

arm bad as city

# Drug abuse high

you're thinking of moving to Texas to avoid the drug problem of the big city, think again. A study by two Texas A&M University researchers shows drug abuse in rural Texas is no less than the major metropolitan areas of the state.

Texas A&M sociologists Kenneth Nyberg and Alex McIntosh have spent the past two years surveying 1,355 students in grades 7-12 interviewing everyone from

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pushers in the Brazos Valley area of Texas. Nyberg and McIntosh both stress their study might be applied to other rural Texas. The seven-county area under study is composed of Grimes, Brazos, Madison, Johnson, Leon, Burleson and Washington counties. "If a family has decided to move to the country to escape the drug problems of the city, they're just kidding themselves," said Nyberg. "A drug person wants — from

heroin on down to alcohol — can be gotten in any rural county of Texas. "In fact, the largest single drug abused in rural Texas is alcohol," he added. "Marijuana runs a close second; it is light-years ahead of any other drug."

More than 75 percent of the students surveyed, ages 12 to 20, abused alcohol, Nyberg related. Some 23 to 24 percent used marijuana, and in one county alone, 4 percent of the students surveyed had tried heroin.

"The sad thing is, these figures are very conservative," McIntosh lamented. "The real numbers are probably much higher."

Some of the findings made by the Texas A&M team showed:

— Young people in rural areas begin using drugs at earlier ages than urban area children (some of the children surveyed had begun using drugs as early as age 10).

— The first drugs many rural children use are often chemical solvents, such as glue, kerosene and gasoline.

— Rural girls prefer pills (often diet and sleeping pills taken from home medicine chests) to marijuana.

Other findings indicated rural youth are twice as likely to sell drugs for profit than urban youngsters and white rural children are more likely to deal in drugs than blacks or Mexican-Americans, McIntosh said.

"A lot of rural parents are blaming the increase in drug use on urban children moving into the country," Nyberg said. "That's simply not true."

"These kids were using drugs long before people started moving into the country," he explained. "In fact, we found that the drug abuse was much higher for lifetime residents of rural areas."

The National Institute of Drug Abuse has asked the Texas A&M

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team to devise a national rural drug abuse study, which it should begin in June 1979.

"Drug abuse in rural Texas is not a problem you can close your eyes on and forget," Nyberg said. "From what we've seen this far, we don't expect it to decline."

# Dishonorable discharge reversed, Korean War colonel exonerated

United Press International  
MADISON, Wis. — A former Wisconsin soldier, convicted of cooperating with North Koreans while a prisoner of war, has been exonerated by the Army and

given honorable discharge status. Harry Fleming, a lieutenant colonel from Racine, Wis., who now lives in Florida, was accused in the 1950s of making speeches

and broadcasts while a prisoner during the Korean War. However, an appeal of the dishonorable discharge by Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., resulted in the Army's reversing itself in

Washington Tuesday. The Army concluded Fleming made the broadcasts to get better treatment for his men and no harm resulted to the national defense.

# Tumor killing protein used in \$2 million test

United Press International  
NEW YORK — The American Cancer Society is putting \$2 million in the most it has ever invested in a test — behind efforts to learn the substance produced in the body slows the growth of cancerous tumors in humans.

Dr. Jordan Gutterman of Houston's M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Clinic and Dr. Thomas C. Merigan Jr. of Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, Calif., are hoping to prove whether interferon:

— Will stop growth of human tumors at a faster rate than it interferes with normal cell growth.

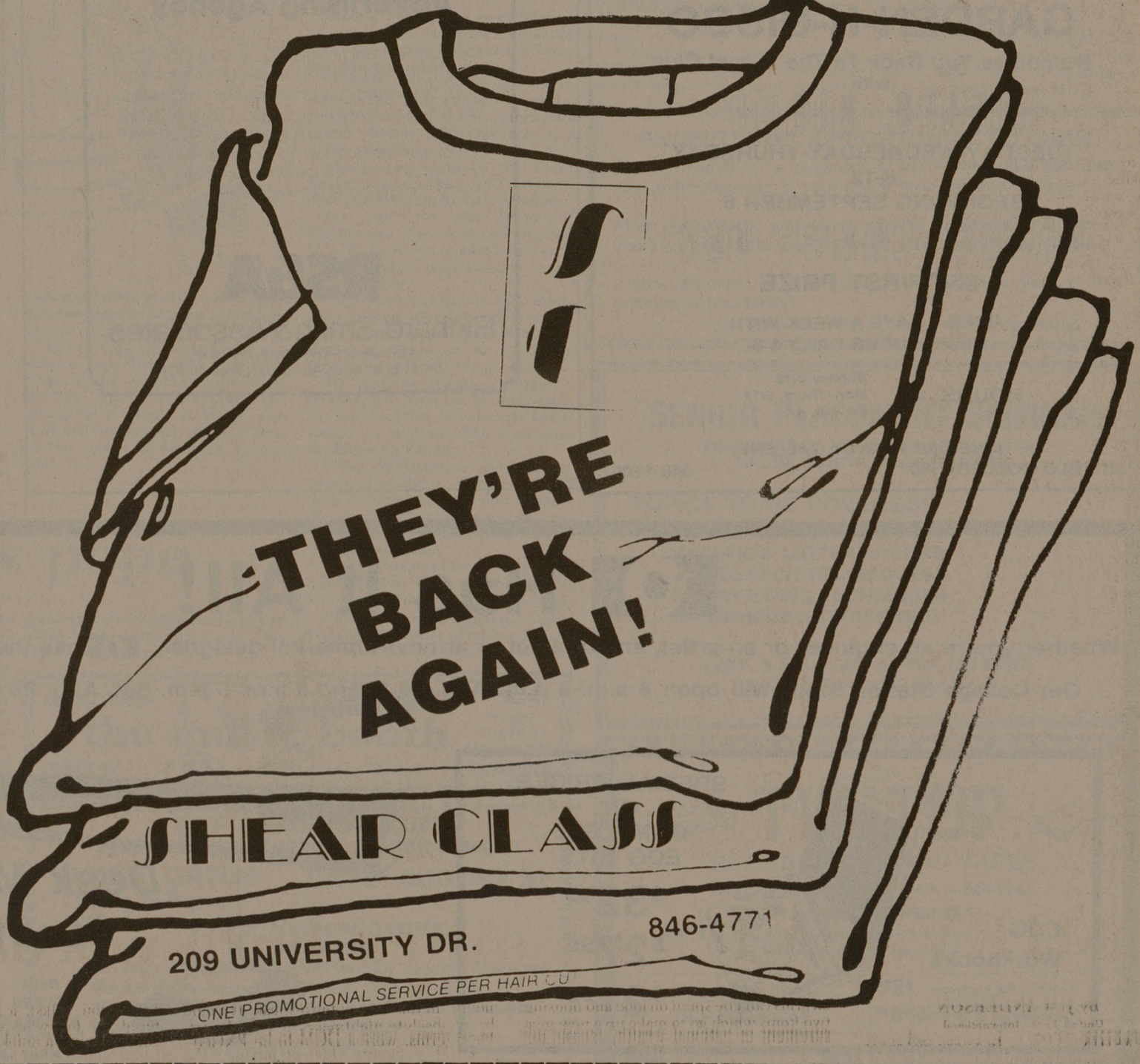
— Activates the normal body defenses against infection and cancer, giving the tumor host, the cancer patient, a double punch against cancer.

— Circulates in the blood stream, keeping an active patrol at the cellular level against cancer cells, upsetting their viability at first contact.

The three to six-month test of interferon will involve 150 randomly selected cancer patients divided into two groups — one will get interferon in treatments that will cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 a person and the other group will not.

The Cancer Society each year collects more than \$100 million from Americans interested in fighting cancer. But this is the most money the Society has put into a test of a single antitumor substance.

In a telephone interview Gutterman said if the testing is successful, there will be positive proof interferon can keep some killer tumors from growing to a lethal size — choking vital life processes and killing the host.



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