

Tylenol, not the last murderous prank

By Amber Marvin
Copy Editor

The recent scare of cyanide contaminated Tylenol capsules left Johnson and Johnson no other choice but to pull the capsules off the shelves. Tylenol stopped manufacturing the capsules and are introducing a new product in their place called a "caplet." The "caplet" is a compressed tablet in the shape of a capsule and is much safer than capsules.

This is the second of such incidences for Tylenol. The first poisonings took place three and a half years ago in Chicago, killing seven people.

The chairman for Johnson and Johnson, James E. Burke, is the topic of news commentaries, has made appearances on TV talk shows, and has

been in the headlines for the last two weeks since the poisonings first took place. When Chairman Burke first heard about the incident he expressed his feelings, "You get a shock immediately, then you feel kind of heartbroken."

President Reagan made an appearance on TV supporting Johnson and Johnson and Burkes efforts to rectify this hideous situation

The losses felt by Johnson and Johnson are phenomenal. Rebates for the capsules, damages caused by loss of business and advertising expenses needed to promote the "caplet" will cost the company \$150 million, Burke estimates.

At first it was believed that someone had taken the Tylenol capsules from the

store shelf and replaced them with the poisoned product. They discovered that another contaminated package was found in the warehouse of Woolworth's. Luckily the poisoned capsules were found before the product was displayed for the public.

Putting dangerous substances into products for consumers use is becoming a deadly trend. Someone is playing a fatal game of Russian roulette with our commercial packaging.

The FDA has not banned capsules from the market completely nor have they posted any restrictions on capsule manufacturers. This could lead to more poisonings and more deaths. I don't think this will be the last murderous prank that will be pulled. I can

forsee the whole industrial structure starting to crumble if something is not done immediately.

First there were the Tylenol poisonings and now Gerber is recalling its baby food because glass was found in their jars of food. What next? Will they be recalling Purina because of glass in our dog and cat food, or will we be lucky and just get cyanide in our Hostess Ho-Ho's.

I've had enough of this lunacy! I'm furious that it's not enough that I have to worry about cancer from digesting too much artificial sweetener. Now I have to worry about some psychopathic factory worker who has sabotaged my food or medication.

First of all, to help solve this

problem, the FDA should force all capsule manufacturers to stop making capsules and find another safe and efficient alternative. Companies should be more selective about who they hire and the backgrounds of the people who work for them.

If this problem is not dealt with efficiently it could easily get out of hand and start a nationwide epidemic. We depend daily on canned and packaged food. It could be very disastrous if a mentally unstable person decided to start chemical warfare on the American public. The thought is unnerving, but possible.

I remember when I heard the name Johnson and Johnson I thought of babies. Now I think of poison. Let's hope this is stopped in time.

News

Sexual awareness week counted success

By Dean Grey
News Editor

Sex on campus, it's not going to stop anyway, so you might as well set up programs to help students handle the heat.

That was the motto of the Associated Student Government during the Sexual Awareness week that ran from Feb 10 to 14. The idea of the sexual awareness week was to inform students of pleasures of the opposite sex, as if they didn't know. The week also stressed dangers of social disease and advised students of available help.

Dr. Ronald Powell of the College Health and Wellness Center, started out the week with a talk on, "What every man should know about birth control." Twelve people, both male and female, showed up for the talk. Daniel Hilts, ASG president, said "He was pleased with the turn out."

A Mr. and Mrs. Legs contest followed the featured speaker. The contest officially kicked off the sexual awareness week. The titles of Mr. and Mrs. Legs were given to Layne Nelson and Donna Noland. It was the hopes of ASG to arouse the curiosity of

the students and get them to participate in the week.

Tuesday's activities had an exceptional turn out of up to 50 people at a time. The attraction was a "Town Hall" type discussion on "Dating in the 80's." Paul Killo, Student Program Specialist served as a moderator. The open forum also had special guest Fran Hart of Planned Parenthood Associates Incorporated.

After that, Pat Krumm and Erna Lewis of the College nursing department, presented a lecture on "What every woman should know about birth control." This, according to Hilts was an "Excellent Presentation."

ASG had a Red Cross blood drive scheduled for Wednesday, but bad weather conditions closed school. Those who want to give their hard earned blood to the Red Cross, can still do so, ASG rescheduled the event for March 7.

"What you don't know can hurt you," was the topic of Thursdays presentation. Robert and Marcia Gowan, public health specialists, talked on sexually transmitted diseases. Only two students showed up for this event.

"Although the turnout wasn't as well as expected, I didn't regret the time spent and felt it was well worth it," Hilts said.

Hilts also commented that the reason for such poor turnout was due to the time and day it was put on.

Friday wrapped up the week with "The Dating Game,"

where Shawn Waterberg hosted a collegiate version of the television show. The winning couples, Scott Wyland and Cindi Sarela, Vince Van De Coevering and Amber Marvin each received gift certificates to the Fernwood Inn and free passes to the Sadie Hawkins dance held that night.

Sexual Awareness Week

went off real smooth for the first year performance. Hilts hopes for it to be improved and continued in the years to come, but for now it was a good first time; so good that other colleges in the area were very interested and gained copies of the agenda for their own version of the sexual awareness week.

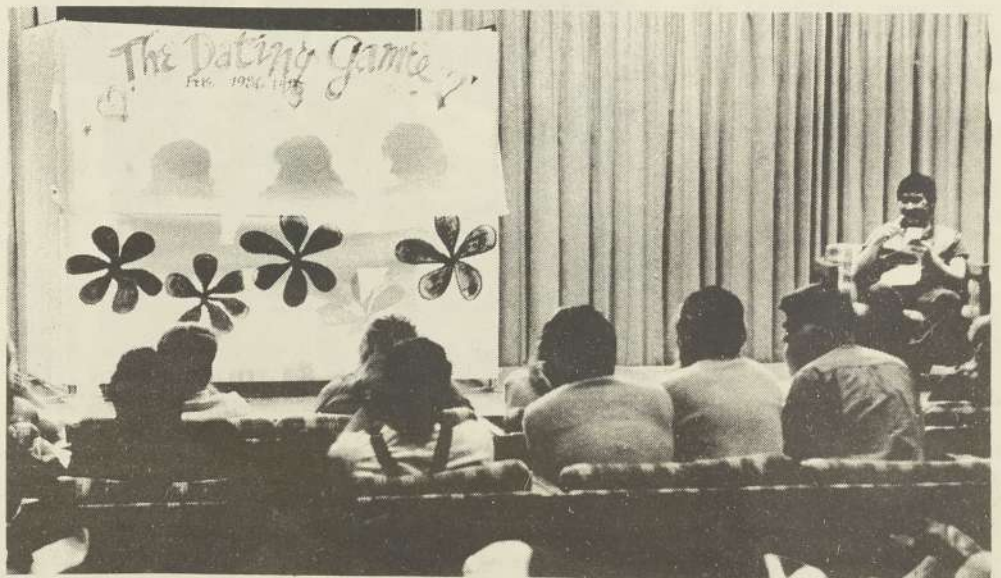


Photo by Dan Wheeler

Scott Wyland questions participants of the dating game during Sexual Awareness Week.

