

free "float," contrary to policy, on accounts with insufficient funds.

Roberts and Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, the chairman of the House Administration subcommittee, suggested in a letter dated Tuesday that names of the restaurant debtors be posted in the main House Restaurant in the Capitol if they fail to fork up after a 30-day grace period. No names have been released so far.

The debt is not only for members' meals, but for food served to groups sponsored by the lawmakers. Members take responsibility when they sign for meals, even if the private group actually stiffed the restaurant. The House restaurant systems operate a half-dozen dining facilities, and caters special events in offices and private rooms.

Lawmakers were already scrambling to deal with the uproar over their habits at their private bank, which honored their rubber checks, time and again, even though they had no official float privilege.

Great Britain bans sleeping drug Halcion

DETROIT (AP) — Great Britain banned the popular sleeping drug Halcion on Wednesday due to the concern of side effects. Its producer, Kalamazoo, Mich.-based Upjohn Co., said it would fight the ban.

Halcion is one of the most widely prescribed sleep medications worldwide. More than 43 million Halcion prescriptions have been written in the United States since it was approved in 1983.

The British government said it was banning Halcion and other medicines containing the drug triazolam because of what it called potentially dangerous side effects. Problems included loss of memory and depression, officials said.

Upjohn, which has registered Halcion in 90 countries, has until Nov. 8 to appeal and has said it would.

"We have received no official notice from any other country that they are following suit," Upjohn spokeswoman Florence Steinberg said. "We disagree very strongly with this action in the United Kingdom."

Analysts feared the ban could snowball.

"It's hard for one regulatory authority to ignore what another one does," said Barbara Ryan, an analyst for Prudential Securities Inc. in New York.

Halcion represents about 8 percent of Upjohn's sales, which were \$1.6 billion in the first six months this year, said Beth Albright, an analyst for the Detroit brokerage Roney & Co.

Guidelines for lead to be revised

ATLANTA (AP) — The national Center for Disease Control will soon revise its lead exposure guidelines, placing millions of more children at the "concern" level for lead poisoning, a top CDC official said Wednesday.

Dr. Vernon Houk, director of the CDC's Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control, said the agency will soon lower the "level of concern" by 60 percent — from 25 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood to 10 micrograms.

The lower level would include 3 million to 4 million U.S. children — or 20 percent of those between 6 months and 5 years — believed to have blood-lead levels above 15 micrograms, Houk told reporters at a conference of the American Medical Association.

At the plus-15 level, half or more children will show adverse health effects, such as low intellectual development, Houk said.

The 10-microgram "concern" level, Houk said, will be the government's standard for the point at which "you start taking some level of action" — ranging from education and monitoring to lead removal and medical treatment.

The new guideline, which CDC officials said could be released within two weeks, is part of a federal initiative to eliminate lead poisoning as a health threat within 20 years.

Because children's brains are still developing, they run the greatest risk of lead poisoning.

Although death from lead poisoning is now rare, thousands of children suffer learning disabilities, behavioral disorders or brain injuries from exposure to lead.



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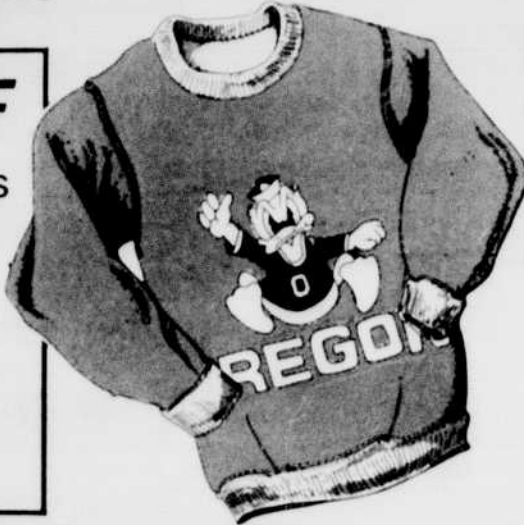


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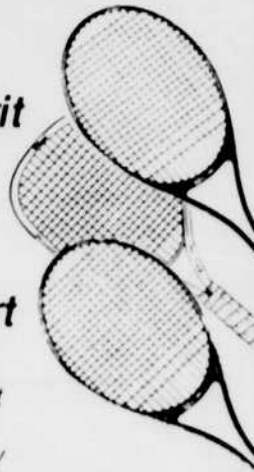
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