

Eye disease victim seeks help

United Press International
MOSCOW — Soviet doctors told an American man Wednes-

day they would treat him with fungus injections for an eye disease that is robbing him of sight,

but they admitted they could only check the spread of the malady.

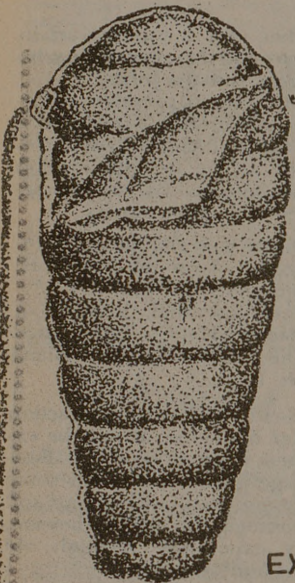
"They told me they can't cure me," Richard Mallard, 45, of Jesup, Ga., said after conferring with specialists at the Helmholtz Clinic.

Mallard was told to report Thursday for the first of two weeks of daily injections of a fungus compound into his eyes and hips. The controversial treatment has been dismissed by American doctors as worthless. Mallard suffers from retinitis

pigmentosa, a progressive disease that narrows the field of vision until a victim becomes totally blind. The degenerative process began in 1965.

"They told me my eyes are pretty bad, but they said they could check its progress," he said. "It's better than the American doctors could offer me."

Mallard followed the path of a fellow Georgian, 12-year-old Todd Cantrell of Dalton, who reported his eyesight improved after the injections of fungus into eyes and hip.



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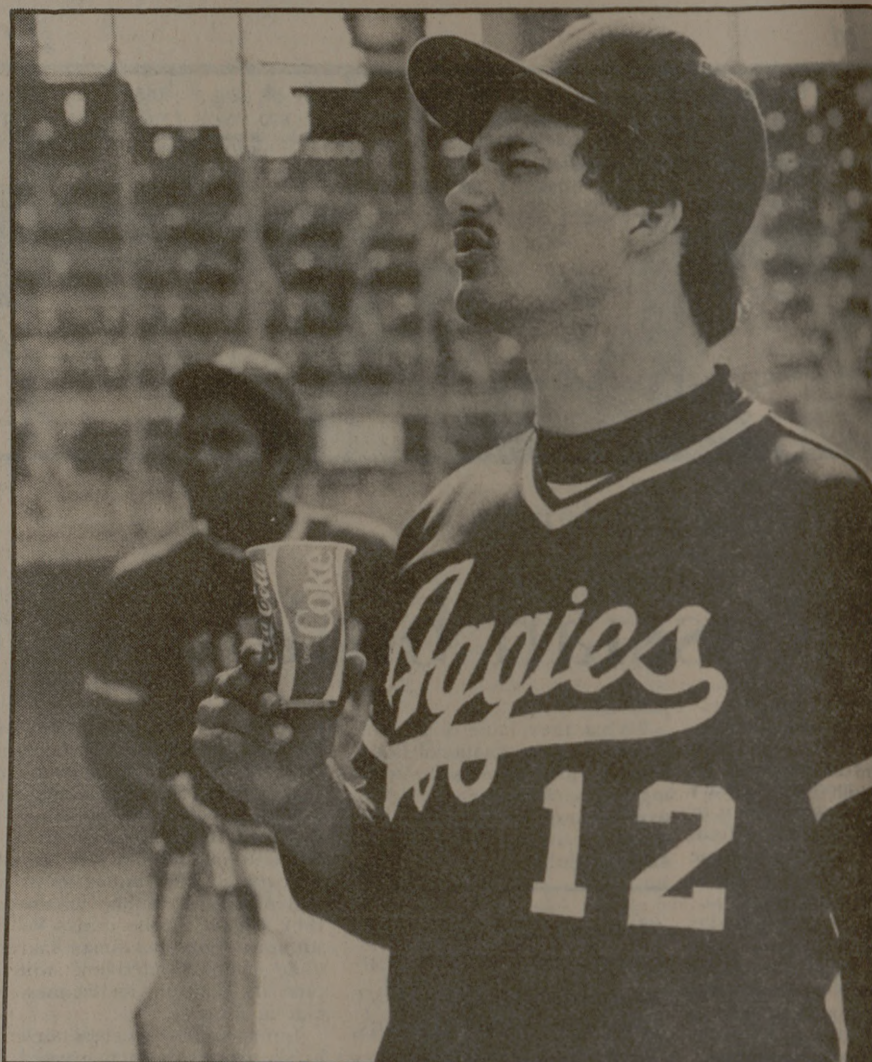
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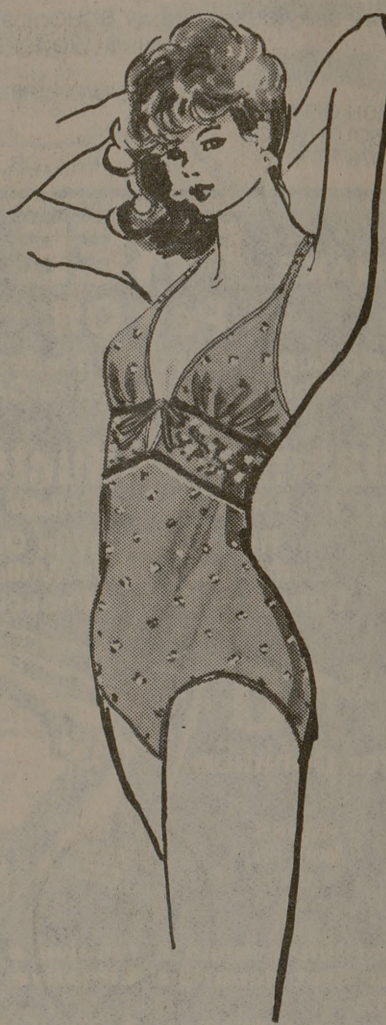
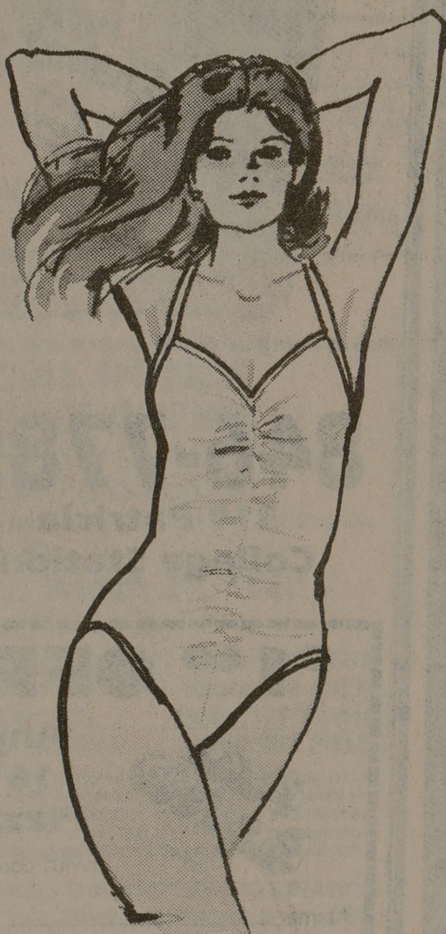
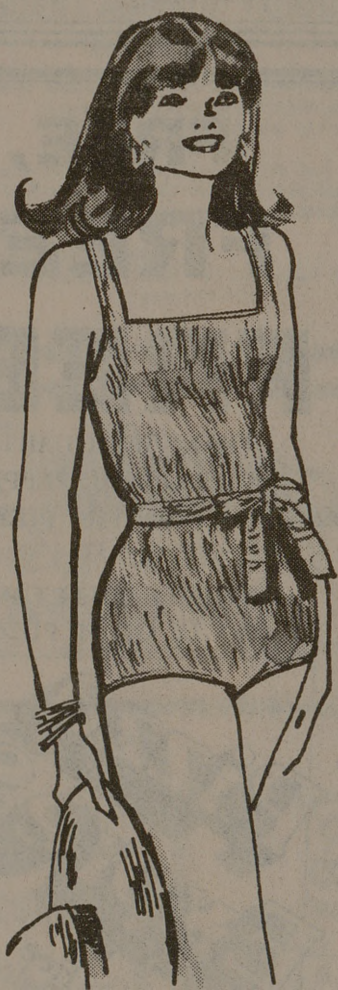
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Rebel fighting in El Salvador still continuing

United Press International
SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Rebels fighting the U.S.-supported ruling junta warned of stepped-up attacks, but a 1,500-man army offensive against the guerrillas entered its third day Wednesday in the province of Morazan.

At the site of two guerrilla assaults this week, searchers Tuesday found the corpses of 24 men and woman, including that of a male rebel, which showed signs of torture.

The clandestine guerrilla Radio Venceremos issued a call "to the citizens of all the nation to maintain the alert, to continue the preparations for future battles at an accelerated rhythm."

The guerrilla broadcast Tuesday stopped short of calling the stepped-up activity a "final" or all-out offensive, but the attacks apparently are intended to disrupt March 28 constituent assembly elections.

Washington hopes the vote will move the strife-torn Central American nation of 4.8 million toward democracy and cripple support for guerrillas.

A 1,500-man army offensive against guerrilla positions in the northeastern province of Morazan entered its third day today but little information was available because of poor communications to the area.

Opponents of El Salvador's civilian-military regime, strongly supported by the Reagan administration, have held most

of Morazan province for months.

The morgue in the east city of San Miguel Tuesday reported receiving the bodies of 21 men and women shot death the day before in fighting between government troops and about 200 rebels.

Officials said they did not know whether the dead were guerrillas or civilians. An officers had said 30 rebels were killed in the attack on San Miguel, a provincial capital.

The body of a man, San Miguel army officers said, was rebel killed in combat, was taken to the San Salvador morgue where officials said the man's rope around his neck and testicles were swollen, apparently from being kicked or tortured.

Written with ink on his testicles was the word "comandante" (commander), the morgue officials said.

Authorities in the provincial capital of San Vicente, about 35 miles east of San Salvador, found the bodies of two men, their 20s who were shot to death and had ropes around their necks following an assault on 500 rebels, officials said.

Venceremos also claimed rebels killed or wounded 20 soldiers, two of them lieutenants, their attacks on San Miguel and San Vicente. The radio said guerrillas were killed or wounded.

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