

# Morning after

## Post-coital drugs — final resort

By LUCY JORDAN  
Collegian Staff Writer

"I would recommend that all women steer clear of the morning-after pill and any estrogen treatment used for that same purpose," a State College pharmacist said.

The reason the pharmacist fears the morning-after pill is the threat of cancer. The reason women take it is the fear of pregnancy.

Ritenour Health Center's Gynecological Clinic prescribes the morning-after pill made of Premarin, an estrogen. It is prescribed hesitantly, only when the woman involved has engaged in sexual intercourse without contraceptive protection during the previous 72 hours and has serious fears of becoming pregnant.

A Daily Collegian survey of 4 local pharmacists and 3 gynecologists indicated the Premarin estrogen morning-after pill is readily available.

Four years ago, Ritenour began using the Premarin-based treatment. Previously, the morning-after pill was made of Diethylstilbestrol (DES).

"Between 1945 and 1965, DES was the most common estrogen used in the morning-after pill and for the

prevention of miscarriages," according to The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Ms. Magazine reported in 1974 that "In August, 1972 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned DES from cattle feed but did not ban the (use) of DES for women in the morning-after pill."

Not until the first eight cases of a rare vaginal cancer were reported in 1971 did anyone bother to research cancer in women, Ms. wrote.

It was the concern about DES that prompted the change to Premarin. However, "all estrogens, given at comparable doses and for comparable lengths of time as DES, would cause the same carcinogenic effects by accelerating growth of cells," according to The New England Journal of Medicine, September 1972.

"Yet the Center for Population Research of the National Institute of Health is currently awarding contracts to University health services and family planning agencies to test the effectiveness of other estrogens in place of DES, as the morning-after pill," the Journal continued.

The local pharmacist said, "Premarin, like its sister-

estrogen DES, is listed as "not specified for use as a post-coital contraceptive." A woman with an adverse reaction to Premarin used as a morning-after pill could sue her doctor, the pharmacist said.

"Such a case would be similar to the Hunter vs. Ballweg case where Dilantin was used for an atypical pain for which it was not indicated," he said.

A \$35 million suit was lost by a group of women last year when daughters of women who had used DES during pregnancy to prevent miscarriages developed vaginal cancer and sued the distributors and manufacturers of DES as a whole, the pharmacist said.

The case was dismissed because "the women did not specify the hormone brand or maker," according to the May 17 issue of The Wall Street Journal.

"Adverse reactions listed on the literature accompanying the estrogens DES and Premarin are as follows: Nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, mental depression, increase or decrease in weight, hair loss, break-through bleeding and a 90 per cent increased incidence of pre-cancerous adenosis," the pharmacist said.

## Funds awarded to grads' association

The Graduate Student Association has been allotted \$5,000 by the Associated Student Activities and an additional \$5,000 by the University to meet its budget until next June, GSA treasurer Steve Rood said at last night's meeting.

Rood said \$10,000 would be enough "to cover the bare operating expenses," but he said he did not think it was enough to complete the necessary budget. He said the GSA will appeal to ASA for more funds in the fall.

GSA president Trish Morrison said the state and University budgets have been tentatively approved, but said "if there is no tax increase the University could lose as much as \$9 million in its operating budget."

"There could be a possible nine per cent increase in tuition if there is no increase in taxes," Morrison said. "This would be a \$41 increase in

tuition per term for full-time graduate students."

She said if there is a tax increase there will be a three per cent increase in the University's budget.

Morrison said the GSA has been in contact with state legislators and with members of the Board of Trustees to push for a tax increase.

According to Alex Holt, GSA executive secretary, there has been a change in financial aid regulations for this year. He said a student can no longer take a State Guaranteed Loan and supplement it with a National Student Direct Loan, or vice versa.

Other GSA business included the announcement of a report sent to University President John W. Oswald on issues that affect graduate students and the announcement of the encampment meetings to be held in September.

## Tax reimbursement plan okayed

Centre County tax districts may be reimbursed \$3,294 in delinquent taxes owed by the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad.

The Centre County Board of Commissioners approved a plan introduced by Attorney Joseph Green in a meeting yesterday at the County Courthouse in Bellefonte.

Green said a U.S. District Court approved a proposal that would fully reimburse tax districts claiming less than \$10,000. They must, however, waive all claims to penalties and interest.

Tax districts owed \$10,000 or more must either lower their claims or accept a percentage of what is owed.

In other action, the commissioners also recognized a state grant of \$30,000

for buying equipment for the development of county parks. The grant must be matched by an additional \$30,000 in county funds.

The commissioners also:

— Passed a savings bond payroll program proposal for county employees.

— Accepted a federal grant of \$20,238 for the widening of a road connecting Route 45 and Fairbrook. The county must supply \$47,223. The grant was submitted to the County Planning Office.

— Appointed Joseph L. Mitchell Unionville Borough assessor. He will replace Warren Fisher, who resigned.

— Approved four county aid applications. College Township will receive \$3500; Port Matilda, \$2200; Howard Township, \$2100; and Huston Township, \$1300.

## Youth job training plans passed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House yesterday gave its final approval to a bill creating some 200,000 job and training opportunities for youngsters, mostly ages 16 through 23.

It approved 356 to 58 a compromise version of the bill worked out by a House-

Senate conference committee. The Senate now must give its final approval.

The estimated cost is \$1.5 billion through September 1978, of which \$1 billion so far has been appropriated and the rest is to be included in a supplemental appropriation.

## Accident leads to pipeline shutdown

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) — A piece of heavy construction equipment struck and broke a check valve near the north end of the Trans-Alaska pipeline yesterday, closing the pipeline down again less than 24 hours after it was reopened.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. reported that an undetermined but apparently small amount of crude oil sprayed into the air from the top of the damaged valve. One report said the spill was limited to 40-50 barrels.

Maintenance and oil spill crews rushed to the scene.

Alyeska said the accident 23 miles south of Pump Station No. 1 on the North Slope happened while the valve was being backfilled and the line was shut down immediately.

An Alyeska spokesman said automatic monitoring equipment closed the pipeline immediately when the break was detected. He said the damaged valve was expected to be repaired within hours and the oil flow resumed.

Oil began flowing Monday night for the first time since a fatal explosion and fire near Fairbanks shut the line down 11 days ago.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus required oil movement experts to be present at each pump station, but that

did not prevent yesterday afternoon's accident.

Until now, oil movement experts had not been required on every shift.

Andrus told a news conference the experts — all employees of the Alyeska Pipeline Co. — would be distinguishable from permanent staff at the station "to minimize confusion of who is in charge."

The four-story building at Pump Station No. 8, once a complex mechanism for pumping oil to the port city of Valdez, was demolished July 8 by an explosion which killed one employee and injured five others. All that remains is a jumble of scorched and melted pipes and girders.

Andrus said he had required a definite chain of command to prevent the "human malfunction" which, a preliminary report shows, caused the explosion.

"Those key, qualified advisors will be on those shifts continuously for the next 60 days," Andrus said. "At the end of 60 days there will be a re-evaluation of the situation."

Andrus said he also required a review of written procedures and a review of training records to make sure all employees understand their jobs.

## Con Ed ponders blackout prevention systems, action

NEW YORK (UPI) — Saying it would rather be "overly cautious" than risk another devastating blackout this summer, New York State has ordered 24-hour staffing at key Consolidated Edison power substations and other preventive measures, it was announced yesterday.

The Public Service Commission, which regulates the state's utilities, and Con Ed clashed on whether the power company or its consumers should ultimately pay the price of Con Ed's losses from last week's 25-hour blackout. "That's a cost of doing business and

has to be borne by the user of the product," said Con Ed Chairman Charles Luce at a joint legislative hearing Tuesday.

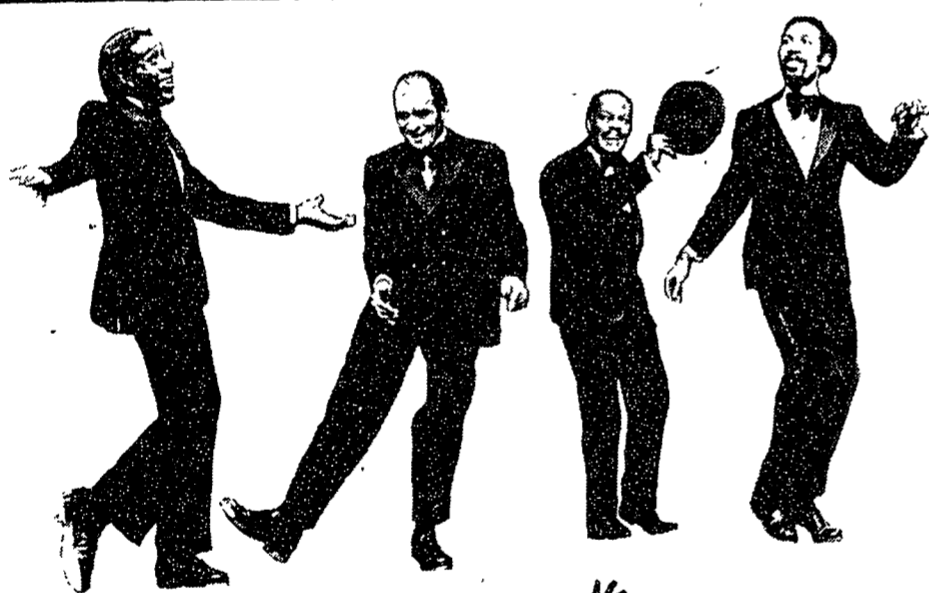
But Acting PSC Chairman Edward Berlin said, "Con Ed cannot be compensated for expenses already incurred." He added, however, that the expense of installing any new preventive systems would "obviously have a cost impact on consumers."

Berlin, in announcing new measures to prevent another blackout, said, "We are intending to be overly cautious."

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