

Experimental drug erases offensive experiences

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doctors are experimenting with a memory erasing drug that can rid a surgical patient of unpleasant recollections about the operating room.

Called lorazepam, the drug still is experimental and available only for medical research.

When administered intravenously before surgery, a patient can remain awake in the operating room under a local anesthetic and not remember the experience.

"Anesthesiologists frequently are

faced with a situation where they prefer to have patients awake while anesthetized with a regional block technique. However, the patient desires to have no recall of the operating room or even leaving the hospital room," said Dr. David V. Heisterkamp of the University of Colorado medical center in Denver.

Heisterkamp and Dr. Peter J. Cohen, also of the University of Colorado, reported Tuesday on their research during a meeting of the American Society of Anes-

thesiologists.

The doctors said the drug is under consideration by the Food and Drug Administration.

If it eventually becomes more widely available, Heisterkamp and Cohen said it might find other applications in medicine where blocking recall of the trauma connected with medical treatment would benefit a patient.

The drug has been available abroad under the trade name Atiban for several years, the doctors said. It

has been used largely as a sedative.

The Colorado doctors have studied nearly 100 patients. Their report Tuesday was about results with the first 69.

Patients were given the drug 45 minutes before surgery. Thirty minutes later they were shown a double size picture of a dollar bill and asked to describe it.

Then they underwent surgery in which they remained awake under a local anesthetic. During surgery the patients were asked if they recalled

the dollar bill and again 24 hours later.

A group of control patients not given lorazepam also were shown the dollar bill and asked to recall it.

Those administered the drug at 5 milligram doses had no recall at all. Most of those receiving 3 milligram doses also had no recall.

Control patients had perfect recall, the doctors said. Still uncertain is what side effects the drug might have.

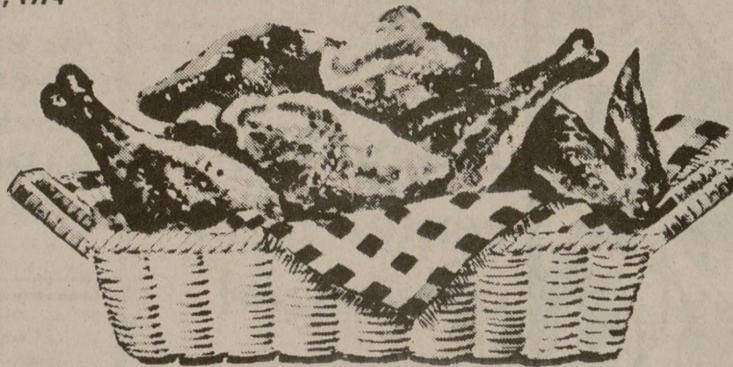
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House approves Amtrack

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress finished work Tuesday on bills authorizing a \$200-million federal grant for Amtrak trains and ending auto-safety belt interlocks and constant buzzers which force motorists to buckle up before their cars will start.

The House, by 299 to 35 on the Amtrak bill and by voice vote on a comprehensive motor vehicle and school-bus safety measure, passed the Senate-approved compromise packages and sent them to President Ford.

The \$200 million authorized in the Amtrak measure is in addition to the \$359 million Amtrak already has received in federal subsidy and the \$197 million being provided by participating railroads.

The legislation also would boost the ceiling on federally guaranteed Amtrak loans to \$900 million from the present \$500 million. The loans go to finance improvements in equipment for the National Railroad Passenger Corp., Amtrak's formal name.

Bulletin Board

- TONIGHT**
- PENTAGON AREA HOMETOWN CLUB will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 502 of the Rudder Tower.
 - MOTORCYCLE CLUB will meet in room 203 of the MSC at 7:30 p.m. Everyone going to Cameron Saturday should attend.
 - ALPHA LAMBDA will meet at 6:30 p.m. in room 225, MSC.
 - ARTS COMMITTEE will present Rob Inglis in his solo rendition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Admission is 50¢ for students.
 - BRYAN COUNCIL OF STUTTERERS will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center.
- THURSDAY**
- MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION will hold a Eid-ul-Fitr prayer meeting at 7:45 a.m. in the All-Faith Chapel.
 - TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 215 of the Animal Industries Bldg.
 - CIRCLE K will meet at 7 p.m. in room 225 of the MSC.
 - GREAT ISSUES will present a speech entitled "Constrainers: A Citizen's Guide to Resource Conservation," at 8 p.m. in room 601 of the Rudder Tower.
 - SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 209 of the Harrington Center.
 - WOMEN'S AWARENESS WORKSHOP will meet at 8:30 p.m. in room 402 of the Rudder Tower.
 - BOWLING CLUB will hold a constitutional meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Bowling Alley.

FRIDAY

TOWN HALL will present Trapeze and the Hues Corporation for a special presentation at 8 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Everyone must buy a ticket.

BASEMENT COMMITTEE will continue its "free tunes" program from noon to 4 p.m. at the MSC fountain.



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