

# State

## Baylor prof devises method

# Hair identifies blood types

United Press International WACO—A new technique developed by a biologist at Baylor University can determine the blood types of individuals solely from samples of hair.

Forensic science experts say that the test is important because it could be used to narrow the number of suspects in criminal cases in which hair samples are gathered as evidence.

Previous methods to determine blood types from hair samples were not reliable enough, a forensic science expert said. But Dr. F. Ray Wilson, associate professor of physiology at Baylor University,

along with graduate biology student Susan Kentroti, developed the process. And Wilson said his new method is foolproof.

Wilson's method uses tiny flecks of iron called "ferritin" combined with type A and type B antibodies. These solutions attach themselves to the elements in the hair called "antigens," which indicate blood types. Antigens are present in all tissues in the body, Wilson said.

The method uses an electron microscope to find tiny flecks of iron in the hair.

If a type A ferritin-antibody

solution "sticks" to a hair sample, Wilson said, the blood is either type A or type AB. If the type B solution also sticks, it is type AB. If neither A nor B solutions stick, the blood type is O, Wilson said.

"We never had any problems with this technique at all," Wilson said. "It's 100 percent foolproof. I'm sure this will be a standard procedure within six months to a year."

"If I were 'Quincy,' or anyone working on an assault or murder or rape case, I'd want to try this test."

Dr. Irving Stone, a forensic scientist at the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Center Institute of Forensic Science in Dallas, said the method needs testing and verification by other crime laboratories, but said it shows great promise.

"Hair from a crime scene can eliminate 50 percent of the suspect population," Stone said. "The potential for this test is superb."

"It's at a point where we need other laboratories and other workers to repeat the work. If it does work, then we will have a significant new development."

Wilson and Kentroti spent about eight or nine months working on the technique and finished the research about two months ago, Wilson said.

He said using a shampoo to wash the hair before beginning the process was a major element in the experiment's success. Before washing the hair, the antibody solution would stick to particles that would hinder the studies, he said.



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# Insurance board debates homeowner reductions

United Press International AUSTIN—Members of the State Insurance Board were reluctant to question a new law providing homeowner insurance discounts for the installation of anti-burglary devices in residences, even though insurance industry representatives called the measure unconstitutional.

The 1981 Texas Legislature passed a law ordering special reductions in homeowner insurance rates for persons who install deadbolt locks on doors and special locks on windows.

Caylon Daniel, insurance board staff actuary, recommended insurance reductions of 10 percent in counties along the Texas Gulf Coast, 9 percent for homeowners in the central part of the state and 3 percent in north and northwest Texas.

Insurance industry representatives argued the bill was

unconstitutional and if the discounts for anti-burglary devices were offered, they should not be more than 2 percent of the premium.

Mary Joe Carroll, the attorney representing the Texas Insurance Advisory Association, contended the bill unfairly discriminates against businesses that might install the same anti-theft devices but will not qualify for the homeowner rate discounts.

She also contended the law improperly delegates to the Texas Crime Prevention Institute the authority to license inspectors to determine if homeowners qualify for the special discounts.

"I urge you to delay any implementation until you have submitted the question of constitutionality to the attorney general," she said. "You will be

performing a disservice to the public if you permit the implementation of a statute subject to constitutional attack."

Carroll noted the bill does not permit insurance discounts for homes with extended-lar alarm systems, or with devices other than those in the new law.

"The Legislature went to a point of absurdity when it passed this," she said.

Board member Lee Olson said, however, he is reluctant to not implement a measure passed by the Legislature.

"The Legislature is saying that they think it's public policy to give insurance incentives to stop stealing," he said. "That's the only thing I think of unless it's some interest trying to pass a burglary system."

# Victim says wrong man accused; court disagrees

United Press International BRIDGE CITY—A prosecutor says Jon B. Simonis knew too many details of a 1979 sexual attack on a woman and her children not to have committed the "ski-mask" assault, but the woman disagrees.

Clarence Von Williams was cleared of charges related to the attack and released from jail last week. But the 42-year-old victim says Williams, not Jon B. Simonis, assaulted her and her children.

Orange County Assistant District Attorney Jim Jenkins said Tuesday that Simonis gave details in a videotaped statement that only the rapist would have known about the attack.

"He knew too many details to

have committed the rape," Jenkins said. He added that he had no doubt that Williams was innocent.

A state district judge, following prosecutors' recommendations based on the videotape, declared a mistrial last week in the October trial in which Williams was convicted of the assault and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

But the victim of the attack said Williams, not Simonis, was the man who raped her at gunpoint and forced her to engage in group sex with her teenage son and daughter.

After viewing the taped statement, filmed in Louisiana where Simonis was recently sentenced to 231 years in prison following his

guilty plea in the sexual assault case, the family stood by her charge.

She said the information available through the news and the public trial.

But Jenkins said Simonis more than was available to the victims' names, and how the house was entered, descriptions of the assault scene.

Orange County Attorney Wright said that despite the admission, he does not believe him.

"It would be difficult to believe a case even with strong evidence if the victims don't agree. I suspect is the right man," he said.

# Marching monks protest nuclear arms production

United Press International AMARILLO—The leader of a group of Buddhist monks who marched from a Catholic school to a government nuclear weapon plant says a similar march in the Soviet Union made him believe people wanted peace.

"People everywhere want peace," the Rev. Gyoten Yoshida said Tuesday. "It is the instinct of all people."

The monks walked 18 miles from the Alamo Catholic High School to the Department of Energy's Pantex facility where nuclear weapons are assembled to protest the production of nuclear arms.

The group, which included five Buddhist monks and one Buddhist nun from Japan, a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka and several lay people, are participating in an eight-month walk from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York City to attend the United Nations nuclear disarmament talks which begin in June.

During a peace vigil, the monks chanted and beat their drums to protest what Yoshida called the growing nuclear arms race. The monk encouraged the group and the spectators to rise up together to end the nuclear threat.

He said the rest of the world would look up to and follow the

United States if the country stopped the arms race and declared peace.

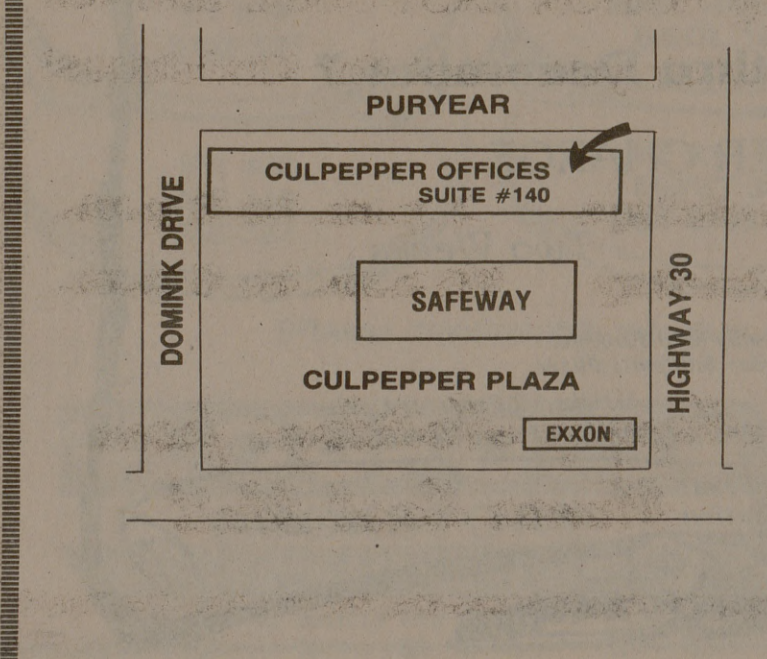
"It would be a shining example for humankind," he said.

From Amarillo, the group will walk about 20 miles a day to reach New York City in the UN disarmament talks.

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