

## Robber in custody

A MAN appeared in court yesterday, charged with a number of armed robberies at Brisbane pharmacies.

He was also allegedly involved in a high-speed police chase from Caloundra to Bribie Island.

Rodney Edward Knight, 35, is charged with three counts of robbery with violence while armed and one count each of burglary, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, stealing and possessing dangerous drugs.

He did not apply for bail and the case was adjourned until May.

## Suntan in a syringe

A DRUG that produces a suntan with an injection has been granted special status to speed up its development.

CUV1647 is being developed as a remedy for erythropoietic porphyria, a rare genetic disease, which has helped it achieve an "orphan medicinal product" designation by the European Medicines Agency.

This gives the developers, German-Australian company Clinuvel Pharmaceuticals, access to European approval procedures, protocol assistance and fee reductions.

However, it also triggers the production of melanin, colouring the skin for 60 days after a capsule is injected, which means it may eventually be marketed to people seeking a suntan.

## HOT TRAVEL DEALS

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

For those with only a few days to get away, Coral Seas Travel has some fantastic 4 night short breaks to Vanuatu.

Starting from \$839pp staying at Port Vila's Mangoes Resort the package includes 4 nights accom for price of 2 nights, light breakfasts daily, return air and taxes from Sydney, and transfers in Port Vila. Packages of stay -4 -pay -2 are also available at Sebel Resort Vanuatu and Le Meridien Port Vila Resort for slightly more.

Packages need to be booked by April 10 for travel between April 25 and June 25 2008.

For more info see [www.coralseas.com.au](http://www.coralseas.com.au)

If you're planning a European trip then now is the time to book your car. globalCARS is offering 5% discount and up to 12 free days on all European car leasing deals if you book by March 31.

The deal also includes 50% off collection and return charges and no fees for Visa and Mastercard. This offer applies to leasing of brand new Renaults, Citroens and Peugeot.

For more details contact globalCARS on 1300-789-992 or visit [www.globalCARS.com.au](http://www.globalCARS.com.au).

## Health minister slammed

CHILDHOOD obesity experts have slammed the NSW Health Minister for wasting taxpayers' money.

Richard and Joey Marc, authors of *Please Mum Don't Supersize Me*, today criticised Reba Meagher for spending \$7.5 million on a study into ways of tackle the

### QUMAX program

THE Pharmacy Guild has released details of a new program aiming to improve the quality use of medicines and compliance within indigenous communities.

Dubbed QUMAX (Quality Use of Medicines Maximised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People) the scheme follows a joint initiative developed by the Guild with the Dept of Health and Ageing and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

The program includes funding of up to \$10.9m under the fourth community pharmacy agreement.

Community pharmacy's role will be enhanced under QUMAX to provide more patient focused and culturally appropriate services, with a manual to be developed by the PSA along with an internet-based data collection system and a QUMAX Pharmacy Readiness Kit which will outline procedures for participating pharmacies.

More info 02 6270 1888.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

DOZENS of students fell ill last week after deer urine was poured into an air conditioning unit at a school in eastern Tennessee in the USA.

Firefighters attended the school after the odour reportedly became overpowering in a number of the classrooms, with paramedics treating students who complained of headache and nausea.

Investigators are searching for the culprit, saying the prank could result in a charge for vandalism.

What's more interesting is how one would go about collecting deer urine, which is sold by the bottle to attract the animals for hunting.

A CHINESE man undergoing gender reassignment claims to be "stuck between the sexes" after his plastic surgeon went bankrupt.

27-year-old Xie Xiaoxing won a regional heat in a competition to select Miss China for the 2006 Miss Universe competition.

He said the Fashion Beauty Plastic Surgery Hospital in Fuzhou had offered him a full sex change in exchange for him advertising its services.

"After the first phase of surgery, I stopped for a while to deal with some personal issues, and when I came back last autumn they'd gone broke," he said, adding that he can't even get a job because he can't confirm his gender.

Reports don't detail exactly what the various stages of the surgery entail.

childhood obesity epidemic.

They said the money would be better used to educate parents on healthy ways of raising children.

"While we believe that a plan needs to be put in place to tackle the growing epidemic in NSW and the rest of Australia, it seems unnecessary to spend any part of \$7.5 million dollars on finding out information that we already know.

"It has been widely reported that obesity levels among children have been growing for some time," said Richard Marc.

He said children directed 'perster power' at parents when bombarded with junk food advertisements.

"Common sense dictates that... if parents are educated on ways of dealing with pressure from children, the 'pester power problem' disappears," he said.

## Symbion takeover

PRIMARY Health Care has today issued a notice of compulsory acquisition of the remaining shares in Symbion Health.

Primary currently holds 94.66% of the firm.

## Beauty qualification

TWO Sydney colleges have partnered to introduce a professional accredited qualification in beauty.

Nature Care College and Sanctuary Beauty College will provide the Beauty & Spa Therapy to keep up with industry demands.

According to the *Job Outlook* report from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, health, fitness, hair and beauty will outstrip food, hospitality and tourism to provide 9% of all new job opportunities for the rest of this decade.

Dr John Buchanan, from the Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Teaching, the University of Sydney's workplace research centre, said the expected growth in occupations such as beauty therapists highlights a deep divide in the workforce.

"There might be more accountants and lawyers but there is a whole lot of people cutting their fingernails and washing their hair for them," he said.

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