

# Location of alcohol's effect on brain sought

Brain cells affected by alcohol are being tracked down by a team of TAMU scientists.

"Neurons in the brain run on different chemical systems," said Dr. William Klemm, the project head. "These nerve cells talk to each other via at least five different chemical systems. I think that alcohol changes some of these interactions so the problem becomes one of finding out which cells it

works on. These chemical transmitter systems are widely distributed and intermixed in the brain. Studies indicate that alcohol doesn't affect all brain areas equally. Therefore, identification of alcohol's mechanism of action is a prerequisite to a study of ways to counteract alcohol's intoxicating and addicting properties.

"Since this is a chemical problem, one should think of a chemical solution," he continued. "But, no one knows where in the brain to look. A researcher would have to run chem-

ical analysis on each part of the brain.

"However, alcohol ought to affect the electrical activity of the neurons it does work on," Klemm pointed out. "The most conspicuous activity of the neurons is discharges of electricity called impulses. If we record them before and after use of alcohol, then by noting changes in electrical activity we'll know where the alcohol is acting.

"Results from this method may help biochemists find the biochemical needle in the haystack," he

said. "Besides telling us which parts of the brain are affected by alcohol, the electrical activity can also tell us what drugs magnify or suppress the effects of alcohol.

"One obvious hypothesis which comes from this set of facts is the possibility that alcohol's effects are due to an action of one or more of the transmitter systems," Klemm noted. "Part of the experiments involve the use of drugs in rats to change a given transmitter system and then testing to see if alcohol still causes the usual degree of intoxica-

tion. Interpretation of results is straightforward. If a given transmitter system is the target by which alcohol causes intoxication, then blocking that transmitter will block the alcohol's action. Looking at it the other way, enhancing that transmitter will potentiate alcohol's action."

Dr. Klemm will speak at the 17th Annual Institute of Alcohol Studies, July 7-11, at the University of Texas in Austin. His research is funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

# Army Ranger base named for Rudder

A training camp for the Army's elite Rangers at Eglin AFB, Fla., has been dedicated in memory of James Earl Rudder, former Ranger commander.

The late Texas A&M University president led the 2nd Ranger Battalion in one of the toughest assignments on the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Europe. Then a lieutenant colonel, Rudder and his men scaled the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc.

Rudder retired from his Army career as a major general. He served as Texas land commissioner and was TAMU president 11 years. He died in 1970.

# Associate registrar retires

Ray G. Perryman, associate registrar at TAMU, retired this week after 37 years of service.

Perryman was honored by his co-workers at a Hensel Park picnic. He was presented a retirement certificate by Admissions and Records Dean Edwin H. Cooper, and Registrar Robert A. Lacey presented him a watch on behalf of all the personnel in the registrar's and admissions offices.

# Illegal aliens pass mark of million

AUSTIN, Tex.—A flood of Mexican aliens, estimated at more than a million a year, is pouring into Texas, according to a new Texas Good Neighbor Commission report.

More than half the illegal entrants cross the Rio Grande into Texas.

Good Neighbor Commission said the number of such entries is greater than the total number of immigrants who entered the U.S. legally from all the countries of the world.

Last year, the GNC noted, 575,000 deportable Mexican aliens were found in the U.S., and immigration officials figure one escapes for every one apprehended.

Sophisticated smuggling techniques aid the crossings.

Immigrations have a social and economic impact in virtually all regions, since the aliens move on to metropolitan areas all over the U.S. in search of better jobs and safety from arrests.

Top AFL-CIO officials promptly called for tougher state laws making it an offense to hire illegal aliens, punishable by stiff fines or prison terms.

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