

would you believe

Recently, it seems that every other newscast brings bad news -- yet another product that we've all been using for 15 years causes cancer. Well, the Environmental Defense Fund thinks this is a sad situation, and wants to change it.

The Defense Fund, or EDF, wants the Consumer Product Safety Commission to make the manufacturers of certain consumer products test their own ingredients for cancer-causing properties. Then on the basis of the tests, the safety commission could require a warning label, ban an ingredient -- or declare an ingredient safe.

EDF Science Associate Leslie Dach says the program would do more than protecting the public. He points out that if a product could be declared safe, then the public wouldn't have to be paranoid about "everything causing cancer."

EDF has formally petitioned the commission to launch a pilot program. (Newscrip)



How would you like to plunk down \$50 (bucks) for a one-way unrestricted ticket to the European city of your choice? If the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has its way, you could be on your way this fall.

The Village Voice reports that the CAB "has had its fill" of monitoring bargain fares. So the agency has proposed that airlines

be able to reduce economy rates by up to 70 percent without getting permission from the government first. The CAB also wants the airlines to set first-class rates at their own discretion.

An Airline Deregulation bill is expected to reach the House in mid-September. And by October, the airlines could be engaged in the biggest price war in their history. (Newscrip)



It has long been known that women from lower socio-economic classes are statistically more vulnerable to cervical cancer than women from higher classes. Researchers now think they have a clue as to why.

It is well known that sexual intercourse predisposes women to cervical cancer. And so researchers have wondered whether there may be something in sperm that triggers the disease. A team from the University of Sydney has found that men vary considerably in the amount of a protein called protamine in their sperm. Generally speaking, the lower the social class, the greater amount of protamine.

The conclude that sperm protamine may play a role in cervical cancer. But they do not offer any evidence that protamine itself causes cancer, and they do not speculate on why lower-class men have more of the protein than do upper-class men. (Newscrip)

UCLA students interested in studying the technology of oil drilling may get a first-hand look some time next year.

That's because the university's regents have just okayed the first step in a plan to look for oil on the UCLA campus. According to a University spokeswoman, a number of oil firms believe the Southern California campus may be situated on top of a rich source of crude oil. If all goes well, drilling could begin on a two-acre parking lot some time next year. Profits from the wells could net the university an annual income of approximately three million dollars.



(Meanwhile), Jim and Elsie Wilcott, (a married couple who worked for the CIA), say the agency has a fondness for dirty money.

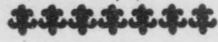
According to Jim Wilcott, the CIA "had a phobia about fresh currency, because it was believed that the dirtier and more crumpled the bills, the harder they are to trace."

Consequently, Wilcott said when he had to fund a secret mission, and had only crisp, new bills on hand, he and his aides would scatter the cash on the floor, take off their shoes and jump up and down on it, to make it look dirty. (Newscrip)

There was an earthquake a couple of weeks ago near the Seabrook nuclear reactor site in New Hampshire. It was quite small, registering only 2.5 on the Richter scale. But the Village Voice reports that no one wanted to talk about it.

Just after the quake hit on a Friday afternoon, many local people called the police force in alarm. But no one received verification of the quake until the following Monday.

A journalist asking the Boston College Western Observatory why the report was not made earlier was told the matter was "sensitive". Later, seismology director Dr. Edward Chiburis said, "We don't report earthquakes unless they're felt, and we didn't find out that anyone felt anything till Monday." But the Voice reports that 200 people had called him by then. (Newscrip)



Sandia Laboratories in New Mexico say it's using lasers in its campaign to protect nuclear materials.

The firm says the lasers are being given to people taking part in (Quote) "Advanced training exercises for Department of Energy personnel who drive and protect vehicles carrying nuclear materials."

The lasers, however, are quite harmless. They are mounted on M-16 Rifles and used during mock,

but very realistically staged ambushes. The DOE trainees scuffle around in the environs of an abandoned highway near Albuquerque. When they zap a pretend terrorist with the laser beam, the equipment chalks up either a 'kill' or a 'miss'.

The training is said to be the most realistic in the world, and must surely be the envy of any kid who ever played cowboys and Indians. (Newscrip)



In these inflationary times, lots of people are having trouble feeding their pets. So it's good news to hear that you can easily cut your dog's food bill by 50 percent. What's surprising is that you do it by feeding him or her people food.

Guy Reynolds, a veterinarian for the Oregon State University Extension, is not recommending that you starve your poor dog with the scrapings from your plate. Reynolds' diet should provide your dog with enough calories, nutrients, vitamins and minerals to keep it healthy and happy. Here's what to do: concoct a ration of one-third potatoes, one-third wheat, oat cereal or cornmeal, one-sixth meat scraps and one-sixth vegetables. Boil them all together in water, and when cool, add the vitamins. You can whip up five to seven pounds of this stew, and it should last the average dog about a week. (Newscrip)



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