

## Dentists debate use of mercury fillings

By DEBORAH MESCE  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of a government scientific advisory committee said Friday they were confident mercury-containing dental fillings are safe for most people.

But they recommended that more research be done to allay fears of the public that the fillings can cause health problems.

Mercury is highly toxic. The question of whether mercury in dental amalgams leaches into the body and interferes with the nervous system has been debated for years.

The Food and Drug Administration asked the committee to evaluate the most recent studies.

"We did not receive any information today that would warrant saying that amalgam is unsafe," said Dr. Manville G. Duncanson Jr., chairman of the Dental Materials Department at the University of Oklahoma.

Duncanson is chairman of the FDA's Dental Products Panel.

"There are questions that are unanswered, including the amount of mercury that may leach into the body from amalgam fillings," he said.

"These questions have to be answered. That doesn't mean that we're saying that amalgam is unsafe."

The nine-member panel was un-

animous in its recommendation.

Some dentists, researchers and consumer advocates had asked the committee to call for a ban on the use of mercury in fillings.

"We believe that the data to date are not sufficient to demonstrate clinical harm to patients," said Robert Sheridan, director of the FDA's Office of Device Evaluation.

Animal studies that show significant mercury absorption from dental fillings, and some anecdotal accounts of harmful effects in humans, are compelling and raise important questions, he said. But he added no studies have been done in humans and there is no evidence that mercury amalgam fillings cause disease.

At this time, he said, "FDA is not advising people with amalgam fillings to have them removed, either to prevent adverse health effects or to try to reverse the course of existing diseases."

Dental fillings containing mercury have been used in millions of people for more than 150 years.

Experts say that a few people, estimated at 1 percent to 2 percent of the population, are allergic to mercury amalgam fillings and should not receive them.

Dr. Michael Pawk, a dentist practicing in Butler, Pa., told the panel he stopped using mercury amalgams about eight years ago after he evaluated the scientific literature.

## Americans honor long-time hostage

By JOAN MOWER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senators, journalists and former hostages on Friday honored Terry Anderson and other Americans still held in Lebanon, with special tribute to the professionalism and "guts" of the AP reporter imprisoned for six years.

"We have not forgotten them and we will not forget them," President Bush said of six American hostages in a letter to Peggy Say, Anderson's sister, marking the anniversary of his capture.

Bush, who has revived the hostage issue since the end of the Persian Gulf War, told Say that her brother and five

others "are held cruelly apart from their families simply because they are Americans."

Katharine Graham, chairman of The Washington Post Co., said at an emotional, 90-minute ceremony at the Capitol that Anderson had risked his personal safety to bring the world the story of Lebanon.

"Our American name for it is guts," she said. "Terry Anderson embodies this description."

Relatives and friends of the other American hostages — Thomas Sutherland, Joseph Cicippio, Jesse Turner, Alann Steen and Edward Austin Tracy — attended the ceremony. Sutherland's wife, Jean, flew from Beirut.

Anderson, 43, the chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was seized by unknown assailants on a street in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

"There is only the frustration and the anger that we in the AP feel at the mindless savagery of people who would hold a man for so long for no reason," said AP Vice President Walter Mears.

But Say, reflecting optimism shared by other speakers, said the Capitol Hill gathering, similar to those held annually since Anderson was seized, "is the last ceremony."

She said she has waged her tireless campaign to free her brother because "it is not his destiny to die chained to a

filthy basement wall in the bowels of Beirut and have no one notice."

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., one of Say's strongest backers on Capitol Hill, said the United States was closer than ever before to promoting "a political settlement" that could lead to freedom for the hostages.

"True peace can't be achieved as long as American hostages remain in captivity," said Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan.

The hostages are thought to be held by pro-Iranian Shiites operating in an area of Beirut controlled by the Syrian army. Syrian officials told Secretary of State James Baker III this week that they would work to free the hostages.

## Pizza business tough, but lucrative competition

By ORLANA M. DARKINS  
Collegian Staff Writer

Students who are too busy to cook or are not interested in what the dining hall has to offer frequently opt for another alternative — ordering from one of State College's 15 pizza parlors.

"Pizza is very popular among college students because it is a quick and easy food that is somewhat nutritious," said Brenda Foster, a shift superintendent at Pizza Hut, 244 W. College Ave.

"I don't think there could be too many pizza places. It could be worse if there wasn't enough, especially for people who live off campus and may not have access to a pizza place," said Steve Cappella (junior-administration of justice).

But Bill McFadden, owner of Hofbrau Pizza, 1316 W. College Ave., said he thinks State College is overcrowded

with pizza parlors.

"So many pizza businesses are not making as much business as they expected. That's why you see so many pizza parlors offering a large pizza for four dollars," McFadden said.

Pizza Hut offers an all-you-can-eat special Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., which includes pizza, pasta-salad bar and a small drink for \$4.99.

"About 50 pizzas are prepared for Monday and Wednesday night. A lot of people come in large groups, but these nights aren't really crowded because a lot of people don't know about it," said Eddie Wentz, a cook at Pizza Hut.

"It's a good deal. You come in hungry and you leave full," said Nikki Van Dornick (senior-finance).

However, not everyone is satisfied with this special.

"I think they have a hard time keeping pizza out. The most popular selections like plain and pepperoni go so fast that sometimes you don't get enough," said Kristy Bain (senior-art education).

Greg Ritter, assistant manager of The Original Italian Pizza Restaurant, 222 W. Beaver Ave., said he believes pizza parlors thrive in the area because of the number of students living here.

"There is a high population of students who want something quick," said Dave Dettinburn (junior-history), a delivery driver for Original Italian Pizza.

Some students like pizza because it is convenient and does not consume a lot of their time.

"We order pizza when we don't feel like cooking, especially on Friday nights. We don't have to clean, we can just throw the box away," said Patti

Bommer (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management).

While delivering pizza may just be a job to some people, it can have its surprises.

"One of our female pizza deliverers arrived at the door of the person who had ordered a pizza. The guy arrived at the door with a robe wrapped around his body. When he went to pay her, the robe opened and he flashed her," Ritter said.

And sometimes it can be dangerous.

"When we did deliver, the Bell of Pennsylvania phone book put a \$7 off coupon for pizza when it was supposed to be \$1 off," McFadden said. "A couple of guys wanted to buy a pizza, but when they were told it was a dollar off and not seven they beat up the delivery driver and held him hostage until they got \$7 dollars off on their pizza."

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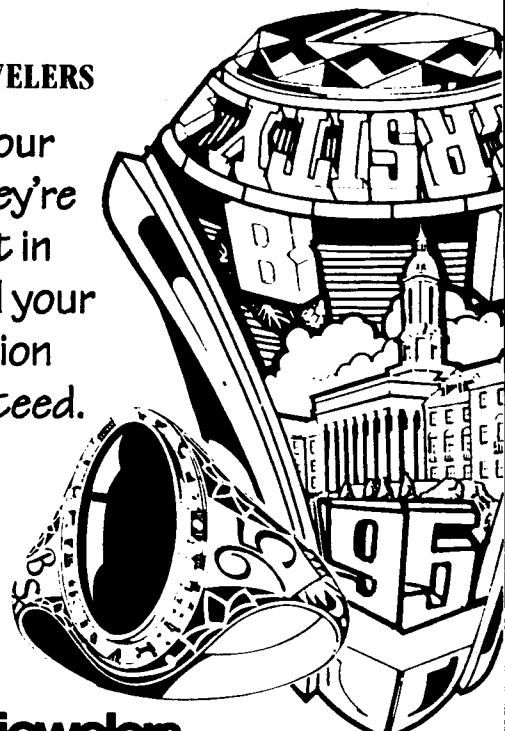
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