

# National

## Interferon tests successful

United Press International  
SAN FRANCISCO — A preliminary study on a small number of patients at the Stanford Medical Center has shown that interferon is effective in causing a regression of cancer, a researcher reports.

Dr. Sandra Horning, a clinical instructor at the hospital, told the international Congress of Interferon Research that eight patients with advanced cancers showed some evidence of regression with injections of the chemical over 34 to 56 days.

But she stressed the study was still in the first phase and does not

prove the effectiveness of interferon in treating cancer.

Dr. T.C. Merigan, who conducted the Stanford study, said: "We need to determine the best way to get dosage measurements, contrast it with other drugs and determine the side effects."

New gene-splicing techniques for producing interferon — highly purified protein — opened the way for the cancer studies and studies on its effectiveness against the common cold.

A nasal spray using interferon has been shown to prevent patients from getting the most pre-

valent cold virus, said Dr. D. Tyrrell of the Clinical Research Center in Middlesex, England.

However, the tests also found the spray caused headaches, fever and fatigue and muscle pain, Tyrrell said.

The next stage is to determine what doses will stop a cold, when it can be given to stop the symptoms and how much effect interferon has in larger patient samplings, he said.

Scientists have developed a means of genetically coding a common bacteria, thus turning "the bacteria into a factory for recom-

binant interferon," Seymour Fein, a research physician, said.

Interferon exists in all human cells as a protein that interferes with the spread of various viruses through the body, Fein said.

In the past, interferon only could be produced in minute quantities at an approximate cost of \$10 million a gram, Congress Chairman Dr. William Stewart said. It now can be produced for research at a realistic cost, opening the way for new tests against cancer and viruses.

## Shroud a fake, scientist says

United Press International  
CHICAGO — The cloth believed to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ is a hoax, claims a former member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project.

Walter C. McCrone, described by one colleague as the best microscopist in the world, said Friday

he found no evidence of blood on the centuries-old material and said the images were painted.

"I can't sit still while my findings are ignored — worse yet, said to be incorrect," said McCrone, head of the McCrone Research Institute.

"The 30 to 40 scientists who

worked on this relic have concluded it is genuine — that is, all except one," McCrone said. "I am the only one who has concluded that it is a fake."

"I can assure you I have compelling, rational and straightforward reasons for saying the Shroud of Turin was painted with

a thin, watercolor paint by an artist."

He said samples taken from the shroud show evidence of red iron earth and vermilion paint. Since watercolor paint was used, there are no brush marks, he said.

"There is no mystery about the 3-D image or the partially negative character of the image (because) these are incidental and automatic when the shroud image is painted," he said.

A carbon-dating process would prove conclusively that the cloth is a hoax, McCrone said.



Staff photo by Brian Tate

### Unwanted attention

A good bath and dip was what Nicole received at the hands of these first year veterinary medical students. Students shown here helping with the fund raiser

held Saturday are Valerie Mogas, left, Al Smith and Cindy Pfluger, background, and Randall Sullivan. Over 60 dogs took a dip during the day.

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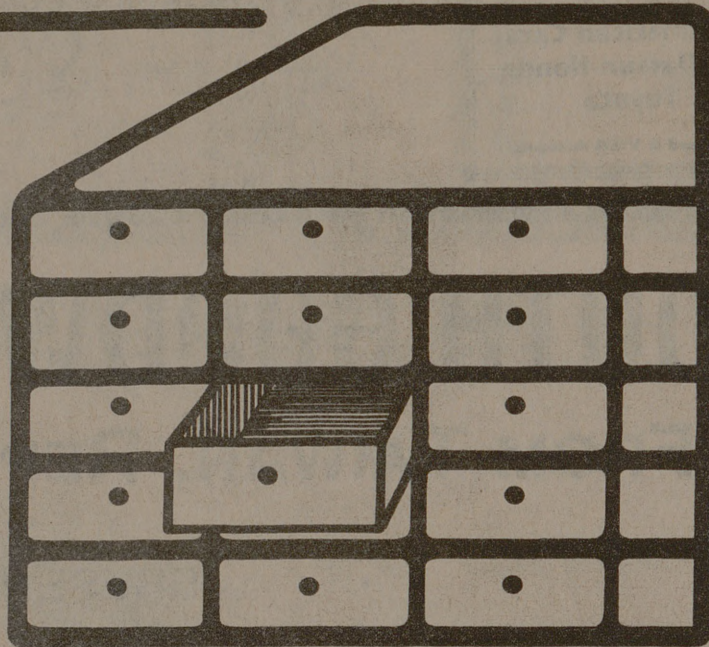
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