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WALES, UK

Since November, Wales has recorded at least 765 cases of Swansea measles, 77 of which resulted in critical hospitalization. Health officials believe the epidemic has yet to reach its peak, and governments urge the citizens of Wales and England to receive at least one dose of the vaccination immediately.

IRAN-PAKISTAN BORDER

Iran's largest earthquake in 40 years shook the country along its border with Pakistan. The quake, measured on Tuesday to have a 7.8 magnitude, was 50 miles south-east of the city of Khash, but killed people 1,500 miles away in New Delhi. So far, 38 people are reported dead and at least 80 injured.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA

The much-anticipated immigration bill was released by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday and is the beginning of a bipartisan reform debate. Within the bill is a stipulation that allows for provisional legal status to those who illegally immigrated before December 31, 2011. Under the bill, full citizenship and the federal benefits it entails would not be granted for a decade or longer.

AUSTRALIA

For the first time in its 77 years, the winner of the Masters Golf Tournament is an Australian native. Adam Scott, 32, skillfully dominated the Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday and triumphed over Angel Cabrera. Scott finished with a score of 279, 9 under par.

Now females of all ages can 'resort to Plan B' and other emergency contraceptives

NEW COURT RULING MET WITH VARIOUS REACTIONS: RELIEF, CONCERN

BY **CHRISTIANN VAN DALSEN**
STAFF WRITER

On April 5, Judge Edward R. Korman declared that the Food and Drug Administration must make the morning-after pill accessible for females of all ages, prescription or not.

This ruling overturned a decision made in 2011, in which Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius required that girls under age 17 have a prescription to acquire the drug.

"The reason Kathleen made this decision is that she could not be confident that a 10- or 11-year-old going to a drug store should be able — alongside bubble gum or batteries — be able to buy a medication that potentially, if not used properly, could end up having an adverse effect," said President Barack Obama to reporters in regard to this decision in 2011.

Plan B One-Step is a morning-after pill composed of 1.5 milligrams of the progestin levonorgestrel. This synthetic hormone has been used in birth control pills for over 35

years. The drug's website lists the side effects as mild cases of "changes in your period, nausea, lower abdominal pain, fatigue, headache, dizziness and breast tenderness."

"It's been proven to be very effective and very safe," Director of Development for Planned Parenthood Health Systems Elizabeth Freeze told The Guilfordian. "It's safer than aspirin, even. The side effects are basically nonexistent. We, Planned Parenthood, are just very excited for this step forward for teen health. It's wonderful for folks to stand up to make sure that teens and young women have access to the preventative care they need."

But, some question what message is sent to young girls when they are denied access to contraceptives.

"I feel that the Obama administration did a disservice by constructing this as a potential problem of encouraging teen sex," said Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Julie Winterich. "It's a disservice to women's health and the conditions to which people might need to buy emergency contraception. I feel like the discourse about emergency contraception — over the counter or not — hasn't been clear and unbiased in terms of what it is and its safety and its access."

While some are relieved for the girls, others house concerns about their potential to take more risks with the new freedom to buy the emergency contraceptive.

"It's easily accessible, and girls can just store a bunch in their house," said Early College junior Rebecca Dou to The Guilfordian. "It's readily available, and you can just purchase it without any embarrassment, without telling anybody. Before, there was some shame in having to get a prescription for this drug, but now there's nothing to help prevent you from making potentially harmful decisions."

However, the pill still has a limited accessibility in terms of monetary cost. At most pharmacies, the price ranges from \$20 to \$70.

"Missing in all this discourse about emergency contraception is nonconsensual

sex," said Winterich. "If a girl's been a victim of nonconsensual sex, and there's a large myriad of circumstances in which this can happen, that can bring shame."

"There's been a drug that been approved that's safe, it's effective," continued Winterich. "Why don't we at least make that component easier for them?"

From now on, purchase of the morning-after pill will be hassle-free for girls under age 17, and the reason behind it — whether birth control did not work or was not used, if the intercourse was consensual or nonconsensual — will remain the knowledge of the consumer and the consumer alone.

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