

News briefs

New lead in toxic shock case

ATLANTA (UPI) — A promising, but inconclusive, lead has been found in the search for the cause and possible cure of toxic shock syndrome, officials said yesterday.

A UCLA microbiologist believes he has traced the disease to a bacterial toxin.

"He's found a new one (toxin) that nobody's found before," said Dr. Kathryn N. Shands, the national Centers for Disease Control's principal investigator of the ailment that has struck 420 victims, mostly menstruating women, and killed 40.

"We believe he has found a toxin," she said. "It may be that he has the right toxin. But he should prove it definitely. So far, he has not done that to the satisfaction of the medical community."

Toxic shock syndrome is a newly recognized illness that produces a high fever, sunburn-like rash, a peeling of the skin and in some cases a sudden, fatal drop in blood pressure. Tampons have been cited as a contributing factor in the incidence of the ailment. One brand, Reza, has been removed from the market.

Discovery of the toxin that causes toxic shock syndrome could lead to development of an anti-toxin to fight the disease.

The toxin was found by Dr. Patrick Schlievert who began his search four years ago while seeking the cause of a scarlet fever-like illness. Those cases are now considered to have been toxic shock syndrome, Schlievert said recently.

Schlievert said the toxin is produced by the bacteria staphylococcus aureus. He said he could produce the disease in experimental animals and cure it with use of an anti-toxin. The animal anti-toxin, however, cannot be used in humans.

But Shands said the required step-by-step laboratory experiments necessary to medically prove that Schlievert's toxin is the one that causes toxic shock syndrome have not been taken.

Phila. mobster shot to death

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Underworld figure Frank Sindone, a close associate of slain Philadelphia mob boss Angelo Bruno, was found shot to death and stuffed in garbage bags yesterday in another violent chapter in a gangland power struggle.

Sindone's body was found inside two plastic bags behind a South Philadelphia shopping center five blocks from his home. He had been shot execution style three times in the back of the head.

His hands and feet were tied behind him and all identification had been stripped from his clothing, forcing police to identify him by fingerprints.

According to the 1980 Pennsylvania Crime Commission report, Sindone, 52, was the chief lieutenant of Philadelphia for Angelo Bruno and was bankrolled by Philip "Chicken Man" Testa, reputed to have taken over the helm from Bruno, 68, who was shot to death outside his home March 21.

Bid to revise census curset rejected

DETROIT (UPI) — A federal judge rejected a government bid yesterday to set aside a landmark order to revise the U.S. census and chided the Census Bureau for failing to comply with his order to outline an adjustment procedure.

U.S. District Judge Horace W. Gilmore gave the Census Bureau two weeks to draft a specific plan to adjust official population figures to include those missed by enumerators.

Particularly blacks and Hispanics. A Justice Department attorney said it would be impossible to comply with the order.

Gilmore rejected government requests to order a new trial or set aside his adjustment ruling. Government lawyers contended improved census methods will provide a more accurate 1980 population tally with "essentially no measurable undercount."

He also rejected a government argument the ruling should be set aside because the Census Bureau has determined there is no "statistically defensible" way to gauge the undercount or adjust for it.

Gilmore ruled Sept. 25 raw census figures are not as accurate as they could be and cannot be used to apportion U.S. House seats or distribute federal aid unless adjusted to include the undercount.

The ruling came in a suit filed by Detroit, which argued thousands of local residents were missed in the census-taking process — cheating the city out of millions of dollars in aid.

Witches say Carter will win

NEW YORK (UPI) — If you believe witches can predict the future, then Jimmy Carter will defeat Ronald Reagan next Tuesday.

Billy Carter will become a citizen of Libya.

Scientists will turn sea water into gold.

People from outer space will send a message to earth that will contain profanity.

These are among 16 predictions found in the annual survey of 200 American witches conducted by the New York Center for the Strange, a non-profit research group that investigates "the myriad aspects of prognostication, prophecy and divination."

Other predictions: Secretary of State Edmund Muskie will resign in December and be replaced by Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and the United Nations will move out of New York City and relocate to Casablanca, Morocco.

Double digit inflation will continue into the second quarter of 1981, the witches predict, and then level off.

Waste hurts seafood industry

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. (AP) — Dumping nuclear waste from Three Mile Island into the Susquehanna River would have a disastrous effect on the struggling seafood industry in the upper part of Chesapeake Bay, a federal hearing on the disposal plan has heard.

The warning came from some of the more than 130 residents, fishermen and politicians who jammed a high school auditorium here to criticize the proposal to dump treated water from the crippled Pennsylvania nuclear plant into the river.

"We don't need this contamination," said Howard Sexton, a commercial fisherman. "We already have enough problems. A lot of guys like me around here are striving to make this bay and our community more of a place to come to for seafood."

Area fishing has been lean in recent years, Sexton noted.

Officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other federal agencies spent four hours Wednesday night discussing the dumping plan.

Dumping water from the nuclear plant — the site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history in March 1979 — could be one safe clean-up method, the officials said. They emphasized that no decision on dumping had been made.

Uranium leak study released

ERWIN, Tenn. (UPI) — An accidental release of highly enriched uranium at a top-secret Tennessee nuclear fuel plant in 1979 may have been 10 times greater than first reports and probably contaminated about 1,000 people, federal officials said yesterday.

They contended, however, the release did not present a serious health hazard although residents near the plant could have been exposed to up to five times more radiation than they normally would have received from nature in a year.

It was among the largest such releases ever reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

NRC spokesman Ken Clark said the accidental release was caused when a pipe clogged and the dust-like material swirled up the vent stack of the plant.

Albert Gibson of the NRC said residents near the plant could have inhaled the dust-like uranium. The inhalation could go through a person's system and the uranium contamination settles in the bones.

NRC calculated an adult living near the facility on Aug. 7, 1979, might have received a dose ranging from 10 to 250 millirems and a child might have gotten a dose ranging from 20 to 500 millirems. In comparison, a person normally receives about 100 millirems per year from nature.

The plant manufactures nuclear fuel for the Navy's submarine fleet.

Reza says exiles want monarchy

PARIS (UPI) — On the eve of proclaiming himself shah of Iran, Crown Prince Reza predicted in an interview published yesterday that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini would be overthrown and the Iranian monarchy restored.

The late shah's eldest son, living in exile in Egypt, said the large majority of Iranian exiles want a return of the monarchy, although he admitted that some of them believe it should be "restructured" to limit the monarch's powers.

The interview with the French magazine Paris Match was printed a day before Reza was to proclaim himself shah on his 20th birthday, fulfilling his father's death wish.

In Cairo, a spokesman for the exiled Iranian royal family said Reza would make a broadcast to the Iranian people at 7 a.m. EST today proclaiming himself shah.

The spokesman said Reza's mother, Empress Farah, would not be by her son's side for his statement as planned earlier. No explanation was given. The broadcast was to be filmed by Egyptian and French TV cameras.

In the interview, Reza said the Iranian people had been "misled" by Khomeini and the Islamic revolution that forced his father and family into exile in January 1979. "But I am sure (the Iranian people) will sweep away this lawless regime."

"No one will be able to mislead (the Iranian people) for long and keep it enslaved, alternating false promises with terror," he said.

Reza indicated his role as shah-in-exile would be to serve as a figure around whom all Iranian exile groups could rally. He said his family has received "thousands of letters from (those who) support us and declare themselves ready to fight."

"The monarchist system existed in Iran for 25 centuries," Reza said. "What we are living through now is but a temporary break. We shall relive the Golden Age."

The Pahlavi family's claim to the royal title was asserted in 1926, when Reza's grandfather, an army colonel, proclaimed himself shah after leading a revolt and assuming power.

Poll says Reagan won debate

By United Press International

An ABC-Harris poll released yesterday said 44 percent of likely voters who responded thought Ronald Reagan won the presidential debate and 26 percent thought President Carter did a better job.

The poll of 780 people also showed 21 percent of the sampling rated the two

"We knew he was going to be crowned" this year, so we just took it for granted. It isn't a shocking occasion or anything. He was such an unassuming guy, you didn't think of him as being any different," one of Reza's friends, Mark Simon, said.

The Crown Prince began studying political science at the out-of-the-way college in the hills of western Massachusetts last year. Far from limelight he would have encountered at a large university, Reza lived a low-profile life except for the big house and the bodyguards.

even, 6 percent said they liked neither and 3 percent were undecided. The poll has a margin of error of 3.5 percent.

When asked which presidential candidate seemed more effective on inflation-economy issues during the Tuesday night debate in Cleveland, 59 percent said Reagan and 27 percent said Carter.

Ideologies prevent lasting bridge Sino-U.S. alliance 'unthinkable'

By MARK GREEN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The United States is on the verge of selling military technology to the People's Republic of China, but the relationship between the two is not an alliance, said a State Department representative.

"I would describe the relationship between us and China as consultative, not as an alliance," Charles Freeman, director of Chinese Affairs, said. "We never contemplated an alliance with China. It's unthinkable."

However, he said, present relations could proceed even to the point of entente, which Freeman defined as an understanding between nations concerning their policies towards Third World nations.

Freeman said his reasons against a Sino-American alliance are two-fold.

First, there is too big a difference between the two countries' ideologies for a long-term alliance ever to be considered, he said.

The second reason, Freeman said, is that it would demand too much of a new security responsibility for the United States to take part in defending China's extensive Russian borders.

He said it would "mortgage American military policy to the Sino-Russian dispute."

"We've been very careful not to extend our coordination efforts to the Sino-Russian conflict," Freeman said.

Since Secretary of Defense Harold Brown's visit to the People's Republic of China last January, the United States and Chinese defense departments have started to familiarize each other with their respective policies and methods, Freeman said.

"We could now, if we wanted to, and I emphasize 'if we wanted to,' initiate weapon sales to the Chinese very quickly," Freeman said.

Brown's trip to China had been scheduled far in advance, and had not meant to take on the tone it eventually did, he said.

However, the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan on Christmas Eve of 1979 "gave Secretary Brown's trip a different character," Freeman said.

"Russia has an absolutely overwhelming military advantage over China," Freeman said, "but over time that superiority will erode."

Ag Hill Festival starts tonight in the HUB

By KATHY GOOD
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The 30th annual Ag Hill Festival, sponsored by the Agricultural Student Council, will be held tonight in the HUB Terrace Room.

The event originated in 1950 under the direction of Emeritus Dean Russell E. Dickerson and the late Paul H. Margolf. It was designed to bridge the gap between faculty, staff members and students within the College of Agriculture. Today's program has the same motif, although the surroundings have changed over the years.

Festival chairman James Monte spoke with retired Prof. Frank Anthony and Robert Swope, assistant dean for residential education, to find out the history of the festival.

Old Hort Woods, located where the Forum and Eisenhower Chapel now stand, provided the setting for what was then an outdoor affair, he said. The old oak tree grove was perfect for a hot dog roast, the main course of the day.

"That feast is a far cry from such entries as Swiss steak, roast rib of beef, fried clams and seafood newburg, this year's choices."

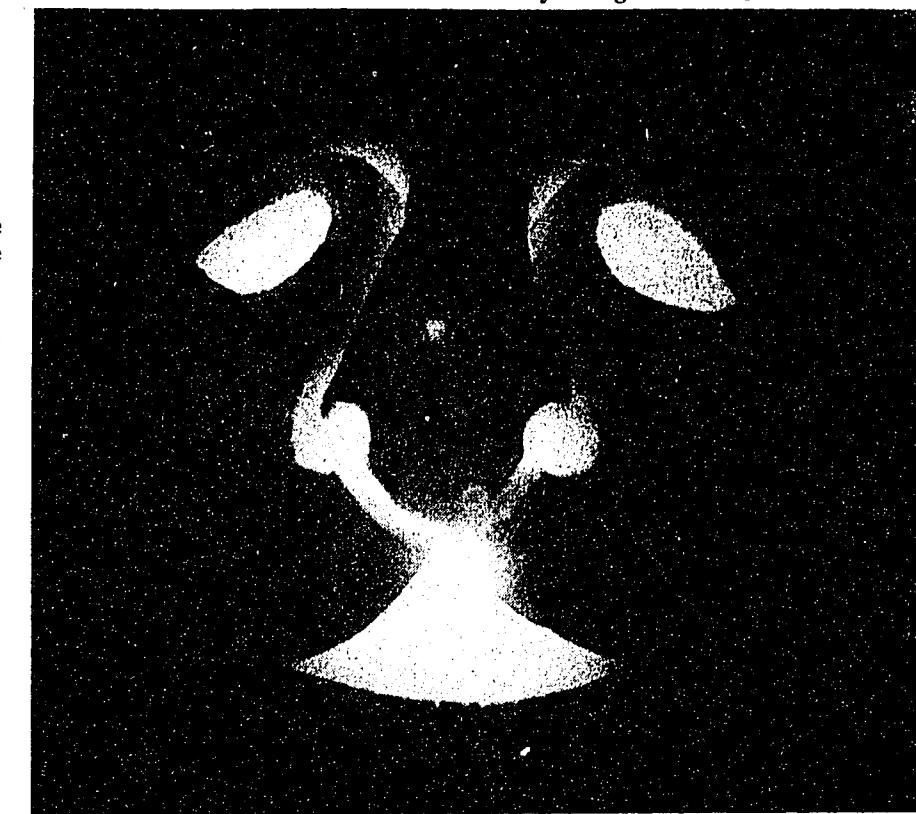
A more recent change is the revised version of the Ms. College of Agriculture contest. There will now be a male counterpart, a sign of the changing times.

Monte said they want to get away from any reference to a queen-type image. Both contestants will equally represent the college.

"Candidates are nominated by clubs within the college," Monte said. "Club members choose those who best represent their organization and the college. The best overall male and female will represent the college at events held throughout the year."

Other activities include a lighthearted, color slide presentation of students and faculty involved in college events, bingo and square dancing called by members of the Campus 4-H Club. All of these events will take place in the HUB Ballroom following dinner.

"We want to invite people in the college and outside as well," Monte said. "It'll be a lot of fun for the parties; a fun evening to get loose and meet the faculty in an informal way."



Lion light
A jack-o-lantern gets in on the Halloween spirit by donning a Nittany Lion disguise. Mark Bianchi (1st-English) created this great pumpkin.

New TMI study results

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Many mothers of young children living near the scene of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island suffered long-term depression, according to a study which contradicts previous findings that mental stress resulting from the accident was short-lived.

The Kemeny Commission, a blue-ribbon panel that investigated the March 1979 power plant accident, said last October "the most severe health effect of the accident was severe mental stress, which was short-lived."

"I think our study shows that they were wrong," Dr. Evelyn Bromet of the University of Pittsburgh said at a press conference yesterday.

There were nearly twice as many cases of anxiety and stress among mothers living within a five-mile radius of the damaged reactor, compared to mothers in a control group living near another nuclear power plant reactor in Pennsylvania, Bromet said.

She said many of the 624 mothers studied experienced sleeplessness, loss of appetite, indecision and other signs of psychological depression during the year after the accident.

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