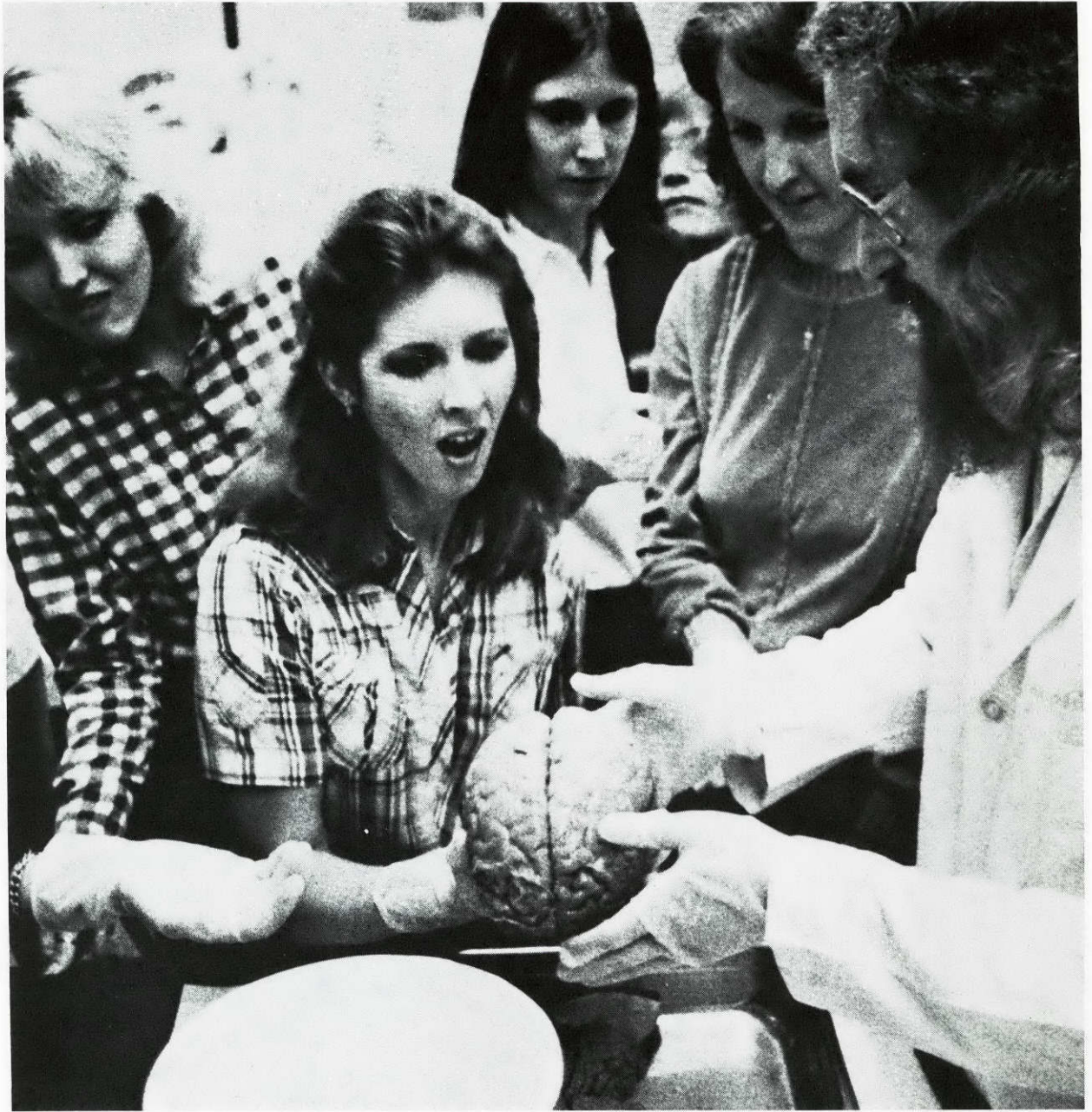




Vol. 2, No. 7 May 1981



NON-CIRCULATING NTSU LIBRARY

## All it took was some brain

Greg Fuller (right), a student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, gets the attention of Stratford High School science teachers at an inservice workshop. The Medi-

cal School later hosted another training session to present up-to-date science information to additional Houston teachers. (Photo by Gary Parker)



Volume 2, Number 7 May 1981

## Some pregnant women want dirt not pickles

By Susan Fox

She didn't yearn for the pickles and ice cream most pregnant women are said to crave. Instead, she sucked the pith from chicken hearts and chewed on raw meats, greedily licking up the blood as it ran down her fingers.

Ira Levin author of *Rosemary's Baby*, painted a ghastly picture of Rosemary as she sat at the kitchen table and satisfied a nagging craving — a craving so gory that it was clearly fiction, and one so intense that it seemed real.

"Cravings for specific foods are very strong and very real during pregnancy," according to Dr. George Kerr, who notes there's no nutritional or physiological explanation for these desires.

Despite strong urges to eat certain foods, some women don't want to satisfy their cravings for fear the unborn child will be "marked" in some way, according to Kerr, professor of nutrition at the School of Public Health.

**"Cravings for specific foods are very strong and very real during pregnancy."**

It's these women who think eating eggs will cause the baby to be bald; feasting on eggplant will give the baby heart problems; or enjoying a piece of cheese will make the baby stick to the womb and cause a difficult delivery.

On the other hand, there are women who think the same type of consequence will occur if they don't appease their desires for certain foods. In South Texas, for example, many black women continue a centuries-old custom of consuming dirt, laundry starch, chalk, ice, baking powder or clay during pregnancy, Kerr said.

## Hormone study may give clue to body's defense against ulcer

By Ina Fried

Mothers-to-be frequently are warned that alcohol, caffeine and many other substances they consume may affect their developing babies. But what about substances produced by the mother's own body?

Now there is evidence that at least one such substance is not passed on to the unborn baby.

Researchers at the Medical School have found that the poten-

tially ulcer-producing hormone, gastrin, does not cross the placenta from mother to baby or from baby to mother, so that an excess of this hormone in one does not cause ulcers in the other.

However, an excess of gastrin may lead to other effects, since studies at UT indicate that some inhibitor of the hormone does cross the placenta, Dr. Lenard M. Lichtenber-

(Continued on page 7)

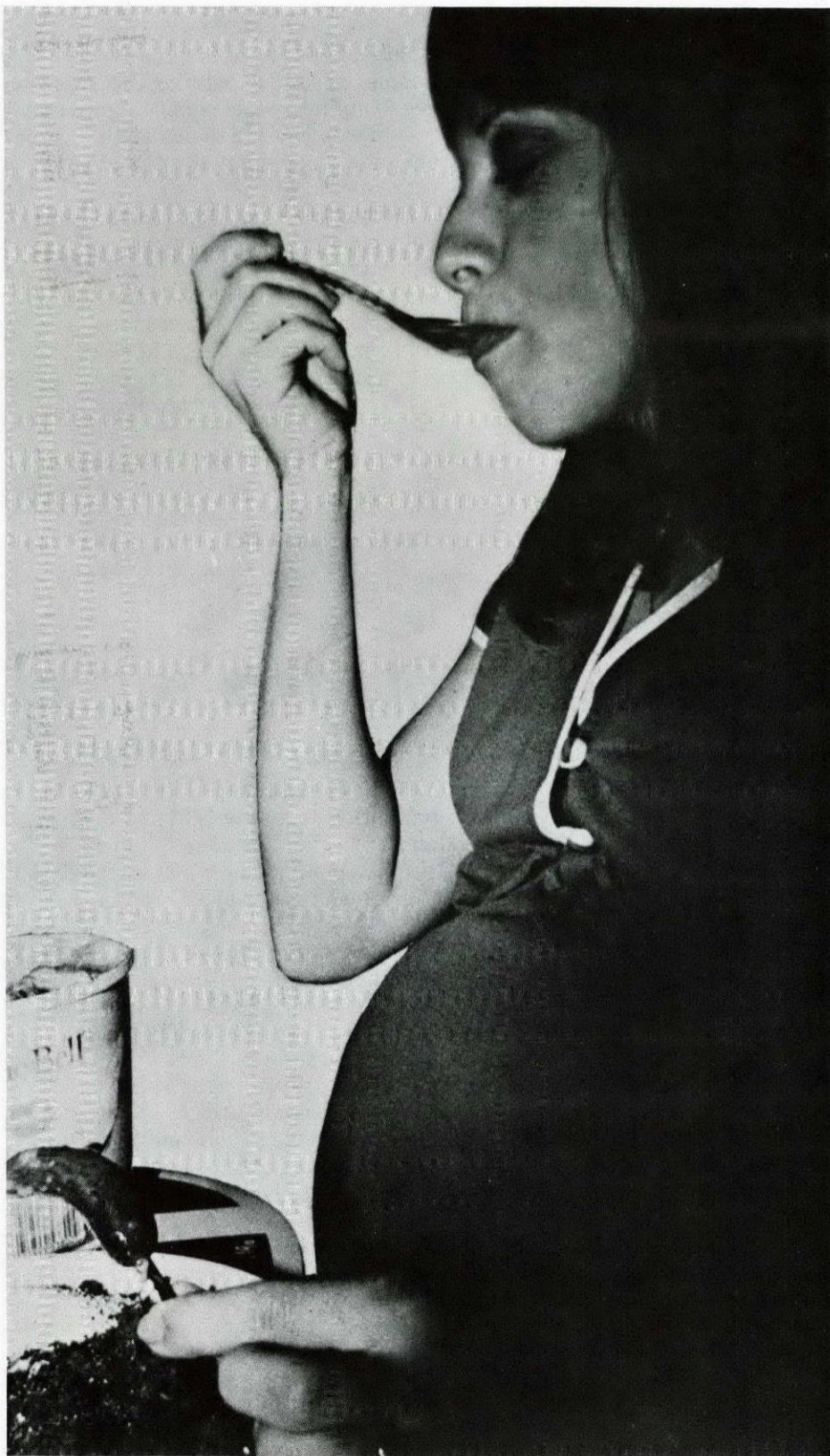
produce twins.

"There's no limit to them," Kerr said, as he spouted off a long list of primitive societal beliefs. "They probably arose when a mother gave birth to a deformed infant, and searching for a cause, concluded that her food behavior during pregnancy was responsible."

He added that many of these beliefs can be harmful in a nutri-

tional sense. If a mother shuns one particular food, she should replace it with another to ensure that she gets the proper amount of nutrients and minerals, Kerr said.

"Most of these historic beliefs seem nonsensical in the light of today's medical science. But, it's a blend of cultures and science which isn't yet understood," he said. **UT**



DIRT, STARCH, ICE CREAM AND PICKLES? Many women relish every bite of these items while they are pregnant, according to Dr. George Kerr, nutrition professor at the School of Public Health. Some cravings, however, can be detrimental to a woman's health. Posing for the picture is Karen Krakower, a former staff member in the Office of Public Affairs. (Photo by Gary Parker)

# Blood pressure deaths drop, reports Stallones

By Susan Fox

Perched upon a stool, the doctor sits, grave, and completely absorbed in the manipulation of his equipment.

The patient quietly extends his left arm and watches the doctor methodically wrap it with a narrow strip of thick material. The "cuff" is wrapped and then overlapped until it fits tightly around the arm.

Grabbing hold of the air pump, the doctor squeezes and then releases it. He continues to pump air into the cuff until the blood flow in the patient's arm stops.

It starts again slowly as the doctor gradually bleeds the air from the cuff, allowing the pressure to drop and the heart to force blood past the

**Measuring a person's blood pressure is much easier today than it was 250 years ago. Researchers first assessed blood pressure by inserting a long glass tube in the carotid artery of a horse.**

obstruction made by the cuff.

The cold, flat disc of the stethoscope resting on the patient's forearm picks up sounds for the first time. Hearing them, the doctor glances at a nearby pressure gauge (manometer) and continues to listen through his stethoscope. Then, the sounds cease and the blood flows freely. He checks the gauge once again.

As he scribbles both readings on the chart, the patient clears his throat, breaking all silence, and daringly asks, "Ah, how was it doc?"

"Well," replies the doctor, slipping off his stool and standing up, "It's up a little, but it's nothing to worry about."

Measuring a person's blood pressure is much easier today than it was 250 years ago. Researchers first assessed blood pressure by inserting a long glass tube in the carotid artery of a horse, according to Dr. Reuel Stallones.

But, even though today's way of measuring blood pressure may

sound simple, the circulation of the blood is complex. Blood pressure is regulated by changes in blood volume, in arterial resistance and in heart rate, explained Stallones, dean of The School of Public Health.

At times, however, the regulatory mechanisms in some people react abnormally, making their blood pressure remain high. "If this persists too long, the heart is affected," Stallones said.

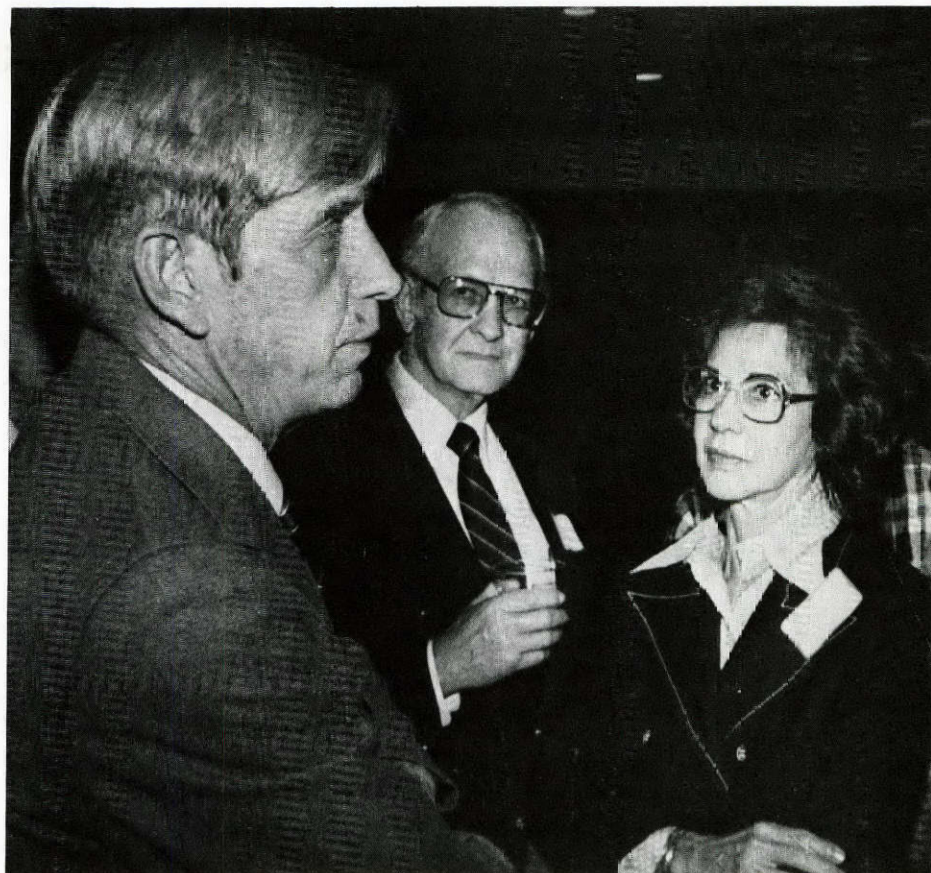
"Eventually, the heart can no longer cope with the excess burden, and the heart may fail," he noted, adding that high blood pressure may also result in kidney failure, rupture a blood vessel in the brain (a form of a stroke) and increase the risk of heart attacks.

He said that while the mortality rate for persons with high blood pressure-related diseases has been declining sharply in the United States since 1950, many persons still need "to do something about their health and disease status."

Self-help is one of three ways to do this, he said, explaining that this is exemplified when people improve or make changes in their habits, customs, diet, occupational and recreational choices.

Finding ways people can control their blood pressure is an active research field, he said. There's been special emphasis on psychotherapy, and on various methods of biofeedback, such as yoga, Zen and other relaxation techniques.

"We now have an array of useful drugs that effectively control blood pressure," he explained, adding that the Hypertension Detection and Followup Program initiated in the United States in 1973 has demonstrated the value of aggressive drug



SOCIAL PRESSURE and blood pressure was the topic Dr. Reuel Stallones [far left] addressed at the last Associates' lecture at the School of Public Health. Here he meets and talks with members of the audience during a wine and cheese reception. Dr. Louis Faillace will present the next lecture in the School of Public Health auditorium on May 6. (Photo by Gary Parker)

use, even for people whose blood pressure is only slightly elevated.

In this large multi-center study, which won the prestigious Lasker Award, nearly 160,000 persons were examined in 14 clinics around the country. Of these people, some 10,000 of them volunteered to participate in the study.

Half of the volunteers were referred to their regular physicians for treatment, while the remainder entered a carefully planned program of treatment using anti-hypertension drugs, Stallones noted.

"After five years, the groups treated intensively in the clinics had 17 percent fewer deaths than those receiving normal clinical care," he said.

"Some of us believe that even with the best possible treatment, the medical care strategy will leave much to be desired. People will need to take pills for their entire lives," he said.

The third strategy is the most ideal one: to prevent the development of high blood pressure by controlling environmental factors. However, the search for environmental causes of the disease is still going on.

Stallones recently spoke to persons who gathered at the third Associates' Lectures sponsored by the UT Development Board. Dr. Louis Faillace, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, will give the last lecture May 6 in the School of Public Health auditorium.

UT

## Studies reveal cancer-lifestyle link

By Susan Fox

The usual half-kept promises to eat better, to lose weight and to quit smoking should be turned into more respected ones. That is if you want to beat what often seems to be an inevitable part of old age: cancer.

Cancer doesn't have to be a characteristic of old age if we start taking care of ourselves now, said Dr. Guy Newell, professor of epidemiology and director of the Department of Cancer Prevention at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Newell spoke to colleagues, students and full-time residents on diet and cancer prevention at a recent refresher course sponsored by the Health Science Center's Division of Continuing Education and Anderson's Department of Cancer Prevention.

He noted that smoking and certain dietary habits are among the factors that contribute to the development of cancer. And although the precise relationship remains unknown, experiments in animals reveal that these factors can be manipulated favorably to help reduce the occurrence of cancer.

Studies show cancer is dependent

on people's lifestyles, and the cancer process can be removed, reversed or neutralized, he said.

"The process for lung cancer, for example, can be reversed when individuals cease to consume cigarettes," he said, noting that cigarette smoking is still the single largest contributor to ill-health in the nation.

"An interesting observation has been made concerning the possible anti-cancer effects of certain fruits and vegetables. A decreased risk of colon cancer has been noted in individuals who frequently digest cabbage, brussels sprouts and broccoli," he said.

"Insurance statistics suggest that overweight middle-aged or older persons have a higher cancer mortality than do those of comparable age who maintain an average weight," he said, explaining that cancer in the uterus, kidney and breast have been linked with obesity.

Some additives used extensively in food processing have been banned after being identified as possible cancer-causing agents. Non-

nutritive sweeteners constitute another class of ingredients commonly found in foodstuffs, but there is little evidence that they cause cancer in humans in the doses usually consumed, he said.

"As a practical recommendation, however, it seems prudent that pregnant women should not consume the non-nutritive sweetener, saccharin, at any dose level. And children should not be exposed to saccharin from early youth over a lifetime in the doses currently used in soft drinks," Newell said.

"The discussion given here doesn't do justice to the enormously complex nature of the issue," he said, noting his suggestions should be taken as an interim position to be amended and modified as new information becomes available.

Newell said people can help guard themselves against cancer by individualizing their diets; maintaining ideal weight by exercising and watching caloric intake; restricting dietary fat intake to one-third; and increasing fiber intake by eating more fruits, vegetables and whole-grain products.

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### HOUSTEXAN

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# Clayton Foundation supports positron center

The Clayton Foundation for Research is supporting a major research program at the Health Science Center aimed at the early detection of irregularities and disease of the blood vessels feeding the heart and brain.

From the diagnostic techniques being developed, researchers believe that physicians will be able to initiate treatment before a patient's condition deteriorates to a point that requires surgery or results in heart attack or stroke.

The Clayton Foundation, a Houston-based non-profit medical research organization, has established a \$2,704,900 joint research agreement with the Medical School and Hermann Hospital, its primary teaching hospital.

The project will utilize a positron imaging camera being developed as the first phase of a Positron Diagnostic and Research Center. When completed the center is expected to be the largest and most complex facility of its kind in the country. The center is expected to cost \$7.4 million by 1983 when it is fully operational.

The M.D. Anderson Foundation of Houston previously awarded \$500,000 to partially fund a cyclotron for this new center. Additional funding is being sought to cover additional equipment and construction costs.

The research program being supported by Clayton is "Diagnosis of Early Vascular Atherosclerosis by Positron Imaging." Its objective is to develop a safe and accurate non-invasive screening technique (non-invasive means performed from outside the body) to study the vascular systems of the heart and brain.

The technique is called positron computed tomography or positron imaging.

Richard S. Johnston, special assistant to the president and director of the scientific and technological development at the Health Science Center, explained that through this technique, compounds used by the body — such as oxygen, sugars, fats, proteins — are modified chemically as low-level radioactive tracers. The tracers emit positrons, short-life forms of radioactivity.

When the patient is placed in a special positron camera system, Johnston said, the radioactive signals are converted into cross-sectional images of the body, permitting the detection of early-stage vascular disease that would be difficult or impossible to detect through conventional examination.

The research affiliation agreement with Clayton contains a budget of \$1,650,000 for design and construction of the first positron camera and for other equipment and supplies in the medical school, and a budget of

\$1,054,900 at Hermann for personnel salaries and rental costs for the positron camera laboratory.

All medical research in the program will be under the direction of Dr. K. Lance Gould, principal investigator and director of the positron

center. Gould, who has an extensive background in cardiovascular research and positron imaging of the heart, is director of cardiology in the medical school and chief of cardiology at Hermann.

UT



INTERFACULTY LEADERS — Dr. Vilma Falck has been elected chairman of the Health Science Center Interfaculty Council, and Dr. Thomas Matney has been elected vice chairman. Falck is associate professor of behavioral sciences at the School of Public Health. She has worked at the Health Science Center for 10 years in several positions at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS), the Division of Continuing Education and the School of Public Health. Matney is professor of microbiology and associate dean of GSBS. (Photo by Gary Parker)

## Pack camera for Shutterbug Sweepstakes



When you pack your bags for vacation, be sure to pack your camera. You might win the Second Annual *HoUTexan* Shutterbug Sweepstakes.

Read on for the rules.

**Eligibility.** The vacation photo contest is open to students, faculty and staff of the UT Health Science Center. Professional photographers are not eligible. Photos must have been taken between May 14 and August 31, 1981.

**Theme.** The theme of the contest will be Summer Vacation 1980. Photos may show any aspect of your vacation, such as a picnic at the beach, a trip to Europe or a backyard barbecue.

**Judging.** Entries will be judged in two categories: one for color prints and one for black and white prints. Slides will not be considered. Please do not send negatives. You may submit as many as three photos in each category. Judging will be done by qualified jurors.

**Prizes.** First place winners in each category will receive \$25; second place, \$15; and third place, \$10. Judges reserve the right not to award three prizes if there is an insufficient number of entries in a category. Winning photographs will appear in the *HoUTexan*, and winners will receive certificates of recognition.

**Deadline.** Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Sept. 8, 1981.

**How to enter.** Entries should be mailed to *HoUTexan*, Public Affairs, Box 20036, UTHSCH, or handcarried to Room 1117, Houston Main Building.

Photographs may be any size as long as the entry, including any matting, will fit into a 10" x 13" envelope.

The *HoUTexan* cannot accept liability for photos that are damaged or lost in handling or in the mail. If not mounted, an entry should be enclosed in an envelope with a rigid backing material to prevent damage.

After judging, entries may be picked up from Public Affairs, Room 1117, Houston Main Building. If anyone forgot to pick up last year's entries, they are available at the same location.

The following entry form or a photocopy of the form must be attached to each entry.

### HoUTexan Shutterbug Sweepstakes Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Title or Academic Program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department or School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 When Picture Was Made \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camera Equipment You Used \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send to Public Affairs, Box 20036, Room 1117, Houston Main Building, by Sept. 8, 1981. For questions call 792-4259.



A SUNNY DAY, A BRASS BAND and a picnic lunch provide a relief from the daily routine and job-related stress for people who work at the Texas Medical Center (TMC). A student from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music performs in the first of a series of brown bag concerts in the Texas Woman's University (TWU) courtyard. The

series was sponsored by the South Main Center Association and Texas Commerce Medical Bank in cooperation with TMC, Inc.; TWU; the Health Science Center; and the Wine and Cheese Shop. (Photo by Gary Parker)

## New health center policy

(From a report by Donna Lavelle, Health Care Center)

The University Health Care Center (or student health service) has instituted a new program whereby students who have had documented exposure to infectious disease in the course of their clinical training may receive assistance in diagnosis and treatment without cost.

This exposure may be by way of a needlestick from a contaminated needle or contact with a patient with an actively infectious disease (e.g. tuberculosis).

A student who feels he is at risk to contract the disease because of his clinical exposure to the patient may call the Health Care Center at 792-4773 and make an appointment to see the physician. Under the direction of the physician, the necessary diagnostic tests will be ordered and treatment instituted, if needed.

Under this new plan, all of this plus any medication that is ordered by the physician will be without charge to the student. In the past a student was responsible for his own treatment. Now he will have the services of the Health Care Center staff to assist him.

For further information or questions, please contact the University Health Care Center at 792-4773, located at 208 Hermann Professional Building.

## Face emotions, take control to check stress

By Diane Broberg

Houston humidity and heat. Your husband's anger. The dog. Bad traffic. These are all environmental stresses that we often can do nothing about, but that can really wear us down.

According to Dr. Randy Cole, the only way to tolerate the uncontrollable environmental stresses we face daily is to do something about our emotions. Cole is a psychologist in private practice in Houston who spoke at a March Brown Bag seminar titled, "The Management of Stress." It was sponsored by the Health Science Center's Employee Relations Program.

"Blocking emotions causes

stress," Cole explained. "Cavemen used to fight with each other, and stress reactions would go right through their bodies," but now we are taught as children that fighting is bad, and that acting happy is good, he continued.

Going through life denying one's emotions makes a person wound up like a clock, Cole said. Sooner or later something may pop, and when it does, psychosis, depression, or psychosomatic illness may result.

Cole taught the group some special anti-stress exercises to do when there's not much time available to relax. They consist of tensing and then relaxing each major muscle group in the body with the eyes

closed. He claims that doing the exercises frequently can add several years to some people's lives.

Besides having suggestions for reducing stress, such as watching the diet and getting adequate sleep, Cole advocated identifying the factors that cause stress and gaining control over them.

By "gaining control," he means (1) changing what you can change, (2) learning to be comfortable with things you can't change or don't want to change and (3) becoming aware that you are making the choices.

If you get confused, get some help from a counselor or a friend, he advised. It helps to release every-

thing you've been holding inside.

When participants in the seminar asked Cole about stress on the job, his reply surprised some: "It is better to say, 'I can't take on that project because I want to do a good job for you, and I don't have time to do a good job on it right now,' than to take on too many responsibilities."

Cole noted that many people are afraid to talk to their supervisors honestly for fear of losing their jobs. He suggested that, as a last resort, they should decide how important it is to them to stay at such a job.

These suggestions are all part of a strategy to do things that allow you to be comfortable and happy in life, Cole said.

## Drug information services expand

The Hermann Drug Information Center (HDIC) has expanded its scope of services to provide patient-related information on drugs and therapeutics to health care professionals in Texas and the surrounding states.

Based at Hermann Hospital, the service has been in operation about a year and a half. The center was initiated as an information resource for the hospital and the UT Medical School. The program was expanded in response to the increasing number of requests from across the state.

The Hermann center differs from other drug information resources in the southern United States in that it is designed for the health professional's use only. General public inquiries are directed to other information centers.

"Our primary goal is better patient care," says Marilyn Blackstone, registered pharmacist and coordinator of the center. "The service was implemented to ensure the patient is getting the optimum benefit of his medication."

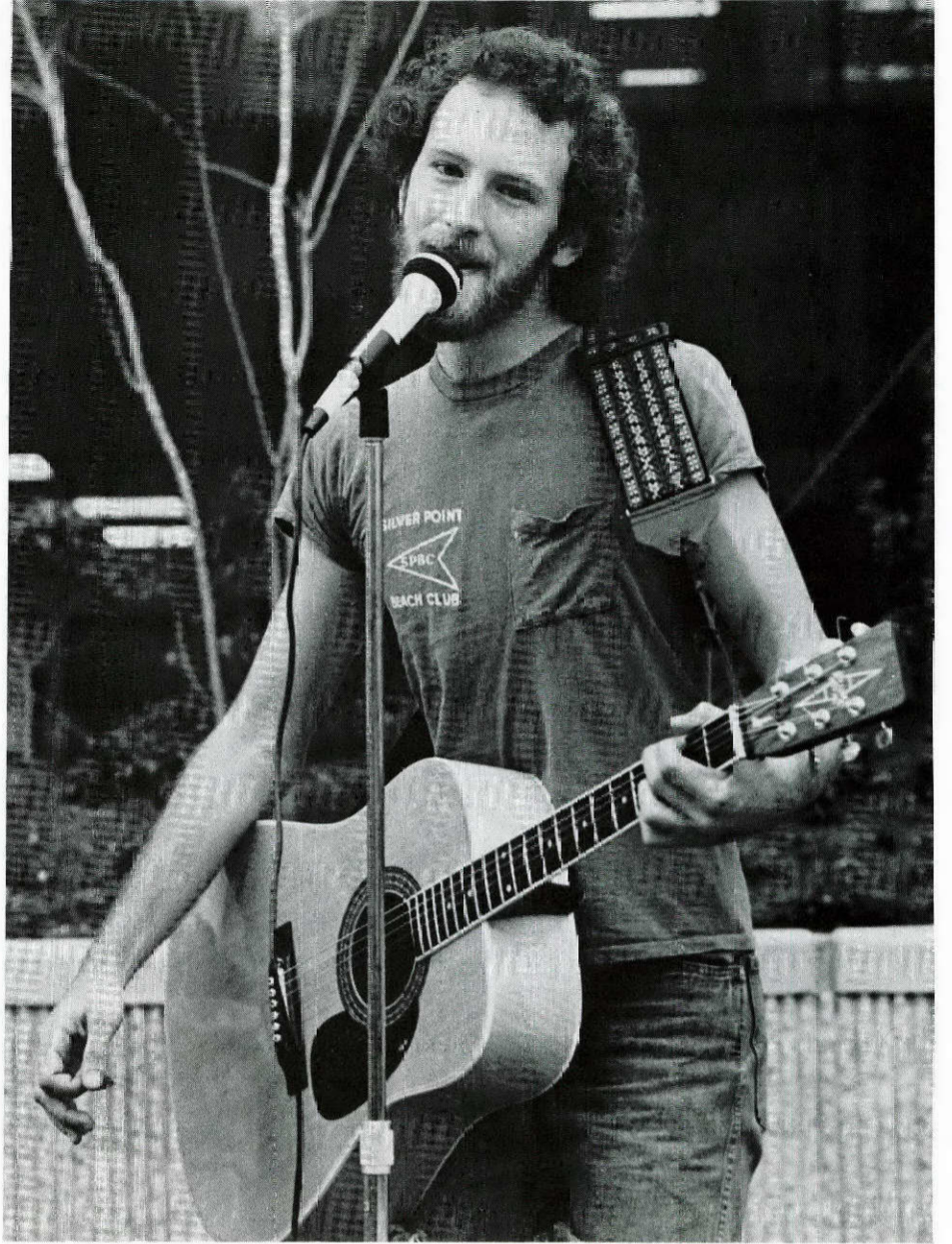
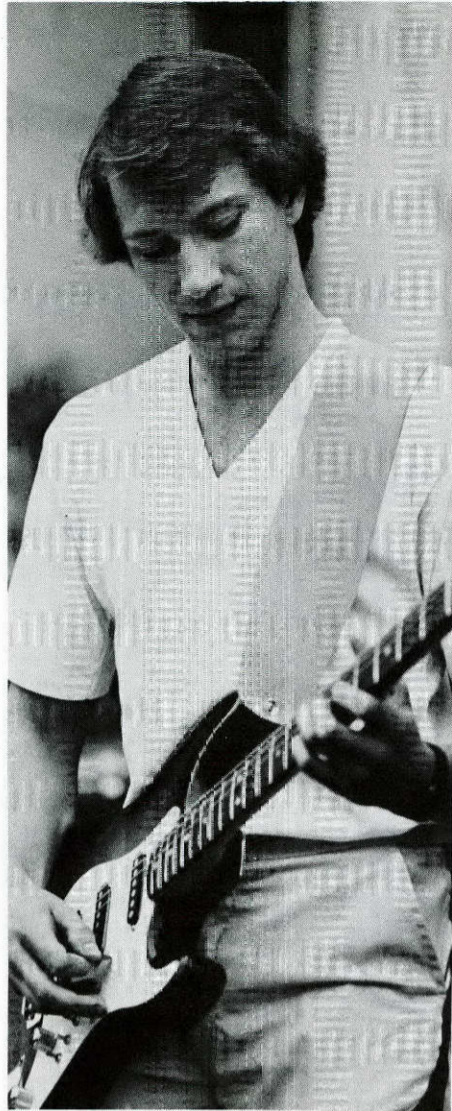
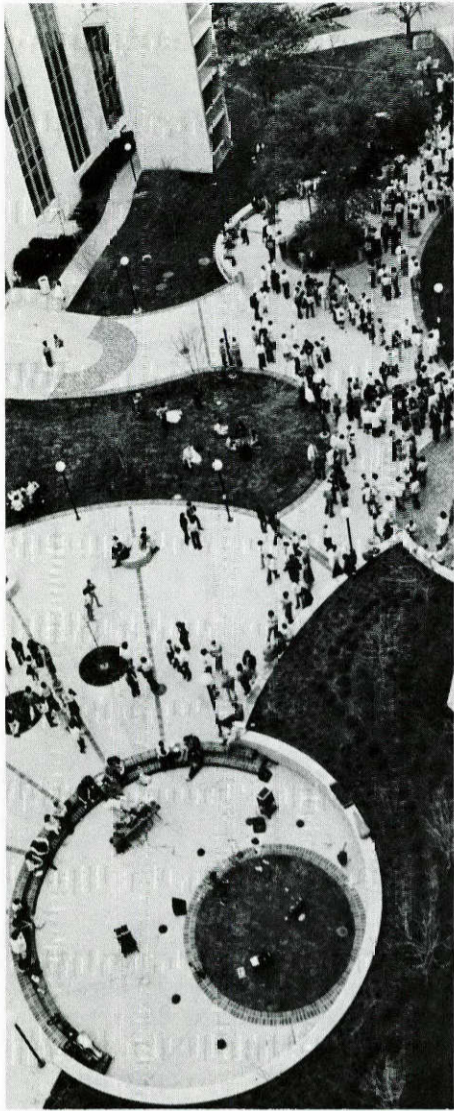
The center offers continuing education, orientation, and drug litera-

ture evaluation courses for medical students, nursing and pharmacy staffs, and other health professionals; resources for inpatient education programs; and weekly conferences in drug therapy.

The Hermann Drug Information Center is open from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekends. HDIC personnel are available by telephone 24 hours a day. In Houston, the HDIC may be reached by dialing 797-2073. Written inquiries are also accepted, and written responses are produced on request.



DENYING ONE'S EMOTIONS makes a person wound up like a clock. Sooner or later something may pop.



**MORE MUSIC** — A St. Patrick's Day TGIF brings a crowd to the new mall between the Medical School and Jesse Jones Library Building. Medical students Bill Pravitara (above) and Jon Kaiser (right) of "Frimo Rose" provide entertainment for the Medical School event hosted by the Department of Pathology and co-sponsored by the Administrative Forum. (Photos by Brad Perkins, Department of Pathology)

## News notes

### Is Fat Fate?

Why are some people obese? And are they born destined to be fat?

Dr. George A. Bray will address these questions and disclose additional results of his studies on obesity May 28 at the Houston Nutritional Research Forum sponsored by the Texas Medical Center Institute.

Bray, world-renown on his studies of obesity, will be the guest speaker at the forum which begins at noon at the UT Medical School in room 3001.

His topic is titled, "The Enigma of Obesity." Bray is professor of medicine at UCLA and is on the medical staff at Harbor General Hospital in

Los Angeles.

The public is invited to attend the lecture free of charge.

The TMC Institute is comprised of NASA, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Houston and the UT Health Science Center.

### Science Information Exchange

Graduate students and faculty members interested in sharing information about science with high school students may participate in a program offered by Sigma Xi, scientific honor society. For information contact Dr. Eurr Furlong at M.D. Anderson Hospital, 792-2555.

### Neurology Continuing Education

The Medical School Office of Continuing Education is sponsoring a neurology program titled "A Symposium and Practicum on the Neurologic Application of Special Sensory Evoked Responses VERs, BAERs and SERs," Saturday, May 23, in Room 7037 of the Medical School Main Building. The program begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m.

AMA Category I credit will be given. For further information call the Office of Continuing Education at 792-5346, located in Room 3234 MSMB.

### Drug Abuse Continuing Education

"Polydrug Abuse and the Phency-

clidines" is the title of a University of Houston Continuing Education Program to be held May 4-5 at the UH Central Campus Continuing Education Center. The program is co-sponsored by the Houston-Galveston Area Council and The University of California at Los Angeles Department of Continuing Education and Health Sciences, and Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health.

Featured speakers will be Drs. Ronald L. Linder and Steven Lerner, authors of *PCP: The Devil's Dust*.

Continuing Education credit is given for attendance. For further information call 749-7676.

## Off center

Springtime is here — when everyone's fancy turns to love. And maybe it can be a time of growth as well. According to Dr. Joyce Brothers in *People* magazine, true love can make us grow up to two inches taller. Perhaps it's because love stimulates the pituitary gland to produce more growth hormones, but it doesn't work unless the love is sincere, she says.

Spring is when the sun shines longer, and sunlight has the power to arouse the sex drive, according to an article in *Harper's Bazaar* magazine. The light sets off a series of nervous system chain reactions, resulting in higher hormone levels and enlarged sex glands in both men and women. This is from Dr. Joseph Meites of Michigan State University, where there's not much sunshine in the winter. Now we know why daylight-saving time is so popular.

On the other hand, male laboratory mice at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio have had their sexual desire dampened by THC, the active

ingredient in marijuana. In other research, doctors have found that the cannabis plant from which marijuana is taken can inhibit ovulation in rats and baboons. They hope that this may someday lead to the discovery of non-hormonal contraceptives for humans. But don't try any home experiments now. That discovery may be 10 years away, according to the *Houston Post's* report of that Israeli research.

Spotlights for sex? — The *Post* also tells us that scientists in London have developed a "sexometer" that can signal women's fertile and infertile periods. The device is a tiny microchip that can be built into a necklace, and all a woman has to do is to place a small electronic sensor into her mouth each morning. The sensor will transmit her daily body temperature, and when her "safe" period is reached each month, a green light will give the go-ahead.

Across the channel in France, the people don't call French kissing French. An anthropologist

and "kissing expert" from Texas A&M University says that nineteenth century American visitors to that country were probably surprised by its friendly girls who would kiss the Yankee's cheeks so freely. Word must have spread to "go visit France to get some French kisses." In time, the term came to mean the most passionate kind of kiss.

Passionate or not, kisses are unpleasant to three-fourths of the world's people (in parts of Africa, Asia and the South Seas), who find it unhealthy and unsanitary. All of this kissing trivia is reported by the *Houston Post* and United Press International, quoting the Aggie expert.

Some say the first kiss was copied from watching birds and other animals feed their young by mouth. Others think it was accidental, but if the world's kissing expert is an Aggie one thing is for sure: it must be easy to learn.

# Bran fights cavities? Maybe

By Barbara Short

Someday a bane of good dental health, sugar-saturated cereals and snack foods, may become a dentist's ally.

Current animal research by a University of Texas Dental Branch scientist shows that the bran layer of certain seeds may be effective in reducing cavities in humans.

Dr. Kenneth O. Madsen, professor of nutritional biochemistry, is studying the chemical factors of seed hulls and brans when fed orally to the cotton rat.

"The cotton rat was chosen for the research," Madsen said, "because caries or cavities develop in the deep fissures of the rat's thinly enameled teeth and proceed in the same way as the clinical course of human cavities. The greater percentage of human cavities are the pit and fissure type."

As part of his studies, Madsen feeds rats a caries-producing diet consisting of 50 percent rice flour, 18 percent sucrose (sugar) and 32 percent milk powder.

To compare this diet to one with bran, Madsen substitutes ready-to-eat corn bran cereal for the rice flour. The corn bran cereal is 21 percent sugar.

The results of the study, Madsen said, were that the rats enjoyed fewer cavities with the corn bran cereal diet than with the diet containing less sugar, but no corn bran, even though rats typically are nibblers, eating 15-20 times per day.

"An important factor in caries

studies is the frequency of eating," Madsen said. "People who eat more than four times per day suffer a drastically increased incidence of cavities."

Limiting eating frequency and adding a caries-inhibiting substance to foods could have a tremendous potential for reduction of caries incidence, Madsen said. The recent discovery of the anticaries activity of brans has given him cause for optimism for finding suitable, food-grade cavity-inhibiting material for human consumption.

**Limiting eating frequency and adding a caries-inhibiting substance to foods could have a tremendous potential for reduction of caries incidence.**

He said initial anticaries research was with hulls, the outer coverings of seeds. "Hulls were found to be as effective in reducing cavities as brans," Madsen explained. "Oat, rice, barley, sunflower, cottonseed, cocoa and soybean hulls all were found effective, as well as peanut and pecan shells, the bran and polishings of rice, and corn and oat brans."

Though these seed coverings are effective and workable for rats, hulls are not attractive, tasteful or suitable as food-grade material for human consumption, Madsen continued.

"I must note that whole hulls were rarely used, but were finely

ground into a powder. The powder was just as effective, but still not suitable for humans," Madsen said.

"Hopefully, we will find an attractive form of brans to put into foods, particularly snack foods, to counteract the high frequency of sugar in our diets," Madsen said.

There also is a secondary benefit to the increased cavity protection from the bran — more dietary fiber. American diets are notoriously low in fiber, Madsen said, and lack of fiber is believed to be a contributing factor to health problems such as colon cancer.

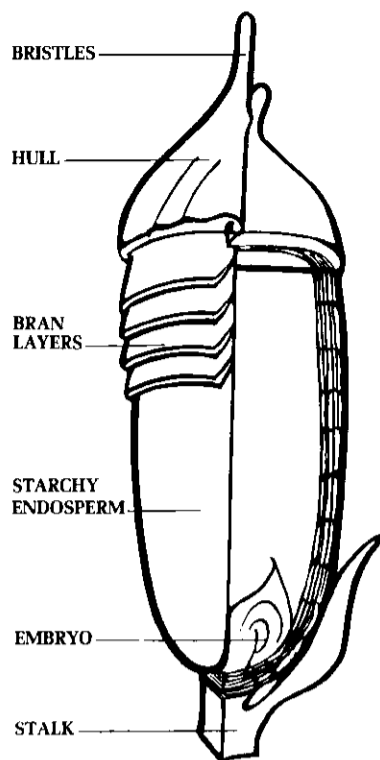
Why or how do seed hulls inhibit cavity development?

"We don't really know," Madsen said. "It is a chemical factor — that we do know. But, we don't know the specific compounds."

Researchers long ago ruled out a physical cause for the caries-inhibiting activity. At first it was thought that the bulkiness and abrasiveness of the hulls helped remove food particles from teeth fissures, and that they stimulated salivary and chewing action.

Madsen explained this theory was proven false when the hulls were ground to a fine powder, combined with sugars and starches and fed to rats. This combination stuck to the teeth, particularly becoming lodged in the deep fissures. Yet the powdered hull compound inhibited cavity development even better than did whole hulls.

## Rice Grain Composition



Drawing courtesy of the Rice Council.

Current plans are to develop a definitive study comparing foods with the same ingredients except that one product will contain the corn bran, while the other product will not.

Madsen also noted that various species of wheat brans, including the ordinary marketable wheat bran, have been investigated, but found to be ineffective in reducing the incidence of cavities.

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## Etc.

### HSC General — Vice President for Administration and Finance

Congratulations to **Mary and Ron Kesterson** on the birth of their daughter, Sara Elizabeth, born on Feb. 2 and weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. Mary is an administrative secretary.

Reporter: **Martha Raymond**

### School of Allied Health Sciences — Nurse Anesthesia

**Diane and Edward Cartwright** are the proud parents of a baby boy, James Allen, born on Feb. 21 and weighing 6 lbs. 10 and three-quarter ounces. Diane is an administrative secretary.

**Myrna Walker** is working as administrative secretary while Diane Cartwright is on maternity leave.

Reporter: **Rebecca Brady**

### School of Public Health

Best wishes to **Jane Paschall**, administrative assistant, and **Dave Meldahl**, director of computer operations, on the occasion of their marriage, Dec. 27.

### School of Allied Health Sciences — Medical Technology

**Barbara Michaels** transferred from pathology and laboratory medicine at the Medical School to become an instructor in medical technology.

Reporter: **Rebecca Brady**

### HSC General — Physical Plant

**Scott H. Young** was promoted to building maintenance leader for the School of Public Health in February. He formerly was a stationary engineer I.

Reporter: **Cheryl Spitzenberger**

### HSC General — Accounting

**Leroy Schultz**, an accountant here since 1971, retired March 31.

Reporter: **Susan Feltner**

### School of Nursing

Congratulations to **Dr. Mary Joe White** and her husband on the birth of their daughter, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces, on March 1. White is an assistant professor.

### Division of Continuing Education

**Pamela Carter**, who recently moved here from Tennessee, is now the senior secretary for continuing education.

Reporter: **Alice Johnson**

### Dental Branch — General Practice

**Dr. Cynthia Langley** and her husband are the proud parents of a baby girl, Melissa Sue, born Feb. 20 and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Langley is an assistant professor.

Reporter: **Mary St. Clair**

### Medical School — Neurobiology and Anatomy

**Dr. John Linner** and **Dr. John Haycock**, head cooks for the Nector of the Pepper Head chili cook-off team, led their team to two first place and one second place titles in recent area chili cook-offs.

The first place wins were for the Cancer Society Cook-off held at Adamack's and the Pasadena Pod Chili Cook-off. The team took second place in the Houston Pod Chili Cook-off. All three cook-offs were held in March.

Other team members are **Dr. Joe Wood** and **Dr. Bill Bennett**, also in neurobiology and anatomy, and Michelle White, Haycock's fiancée.

Congratulations to **Louise Anne** and **Bill Moorhead** on the birth of their daughter, Anna Ruth, born March 11 and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Louise Anne is a research assistant.

Reporter: **Lynn Blum**



## CHILIFIESTA

Y'all come on out bright and early on Saturday, May 16, and help make the Chilifiesta the biggest whing-ding since they opened the Shamrock.

We're gonna find out once and for all who makes the best pot of chili. After we judge 'em at 3 o'clock, we're gonna pass out some real fancy prizes for the best bowl o' red plus some of whoever's got the wildest carryings on to go with their cookin'.

We've got us a nice piece of prairie between Knight Road and Cambridge, just south of Old Spanish Trail and a little east of the Astrodome.

The big event is co-sponsored by the Houston Area Parkinsonism Society (HAPS) and the Health Science Center. All proceeds will benefit HAPS.

Dr. Joe Wood, chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy in the Medical School, heads the planning committee. He, Dr. Ian Butler of neurology, Dr. S. J. Enna of pharmacology and neurobiology and anatomy, and Dr. Yvonne Clement-Cormier of pharmacology are on the board of HAPS.

Look in next month's *HoUTexan* for a story about Parkinsonism research at the Medical School.

### Chilifiesta Entry Form

(Deadline is Monday, May 11)

Name (head cook) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Team/Chili Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$15.00. Make checks payable to Houston Area Parkinsonism Society.

Mail entry to: Chilifiesta, P.O. Box 20708, Houston, Texas 77025

# HSC-TV runs 'video clinic' for physicians

You might have seen the Midday program on the cable television sets located around the Health Science Center, but are you aware that Health Science Center Television (HSC-TV) productions are also available to an international audience?

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently commissioned HSC-TV to produce a "video clinic" as a means for physicians everywhere to gain continuing education credits.

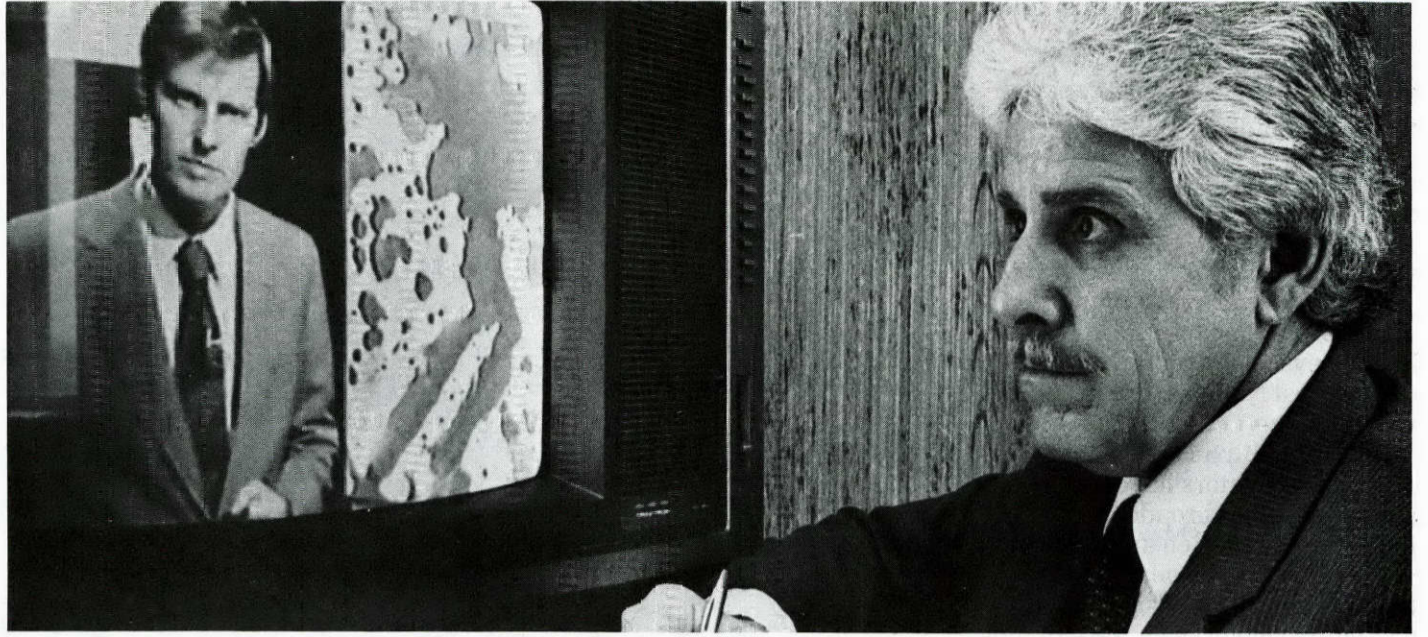
The two-hour videotape about antimicrobial drugs, titled "Antibiotic Therapy in Office Practice," is viewed after reading an accompanying study guide. In order to get credit, physicians must take a test in the study guide and mail it in to the AMA.

Two of the four participating physicians in the videotape are from the Program in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology at the Medical School. They are Dr. Herbert L. DuPont of the Department of Internal Medicine and Dr. Larry K. Pickering of the Department of Pediatrics.

The format of the program was panel discussion with questions posed and answered. DuPont was the panel moderator and medical consultant for the project.

"The tape is primarily aimed at an audience of physicians who treat patients in an office that does not have nearby access to sophisticated laboratories," said Mark Carlton, executive producer of HSC-TV and producer of the video clinic.

Because of the tight time schedules of the four physicians and of the production techniques involved,



PREMIERE — Mark Carlton, executive producer of HSC-TV, previews the "video clinic" recently commissioned by the American Medical Association. The program features a panel of four physicians, two of

whom are from the Medical School here. Dr. Herbert L. DuPont, director of the Program in Infectious Diseases, appears on the screen in a scene from the program. (Photo by Gary Parker)

it was necessary for the crew and four physicians to work two 17-hour and two 11-hour days under hot studio lights.

Susan Mæigan, a writer and producer for HSC-TV who is also a registered nurse, helped edit the study guide written by DuPont for the project. Greg West directed and edited the videotape program.

Carlton said the program was very prestigious for HSC-TV, and hopes that plans for another AMA program will be completed soon. A proposed video clinic on international travelers' illnesses is being considered.

Besides working on special projects like this one and producing news and features on Channel 10,

HSC-TV videotapes medical and nursing grand rounds, special lectures and instructional programs for employees.

These medically-related programs, along with similar ones from

other schools, are shown by HSC-TV on the cable television network throughout the Texas Medical Center and by microwave transmitter to several hospitals outside the medical center.

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## Ulcer-related hormone study

(Continued from page 1)

ger reported at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Atlanta, April 16. Lichtenberger is an assistant professor of physiology at the Medical School.

"There were compelling reasons to understand the transport of gastrin across the placenta," Lichtenberger said in an interview.

Gastrin is a hormone made and released from the stomach lining in humans and in animals, he explained. As the main hormonal regulator of acid secretion, it is important for digestion, but its oversecretion may cause stomach ulcers. Gastrin also is thought to be important in promoting the growth of the gastrointestinal tract both in the fetus and throughout a person's life.

Since food in the stomach is needed to neutralize the acid, the passage of gastrin from mother to fetus might damage the fetus' stomach lining, Lichtenberger said, and high gastrin levels produced by the fetus late in the pregnancy could be "devastating" to the mother if the hormone crossed the placenta.

"In fact, quite the reverse happens," he said. "Ulcers in infants are very rare, and pregnant women often receive marked relief from the pain of pre-existing ulcers."

Lichtenberger and colleagues in the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Frank H. Morriss Jr., Dr. Sharon S. Crandell and Dr. Paul A. Palma, sought an explanation for this situation in studies supported by the National Institutes of Health.

The researchers prepared pregnant sheep so that both maternal and fetal blood samples could be taken. They injected gastrin into the blood stream of either mother or fetus and then measured hormone

levels in both blood streams.

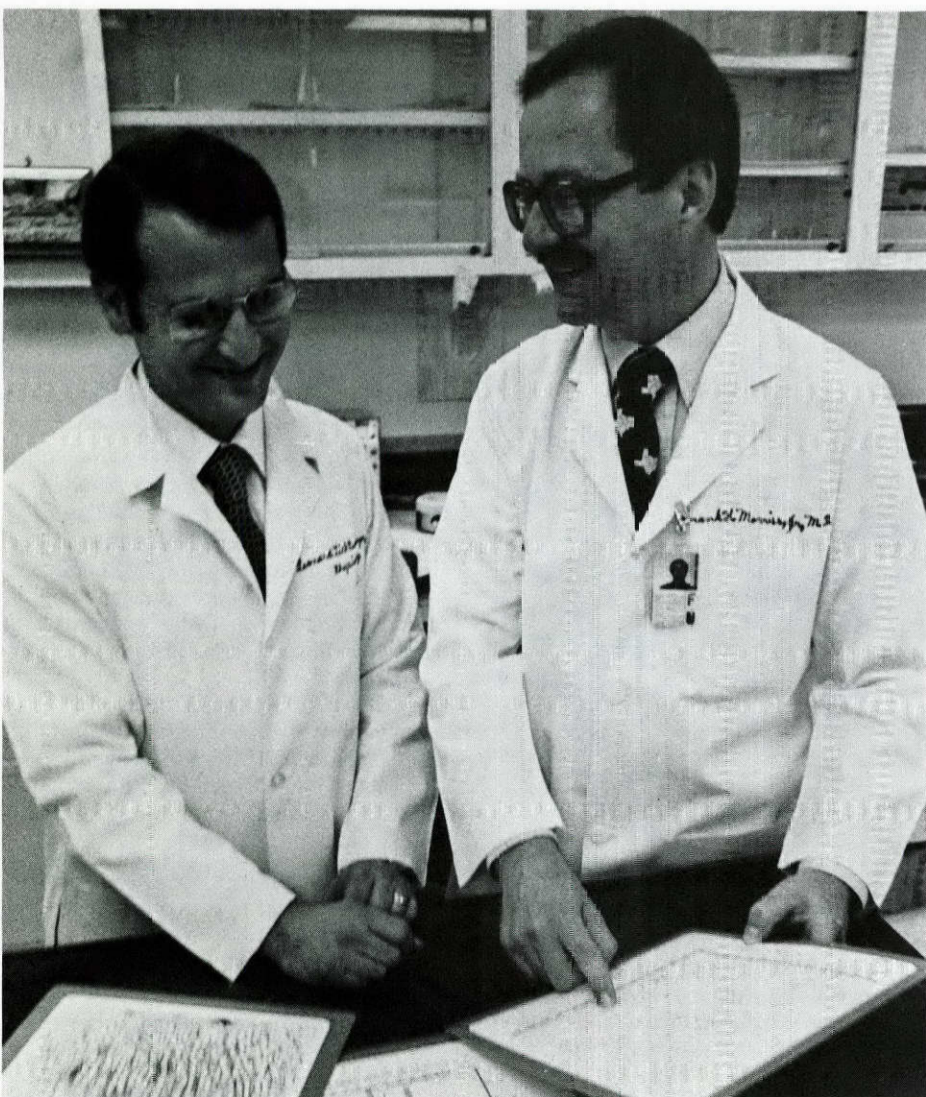
"We are convinced that the hormone certainly is not getting across the placenta," Lichtenberger said. "When gastrin was injected into the mother, we were surprised to find that fetal hormone levels actually decreased. Similarly, when gastrin was injected into the fetus, the mother's hormone level in the blood decreased."

The observations suggest that some sort of inhibitor is present on the other side of the placenta, Lichtenberger said. "The passage of such an inhibitor from fetus to mother might explain why maternal ulcers heal during pregnancy."

Since the fetus makes its own gastrin during the last third of pregnancy, the scientists found, fetal gastrointestinal development is not dependent on the transfer of gastrin from mother to fetus.

However, the gastrin inhibitor may have an effect, Lichtenberger said. High gastrin levels in the mother may induce an increase in the inhibitor in the fetus and slow down gastrointestinal development, while low maternal gastrin levels may reduce the fetal level of the inhibitor and help to speed up development. These hypotheses are supported by the finding that the development of certain gastrointestinal functions in the newborn is speeded up if the mother has a lower than normal blood gastrin level during the late stages of pregnancy.

Another series of experiments has been planned to determine just what the inhibitor is and how it is formed. The results of such studies may help scientists understand more about fetal development as well as the natural defense the body has against the formation of ulcers. This information may be useful in the treatment of ulcer patients in the future.



UNDERSTANDING ULCERS — Dr. Lenard Lichtenberger (left), assistant professor of physiology, and Dr. Frank H. Morriss Jr., associate professor of pediatrics and of obstetrics/gynecology, look over some charts showing results of their studies of gastrin, a hormone believed to be involved in causing ulcers. (Photo by Gary Parker)



# Find safety from tornado

(From a report by Alan Ladd, chairman, HSC Disaster Preparedness Committee.)

The spring or summer thunderstorm has you worried. The sky is dark, and the wind is blowing. Should you take steps to protect yourself from a possible tornado?

During a severe thunderstorm or tornado emergency, tune in to the local television or radio broadcasts of the latest National Weather Service bulletins.

At the Health Science Center several administrators have weather alert radios that broadcast an alert tone and information automatically in case of extreme weather conditions. They will assess the situation and notify employees if the situation warrants action.

A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been detected, and you should take shelter.

Follow these safety tips:

**In homes** — Stay away from windows and outside walls. Go to the basement or to an interior closet or small room. Get under something sturdy.

**In schools or factories** — Move quickly to shelter areas or to an interior hallway on the lowest floor.

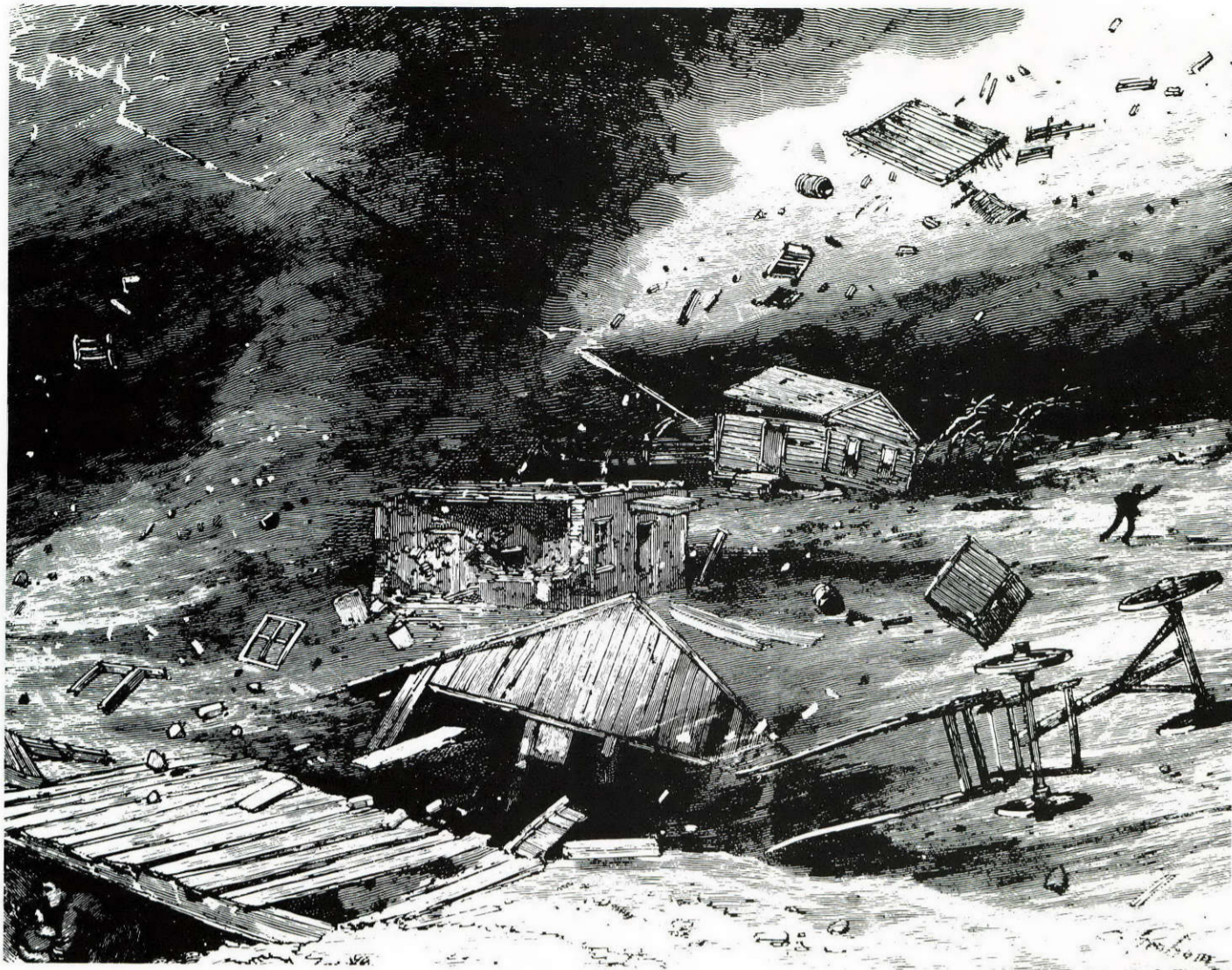
**In high-rise office buildings** — Go to interior small rooms or hallways.

**In shopping centers** — Go to designated shelter areas if available; otherwise, take cover in an interior rest room or small shop. Do not go to your car.

**In mobile homes** — Damage can be diminished if the mobile home is properly blocked and anchored. Consult your local or state authorities.

**In open country** — Lie flat in the nearest depression with your hands shielding your head. Be alert for flash floods.

**In your car** — Do not try to outrun the tornado. Take shelter in a sturdy structure if available; otherwise, get in the nearest depression or ditch.



## Newsmakers

Five faculty members spoke at a conference on "Obstacles for Older Texans — Developing Strategies for Solutions," sponsored by the HSC and the Harris County Area Agency on Aging, March 9, at the Health Science Center.

They are **Dr. William S. Fields**, chairman of the HSC Steering Committee on Aging and professor and chairman, Department of Neurology, Medical School; **Dr. Alvin J. Levenson**, associate professor and chief, Geriatric Psychiatry Service, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical School; **Dr. Leonard A. Levy**, executive secretary, HSC Program on Aging, and consultant, Office of the President; **Dr. George T. Oser**, research assistant professor of community medicine, Medical School; and **Dr. McKim Peterson**, assist-

ant professor of family practice, Medical School.

The program was designed to prepare delegates to the Texas White House Conference on Aging in Dallas March 29-31. Seventy-six of the 900 state conference delegates will be designated to represent Texas at the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C., this December.

Levenson and Levy will be delegates from Harris County to the conference in Washington. Levenson was also one of about 30 specialists in the field of mental health care for the aged who attended a preliminary White House Conference on Mental Health Care of the Aged in San Diego.

### School of Public Health

**Dr. George Kerr**, professor of nutrition and director of the Human Nutrition Center, discussed "Nutrition Facts and Fallacy" during the spring symposium of the Texas Institute of Food Technologists at College Station, March 5.

### School of Allied Health Sciences

**Dr. E. C. Henley**, associate professor of nutrition and dietetics, and **Dr. Helen Lane**, assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics, discussed "Nutrition Facts and Fallacy" during the Texas Institute of Food Technologists' spring symposium at College Station, March 5.

Henley, also program director of nutrition and dietetics, spoke about "Nutrition for Naught" during the southwest regional meeting of the National Association of College and University Food Service Directors at Sam Houston State University, Feb. 26.

### Dental Branch

**Dr. Samuel Dreizen**, professor and chairman of dental oncology, gave a course on "The Mouth of the Cancer Patient" at the School of Dentistry of the Latin American University in Mexico City, Feb. 5-7.

Dreizen also made a presentation titled "Chemotherapy-induced Oral Mucositis in Adult Leukemia" during the 59th annual session of the International Association for Dental Research in Chicago, March 19-22.

**Dr. Harris J. Keene**, professor of dental oncology, also made a presentation, titled "Transient Effect of Preventive Dentistry Measures on S. Mutans," at the International Association of Dental Research meeting.

### Dental Science Institute

**Dr. Barnet M. Levy**, professor of pathology and director of the institute, lectured on "Thoughts on Teaching Oral Histopathology, a Perspective" during the American Association for Dental Schools meeting Section on Pathology Session in Chicago, March 17.

**Dr. Lee R. Brown**, professor of microbiology, presented a paper titled "Ascorbic Acid Deficiency, Phagocytosis

(Continued on page 10)

## Patterson works and learns as intern at Allied Health

From a report by Rebecca Brady, Allied Health Sciences

Dr. Ray Patterson, an administrative intern at The School of Allied Health Sciences, is putting his homework into action.

He's helping the school compile a booklet on administrative and operating procedures, while he completes the second phase of his post-doctoral fellowship in allied health administration.

The booklet, when finished, will be distributed to the school's staff members and program directors. "In addition, I'm working and helping program directors with faculty and curriculum development," Patterson said.

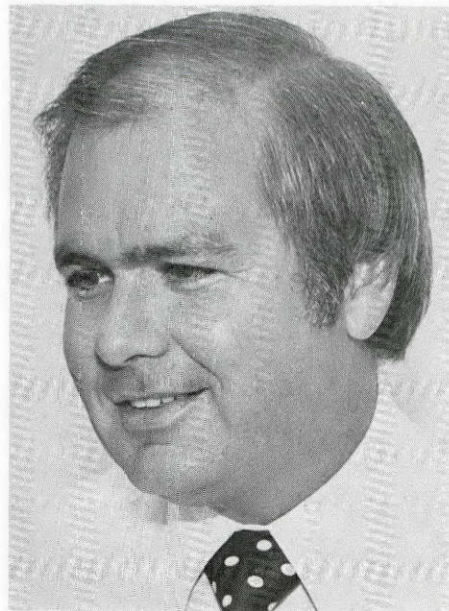
Patterson works and studies in Houston and returns to San Antonio on the weekends to be with his family.

A former associate professor of physical therapy at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, he resigned from there in August and moved to New York to begin work on his fellowship.

He completed the first phase of his fellowship at the State University of New York at Buffalo — the institution which awarded him the Federal Health Manpower Fellowship.

Patterson will be here until June. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. Hermann Hospital awarded him a certificate in physical therapy. He earned his Ph.D. in education administration from the University of Tennessee.

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LEARNING AND WORKING is what Dr. Ray Patterson is doing these days. After resigning as associate professor of physical therapy at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, Patterson went to the State University of New York to begin work on his post-doctoral fellowship in allied health administration. He's now completing his second phase of training in the dean's office at the School of Allied Health Sciences. (Photo by Gary Parker)

# Dr. Culpepper receives Hartford Fellowship

Dr. Roy Michael Culpepper, assistant professor of internal medicine at the Medical School, has been awarded a Hartford Fellowship that will provide salary support of \$30,000 per year for three years. He was one of 12 medical researchers chosen for the honor from a field of 94 applicants nationwide.

This is the second year that the fellowships have been awarded by the John A. Hartford Foundation.

The fellows chosen have demonstrated an aptitude for independent research and the potential to develop into independent, productive investigators. The fellowships make it possible for them to spend at least 75 percent of their time on biomedical research while maintaining some patient care.

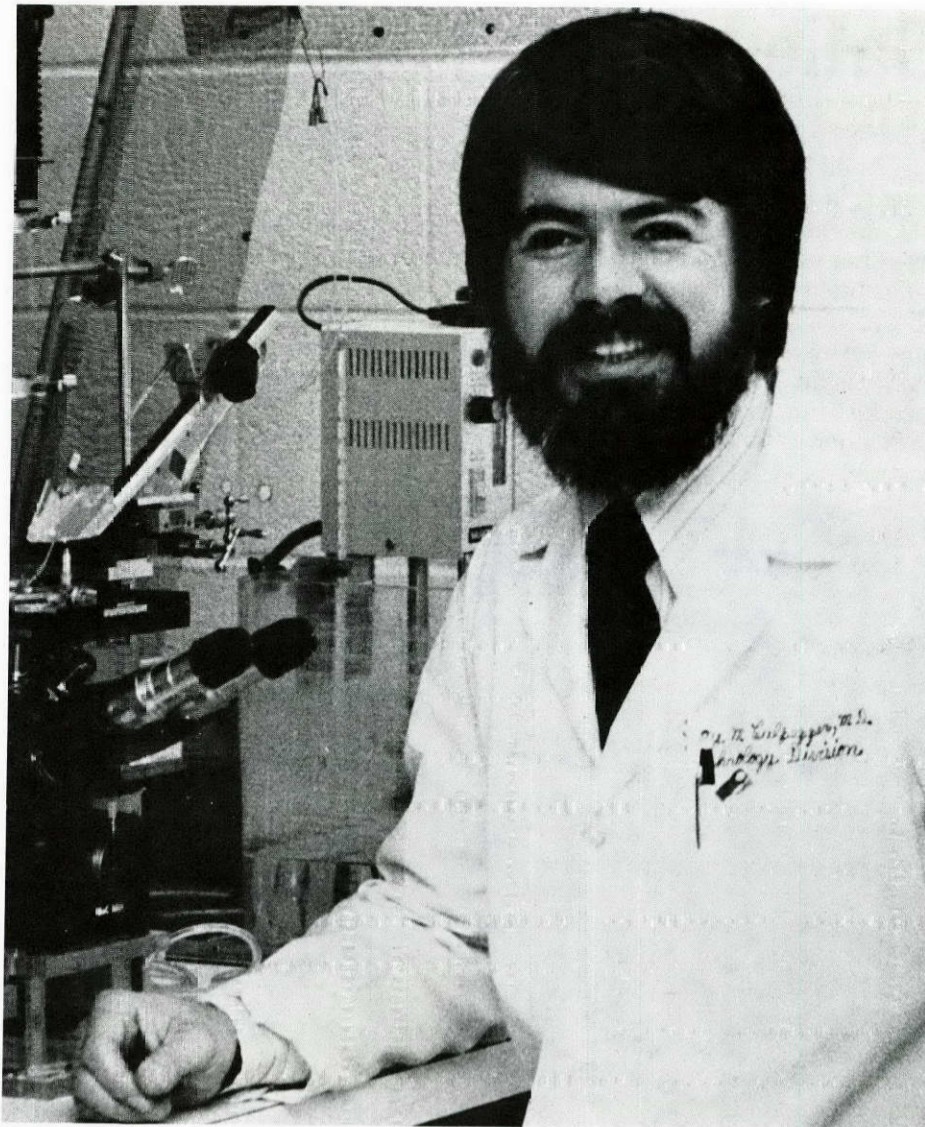
Culpepper did not enter medicine with intentions of becoming a researcher, he said, but he found that he enjoyed it when he spent a year working in the lab of Dr. Thomas Andreoli at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Andreoli is now chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine here.

Culpepper's area of specialization is nephrology, the study of the kidneys. He is researching the mechanism whereby the kidneys are able

to concentrate urine to help the body conserve water. He hopes that his findings will provide some insight into disease states which occur when the mechanisms fail and the kidneys are not able to perform that function.

Dr. Robert Tuttle, dean of the Medical School, said, "We are delighted, as well as extremely proud, that Dr. Culpepper has been selected for this highly competitive fellowship. We particularly appreciate the support of these fellowships by the John A. Hartford Foundation. The significant decrease in federal support for training young physician-investigators has contributed to a serious shortage of such individuals. The efforts of the Hartford Foundation to help alleviate this problem are praiseworthy."

Culpepper received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and his M.D. degree from The University of Alabama in 1973. His internship and residency programs were completed at Loma Linda University in California. He came to the Health Science Center in 1979 following a two-year fellowship in nephrology at The University of Alabama.



TIME FOR RESEARCH — Dr. Roy Michael Culpepper, assistant professor of internal medicine at the Medical School, has received a Hartford Fellowship that makes it possible to spend at least 75 percent of his time on biomedical research while maintaining some patient care. (Photo by Gary Parker)

## First year for unique Texas summer camp

By Diane Broberg

The word hemophilia summons a historical image of the last Russian czar, worried and distracted by his son's disease as his empire collapsed in revolution.

But the picture instilled in our minds of a child who is likely to bleed to death at any moment is no longer an accurate one.

Hemophiliacs can lead normal lives and even go to summer camp. This summer there will be such a camp for children ages 7-14 from May 30-June 6 at Camp Luther Hill near La Grange.

The camp, primarily for boys because of the hereditary patterns of the disease, is the brainchild of Dr. W. Keith Hoots. Hoots is a pediatric hematologist who works with the Gulf States Hemophilia Center, a federally subsidized program affiliated with The Health Science Center. The group holds weekly clinics where hemophiliacs are evaluated medically and psychosocially.

Since Hoots has participated in a similar camp for children in North and South Carolina, he knows the benefits it can have on the campers, who have fun in a non-medical setting while learning to assume more responsibility for their own care.

Recreational experts from Texas Woman's University will manage the activities, and Hoots and his colleagues will donate their time for the camp. Medical and nursing students will attend as a learning experience, but also will add safety for the campers.

The main activities to be offered will be swimming, camping, boating,

and arts and crafts. Hoots hopes to have horseback riding too, as he believes that "marginally safe" activities should be stressed, as long as they are held under controlled conditions.

The campers will come from different family backgrounds with different levels of severity of the disease, but the camp program will be structured for the severe hemophiliac.

"It will be a learning and social experience for them all, and no one will be pushed beyond his capacity," Hoots said.

"There's no reason a hemophiliac can't be president of the United States if he wants to be," Hoots continued. The life expectancy of a hemophiliac is reasonably normal, largely because of "replacement therapy" — the ability to replace the plasma factor that is missing in a hemophiliac's blood with a concentrate derived from human donors' blood. The plasma factor supplies what the hemophiliac's blood needs most: the ability to clot.

"The replacement therapy for clotting was not heard of before the 1950s or 1960s," Hoots said. The plasma factor is supplied by blood taken from human donors that has been purified and concentrated by a drug company. The concentrate comes in freeze-dried packets that must be refrigerated, then added to water and infused through a butterfly syringe. It is usually infused after a bleeding incident has occurred.

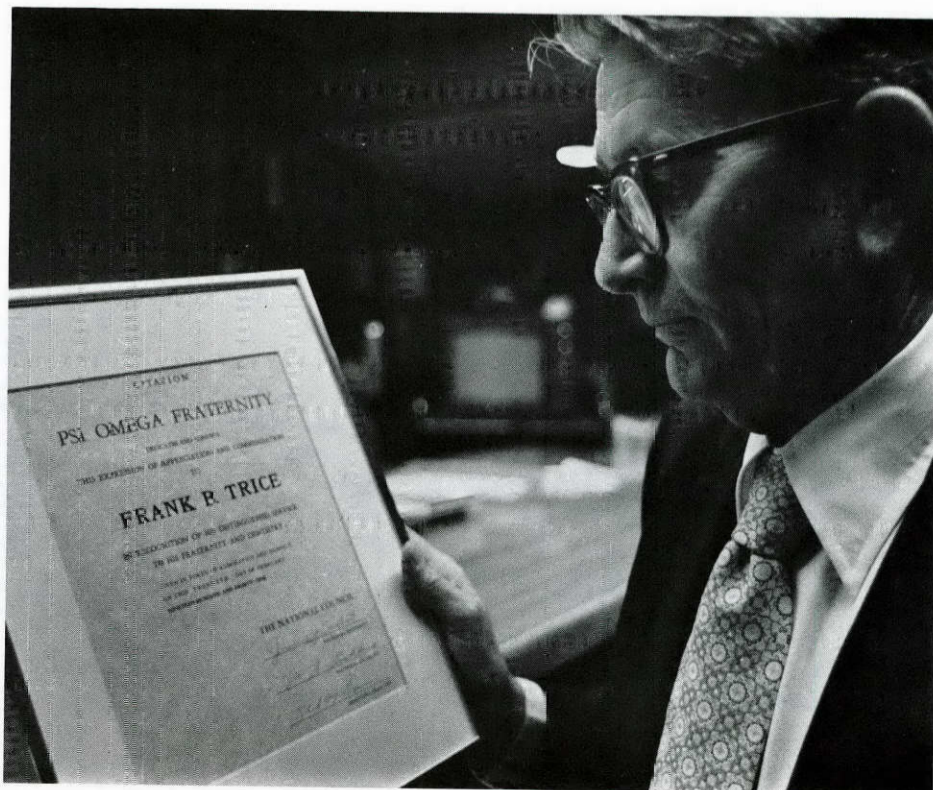
Most bleeding incidents occur within joints and are painfully dis-

covered by the hemophiliac long before a doctor could find them. Sometimes they are caused by traumatic injury but usually they are spontaneous, Hoots explained.

If donated funds for the camp are sufficient, Hoots hopes to make the camp an annual event, complete with paid speakers who will educate the campers on ways to make their lives easier. Pharmaceutical compa-

nies which produce the plasma concentrates usually send representatives to the camps, sometimes in the form of entertainers.

The families of hemophiliacs are often financially stressed, not only because of the expensive plasma concentrate, but also because many hemophiliacs are hospitalized at some time, according to Hoots. **UT**



IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — Dr. Frank B. Trice, associate dean and professor of endodontics at the Dental Branch, recently was honored by the Psi Omega dental fraternity for over 32 years of membership in and service to the fraternity. During the Psi Omega Founder's Day Dance, Trice received a framed certificate and an engraved silver tray. Trice has been a member of the Delta Upsilon Chapter of the national fraternity since 1949 and has served as faculty advisor to the student members. (Photo by Gary Parker)

# Gallery: HSC sketches

By Barbara Baker

(Suggested by an article by Melva Ramsay in *G.S.B.S.*)

Dr. Barnet Levy used to feel guilty about his work. He thought something must be wrong because he enjoyed it so much. Luckily, he's gotten over that complex.

Levy is director of the Dental Science Institute, but the scope of his work extends far beyond the walls

of the classroom or research lab. And whether he's designing stained glass windows, carving wood sculptures or teaching his students, Levy's primary commitment is to enjoying the task.

"My philosophy is, 'If it ain't fun, don't do it,'" he joked, adding that perhaps that motto should appear on his family crest.

An additional motto might be "If

you don't know how to do it, you can learn." Confronted with a project that appeals to him, Levy finds a way to accomplish it.

A few years ago he met the Israeli rabbi of Congregation Brith Shalom on Bellaire Boulevard. Levy was impressed by the rabbi who, despite his fairly conservative congregation, decided to participate in a civil rights march in Selma, Alabama.

Although he was not a member of the congregation, Levy offered to design and build two small stained glass windows for their synagogue. He was not fazed by the fact that he had never worked with stained glass before.

With the help of a book and a lot of imagination, he succeeded in designing and building not two but 12 stained glass windows over a one year period — one a month, he says.

Levy donated his time and talents, and the congregation paid for the glass and lead to form the windows.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Levy now has moved on to other artistic challenges. At the moment, his main pursuit is wood carving, particularly bas relief. He also would like to try his hand at metal sculpture, and recently he purchased a welding outfit with that intent in mind.

Creativity permeates all aspects of Levy's life, including the practice of his favorite art: teaching.

"If you're creative at all, it extends into everything you do, even in the fields of medicine and research," he commented.

In fact, it has not been that long since teachers in the field of anatomy — especially embryologists — were, of necessity, sculptors, he added.

"Before the development of time-lapse photography, you couldn't visualize the growth of an egg through all the developmental stages. Good teachers were sculptors who could begin with a single cell of clay at the first of the term and gradually build the whole body in front of your eyes. They used different color clays to illustrate different parts," he explained.

Teaching is an art itself, and Levy fears it may become an endangered one. With the advent of electronic teaching and self-directed studies, there are fewer chances for direct interaction between students and faculty members.

For that reason, Levy enjoys his work with graduate students at the

Dental Science Institute because it affords a lot of opportunities for personal contact.

His students are glad of the arrangement, too. In a recent issue of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences' newsletter, *G.S.B.S.*, several of his former students wrote of the combination of discipline and compassion which distinguish Levy as an educator.

Harold Sternlicht had attended services at the Brith Shalom synagogue and he commented on Levy's contributions both as a teacher and as an artist.

"When I sit in services, and the sun streams through those gorgeous windows, causing me to reflect on my heritage, I think of Bar Levy and the beauty of spirit and creativeness which is his," Sternlicht said. "He is a teacher and friend in the finest sense of the terms."

Although he protests that he can teach his students only the "joy of learning," Levy must have taught that lesson well over the years. Many of his "kids," as he calls them, have gone on to become deans, professors and college presidents.

Levy's research is another important element in his work. He has started a colony of marmosets for use in his research on periodontal disease. The small primates are useful in medical research because they are susceptible to tumor-producing viruses which also affect humans.

Levy is proud of his research work, but he has found too many other rewarding activities in life to restrict himself to that one endeavor. As a result, he says he will never win a Nobel Prize, but he is content.

"If you know you can do it, you should put the blinders on and set a goal. If you know you're not Nobel Prize caliber, you can take off the blinders and try everything," he remarked.

Barnet Levy hasn't tried everything. But then, he's not through yet.



THOSE GORGEOUS WINDOWS — Dr. Barnet Levy, director of the Dental Science Institute, poses beside one of the stained glass windows he designed and built for a Houston synagogue. (Photo by Gary Parker)

## Newsmakers

(Continued from page 8)

and Killing of *Actinomyces viscosus*" during the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Chicago, March 19-22.

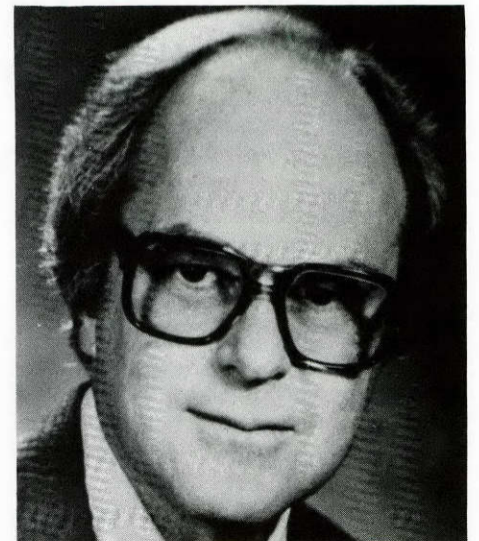
Following are those who also lectured and the titles of their presentations: **Dr. Joseph L. Streckfuss**, associate professor, "Characteristics of the Apatite Nucleator in *Streptococcus mutans*"; **Dr. John W. Simpson**, associate profes-

sor, "Human Gingival Fibroblast Collagenase"; **Dr. James J. Vogel**, associate professor, "2, 3-Diphosphoglycerate, a Potential Dental Calculus Control Agent"; **Dr. Millicent Goldschmidt**, associate professor, "A Rapid Coagglutination Technique to Detect Oral Actinomyces"; and **Iris Horton**, research assistant II, "Topically Applicable Anti-Microbials to Prevent Oral Superinfections."



A 'SITE VISIT' BY THE LEGISLATURE — Approximately 200 Texas legislators and members of their families visited the Texas Medical Center Feb. 20 for a breakfast at the Doctors' Club, followed by tours of the host institutions. Among those at the head table were, from left, Dr. Charles A. LeMaistre, president of The University of Texas System

Cancer Center, and President Bulger, both of whom hosted the breakfast along with Baylor College of Medicine President William T. Butler; Sen. Chet Brooks, who represents Harris County's 11th Senatorial District; and Betty Button, chief clerk of the Senate Human Resources Committee. (Photo by Gary Parker)



NOW HEADING THE LARGEST RADIOLOGIC SOCIETIES IN THE COUNTRY are two professors of radiology from the Medical School. Dr. John H. Harris Jr. (pictured above), chief of emergency radiology, has been installed as chairman of the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiology. Dr. Richard G. Lester, department chairman, has been chosen as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Radiological Society of North America. Lester is currently on leave from the Health Science Center to serve as acting president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. From a report by Susan Westmoreland.



CONGRATULATIONS — Eight of the 13 "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" recognition winners are School of Nursing students (above, left to right) Nancy Carlisle, Daniel Stefan, Patricia Thiele and Renee Broussard, and (in photo at left) William Morris (standing, rear), Colleen Lathem, Shara Kisse-Golub and Laura Kaufman. (Photos by Gary Parker)

## Thirteen nursing students win national recognition award

Thirteen present and former students of the School of Nursing will be among the honored in the 1981 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

The former students, who received their bachelor of science in nursing degrees in December, are Sandra Lowe Eppink, Cynthia Jean Fulbright, Patricia Barker Moore and Anne Child Stefan.

The four recipients who will graduate from the nursing school in June are Renee Broussard, Nancy Carlisle,

Daniel Stefan and Patricia Thiele.

Also among the honorees are Laura Wakefield Kaufman, Shara Kizzee-Golub, Colleen Lathem, Linda Marie Mabry and William Morris.

These students were selected as some of the country's most outstanding campus leaders because of their academic records, community service, leadership abilities and future potential.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since its first publication in 1934.

## In memory of . . .

Dr. J. Duncan Robertson, professor and chairman of self-directed dental education and associate dean for academic affairs at the Dental Branch, died March 28 following a lengthy illness. He was 54.

Originally from LaGrange, Ky., Robertson graduated from The University of Louisville Dental School in 1953. He was in private practice in Kentucky from 1955 to 1963.

Since 1963 Robertson had been intermittently associated with UT in various capacities. He occupied the positions of associate dean, and professor and chairman of self-directed dental education since 1978.

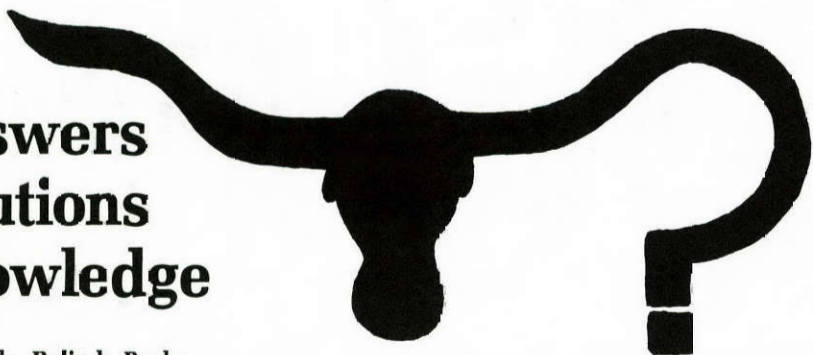
Dr. John V. Olson, dean of the Dental Branch, recalled 1969 when he and Robertson worked together to begin the UT Dental School in San Antonio.

"He was of tremendous help during the planning stage for the school, becoming acting dean for two years and then associate dean until he returned to Houston in 1977," Olson said. "It is a big loss. We will sure miss him."

Active in national, state and local dental organizations, Robertson was awarded in 1975 the "Man in Dentistry Award" by the San Antonio District Dental Society.

He is survived by his wife, Lore, two daughters and a son.

## Answers Solutions Knowledge



Compiled by Belinda Parker

**Q: Why can't the freight elevator be available to HSC & Anderson employees in the Main Building between 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 and 5:15 p.m.?**

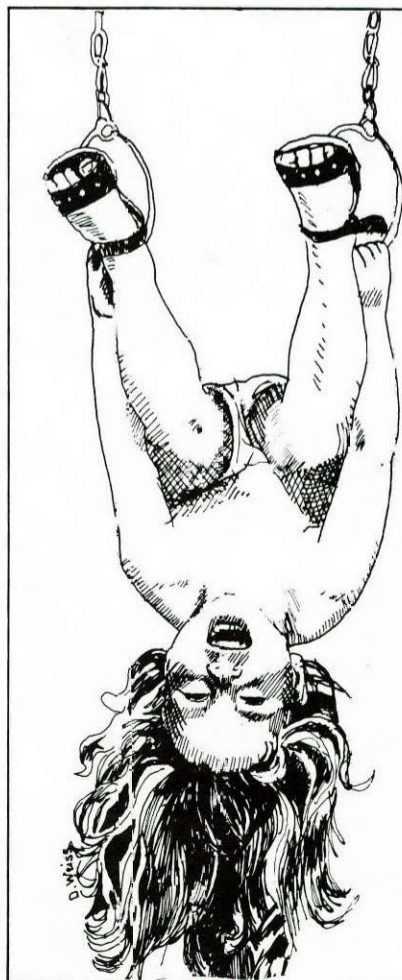
**A:** I spoke with Jackie Jordon, administrative assistant for the assistant vice president for M.E. Anderson. She explained that the Physical Plant workers start their work day at 7:30 and at the times indicated by our question, these workers are preparing for their workday and usually have the elevators monopolized. The Physical Plant workers have agreed to permit passengers on elevators at those times unless the load they are carrying would present a danger for the passengers. They don't normally refuse to allow passengers unless this circumstance exists.

**Q: Why are we now getting the HoUTexan at our homes? It's a great idea!**

**A:** The Office of Public Affairs now distributes the HoUTexan to employees' home address as well as the display racks around campus. The idea was to make sure everyone had an opportunity to receive the news at home where it could be read leisurely.

If you fail to receive a copy at home, please call the Office of Public Affairs, ext. 4266, and we will make sure you receive one.

**Have a question that needs an answer? Send it to ASK Column, Room 1117 Main Building, or call ext. 4266.**



## Kiddie Korner

If you are an HSC student, faculty member or employee; or the spouse of one; or the teenage child of one; and you would like to earn some spending money by babysitting, send your name, phone number and general location of your home to Public Affairs, Room 1117, Houston Main Building. If you prefer certain times, please indicate that.

The following are potential babysitters: Sandy Duke, Pasadena until June, 946-6930; Glenbrook after June 1, 649-2508.

Seita K. Feighny, 13, Alief, 498-3460.

Beth Johnson, North Houston (FM 1960 and Greenspoint area), 792-5360 (office), 893-0305 (home).

Laura Monroe, Sharpstown, 772-8364, prefers weekends during school year.

Jewel Montgomery Bellaire, 665-5964, prefers weekdays and occasional evenings.

Lisa K. Roberts, 16, Memorial-Spring Branch, 460-1615, prefers weekends.

Barbara Springer, Fondren Southwest-Meyerland, 792-5536 (office), 270-4476 (home), prefers weeknights.

Laurie Sutton, Aldine, 449-7605, prefers weekends during school year.

Sandra Vergera, 15, Galleria area, 666-9416, prefers weekends and early evening weeknights during school year.

# Calendar

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## Friday, May 1

9 a.m. Distinguished Lecturer Series: "The Origins of Life" and "Planetary Biology." Speaker: Dr. Richard S. Young, vice president of The Rockefeller University. Sponsored by the Dental Branch Postgraduate School of Dentistry. The Houston Marriott Motor Hotel, 2100 S. Braeswood. For more information call 792-4188.

Weekend Canoe Trip sponsored by the HSC Student Union. For more information contact your school's Intercouncil representative or call 792-4808.

Deadline for submitting research proposals to be reviewed by the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. For information call 792-5048.

## Saturday, May 2

The Catholic Student Center, 1703 Bolsover, offers the Liturgy of The Eucharist every Saturday at 5 p.m. and every Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation also is offered each Saturday, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. For information call 526-3809.

## Monday, May 4

The Catholic Student Center, 1703 Bolsover, offers the Liturgy of The Eucharist each weekday at 5 p.m. The Liturgy of The Eucharist also is offered at The Institute of Religion (TMC) each weekday at 12:10 p.m. For information call 526-3809.

9 a.m. University of Houston Central Campus Continuing Education Center: Polydrug Abuse and the Phencyclidines. Continues through Tuesday, May 5. For more information call 749-7676.

## Wednesday, May 6

7:30 p.m. HSC Associates Health Promotion Lecture: "Mental Health and Drugs ... How It Affects Our Lives." Speaker: Dr. Louis Faillace, chairman of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Medical School. School of Public Health Auditorium. For information call 792-4671.

## Friday, May 8

4 p.m. T-shirt Party sponsored by the HSC Student Union, Houston Main Building Picnic Area. For more information contact your school's Intercouncil representative or call 792-4808.

## Friday, May 15

Meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. For information call 792-5048.

## Saturday, May 23

8 a.m. Medical School Continuing Education: A Symposium and Practicum on the Neurologic Application of Special Sensory Evoked Responses VERs, BAERs and SERs. Room 7037 Medical School Main Building. For more information call 792-5346.

## Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Holiday

## Friday, May 29

Alley Theatre Productions: "Ten Little Indians" by Agatha Christie. HSC Employee Relations Program offers discount tickets. For information call 792-4911.

### The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

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Houston, Texas 77025

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