

Cold Medicine could cause stroke

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III
The Brunswickan

An ingredient in dozens of over-the-counter cold medications has been linked to strokes in young women prompting action by governments in Canada and the United States.

Health Canada this week issued an advisory concerning phenylpropanolamine (PPA), widely used in decongestants, asking consumers to discontinue use of such products while Health Canada investigates further.

The Health Canada advisory follows a more strident warning from the US Food and Drug Administration, which calls on people not to use any products which contain PPA and asks manufacturers to stop using the ingredient while the FDA moves to ban the substance

in non-prescription medication.

Health officials were spurred on by a Yale School of Medicine study released two weeks ago which found an association between use of PPA and

Brands containing PPA in Canada include:

**Contact Cold, Dimetapp,
Sine Off, Sinutab, Triaminic,
etc...**

A complete list is available on our website:
www.unb.ca/bruns

bleeding into the brain or surrounding tissues (hemorrhagic stroke) in women. At the time, the FDA's Nonprescription Drugs Advisory committee met and discussed, among other information, the Yale study. The Committee

recommended that PPA "not be considered generally recognized as safe" for over-the-counter use because of an association with stroke. On Monday, November 6th, the FDA adopted the recommendations and issued warnings.

One manufacturer, SmithKline Beecham Canada, has voluntarily recalled its Contac 12-hour Cold Capsules because they contain PPA (other Contac products do not contain PPA). The company has set up a hotline at 1-888-366-7475 for concerned consumers.

According to Health Canada there has been only one reported case of a stroke in Canada related to PPA in the past two decades. And while the FDA acknowledges the risk is small, they believe PPA could be responsible for more than 400 strokes in people under 50.

CFS ranks Federal Party Platforms

David Leibl
Canadian University Press

The Canadian Federation of Students, a national student lobby organization, says the two parties leading in election polls don't make the grade when it comes to post-secondary education policy.

According to the organization's recent "report card" on education, the Canadian Alliance and Liberal platforms fail to adequately address the needs of students and universities.

The Liberals managed to pass with a "D." The Alliance was assigned an "F"

"We had no choice but to fail the Alliance," said the organization's national chairperson Michael Conlon. "The party says it has a new vision for a new century, but in a 23-page platform, the Alliance includes only two short paragraphs on education."

Conlon says the party has been vague and reluctant to commit to any real funding program for higher education. He says CFS members are worried an Alliance government would even siphon money away from an already under-funded system.

"They're promising \$125 billion in tax cuts, and depending on whose numbers you believe, they've got an eight to \$15-million shortfall. They've promised not to cut health care, so that doesn't leave a lot else to cut. We're worried post-secondary education is going to be the target of their cuts," Conlon said.

Even more distressing, he says, is the Alliance's proposal to replace the Canada Student Loans Program with an income-contingent loan repayment plan (ICR). Although paying back loans relative to post-graduate earnings may sound good in theory, Conlon insists ICR programs would end up costing students more.

"This is a scheme we mobilized over 100,000 students in 1995 to defeat," he said. "It simply is a more expensive way to fund

education. It's not about providing student aid, it's about a new funding mechanism that downloads all the costs to students."

The CFS says the Liberals have little more to offer.

"The third Red Book validates everything they've done over the last three years," Conlon said. "We're really disturbed by this move to provide social policy through tax credits. It's just a bizarre way to do business."

The CFS claims tax cuts won't help lower-income families who want their children to attend college or university.

"The reality is that participation rates have slowed to a standstill among lower-income Canadians," Conlon said. "These tax credits will do absolutely nothing to address the problem of huge tuition fees, skyrocketing student debt and declining accessibility for those who need the skills the most."

The Tories fared a bit better than the Liberals, earning a "C" grade from the CFS. Conlon said Conservative leader Joe Clark seems ready to commit money for education in the Canadian Health and Social Transfer

that the provinces receive from Ottawa.

"[The Conservatives] are consistent with their message to restore funding for the CHST for all programs, not just health care. That would make a real difference in the operating budgets in our colleges and universities."

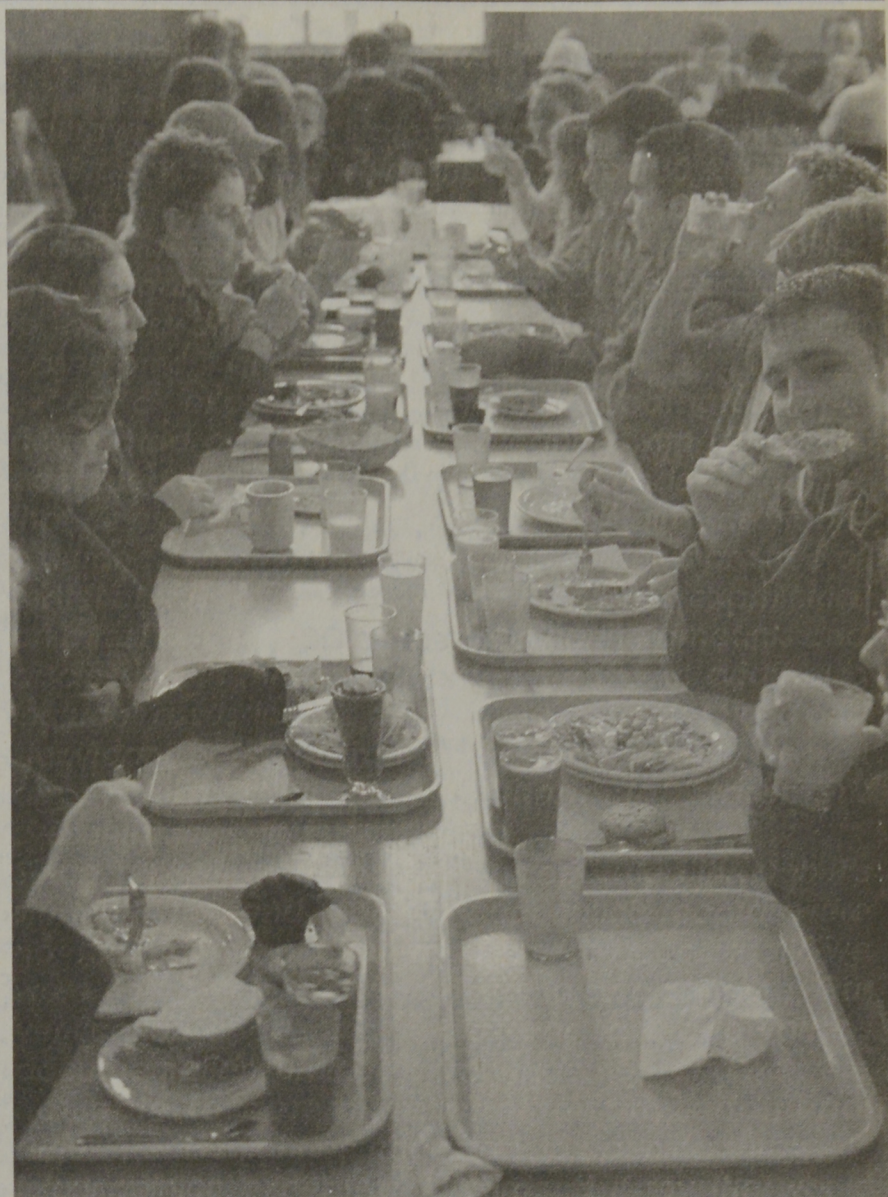
The New Democrats received the highest grade from the Federation — a "B."

The CFS says the NDP "rightly links cuts in federal transfer payments to rising tuition and student debt levels" and seems ready to implement a debt-reduction strategy.

The party has also proposed a national grants program — something the CFS has long demanded.

Still, Conlon says the NDP has an unrealistic sense of the amount of money needed to rebuild post-secondary education programs in Canada.

"We only gave them a 'B' because they haven't provided enough specifics and they're a bit low on their estimates on what it would take to lower tuition fees. They talk about investing \$2.6 billion. We estimate it would take \$3.7 billion to actually address the shortfall that started in 1993."



Kevin Forneris Photo / The Brunswickan

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2000 Auditors' Report - Brunswickan Publishing Inc.

THE BRUNSWICKAN PUBLISHING INC. STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND SURPLUS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2000

	2000
REVENUE	
Advertising	\$ 174,909
Student fees	47,994
Other	90
Gain on disposal of assets	1,675
	224,668
EXPENSES	
Amortization	8,153
Bank charges, interest and penalties	1,197
Conferences and travel	5,066
Courier and delivery	5,306
Department expenses	786
Donations	1,048
Dues, fees and subscriptions	4,757
Honoraria	28,175
Insurance	1,912
Office and postage	7,326
Printing and photo development	87,495
Professional fees	4,794
Provision for bad debts	2,337
Repairs and maintenance	6,768
Salaries and commissions	70,280
Staff appreciation	3,858
Telephone	4,155
	243,413
LOSS	(18,745)
SURPLUS, beginning of year	24,957
SURPLUS, end of year	\$ 6,212

To the Directors of: Brunswickan Publishing Inc.

We have audited the statement of financial position of The Brunswickan Publishing Inc. as at April 30, 2000 and the statement of operations and surplus for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

Since 1988, the organization has operated through its student union and separate accounting records were not maintained by the organization. Accordingly, we were not able to verify an opening surplus figure. Our verification of opening surplus was limited to various documentation retained by management and we were not able to determine whether any additional adjustments might be necessary to opening surplus. In our opinion, except for adjustments, if any, that would be required were a complete examination of opening surplus possible, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at April 30, 2000 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Ash, Casey and Thornton
Chartered Accountants

Fredericton, N.B.
June 5, 2000

Copies of the Auditor's Report are available during business hours, SUB 35