

Plan B moves over the counter

Drug provider determines price and availability

BY JEAN KAUL
Staff Reporter

The morning-after pill is available on campus and in Kirksville without prescription.

Plan B, a drug often referred to as the morning-after pill, is an emergency contraceptive women use after having unprotected sex. Once available only as a prescription, it now is classified as an over-the-counter medicine for women older than 18. But because of the drug's somewhat controversial nature, pharmacists and pharmacies can decide whether they will provide the drug to their customers.

Basics

Brenda Higgins, Student Health Center director, said Plan B is available to women on campus and costs \$20. Higgins said she thinks it is generally used by women who usually practice safe sex but have an accident such as a broken condom or missed birth control pill.

"Plan B is not to be used as a primary birth control method," Higgins said. "Students can walk in and see a provider [if they need Plan B]. [The required visit] is because the health center wants to make sure they understand how to use their birth control. We use it as an educational kind of effort."

In some cases, Plan B can prevent the fertilized egg from being implanted onto the uterine wall.

"Plan B does not cause an abortion," Higgins said. "If someone is already pregnant, there is no chance this medication will work. How-



Jackson Groves/Index

Planned Parenthood is one of several places in Kirksville to which women can go to get contraceptives such as Plan B. The drug also is available on campus and at the Kirksville Walgreens.

ever, there is a small chance that a fertilized egg will be prevented from implanting. We make sure students make an informed choice."

Plan B first works by preventing ovulation, then by preventing fertilization of the egg and finally by preventing implantation.

Higgins said there is only a small chance it will prevent the egg from implanting in the wall. But because of this possibility, health care workers have the right to refuse to sell the drug. If a health care worker refuses sale, another worker with no objection could step in and complete the sale.

Time is of the essence

Higgins said Plan B is proven to be more effective when taken within 72

hours of unprotected sex. It is most effective in the first 24 hours, but it has an effect even up to five days after sex, she said.

Plan B consists of two pills that should be taken exactly 12 hours apart, and possible side effects include nausea, bloating and rarely, vomiting. Patients already on an oral contraceptive are encouraged to continue taking their birth control while using Plan B, she said.

Higgins said she has seen a difference in Plan B sales during the past year. "Since the drug has gone over-the-counter, sales have gone down [at the Health Center]," she said. "However, we will continue to carry the medication as long as it is being utilized by our students."

Availability

Plan B is also available at Walgreens and Planned Parenthood.

Pharmacy manager Karla Dwyer said that since Oct. 6 of last year, when Plan B went over-the-counter, sales have risen dramatically. Even though the drug is sold over the counter, it is kept behind the pharmacist's counter.

Customers just need to ask for it and provide proof of age. Retail price at Walgreens is \$41.99 plus tax.

Dwyer, who has been at her position for nine months, said she has not had any problems with pharmacy technicians selling the drug.

"We keep it in stock," she said. "There are no issues with anyone on staff selling it. If a future staff

member would refuse to sell, another worker could step in and sell it."

Like Higgins, Dwyer said she thinks most women get Plan B because their normal birth control methods have failed.

Kirksville's Planned Parenthood sells Plan B for \$25. Women who are 18 and older can walk in and get it over the counter, but those under 18 need an appointment.

Not all pharmacies are as willing to stock Plan B, however. Since pharmacies have the right to refuse to sell, pharmacies such as the Walgreens in Moberly, Mo., can choose not to stock Plan B anywhere in its store.

Pharmacy technician Ashley Duff said that Walgreens in Moberly does not stock the drug.

Two schools face weekend lockdowns

Northwest, Benedictine College experience non-fatal shootings

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Staff Reporter

Two colleges in the Midwest were put on lockdown this weekend after non-fatal shooting incidents.

Shots were fired in a campus conference and activity center parking lot Saturday at Northwest Missouri State university in Maryville, Mo., just before midnight, according to a press release issued by the University. Police took an unnamed person of interest into custody on an active warrant from Lafayette County for unrelated charges, according to the Northwest news release. Since then, "the investigation has established that the individual was not involved in the firing of the shots on the Northwest campus," according to the release.

Northwest freshman Laura Burtman said she had just returned from an evening in St. Joseph, Mo., with friends when the gunfire occurred.

"I was getting ready to go to the Station, which is where the incident occurred, and then my friend called me at 11:35 p.m. saying, 'Hey, you need to get over here immediately,'" Burtman said.

A pre-recorded alarm sound-

ed at about 1:30 a.m. instructing students to take shelter. Burtman said. She said she and six friends locked themselves in a room from about 1:30 to 6 a.m.

"The alarms for the halls were saying, 'Alert, be careful,'" Burtman said. "When the alarms started going off, I saw people's faces, and they were just awestruck."

Students received the first news release informing them of the evening's events at about 3 a.m., Burtman said.

Police searched all rooms on campus, reaching Burtman and her friends at about 5:30 a.m., Burtman said.

"They were still searching for the gunman at that time," she said. "It was a little unnerving because you're just like, 'Is this really happening?'"

Tony Brown, news bureau manager at Northwest, said the alarm system, which the university has used since the late 1980s, was very effective.

"We have a number of pre-recorded warnings that are programmed into the system," Brown said. "It can also become a manual system with a microphone. We use it in instances of severe weather, fire or a shooting incident like we had the other day."

The incident appears to be isolated, Brown said.

"The people I've talked to said they felt safe and that the university responded in an efficient and expedient manner with an empha-

sis on their security," he said.

Steven Johnson, director of marketing and communications at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., said that Sunday eve-

ning Benedictine also went into lockdown after a student was shot while at work at a restaurant on the other side of town.

"Because it was unclear what the circumstances of [the shooting] were, to be sure that the campus was secure and safe, we locked down," Johnson said. "We also brought in additional security officers throughout the night."

The lockdown, communicated primarily by residence staff members, lasted from about midnight until 9:30 a.m. Monday.

"The reason we ended it was because it became clear that the incident at the restaurant where the shooting took place was not related to Benedictine College or to that student," Johnson said. "He just worked there, didn't know the person and was shot as an innocent bystander. The college and our student body were not at threat."

Tom Johnson, director of the

Department of Public Safety at Truman, said that in case of emergency, Truman would launch actions similar to those taken by Northwest.

"We would notify people by text [message], we'd notify people by phone, media outlets if they were available, that type of thing," Tom Johnson said. "Basically, what it's going to amount to is we're going to contact as many people as we can."

As of fall 2007, Truman students can sign up for a text-messaging service that will inform them of an endangering situation on campus.

Matt Farwell, assistant director of Information Technology Services, said 4,200 students currently have opted into the service, which is provided

through ITS.

"It's pretty popular with other schools, and it was a service we already had as part of our software system," Farwell said.

Students can register for the text-messaging service from TruView.

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Steven Johnson
Director of Marketing and Communications at Benedictine College

NEWS | In Brief

Local attorney awaits trial for sodomy

Two months after being arrested on charges of statutory sodomy, local attorney Thomas Oswald, 82, still awaits trial.

Kevin Walden, the associate circuit judge in Carroll County, was assigned to the case earlier this month after two other judges recused themselves but, Walden stepped down yesterday after Oswald successfully filed a motion for a change of judge, according to court documents.

Michael Bradley, Missouri assistant attorney general, will act as a special prosecuting attorney. Mark Williams, Adair County prosecuting attorney, recused himself from the case in August, according to the documents.

Robert Russell, an attorney in Sedalia, Mo., will represent Oswald.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 27.

The Kirksville Police Department arrested Oswald on Aug. 25.

Kirksville man arrested for cyber crime

Local resident Dennis Goodman has been sentenced to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to the unclassified felony of attempted enticement of a child, according to a Tuesday press release.

The Adair County Grand Jury indicted Goodman on May 29 following a cyber investigation in which officers from the Kirksville Police Department posed as 13-year-old boy named Billy and entered adult chat rooms.

The officers encountered Goodman's co-defendant John Thomas in the chat rooms. The police arrested Goodman after he became involved with a plan to have Billy come to his house and have oral sex with him, according to the release.

University cuts ribbon on Missouri Hall

University officials hosted the official ribbon cutting ceremony for Missouri Hall last Saturday morning. The officials then offered tours of the residence hall after the ceremony.

Missouri Hall, built in 1965, was closed for renovation during the 2006-07 academic year. It reopened at the beginning of the fall 2007 semester.

Foundation will offer grants next year

The local King Foundation soon will make grants available to area charities, according to a Wednesday press release.

Foundation trustees Kenneth King, Ellen King Riney and Jack Schrader had their first meeting Oct. 18. They discussed how to administer the group's funds, according to the release. The foundation's assets total about \$1 million.

The group will begin accepting grant applications after Jan. 1, 2008.

Emily Smith King established the foundation following the death of her husband, W. Boyd King, a former basketball coach for the University. Smith King died Dec. 9, 2006.

Career Center director wins award

Lesia Ketterlinus, director of the University's Career Center, has been recognized as one of 12 recipients of the Key Leader Award for her outstanding volunteerism with the YMCA, according to a Monday press release.

She received her award at the Key Leaders Conference in Columbia, Mo., on Oct. 12.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate accepted the proposal by a representative of Student Research Committee to help select candidates for an award for Truman faculty members who personify the mission of involving undergraduates in research.
- Senate listened to the perspective of an athlete who came forward to discuss early registration of student athletes.
- Senate agreed to supply \$100 to help increase publicity for Ugly Man on Campus, APO's fundraiser to help rebuild the Newman Center and support a charity of the pageant winner's choice.

DPS | Reports

- 10/27 **Junior LaToya Lawrence was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**
- 10/27 **Freshman Christopher Thomas was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**
- 10/27 **Freshman Sarah Cramer was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**
- 10/25 **Report of theft from Missouri Hall**
- 10/24 **Report of property damage from Centennial Hall**

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