

Thermoskin recall

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a consumer recall for Thermoskin hot/cold gel packs (blue) in small, medium and large sizes.

The product contains the toxic substance ethylene glycol, with the incident following a report in which a child was poisoned by sucking on a Thermoskin cold pack thinking it was an iceblock.

The TGA has asked all sponsors of gel hot/cold packs to provide samples for further testing to ensure that they do not contain poisonous substances.

Pan class action hits TGA

A FORMAL legal action on behalf of shareholders, customers and creditors of the collapsed Pan Pharmaceuticals will be launched this week in the Federal Court.

The case, against the Commonwealth of Australia, will cite "misfeasance in public office" in reference to the actions of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which was last month forced to pay Pan founder Jim Selim \$55m in damages.

It's being brought by McLachlan Thorpe Partners, who also acted for Selim in his case, and the law firm is estimating the claim could

be worth over \$200m.

"The win by Mr Selim has opened the door for other people to follow in his footsteps," said the law firm, adding that the govt had ignored requests to launch an inquiry into the matter.

The action is being funded by IMF which will "gather claimants over the next four to five weeks".

PPF medals

SYDNEY University's Pharmacy Practice Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2008 Pharmacy Practice Medals of Excellence.

The medals aim to reward people who've played a significant role in advancing pharmacy practice in Australia.

Nominations are due by 31 Oct; for more information contact ppf@pharm.usyd.edu.au.

Gold Book winner

THANKS to everyone who entered last week's Father's Day competition.

Congratulations to Alastair Henderson of *sanofi-aventis*, who was the first PD reader on Fri to tell us that the one-starring in the book indicates that the wine is *undrinkable*.

Alastair will be sent a copy of *Australian Wine Vintages 2009*.

US student theft

A 20-YEAR-OLD pharmacy student working at a US Walgreens Pharmacy has been arrested for stealing several thousand pills.

Justin Mitchell is facing charges of drug trafficking and larceny after "unexplained inventory shortages" prompted Walgreens management to install a covert camera in the dispensary of its store in Clinton, North Carolina.

The thefts allegedly include Xanax, Vicodin, Oxycontin, Valium and Viagra.

"He would put them under his vest and take them out to his car during a break," said a police spokesman.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN OBESE German man's fat has saved his life after a bullet fired at him during a mugging became trapped in his layers of lard.

In fact 127kg Rold Mittelhaus didn't even notice he'd been shot until a doctor examined him as part of police procedure after reporting the attack days later.

"A mugger attacked me and I heard a loud bang but I'd been drinking and didn't really know what was going on. I didn't feel any pain," he said.

A police spokesman said the bullet had "barely pierced the skin and was smothered by all the flesh around it."

CONCENTRATED doses of methadone have been used in China to help a heroin-addicted elephant detox.

Chinese state media reported that the four-year-old animal was discovered to be suffering withdrawal symptoms after its drug-trading keepers were arrested early in 2007.

It's thought that they fed the elephants bananas laced with heroin in order to control it.

Officials said the detox saw the pachyderm given methadone injections for a year at five times the human dosage.

AN UNUSUAL case of drug error happened in Colombia last month, after a trekking Briton was held at gunpoint and forced to eat coffee whitener from a jar in his backpack.

Michael Fabricant was on a South American walking tour when soldiers stopped him and searched his luggage.

They suspected the white powder was cocaine and in order to demonstrate that it wasn't an illicit drug "I had to take a whole pile of it and throw it down my throat," he said.

SURE TO IMPROVE
YOUR NEXT DINNER PARTY



RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLE OF

DOM PÉRIGNON
VALUED AT \$295 R.R.P.

WHEN YOU ENQUIRE ABOUT
THE AMERICAN EXPRESS®
PHARMACY BUSINESS CARD.

ENQUIRE TODAY BY CALLING
OUR PHARMACY ACCOUNT
MANAGER AND QUOTING
'PHARMACY DAILY' ON

(02) 9271 4365



MORE THAN JUST A CARD™

Stocks are limited.
Terms and Conditions apply,
and are available upon request.

American Express Australia Limited.

ABN 92 108 952 095.

© Registered Trademark of
American Express Company.

Win a Polishing Body Wash!

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving you the chance to win a Polishing Body Wash from DermaNew, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

The Body Wash is a total body cleansing gel, exfoliating and helping to remove cell debris and polish your skin.

For a chance to win, send your answer to the below question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What colour is the polishing body wash gel?

The first person to answer correctly will win.

HINT: Go to www.tbn.com.au each day and click on the DermaNew logo at the top of the page.



DermaNew™
MICRODERMABRASION



REGISTER
NOW