Formula Ripoff
A dude named Bernard Mayles, 57, got nine years for stealing trade secrets from a couple of pharmaceutical companies. Along with Mario Miscio the two scientists sold $700 million worth of formulas to rivals of Merck and Co. and Schering Plough Corp.

Drugstore Rape
As part of their "investigation" into the alleged rape at the Kennedy Palm Beach compound cops made alleged victim PATTY BOWMAN list every drug she'd ever taken in the last nine years. In addition they looked through the records of two pharmacies for every prescription she's gotten since at least July 1976.

Marezine
As far as we can tell this is a new OTC anti-emetic called marezine HCL. We've road-tested it and found it to be better than Dramamine. It doesn't make you as drowsy and it lasts only about four hours instead of the twelve you get with Dramamine or the 24 you get with Bonine.

Taxol Thieves
Some jerks went into the Oregon forests and literally ripped off 500 pounds of Pacific Yew Tree bark, presumably because they'd heard of its value in making a new anti-cancer drug, Taxol. Picking up aluminum cans would probably be more lucrative, though since the only company that buys the bark, Hauser NW Inc., pays just $2.25/lb for the stuff and will not buy it from the thieves.

Desert Drugstorm
Cut off from their usual source of mind-alteration — beer — the strapping young killers sent to play volleyball in the sands of Saudi turned to prescription drugs. Officers took large amounts of tranquilizers according to an air force captain who's being court-martialed for supposedly improperly handing out drugs to the bored soldiers. Captain Roger Mansfield, chief pharmacist of the 56th Medical Group described to US representative CW Bill Young (FL) how the officers were big consumers of Halcion and Dextroamphetamine while the grunts were forced to pilfer anything they could get their hands on.

As it turns out, the drug of choice was a liquid anas-

Migraine Menaces
by Steven A. Dore, SPP

Once again Glaxo has grabbed the pill world by the tail with the impending introduction of its anti-migraine drug Sumatripan to be sold in the United States under the brand name Imitrex. Already approved for use in the Netherlands an FDA approval is expected.

And none to soon for the firm, which is certain to face marketplace hardships in the next few years. First hit will be its anti-ulcer drug Zantac when it goes off patent in 1995. But even before that Tagamet is expected to go generic by 1994 with an OTC version already in the wings. A generic version of Zantac in Canada (which has laws more favorable to generics) has already eaten up half of Zantac's sales there. Second is the recent introduction of Merck Sharp Dohme's Prilosec, which can heal ulcers twice as fast as Zantac. Currently Zantac is the life blood of Glaxo, bringing in half its money.

Don't expect Glaxo to go quietly into the H2 antagonist night, though. It has already resorted to some shady practices calling into question the safety of its competitors and its lawyers are working on a way to extend the Zantac patent until 2002.

But back to the headaches. The eight million Americans who endure the torture of migraine headaches ought to be able to make up more than enough of any lost Zantac revenues if Imitrex hits the market. Studies at Southern Illinois University and a more recent study published in the JAMA shows the stuff has a 70% success rate against the killer headaches. Half of those treated experienced complete relief. The only drawback is that Imitrex must be injected, though Glaxo says a pill version is on the way.

On the same front, Sandoz, fine purveyors of ergotamine anti-migraine pills is now developing a new treatment called DHE-45 (already available as an injectable). The new version will come in the form of a nasal spray.
phoria ... Desert Storm has brought."

prosecuting any of the soldiers to "maintain the eu
military was well-aware of the drug use but is not
na was by soldiers in Vietnam. Mansfield says the
was "consumed in large quantities" much as marijua
thetic called Forane (isoflurane). Mansfield said it
all the two therapies can be mixed with the steroid
er, although the treatment lasts much longer. Best of
fectiveness of those which are left after an accident.
Survivability of injured nerves or to enhance the ef
will be known as Sygen and seems to improve the
Spinal Solution

An experimental drug known as GM-1 is being stud
by University of Maryland professor Dr. Fred
Geisler. The drug holds a lot of promise for the
10,000 or so Americans who become paralyzed due
to spinal cord injuries every year. The drug which
being developed by the Fidia Phamaceutical Corp.
will be known as Sygen and seems to improve the
urvivability of injured nerves or to enhance the ef
ctiveness of those which are left after an accident.
Unlike steroid treatment with methylprednisolone,
which must be administered within eight hours of
the injury to be effective, GM-1 can be used days lat
in case you missed your chance to be poisoned by
tainted Sudafed capsules there's still hope. Bur-
rough's Wellcome has gotten the go-ahead from a fed-
eral judge to distribute 28 million of the possibly
poisonous pills overseas. The 350,000 packages of
pect Sudafed will now be sold overseas in Canada
and the third world.

Lilly v Scientology

The public relations firm that pumps up the image of
the church of scientology has dumped its client be-
cause of a conflict of interest. The New York based
WPP group which owns both the Walter Thompson and
the Hill & Knowlton Agencies realized there was a
problem. Hill & Knowlton (which also represents
Kuwait) represents Lilly and Walter Thompson repre-
sents their sworn enemy the Scientologists. WPP big
shot Martin Sorrell flew to Indianapolis last summer
where he was told in no uncertain terms that Lilly
wasn't at all pleased with the situation. In addition
Lilly has decided to pull out all the stops in fighting
the scientologists attacks on its star drug Prozac.
Until now the company has had a policy of never com-
menting on anything — making Media Representative
Ed West's job one of repeating "no comment" on
everything. Now he's taking off the gloves, "we've
never been attacked by a cult before" he says. Lilly
has offered to pay all legal expenses of any physician
sued for prescribing Prozac. In letters sent to several
hundred physicians Lilly promised to "defend, in-
demnify and hold you harmless against claims, lia-
isibilities or expenses, arising from personal injury al-
leged to have been caused by Prozac." Moreover, Lilly
has sworn to go to trial in every Prozac suit. There
are at least 60 such cases pending. More to follow as
Pills-a-Go-Go digs into this.

The Spinal Solution

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Unlike steroid treatment with methylprednisolone,
which must be administered within eight hours of
the injury to be effective, GM-1 can be used days lat-
er, although the treatment lasts much longer. Best of
all the two therapies can be mixed with the steroid
treatment dramatically reducing inflammation and
swelling in the injured area and GM-1 working in a
completely different way. But there are still years to
go before the FDA will approve the new treatment.

Birth Control Pill for Men

Researchers at the Vanderbilt University Medical
Center are testing an oral version of their highly suc-
cessful birth control injection. The synthetic hor-
mones release the gonadotropin (produced by the
hypothalamus in the brain). When this is done,
the body ceases to produce sperm and a couple of hor-
nones, among them testosterone. While testosterone
replacement took care of the loss of libido, men be-
came sterile within 12 weeks. The process appears to
be completely reversible and has no major side ef-
effects. Similar results were also reported by re-
searchers at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Tor-
rence, CA.

In a sort of related story Dr. Min-Chueh Chang who
co-developed the birth control pill has died at age 82.

Black Death Comeback?

Miles-Cutter Biological, the country's only manufac-
turer of anti bubonic-plague vaccine has announced a
halt to the production of the drug "as soon as possi-
ble". The biggest customer for the stuff was the De-
partment of Defense, which bought 2.6 million doses
a year. Stock up now.

Upjohn Busted

A record $600,000 federal fine has been levied
against Upjohn Co. for "bookkeeping violations " sur-
rounding its free distribution of Xanax and Halcion
pills. DEA investigators found irregularities in Ore-
gon, Florida, Ohio, and Puerto Rico. Instead of risk-
ring prosecution and convictions on 171 counts of vi-
olating the law (and a maximum penalty of $25,000 a
pop) Upjohn went the nolo contendre route. Under the
consent decrees signed by Upjohn they do not admit
any wrongdoing but are now forbidden to pass out
free samples of the drugs. Xanax sales trounced Vali-
num about five years ago and ever since then the drug
has been the number one anxiolitic. Halcion, a sleep-
ing pill, is also number one in its field. Doctors who
want samples of the popular drugs will now have to
deal directly with the company in Kalamazoo, MI. An
additional $500,000 penalty hangs over Upjohn's head
if they fail to abide by the decrees.

Designer Drug Update

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Justice De-
partment is allowed to declare a substance illegal within
30 days of the drug's appearance on the streets. Be-
fore this it took between six months to a year before a
drug could be classified as schedule I controlled sub-
stance. This now gives the Justice Department the
power to classify a substance as illegal without judi-
cial or any other agency's review. From there the
same department enforces the law it just made.