

Generic drugs, money savers

Thanks to a state law passed last November, consumers may be able to save money on prescription drugs.

The Pennsylvania Generic Drug Act permits pharmacists to substitute cheaper generic drugs for brand name drugs with the permission of the prescribing physician.

A generic drug is one that is identified by its chemical name rather than an advertised brand name. Because generic drugs are not advertised, they are cheaper.

Under the current provisions, a doctor is required by law to indicate on a prescription whether or not a generic drug may be substituted for a brand name equivalent. If the doctor wants a specific brand name drug for his patient, he must write on the prescription that a generic drug cannot be substituted for it. Otherwise, a generic drug will be used to fill the prescription.

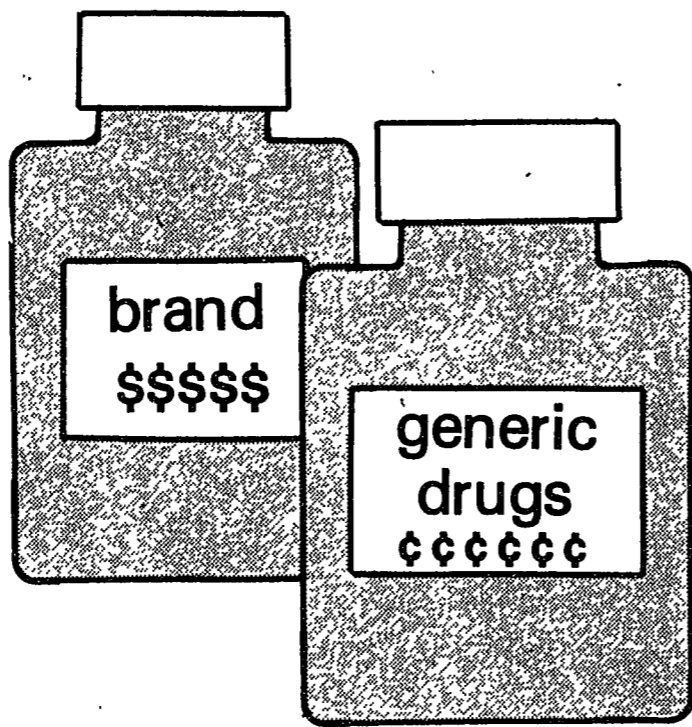
Previously, a pharmacist was permitted to dispense only the drug written on the prescription. Usually, a brand name drug was prescribed, since many physicians are unfamiliar with chemical drug names.

A consumer can save about 25 to 30 per cent on generic drugs, according to Craig R. Duke, pharmacy manager at Rite Aid Prescription Center on S. Allen Street. People on maintenance medication, such as elderly people with chronic heart problems, can save about 40 to 50 per cent.

Most generic drugs are antibiotics like penicillin, Duke said, but they are not the store's best-selling drugs.

Birth control pills, he said, are his top sellers, but they are only available from brand name companies.

A state Department of Health official said generic birth control pills will be available "hopefully within the next 12 months." Their price, however, "is probably about as low as it will go" now because of the product's highly competitive market.



The easiest way to get a generic drug is to ask your doctor to prescribe one, the official said. But sometimes a doctor will insist on a brand name.

Dr. Paul L. Carney of State College said the main reason a doctor will insist on a brand name is "to be sure of quality" over a drug made by "some bastard outfit."

But the U.S. Food and Drug Administration "has become very fussy over the past ten years," he added, so that generics should be as safe and effective as brand name drugs. Generics must also be approved by the state Department of Health.

Not all brand name drugs have a generic equivalent. Some brand names are protected by a seven-year patent so that no generic equivalents may be marketed until the patent expires.

Oil flows after pipeline repaired

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (UPI) — The \$9 billion Alyeska pipeline resumed pumping Alaska's North Slope oil yesterday when workmen completed repair of a leaking pipe joint which forced a three-day shutdown of the 800-mile system.

Replacement of the faulty piece of pipe, which had been leaking nitrogen in advance of the oil flow, took longer than expected, but a spokesman said there was no problem in restarting the pumping once the repairs were made.

Technicians of Alyeska Pipeline Services Co. said the probable cause of

cracks in an elbow section of pipe at Pump Station No. 8, at the 433-mile mark south of the line's beginning at Prudhoe Bay, was the collection of super cold nitrogen at the bottom of the elbow.

The shutdown was ordered Monday when nitrogen was detected leaking from the pump station southeast of Fairbanks. At that time the oil front was about 15 miles to the north, and halting the flow prevented any possibility of an oil leak.

Before pumping began on June 20, nitrogen was sent through the line to force out air and oxygen and eliminate

the possibility of fire. At various points along the line new nitrogen is introduced to replace the gas as some of it is vented by the pressure of the oil flow.

An Alyeska spokesman said the nitrogen is in liquid form at minus 290 degrees before it is pumped from tanks into the pipeline. The liquid nitrogen vaporizes as it leaves the tanks, but technicians at the scene of the fractured section said they believed some of the nitrogen entered in liquid instead of gaseous form and the shock of the extreme cold caused several cracks.

Committee changes not foreseen

GOP committee chairman dies

By CHRIS HEPP
Collegian Staff Writer

It is too early to assess the effect that the death yesterday of Eugene Fulmer, chairman of the Centre County Republican Committee, will have on the Centre County Republican party, according to several prominent county Republicans.

Ruth Myers, who, as party vice chairman, will succeed Fulmer, said that she foresaw no changes in the immediate future. Although as chairman of the party Myers has the authority to replace personnel originally appointed by Fulmer, she has no such plans.

"I think everything should remain as is," she said. Fulmer, who represented Centre County in the state House of Representatives from 1959 to 1970, died yesterday at the Hershey Medical Center after undergoing surgery June 30. The cause of death was not announced. He was 59.

Myers said that she was shocked by Fulmer's death and that she would need "time to think things over" before she made any changes within the party.

State Senator J. Doyle Corman said that it would be difficult to judge what impact Fulmer's death will have.

"I don't think that anyone can make an accurate guess," he said.

Corman said that while Fulmer was not as strong in state politics as he once was, he would be very difficult to replace.

"He always kept Centre County in a good light," Corman said, because of his ability to spot leading candidates for high state offices and gaining county support for them early in a campaign.

Lula Witherow, former Republican state committeewoman, was saddened by Fulmer's death but looked to the future. "I think we may be able to pick up the pieces and build a stronger party," she said.

Loretta Willits, who lost the chairmanship to Fulmer last year, also said she expected little change within the party.

Fulmer, a 1948 Penn State graduate, was serving as director of research for intergovernmental affairs for the House Republican caucus at the time of his death.

Fulmer, a Lancaster County native, is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Fulmer, and a sister, Mrs. Ethel Godd.

Funeral services are being arranged by the Koch Funeral Home, State College and will be announced later.

Gypsy moth problem 'hopeless'

By CURT SMITH
Collegian Staff Writer

Pennsylvanians can expect little if any relief from the current gypsy moth invasion, according to experts who spoke last night at the County Courthouse in Bellefonte.

James O. Nichols, chief of the Division of Forest Pest Management for the State Department of Environmental Resources, described the onslaught as "astronomical."

"It's bad now," he said, "and it's going to be worse next year."

The federal government has devoted four years of research and \$21 million to the problem.

"We're not much better off than when the research began," he said.

State Senator J. Doyle Corman, R-34th, said the pests are closing in on the more populated areas of Centre County and will be quite a problem in the near future.

Corman also said the various methods used to fight the moths in recent years have not been very fruitful.

DDT proved to be quite effective against the moths, but its general use

was outlawed in 1963. Other pesticides have been less successful.

Nichols said the government is looking into methods of fighting the insects besides spraying.

"Our primary consideration is getting more of the moths' natural enemies into the area," he said.

William G. Yendol, a University entomologist, said that the necessary flies and wasps would take care of no more than 60 per cent of the moths.

Although Nichols said the predators could eliminate as much as 80 per cent of the moths, 95 per cent would have to be eradicated or "you get the problem right back."

Yendol said the University was

working on a virus that would kill the moth larvae after consumption of the virus. He added that it was harmless to humans and animals.

Nichols said only "high value" areas, such as residential areas and parks, were being sprayed due to a lack of state funds.

"As long as we protect the residential areas there will be few complaints," he said.

Edward Eckess of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was less pessimistic.

"There are many positive approaches to take if the community wants to take them," he said.

Ammerman to attend picnic

Congressman Joseph S. Ammerman, D-23rd, is scheduled to make an appearance at a picnic at the Spring Mills Fish and Game Grounds on Sunday, July 10, at 2 p.m.

The picnic, which is being held in Ammerman's honor, is being sponsored

by the Centre County Democratic Committee. It will feature a pony ride, children's prizes, and food and drink for all. C. Guy Rudy, committee chairman, urged everyone at the committee meeting Thursday night to bring their friends.

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