

LIVE TONITE
at
SWEEP LEFT
Hot Rock & Roll

the
Star City
Players

8:30-TILL CLOSE

Drink Specials • Dancing
Games

SWEEP LEFT
815 "O" St.
(under viaduct)

Side effects debated

New drug combats flu epidemic

By Peggy Polacek

Winter winds whipping across campus may cause students to develop influenza symptoms such as severe coughing, head and muscle aches or fever. These symptoms could indicate the beginning of a flu epidemic.

Preventing a flu epidemic can be as simple as becoming health conscious, but flu epidemic prevention may require the use of a drug called amantadine hydrochloride, more commonly known by its trade name, Symmetrel. The drug is marketed by DuPont.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the University Health Center, said he would not recommend the drug for the ordinary student, but rather for individuals not immunized that cannot afford to get sick. Those essential to a community's functioning such as policemen, firemen and hospital personnel would fall in this category.

People who suffer from a chronic illness like heart or lung disease may find their illness complicated if they develop the flu.

Epidemic proportions should be evident before symmetrel is prescribed.

The drug works only on influenza type A, which is one of three types, Howard Vosika, a DuPont representative, said. It has been proven effective in combating more than 60 A-type strains. He added that Symmetrel is effective in 75 percent to 80 percent of flu patients.

Proven effective in 1966 against an Asian flu, the drug is now available in nearly every pharmacy, he said.

Dr. John Hansen, from the Downtown Health Clinic, said he questions the use of Symmetrel since the side effects may be worse than the actual flu symptoms. He described nausea and vomiting as possible side effects.

Vosika, however, said, there is a low incidence of side effects, compared to vaccine side effects. He said there is a 30 percent incidence rate of side effects with vaccines, while there is only a 7 percent rate with Symmetrel users. Side effect symptoms he described were dizziness and lightheadedness.

High-risk patients such as the very young or old may be given Symmetrel to prevent further spreading of the disease, Vosika said.

Hansen said Symmetrel is most often used for flu outbreaks in nursing homes or other semi-closed institutions.

If Symmetrel is taken within 24 to 48 hours of the onset of flu symptoms, Vosika said, results should be seen within 28 hours. Symmetrel taken as far as five days into the illness helps the patient get over the post-flu weakness associated with recovery.

Symmetrel is prescribed in seven- to 10-day dosages, Vosika said. He said Symmetrel, available in capsule or syrup form, is usually less expensive than cough syrup.

"We don't have any evidence of an influenza-A epidemic at this time," Fleischli said, "although a few flu cases have been reported around Atlanta."

The flu season is November through March, Fleischli said, and the health center is working with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department to prevent a possible flu epidemic.

Reagan trip . . .

Continued from Page 2

The growth Brazil experienced in the 1970s may look good in terms of Gross National Product measurement but not in terms of income distribution over the whole population, Avery said. The gap between the country's rich and poor actually may be wider than in the past, he said.

Brazil has concentrated on agricultural exports, urban industrial production and foreign investment growth, Avery said.

"There is a great compatibility between Reagan's policies and the Brazilian growth model," he said.

The Latin American people tend to resent U.S. involvement in their countries because they believe that U.S. manufacturing firms are edging out local industry. They also fear the occurrence of "capital flight," which happens when the profits of a business are transferred completely back to the United States rather than reinvested in their own countries, Avery said.

Sippin'

With the Real Taste of Beer.



TAKE NOTE

Include A Stop At The "College"

In Your Christmas Planning

STYLES

PERMS

HAIRCUTS

at student prices!

—it's your last chance

before you go home

college of
hair design 474-4244

Appointment or Walk-in

11th & M (So. of Centrum)

"Lincoln's Corner on Hairstyling"