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FLUOR

Deficient diet may affect TB vaccines

By MARK TRIESCH
Battalion Reporter

A Texas A&M University medical researcher is trying to discover why the vaccine used most widely against tuberculosis doesn't work in developing countries.

Dr. David McMurray, assistant professor of medicine, is experimenting with the effects that a lack of protein, zinc, or calorie intake in humans may have on the effectiveness of bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG).

The BCG vaccine, which has been used in many parts of the world with great success, appears to have no effect, or a negative effect, in countries where malnutrition is a problem, McMurray said.

"In 1968, the World Health Organization staged a massive vaccination campaign in southern India using the BCG vaccine," he said. "Of the 300,000 people involved in the test, more individuals who were inoculated with the BCG vaccine contracted TB than those who received no inoculation at all."

McMurray feels that the reason for this must be connected to malnutrition and mineral deficiencies in the test subjects.

"It is imperative that we find out why it didn't work," he said.

For more than two years, McMurray has been experimenting with the BCG vaccine in guinea pigs.

"Our guinea pig model is as close as you can come to mimicking the human model," he said.

McMurray raises the guinea pigs on a diet lacking one key nutrient or a combination of them. He then gives them the same vaccine that people get and observes their progress concerning growth rate, protein in blood serum, and immunity to tuberculosis.

"If we can establish some definite patterns in the conditions of the guinea pigs, we may be able to extrapolate what we have learned from them to human populations," McMurray said.

McMurray says that he hopes to be able to determine if substituting diets high in protein and zinc will increase body defenses and allow the BCG vaccine to activate the body's natural immunities.

The BCG vaccine is currently not being used in the United States because the American Medical Association does not feel that it has been completely tested.

"People inoculated with BCG show a positive reaction when they are given a skin test, and this is also a reason it is not used here," said McMurray.

McMurray says that TB is still a very serious problem in this country, as well as in the developing nations.

"One of every three people in the world is infected with TB," he said, "and about 30,000 cases a year are reported in the United States."

McMurray stressed the seriousness of the disease.

"Tuberculosis is still a very life-threatening illness," he said, "especially among children."



Staff photo by Pat O...

Dr. David McMurray uses guinea pigs to test a tuberculosis vaccine for people in developing countries. Current vaccines are not effective in developing countries, and McMurray is testing the theory that the lack of protein in the diet may be responsible for the problem.

King cat captured

United Press International
NEW YORK — Police officers accustomed to netting hardened criminals had one netting job Wednesday that wasn't so routine — capturing a full-grown lion.

The big cat was seen about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, hiding in a darkened driveway in a section of Queens.

A police spokesman said officers on the scene called a special emergency police unit with tranquilizers to calm down the cat and haul it away.

Police had no idea how the lion got there or who owned it.

Buffaloes threaten Alaska's pioneers

United Press International
DELTA JUNCTION, Alaska — They've got this buffalo problem in Alaska.

The hulking critters ignore fences

around the barley farms and themselves on young grain farmers are raising on 60,000 acres in the far-north valley of Delta.

Farmers in the Big Delta conquered innumerable obstacles to produce their first crop of barley. They cleared the land, erected silos, barns and homes planted when the spring sun melted the snow in their fields.

It hasn't been easy, but the farmers have proved they can crop in the sub-Arctic valley.

However, they've still got one stangle — the 350 wild buffaloes whose domain the barley farms situated.

"They ate, stomped down and led on about \$20,000 worth of barley," farmer Dennis Green said.

The Alaska Department of Game protects the state and only wild bison herd, said Bill-style shooting is out of the question.

Fences were tried with no success.

"It takes a heroic fence to buffalo out of a field," Glen Franklin, state contract officer for the agriculture project, said.

Farmers report the buffaloes using battering tactics on the fence. When the females and their young encounter a fence barring their way, an old cow rounds up "yearlings" and stampedes energetic "teen-agers" through the fence.

Noisemakers have also been used. Explosions will move a herd of animals just come back again at night.


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<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p> <p>FOR YOUR PROTECTION OUR PERSONNEL HAVE HEALTH CARDS.</p>		
<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</p> <p>Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Salad) Mashed Potato w/ gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING</p> <p>ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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