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LIFE

Health Watch

Antibiotics
may stop
stomach
cancerBy Lindsey Tanner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - Antibiotics can help prevent stomach cancer in people who carry a common strain of bacteria known to cause ulcers, a study found.

The Chinese study adds to the already strong evidence that *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria can cause stomach cancer, a disease especially prevalent in Asia but far less common in the U.S. Still, experts said the findings do not solve the dilemma of whether and how to treat carriers of the bacteria.

The study involved 1,630 men and women from Fujian Province in southern China. All were carriers of *H. pylori*; hundreds of them already had precancerous lesions at the outset of the study.

Patients were randomly assigned to receive two weeks of treatment with antibiotics and an anti-ulcer drug, or a dummy medicine, and were followed for 7 1/2 years after that. Among the 988 patients without precancerous lesions at the outset, none on the treatment got stomach cancer, compared with six in the placebo group.

The findings among those with precancerous lesions were not as clear-cut: Seven in the treatment group developed stomach cancer, versus 11 in the placebo group. The study appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

H. pylori is estimated to affect as many as 90 percent of people in some developing nations and up to 50 percent of people in some industrialized countries, according to the World Health Organization. Chronic *H. pylori* is thought to cause stomach cancer, and doctors have come to believe since the early 1980s that it is the No. 1 cause of ulcers.

Stomach cancer is the fourth most common type of cancer worldwide and is diagnosed in about 870,000 people annually, according to the WHO. The highest rates are in East Asia, including China, perhaps because of genetic reasons or a diet high in salt-cured foods. In the U.S., about 23,000 new cases are expected this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

The findings suggest that doctors should consider routine screening for such lesions in *H. pylori* patients in high-incidence areas, and treating the infections in patients with no precancerous lesions, said the authors, led by Benjamin Chun-Yu Wong of the University of Hong Kong. But a JAMA editorial said the study does not resolve whether to employ widespread screening for the bacteria or for precancerous lesions.

While simple breath, blood and stool tests can identify whether someone has *H. pylori*, diagnosing precancerous lesions is more tricky and would probably require invasive and costly tests and biopsies, said Dr. Julie Parsonnet, a Stanford University specialist, and David Forman of the University of Leeds in England.

Kings of
urban chic

FUBU founders turned \$500 into fashion empire

By Artellia Burch
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Carl Brown, co-founder of FUBU, an internationally known clothing line, will be in Charlotte to give a lecture Jan. 22 at the Charlotte Chamber on "Today's Entrepreneur: Essential Strategies for Survival" at the Belk Action center at 6:30 pm.

Brown and his partners started FUBU in 1992 with \$500. Since the company's inception it has grown from \$30,000 to \$350 million a year in sales, and Brown wants to share his business knowledge with others.

It only takes a dollar and a dream to be an entrepreneur. But it takes more than that to be a successful entrepreneur. "In order to be a successful entrepreneur a person must have an imagination and a drive," Brown said.

"You are going to face difficulties. But from the day we started our business there was some form of success. Our accomplishments

Please see FUBU/5B



(Above) Founders of FUBU, a multi-million dollar fashion empire. Carl Brown, (2nd from right) will speak in Charlotte next week.

More community blood donors needed to help patients

By Herbert L. White
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January is a good time to give blood.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson is challenging U.S. residents to donate 1.2 million pints in January, designated National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. In addition,

Thompson is challenging donors to give a second time later in the year. Community Blood Center of the Carolinas, which works with 10 area hospitals to serve donors, patients and hospitals, is looking for platelet donors for its automated blood collection program. ABC enables CBCC to collect full doses of platelets, which help stop bleeding from indi-

vidual donors. Without the technology and ABC donors, platelets must be pooled from six while blood donations to make one dose. Primary recipients of platelet donation are cancer and leukemia patients, people with aplastic anemia and open-heart surgery patients.

"Platelets only have a five-day shelf life, and that's why

we need a constant flow of donors," CBCC spokesperson Mary Alice Rogers said. "Each one of our 10 partner hospitals has cancer treatment programs and a heart center. Local patients use about 6,000 doses of platelets a year, so there's tremendous need for them."

A platelet donation can take about two hours and donors

must have a platelet count of at least 150,000 to participate. They also must meet the same qualifications as whole blood donors and shouldn't take any type of aspirin product 72 hours before donation.

For information on blood donation, call Community Blood Center at (704) 972-4700 or log on to www.cbcc.us.

'Play Or Be Played' comes up short when explaining men

By Artellia Burch
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Tariq Nasheed, author of "Art of Mackin" has a new book, "Play Or Be Played."

In this book Nasheed claims to have every ounce of information women should know about men, dating and relationships.

"Play Or Be Played" attempts to give answers to

questions that have left women perplexed for years.

Unfortunately if you own a book like Michael Baisden's "Never Satisfied: Why Do Men Cheat?" you don't need to waste your money.

Nasheed has taken the common route for popular black authors that are trying to make a buck off the fear of black women who are terrified of being alone. Some

women are so desperate they'll buy anything that guarantees answers to these questions:

- Why do men cheat?
- What men really want
- Common mistakes women make
- Why do men seem afraid to commit?

This book isn't horrible — it only spouts old theories in a straightforward way about

the male species. After reading a number of books like this I really can't recommend material that will only add to female ignorance of men.

Nasheed doesn't do a great job in exploring the number of challenges of the black man and woman. So how can one have an educated conversation without talking about the struggles of both

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