

First time humans used

# Lab interferon tested

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A 37-year-old mother of three has become the first human cancer patient to receive a dose of synthetic interferon, which researchers hope will prove to be a major advance over natural interferon already in use.

Joan Karafotas of Northbrook, Ill., a Chicago suburb, began her treatment at M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute Thursday.

She is one of eight Anderson patients who will participate in the world's first test treatment of humans with interferon made by recombinant DNA technology, genetic engineering.

Program supervisor Dr. Jordan Gutterman said this first four-month test is intended only to identify possible side effects and determine proper dosage. A later program will test synthetic interferon's effectiveness against cancer.

Researchers hope synthetic interferon will prove a workable substitute because natural interferon is produced in the human body only in tiny quantities. Unless it can be mass-produced synthetically it will remain scarce and costly.

Researchers also hope the superior purity apparently achieved with the synthetic interferon will facilitate larger, possibly more effective doses. The new synthetic interferon lacks toxic impurities found in natural interferon.

Karafotas, who suffers from usually incurable cancer of the lymph nodes, received 3 million units, or three one-thousandths of a gram, in her first injection. The test goal is

doses as high as 198 million units. "From animal studies, we anticipate this material is relatively free of toxic side effects, but we don't know that until we give it to patients," Gutterman said. "We think it should be safe since they'll be very closely monitored."

Karafotas tentatively is scheduled to receive two injections a week for six weeks, including two injections of natural interferon in the first two weeks.

Continuation of the test will depend on her reaction. She will live in a hotel near the hospital during the test period and will undergo 24-hour monitoring, including blood and other tests.

A spokesman said the other seven patients will be brought into the program as it progresses.

Recombinant DNA production of interferon involves isolating — or chemically making — a human gene for interferon production and splicing that gene into the DNA of a harmless strain of bacteria.

The bacterium accepts the gene as its own and begins producing human interferon. The bacterium reproduces rapidly and the company harvests the comparatively large quantities of interferon produced.

"I'm very positive about it," said Karafotas, whose lymphoma was diagnosed 18 months ago and, though incurable, has not worsened. "I understand it's all very experimental. I don't feel any apprehension."

Karafotas, whose husband Phillip is a commodities broker, said her children ages 3, 10 and 13 are having mixed reactions.

"The 3-year-old, it's pretty hard," she said. "Possibly my husband can bring him down for a while. The other two think I'm gonna be a celebrity so they're excited."

Karafotas said she was chosen for the program partly because she has not undergone chemotherapy — the usual injection of powerful chemicals to treat cancer — and has fought the disease by controlling her diet. She participated in a one-month test of natural interferon last year.

Gutterman said her blood chemistry is good for the purposes of the test.

But Karafotas also said she did a selling job on Gutterman.

"I think I talked Dr. Gutterman into it," she said. "I'm a good salesperson because I really wanted it. I really wanted to try it. I just said I'm not shy about it and if I can help other people."

# Hostilities erupt in Texas House

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Unexpected early hostilities among factions in the Texas House prompted immediate speculation that Speaker Bill Clayton may be faced with steady and bitter sniping from his opponents in his fourth term as presiding officer.

Within 24 hours of the opening gavel: —Twenty-one House members voted publicly against Clayton's election.

—House conservatives aligned with Clayton attempted to take over the House Study Group, which was founded by liberals as a means of providing research on legislative issues.

"You remember '71? We're going to have another 1971," one House member said.

He referred to the session in which Speaker Gus Mutscher, caught up in the Sharpstown scandal, was under steady attack from the liberal group which became known as the "Dirty 30."

A few representatives already are predicting the divisions brought about by Clayton's election to a fourth term may surpass the 1971 session in bitterness.

Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, one of only two "Dirty 30" members still in the House, said he feels more tied down by Clayton's administration than he did by that of Mutscher.

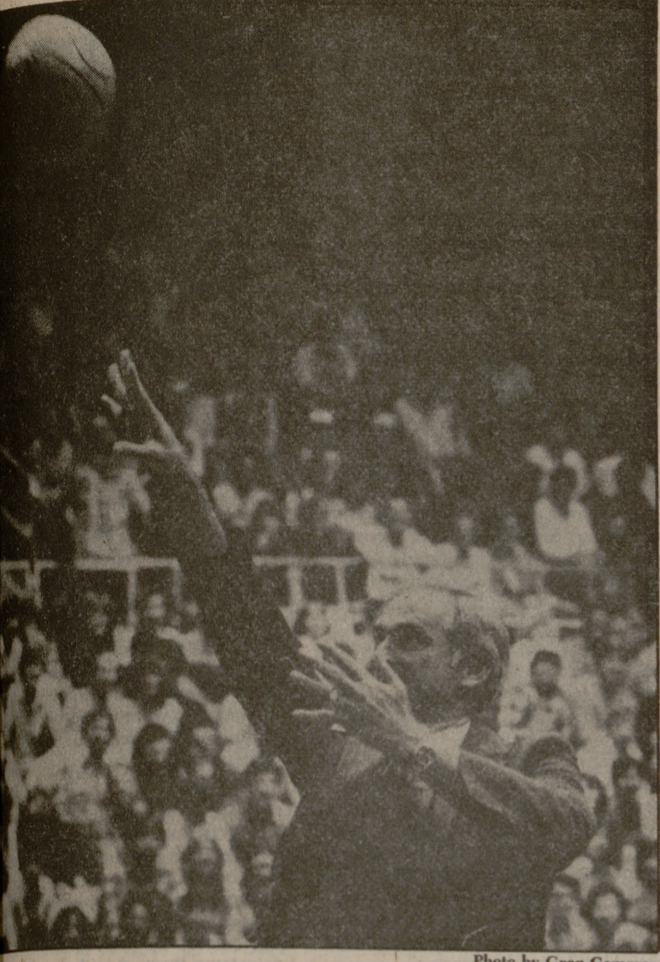


Photo by Greg Gammon

## High Steaks

Buddy Davis, captain of the 1951 Aggie SWC champion basketball team, shows off his free throw shooting style during a contest between halves of the SMU game Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Davis made the shot and won two steak dinners in the Fort Shiloh Steak House promotion. The entire 1951 team was honored at the game.

## Group wants anti-abortion legislation

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Texas anti-abortionists are ready to try to persuade the Legislature this session to pass bills making abortions more difficult to obtain.

Douglas Johnson, legislative liaison for the Texas Right to Life Committee, said Friday his group wants laws to prohibit abortions in unaccredited hospitals, require minors to have their parents' or a judge's permission before abortions can be performed and make late-term abortions difficult to get.

In addition, Johnson said, his group favors another bill that would require women seeking abortions to be given information about abortion alternatives before the abortions are performed. The committee will also seek a bill protecting doctors from lawsuits if they do not give pregnant women information about tests that show whether fetuses are defective.

Johnson said the committee has not found sponsors for all the bills but legislators will probably begin to introduce them in one to three weeks.

Johnson outlined the favored bills at a press conference for Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., sponsor of the Hyde Amendment that restricts the use of federal funds for abortions for poor women.

Hyde was in Austin to address the Physicians for Life and the Texas Right to Life Committee's conference observing the Jan. 22 anniversary of the Supreme Court's abortion decision.

"We view this as the greatest civil rights issue since Dred Scott," he said.

Hyde and Chuck Donovan, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, predicted that the Supreme Court decision permitting abortion will be overturned, possibly by passage of a Human Life Amendment.

The Human Life Amendment would extend all rights under the federal constitution to fetuses, from the time of conception.

**WANT BETTER GRADES?**  
Change the quality of your reading and study methods.

**READING EFFICIENCY**  
a new non-credit course

Sections meet TTh 9:30 or 11 a.m. \$60 fee includes course materials. Register now in

The Reading Lab  
Texas A&M  
718 Harrington  
845-6811

Have you been published yet?

We're completing the Kinko's Professor Publishing Library for the spring semester now! But we still have plenty of time to prepare your outside reading materials for your spring classes. Just call and we'll come by to explain our program and pick up your materials to be copied. All at no charge to the professor!

**KINKO'S**  
COPIES

201 College Main  
**846-8721**

Wanted!... used books

Who needs them? Your College Bookstore. Top prices for used textbooks. Now that you've finished the fall semester, why delay? Bring in your used books and get cash on the line today.

**TEXAS A&M**  
bookstore  
IN THE MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

**Frank's Bar And Grill**

the perfect place for a quiet evening of dining

11 a.m.-12 a.m. Mon.-Sat.  
5 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday

and the perfect place for happy hour

4:30-6:30 p.m.  
monday-friday

woodstone commerce center  
on hwy. 30

Come to **EXPO AMERICA** it's a great place to be!

**"DON'T MISS THE ACTION!"**  
A 3 DAY FUN FAIR • GAMES • PRIZES • SAMPLES

- ★ WIN A TRIP TO DAYTONA BEACH AND EXPO AMERICA
- ★ COME SEE THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS!
- ★ RIDE THE WRANGLER® JEANS "GREAT BUCKING BULL WORKS!"

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
I WON A TRIP TO DAYTONA

**STARTS TODAY!**

Mon.; Tues.; Wed.  
January 19, 20 and 21 from  
3:00 - 9:00 Daily  
Band Concert 9:00 - Midnight  
Every Night at the  
Aggieland Inn  
College Station

WHAT THE BUCK IS THIS?

You must be 18 to enter.

★★★★★

**Harlem Globetrotters**  
Presented by  
MSC Town Hall  
**TUESDAY**  
**JANUARY 27**  
**7:30 PM**  
**G. Rollie White Coliseum**

reserved seats: \$7.00  
all others: \$6.00 adults \$5.00 students  
tickets on sale: MSC Ticket Office (9-6 daily)  
Sears in Bryan

CHARGE BY PHONE (Visa/MC), call:  
845-2916