

# Cause of mystery disease found

United Press International  
ATLANTA — Six months of medical detective work have unlocked the mystery of what caused the "Lebanese Disease," which killed 29 persons last summer, and also may provide answers for unexplained disease outbreaks in the past.

But scientists still don't know how the newly discovered germ was transmitted to 180 persons who attended a Philadelphia convention in 1976, or how it got there. Research to solve the remainder of the puzzle is already begun.

"We don't know its place in the bacteriological world," said Dr. Charles C. Shepard, chief virologist at CDC.

What CDC scientists found was a large, slow-growing bacterium that appeared to be a gram-negative bacillus. The germ has not yet been given a name. (A gram-negative bacillus may be identified through a method developed by H. C. J. Gram, a Danish physician.)

"We are dealing with a very real phenomenon, which has been present in the past but has never been recognized," Sencer said.

Dr. Joseph E. McDade, who discovered the organism and began experiments with it last month, said tests of blood samples from 33 patients who came down with the pneumonia-like illness confirmed that 29 were infected with the organism.

Microbiologists at CDC said the organism was difficult to grow in ordinary laboratory cultures, which is why it was not discovered sooner. Those who came down with the disease had been in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel around the time of a state American Legion convention last July. They included 149 Legionnaires, 30 other visitors and a hotel repairman. The hotel was later

forced to close because of the adverse publicity.

The CDC said that the incidence of the disease was associated not only with time spent in the hotel, but also with time spent in the lobby.

Shepard said that the organism was not transmitted from person to person, because those who came in contact with victims of the disease did not catch it. The CDC said nothing has been ruled out as the transmission medium. "It doesn't appear to be an usual organism of importance in human disease," Sencer said, and Shepard said it was totally unrelated to any known agents employed in germ warfare.

# Legislators view sex-education films

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Outside the Capitol building they were serving coffee and donuts and handing out leaflets; inside they were showing children's movies featuring nude couples having sex.

The group outside sponsored the movies inside to let legislators know that materials were being purchased by state funds for sex education classes.

They always used to pat us on the heads and send us away like children," said Mrs. James McAuley, head of the National Congress for Educational Excellence.

Tuesday the film the group was asking legislators to watch was one shown in Texas junior high classrooms. Invitations labeled it a "Kid-die Peep Show."

Although she said the group was sponsoring a non-legislative program, she said it did want legislators to see the material being purchased with money they appropriated.

"It's an overwhelming problem that goes across political lines, racial lines and social lines," she said.

"This movement originated long ago in the right wing, but there is no doubt in my mind now this is the mainstream of American life."

Mrs. McAuley also had films for legislators on group discussions of masturbation, homosexuality, birth control, and venereal disease; and books on sex and drugs.

She provided one teacher's manual approved by the Texas Education Agency concerning drugs which told instructors: "The teacher has not only the ability but the responsibility to help students learn how to use drugs responsibly."

Mrs. McAuley said the educational level of students had dropped in recent years while sex education courses were being funded.

"For the first time in history, we're graduating students less literate than the generation before," she said. "We're just saying we'd rather teach our children basic skills than these other things."

Peggy Jones, another NCEE member, echoed Mrs. McAuley's feelings. "Our whole point is that the kids can't read and write and do math," she said. "So why are we worried about teaching them these things?"

## alt diet blamed

# Expert claims salt tie to heart disease

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — There is "very persuasive" evidence that salt diets promote the development of high blood pressure in people genetically susceptible to it, a Massachusetts specialist said today.

Furthermore, Dr. Lot B. Page believes the life-long low-salt diets of some cultures enable those peoples to avoid the ailment that now afflicts an estimated 24 million Americans.

The American Heart Association says high blood pressure, or hypertension, is a leading cause of disease and death in the United States. It is a result of stroke, heart failure and kidney disease.

"We know that high blood pressure has its roots in early life," said Page, a hypertension expert from Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Newton-Lower Falls, Mass.

"If we could do something to alter the salt habits of our children, we might make a tremendous impact on this whole vast public health problem."

posium that research has shown most children and adults need no more than 200 milligrams — one tenth of a teaspoon of salt — a day. Even under the most strenuous circumstances, he said, one teaspoon is adequate.

"According to dietetic sources, the standard American diet contains about 5,000 mg of sodium and is

## Literary magazine due in April

The first literary magazine from Texas A&M University in 20 years is due in April. Feb. 1 is the submission deadline for "Moebius."

"Moebius" is being produced by the Memorial Student Center Arts Committee at A&M, and is staffed by students. Junior Susie Turner is the editor.

Turner said the proposed 100-page magazine had received \$1,500 in support from the MSC and would be the first literary magazine published by a campus group since 1954.

often more due to the use of snack foods," Page said in a report released today.

Page said if the American public, with the help of the food industry, would switch to a low-salt diet, he believes anywhere from 50 to 90 per cent of high blood pressure cases could be eliminated in one generation.

## Only undergraduate students

enrolled for at least 12 hours per semester during the 1976-77 school year, and graduate students enrolled for at least nine per semester, are eligible to enter.

Students may enter up to three prose selections, six poetry works, 10 photographs and 10 works of art. All must be original.

Specifications on format of entries and length may be obtained from Turner, adviser Karen Zantow or through one of the blue brochures which have been distributed around campus describing the magazine.

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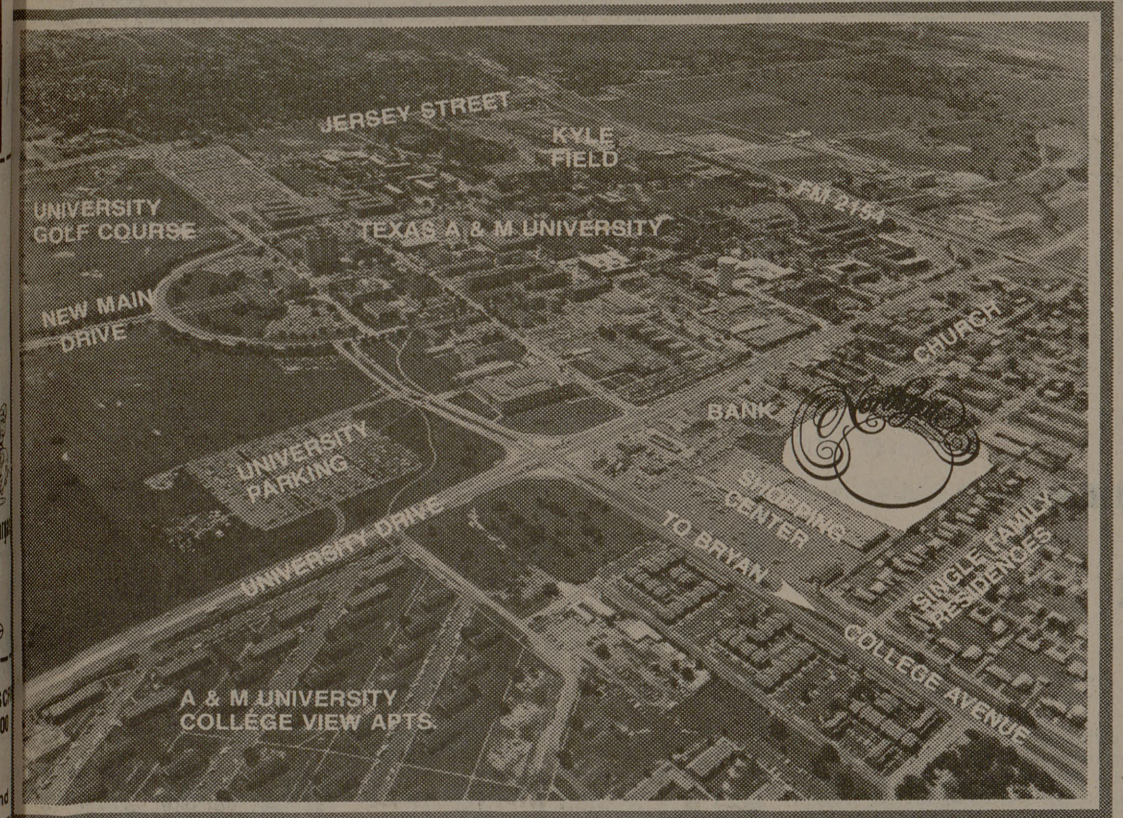
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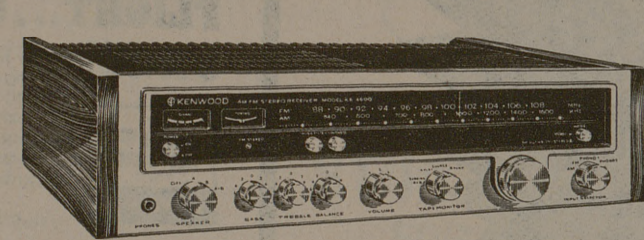
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