

News Briefs

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Drug Effects Protection Sought

(WASHINGTON) - A bill that would enable the Food and Drug Administration to act more quickly and forcefully to protect the public from dangerous effects of medication was introduced in Congress late last month.

Reps. Paul G. Rogers (D-Fla.) and Andrew Maguire (D-N.J.) Sponsored the measure, which is sure to meet stiff drug-industry opposition and may not be welcomed by the FDA.

If passed and signed by President Ford, the bill would empower FDA to:

Recall drugs on which bad side-effects are reported or suspected, with a minimum of red tape.

Limit use of approved drugs for certain types of diseases, by especially qualified physicians, and in certain "settings" such as hospitals. Put on drug researchers, manufacturers and doctors a greater burden of responsibility for reporting adverse reactions or potential hazards from drugs under study or on the market.

It also would require pharmacies dispensing drugs to furnish the patients for whom they are prescribed a "clear language" statement of the hazards and side-effects, together with warnings about things not to eat or drink in combination with the medicine.

KISSINGER DELIVERS SPEECH IN VENEZUELA (CARACAS, VENEZUELA) - Secretary of State Kissinger delivered Tuesday what his aides have billed as a major foreign policy address. The speech in Caracas was to symposium of U.S. and Venezuelan academics, politicians and businessmen. In it, Kissinger outlined a six-point program designed to invigorate hemispheric ties between the U.S. and Latin America.

In his speech, Kissinger touched on these points: The U.S. will maintain direct aid to the neediest nations of the hemisphere. Washington will help the hemispheric nations to participate on a more equal footing with the industrialized world through access to development capital investment. The Ford Administration re-enforces the American commitment to mutual security. The U.S. will work to modernize the organization of American States. And, he said the U.S. will negotiate on the basis of parity and dignity specific differences with each and every state.

CAREY URGES EARLY PASSAGE OF BUDGET

(Albany) - Governor Hugh Carey is urging the legislature to Pass the State's budget two weeks early. Carey says he needs the action to meet new borrowing problems. The Governor says legislators are impressed with the urgency of the situation but he says he has not gotten any firm commitments. Carey says the state needs to find sources for some 400 (M) million dollars in borrowings for state construction agencies. Carey says the state needs the money by March 15th. The Governor says the investment community wants to see that the state budget is balanced before it will lend money to the agencies.

DEMONSTRATIONS BREAK OUT IN PERU (LIMA, PERU)

Police used tear gas to disperse small groups of demonstrators Tuesday in Lima, Peru. The demonstrators were demanding the release of arrested union leaders and the right to strike. There were some shouts and pamphlets against Secretary of State Kissinger. But the demonstrators mainly concentrated on union issues. Kissinger is to fly to Lima tomorrow as part of his six-nation Latin American trip.

HEARINGS ON SST LANDINGS CONTINUE

(Albany) - British and French government officials defended the SST Concorde before the New York State Legislature Tuesday. The foreign government officials claim the Concorde is actually quieter when it lands than other aircraft now landing in New York City. There is a legal controversy over whether the federal government or the states have authority over SST landings in New York and Dulles Field in Washington D.C. The state legislature is expected to approve a bill intended to ban the SST landings at Kennedy, Laguardia and Newark, New Jersey, Airports.

Feelings Run High On Campuses Over Tuition And Board Hikes

(CPS)--Tuition hikes and budget cutbacks are giving an ugly edge to the mood of students hemmed in by spiraling costs. Although most schools are staying tight-lipped about their budget for next year, colleges that have put the bad news on the line have been met with angry rallies, threats of combines student/staff strikes and accusations that higher education is becoming the domain of the rich.

In Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey students have confronted administrators in the past month over education costs they feel are becoming prohibitively high. Showing matches between regents and students, egg-pelted college presidents and rallies "recalling the mood of the sixties" have been the result of 25 percent tuition hikes and layoffs of up to 80 faculty members at a single school.

Students hit with the second tuition increase during the year at the University of Georgia formed an indignant crowd in mid-January, protesting what amounted to a 25 percent increase in their tuition for the year. While tuition has skyrocketed, cutbacks have trimmed library hours, health services and faculty and student jobs on the campus.

A rally that drew students and faculty hit hard on the effects increases in tuition would have on minority students. A black speaker charged that tuition hikes would "come down hardest on the people least able to pay." Black members of the school's student council have threatened to call for a tuition strike even if the rest of the student government doesn't agree.

At Trenton State College in New Jersey, students and faculty are gearing up for a strike on March 15 to protest tuition increases of \$265 and staff cutbacks that could send 80 faculty members into the streets. Chancellor Ralph Dungan was struck with eyes as he explained the school's \$1.5 million budget cutback for the coming year. Along with the 80 faculty members, about 1,000 students would be cut from the school to stretch available money farther.

A letter to the editor of the Trenton Signal, the student newspaper, derided the cost hike and cutbacks as reflecting "the trend in higher education that is going to make it available only to the rich, as it used to be."

An angry crowd gathered outside a regents meeting at Kent State University in Ohio earlier this month, protesting a \$45 per year tuition increase. A shoving match broke out between students and a regent attempting to enter the meeting room. Six campus police held about 60 protesters back, but

the short scuffle sent one policeman to the hospital with bruises.

Students at Kent State suggested that instead of raising tuition, the regents put a \$25,000 ceiling on salaries and consider trimming the amount of money going to intercollegiate athletics.

Meanwhile in Illinois, blacks and other minorities are embittered following a suggested tuition increase that would have students paying one-third of their educational costs. Black spokesmen called the tuition increases an "immediate disaster for blacks and other minorities."

A long range tuition plan for the state's public colleges would increase tuition by over \$300 in three years. Soaring tuition along with halts in expansion of facilities and hiring threaten to "completely gut what advances blacks and latinos have made in

higher education," according to black State Senator Richard Newhouse.

Other colleges and universities will probably be keeping any tuition increases under their hats until later this spring, after regents and administrators have a chance to figure out the difference between their proposed budgets and the amount state legislators have actually given them. But if private schools' proposes tuitions are any indication, the outlook won't be good.

Private institutions that have announced tuition increases for next years are upping the ante about 8 to 10 percent. Total educational costs at Princeton will go up 8 percent, Harvard is jumping 8.4 percent to \$6,430, Dartmouth will be up 10.8 percent and the University of Southern California about 9.3 percent.

NYPIRG Calls For Hearings On Testing

SASU announced today that they will join with the New York Public Interest Research Group, NYPIRG, in calling on the Assembly and Senate Higher Education Committees to hold legislative hearings regarding standardized testing, Educational Testing Service.

Educational Testing Service, ETS, is the Princeton, New Jersey based multi-million dollar operation of the SATs (Scholastic Attitude Tests), GREs (Graduate Record Exams), LSATs (Law School Aptitude Tests), and a host of other examinations. Governments and businesses throughout the world use ETS examinations to evaluate applicants.

In the past years there has been much concern about the grave defects of the standardized testing that is given to students. As Banish Hoffman, author of The Tyranny of Testing, once put it, "Multiple choice tests penalize the deep student, dampen creativity, foster intellectual dishonesty and undermine the very foundations of education."

The concern is not just for the effects standardized testing and its equivalents have on students, but also the power structure and economic operations of the testing industry itself. The industry has become a multi-million dollar industry which is virtually monopolized by a few grant publishing groups. The industry has shown itself to be unresponsive to the education profession and the general public.

SASU has taken an interest in this investigation of standardized testing because of its concerns for its effects on SUNY students. In order to get anywhere in one's higher education, the student is basically required to take one or more types of standardized testing. This process can be and often is a frustrating step to overcome on the student's road to a degree or to job opportunities after acquiring his or her degree. We urge the Legislature to take responsible action to this newly recognized threat to the quality of education.

W.T. Grants Bankrupt

W.T. Grant Co. stores across the nation locked their doors to the public last Thursday night at 9 p.m.

Grant, a 70-year-old company that hit its sales peak in the fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 1973, when it had sales of \$1.85 billion and net income of \$11 million, suffered a \$177.3 million loss the following year, and a +111 million loss in the first half of last year. Over expansion into new stores, the addition of

big-ticket household durables when such products had slowed in sales and aggressive entry into installment credit have been held responsible for Grant's problems.

Among the stores closed are branches in Ogdensburg, Gouverneur and Potsdam. The totals for north country stores: Ogdensburg, 70 employees fired; Gouverneur, 70 workers; Potsdam 40

continued on pg. 16