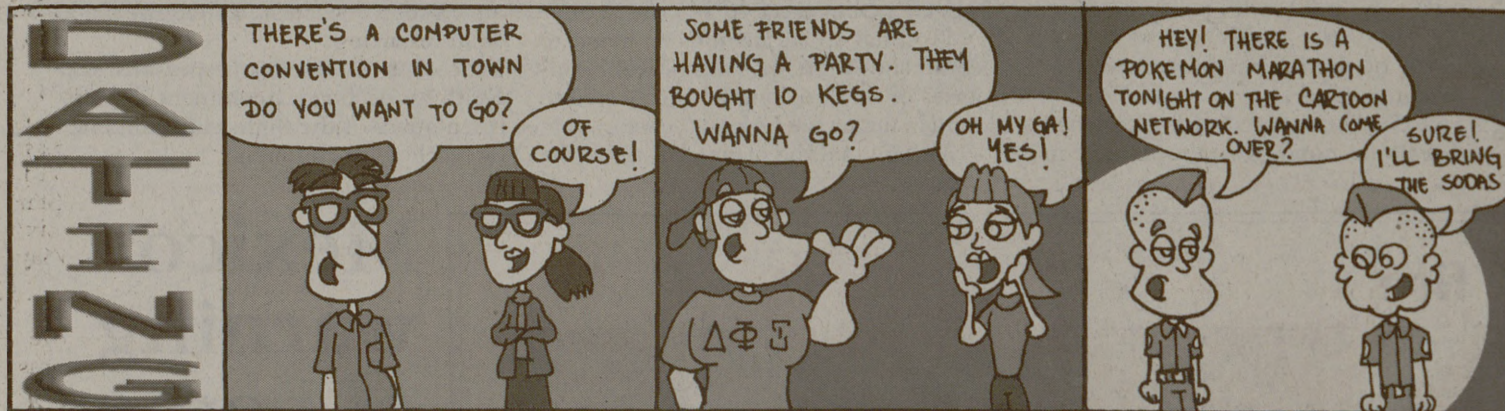


DIRTY APES



BY R. DELUNA

HAZING



by Adrian

Pharmacies want to fingerprint customers who buy OxyContin

PULASKI Va. (AP) — Six pharmacies will soon be able to ask customers wanting the powerful painkiller OxyContin and some other narcotic drugs to provide their fingerprints.

Police provided the fingerprint kits hoping to deter prescription fraud. The invisible-ink prints will be kept at the pharmacy.

"If we take just one or two bad bottles off the street a month then we've accomplished a lot,"

said Detective Marshall Dowdy. Police and pharmacy officials plan to meet next week to determine when pharmacists would require the fingerprints, police said Tuesday.

Hailed as a miracle painkiller for cancer and chronic-pain patients, OxyContin is widely abused, especially in Appalachia. Ground-up pills are snorted or injected, giving abusers a heroin-like high.

Since 1998, OxyContin and

oxycodone, the narcotic's active ingredient, have been linked to more than 100 deaths nationwide.

J. David Haddox, senior medical director for health policy at Purdue Pharma, OxyContin's manufacturer in Stamford, Conn., said fingerprints would be acceptable if applied to the purchase of all comparable drugs.

The fingerprint system, manufactured by CrimeBite, also is

used by grocery stores that cash payroll checks. Company president Lydia del Rossi said Pulaski is the only town she knows of using it to help fight prescription fraud.

"Once that fingerprint is there, it's hard to say you didn't do it," said Leslie King, the pharmacist at a Pulaski supermarket. "I don't know if it will cut down on people who are using it, but maybe it will make people realize it is a felony."

MEXICO

Continued from Page 1

"The message I bring you is to think hard about it," one of the messages warns. "Don't take the risk. People do die at the border; it's a reality."

Another spot warns against using smugglers, known as "polleros."

"The polleros, those who traffic in human beings, are not your friends. We know they abandon people in the deserts, in the mountains, beside rivers and they wind up drowning," Hernandez says.

"They have raped girls," he continues. "Think hard about it. Don't risk it. ... Stay in Mexico. Seek opportunities here."

The Estrella Blanca bus line has agreed to show the spots, which run from about 40 to 70 seconds, along with regular feature films on 5,200 buses in Mexico. The bus company said 350,000 people a month ride the buses. Hernandez said some bus operators in the United States have offered to show the spots as well.

Mexicans have continued to attempt illegal crossings, even though U.S. officials have built walls to make crossings difficult.

"My conscience would not let me sleep if I was not doing everything possible to save, if necessary, one single life," Hernandez said, noting that he deals with victims and survivors of border-

crossing disasters as part of his job.

Fox and President Bush have also vowed to work more closely on making the border area safer. While Mexico is discouraging illegal crossings, the U.S. Congress is considering laws that would let more Mexicans cross legally for temporary jobs.

One of the videotaped clips urges those who make the trip to seek the safest, cheapest way to send money back to their families.

Such remittances — running at a pace of more than \$8 billion a year — are now Mexico's third-largest source of foreign income after oil and tourism.

Another spot notes that AIDS is spreading in areas of Mexico where large numbers of people emigrate.

"Citizens are going to the United States, they are being infected with AIDS and then are passing it on to their families," Hernandez says in the ad, again urging them to stay home and find work.

Hernandez noted that the government also is sponsoring other ads on national television discouraging illegal border crossings.

He said the efforts to protect migrants and to create alternative jobs in Mexico were motivated in part because "in Mexico, we want to have the moral authority to be able to demand that our countrymen are treated well abroad."

Violence kills 22 in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Backed by helicopter gunships, soldiers deployed in a troubled Kingston neighborhood Tuesday, patrolling streets blocked with debris from days of gunbattles between police and government opponents that have killed 22 people.

Crouching low with machine gun at the ready, a trooper passed the body of an elderly man sprawled face down in a pool of dried blood, apparently from a bullet in the back. Residents of Tivoli Gardens, the besieged neighborhood, said the man was killed Sunday.

"Anyone who tried to move got shot at. It's pure murder from both ends ... the police and the gangs," said Claudia McKay, a 23-year-old seamstress.

The violence has been concentrated in the capital, Kingston, in southeast Jamaica, though there have been isolated protests and roadblocks that police quickly dismantled in the northern resort towns of Montego Bay and Ocho Rios.

There were no reports of tourists leaving, but a new U.S. travel advisory against western and downtown Kingston raised worries the disturbances could hurt Jamaica's vital \$1.3 billion tourism industry.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson ordered Jamaica's entire army — more than 3,000 troops — to deploy Monday night to reinforce security forces trying to

put down fighting between gangs affiliated with two main political parties.

"The government cannot stand idly by and allow criminal elements to hold this country ransom," Patterson said.

On Tuesday, there was only sporadic fighting as troops moved in.

"It's an unpredictable situation ... the police and the army are maintaining a heavy presence," police spokeswoman Dahlia Garrick.

But the opposition Labor Party says authorities have been targeting only its followers in the crackdown launched Saturday. Since then, at least 22 people have been killed, including three police officers and one soldier. One of the police deaths came Monday when an officer was hit in the head by a stone thrown by protesters 40 miles from Montego Bay.

Correction

In Tuesday's *Battalion* the Center of Management Information Systems should have been abbreviated CMIS.

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Sbisa-Bloodmobile Mon. & Tues. 1:00-6:00 Wed. Thurs. & Fri. 12:00-7:00	Rec Center-Lobby Mon.-Thurs. 3:30-9:00
Bio Bio-Lobby Mon. & Tues. 8:45-1:45	Vet School-Lounge Wed. Thurs. & Fri. 10:30-4:00

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