

# Newspaper ink a killer

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by Dam Beaver

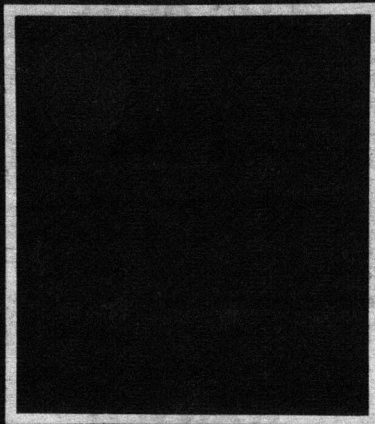
Researchers at the U of A have discovered that newspaper ink is carcinogenic.

Black ink has never been considered as healthy as granola and aloe vera. "Like if you pour it on your Cornflakes every morning, you probably won't last long," joked Dr. Noah Body, the researcher in charge of the project.

What the researchers have discovered is that casual contact with newspaper ink over long periods of time is deadly.

"For example, the exposure one would receive in the amount of time it takes most students to read an article would probably take five minutes off one's life," said Body.

At one time newspaper ink was only responsible for the ugly black streaks it left



An example of the deadly ink

on people's hand and faces.

Now it's clear that these streaks will develop into gangrenous, black pits. Most people wash before such a manifestation occurs, but there are situations, says Body, that could result in the worst.

"Say the guy who lives out in the desert, but reads the newspaper all the time. He's in great danger."

"It's really icky. We have all these poor, ugly Rhesus monkeys with their faces rotting off from all this black stuff."

"Newspapers have a responsibility in this regard," said Body. "They should avoid 'reversing' (a process that prints white on black background rather than black on white background). This really exaggerates the problem. Just picking up a newspaper with a reverse front and back would probably be enough to cause lesions in the skin."

Most students when asked about this new danger said they didn't read anyways.

One student in HUB mall was truly miffed. "I've always loved black ink from newspapers," said Polly (not her real name). "I use it as a cheap substitute for eye-shadow, blush and lipstick."

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