

News Briefs

Mad cow disease may force FDA regs

A loophole allowing cosmetics and dietary supplements to include ingredients from cattle stricken with mad cow disease may be closed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Beef protein or hormonal extracts are often found in supplements and cosmetics but are not tightly regulated by the government.

There has never been a case of mad cow disease reported in the United States and the FDA does not think it could be passed to humans through cosmetics or supplements. According to FDA officials, it's what they do not know that is dangerous.

According to industry representatives, there is no reason to believe that their products could pass on the illness.

Teen pregnancy rates soar

Early findings that teen-age pregnancy and abortion rates rose markedly during the 1980s have been confirmed by a new study.

For the under-15 group, the pregnancy rate was 6.3 pregnancies per 1000 girls in 1980, rising slightly to 6.9 by 1985 and to 7.1 by 1990, said the federal report published in today's issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

According to the author, epidemiologist Alston M. Spitz of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States teen pregnancy rates have continued to be higher than many other developed countries. Spitz also said that 95 percent of teen pregnancies are unintended.

Among girls ages 15 to 19, rates were 88.8 per thousand in 1980, dipping to 87.7 in 1985 and zooming to 95.9 in 1990, the study said.

During the '80s, there continued to be 800,000 teens who became pregnant each year.

Also during that time, the government's goal was to have no births in the under-15 age group by 1990. However in 1990, 22,928 girls younger than 15 conceived, 11,657 gave birth and 11,271 had abortion, the report said.

Open house planned

BEHREND-High school juniors and their families are invited to a college-wide open house at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, on Saturday, April 13 at 12:30 p.m.

Faculty from each of the college's academic divisions will host division specific tours, demonstrations, and informal meetings. From presentations will be offered on admissions, financial aid, how to choose a major, and career options.

An Information Fair will provide students with important details about Honors and Scholars study, study abroad, athletics, campus ministry, student activities, residence life, and Behrend's Learning Assistance Center.

The open house is free. For more information call the Office of Admissions at 898-6100.

U.S. Plane crashes in Croatia

A U.S. military plane went down in Croatia yesterday near the city of Dubrovnik. According to the Pentagon, the plane was carrying 33 passengers, consisting of business leaders, military officials, and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. While a Croatian government official reported that there may be survivors, rescue teams have reported that they found the bodies of three men and a woman near the wreck. A Pentagon official claims that there are no confirmed reports of either survivors or fatalities.

Economy on the rise

According to the latest data from Washington, personal incomes and consumer spending are on the rise. A sharp increase in jobs after the wave of storms in January allowed spending to rise faster than it has in two years. The Commerce Department claims that spending rose to \$5 trillion, and increase of 1.1 percent. Incomes from salaries and wages rose 0.8 percent to more than \$6 trillion. The figures show that the economy is on the rise after a slow period during the last week in 1995 and the beginning of this year.

Unabomber suspect under surveillance

Federal authorities may have the Unabomber under surveillance in Montana. The FBI has been serving a warrant by watching a man in the remote town of Lincoln for a month. The agents believe that the man is connected with the 18-year mail bombing spree. A total of 16 bombs which killed three people and wounded 23 have been attributed to the Unabomber.

Spring Blood Drive

Giving just 45 minutes of your time can save up to four lives

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There is no risk of contracting any infectious disease from donating blood. A new, sterile needle is used for each donation and is immediately discarded afterwards.

"There will be nine nurses to perform the phlebotomy [drawing of blood], nursing staff and volunteers to serve refreshments and sign people in," said Wygant.

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity will continue its tradition of volunteering at the blood drive by signing up donors.

Student organizations are invited to take part in the Campus Challenge. The Campus Challenge is a competition between student organizations to encourage members to donate blood.

All organizations on campus are eligible to participate.

Members are to register at the sign-in table for credit. A personalized sign-in sheet will be provided at the sign-in station at the blood drive.

Names of those who participated will be checked with a list of participants provided by the Blood Bank's data processing department. Each organization will receive credit for each donor listed on their sign-in sheet that

completed the donor screening process.

The top sorority, fraternity and student club will receive personalized plaques for Outstanding Participation.

In the case there is a tie, all organizations will receive a plaque. All organizations that participate will receive a

Certificate of Appreciation from the Community Blood Bank.

"Presidents should watch their mailboxes in the Student Activities Office for letters and flyers about the blood drive," said Mc Mahon.

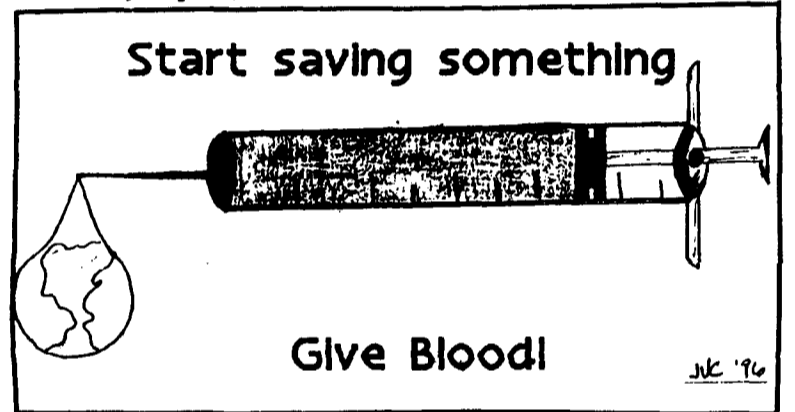
"Last semester 10 organizations took part," said Eileen Behrer, Staff assistant at Health and Wellness. "We are hoping for the same turn out this semester [120 pints]."

After the blood is collected, it is broken down into its different components. This maximizes the usage of each pint of blood.

"Four lives can be saved from one pint of blood," said Wygant. "We spin and separate the blood into: red cells, platelets, plasma, and cryoprecipitate, a clotting factor made from plasma."

The Community Blood Bank of Erie is the sole supporter of Erie's five hospitals, therefore the bank tries to attract 1500 people a month, which amounts to about 1200 pints of blood per month, 300 pints a week.

"We try to attract safe and healthy people to donate blood," said Wygant. "The most important thing for people to remember is to donate regularly." People can donate every 56 days.



Student donates kidney

By William D. Murray
Knight-Ridder/Tribune Information Services

BERKELEY, Calif.-- The final save of University of California, Berkeley, hockey goalie Peter Werner's competitive career will be one he'll never forget.

Werner, a major reason the Golden Bears squad won the Pacific-8 club hockey title this year, donated a kidney to his ailing mother, Katherine, at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital Feb. 29.

He did so knowing that his act would likely end his competitive hockey career.

"It may sound difficult, but it was the easiest decision I could have made," Werner said in a telephone interview from his family home in Chicago. "It was the right thing to do to give life back to my mother, the person who had given me life."

Werner's mother has suffered from kidney disease for years as a result of a childhood bout with polio. Her condition led to complete kidney failure in 1994 and a transplant from another donor.

"I was ready to give up my kidney in 1994," said Werner,

who was the only relative whose tissue matched his mother. "But at the last minute they found a donor. Since then I've always been mentally ready if she needed my kidney."

The call Werner had hoped he would never get came in early February.

"I got a call that her transplant had failed and she was in intensive care," he said. "My only reaction was how quickly can I get to Chicago."

At the time, Werner was enjoying the finest year of his hockey career, which is a non-scholarship sport at UC-Berkeley. He was giving up under two goals a game in the conference and had a chance at a tryout with the Oakland Skates of the roller hockey league.

The Golden Bears as a team were in the midst of their best club hockey season ever, owning a league-leading 19-7 mark and were headed to the national collegiate club championships in Tampa Bay, Fla.

"That was the most difficult part," Werner said. "We had really worked hard for four years to build a team and get to the

national championships. It was as if we had achieved our dream."

But Werner never made it to the championships, and his team dropped all three of its games at the tournament without him in goal.

"There never really is a good time for something like this," he said. "But I have no regrets whatsoever."

Werner also tried to downplay the scope of his sacrifice.

"It's not like I ran into a burning building and saved a kid or something," he said. "I think this is a decision a lot of people would make for someone they love."

Werner has been told he would not begin feeling normal for "about six weeks" but planned to return next week to the Berkeley campus to continue his senior year of study in international relations.