

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Doctors doubt A&M will see measles cases

by Carol Smith

Battalion Staff
Although 63 cases of measles have been confirmed at Baylor University, the recent outbreak is declining and local health officials don't expect Texas A&M students to be exposed during the upcoming football game with Baylor.

Ron Moellenberg, immunization program manager for the Texas Health Department, said Baylor also has 21 probable cases and 22 suspect cases. Probable cases are those in which all symptoms are compatible, but further investigation is needed. Suspect cases are cases in which some symptoms are visible.

Baylor has the largest number of reported cases in the nation at this time, Moellenberg said.

Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said the chance of the epidemic spreading to Texas A&M University is slim.

"As far as I know, there was one suspected case on the (Baylor) football team and that was in the game against Texas Tech," he said. "They have immunized the entire Tech football team and I'm sure they have immunized the Baylor team."

Goswick said no cases of measles have been reported at Texas A&M, but the women's softball team was exposed while playing in a tournament with the Baylor softball team a few weeks ago. But the Texas A&M team

wasn't immunized because health officials didn't feel it was necessary, Goswick said.

Moellenberg said caution should be exercised on any campus because students mingle in dorms, classes, cafeterias and social events.

"It (a measles epidemic) can happen on any campus," he said.

Measles, an airborne droplet virus carried in the respiratory tract, is highly communicable. One individual can infect a large group of people, Moellenberg said.

"The problem with the measles is that before you know you have them, you are already spreading them," he said.

Measles' early symptoms are the same as those of a common cold — runny nose, burning eyes and headache, Moellenberg said. Temperatures can reach 101 degrees or higher. The rash lasts anywhere from three to 10 days.

"When you're dealing with 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds, the disease can be pretty serious," he said.

Side effects of measles include pneumonia, brain damage and deafness. No such side effects have been reported at Baylor, Moellenberg said.

"We've had some very sick individuals come into the (Baylor) health center though," he said.

Shortly after the outbreak, Baylor initiated a mass immunization program to combat the disease.



staff photo by David Fisher

A fishy business

Colleen Caldwell displays a flathead catfish outside the Civil Engineering Building Wednesday afternoon. The display is meant to help sell tickets for the American Fisheries Society's fish fry Oct. 21; tickets will be available through next week. Caldwell is a senior from Houston studying fisheries.

Is A&M bidding for a Harvard Nobel laureate?

From staff and wire reports

A Nobel Prize-winning physicist from Harvard University has been quoted as saying Texas A&M University is trying to woo him here with a salary package that rivals the one given Texas A&M Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill.

Sheldon Glashow was quoted in the Harvard Crimson as saying: "In informal discussions (Texas A&M officials) indicated they would probably match those arrangements (made with Sherrill)."

"Apparently certain circles didn't see that there should be different valuations of physicists and football coaches."

In January, Sherrill accepted an offer from Texas A&M estimated to total \$1.6 million over six years.

Glashow also was quoted as saying there is a "significant" chance he will spend his upcoming sabbatical at Texas A&M.

In an interview with The Battalion, however, Glashow said this was not the case and that he had been misquoted.

"There have been all sorts of non-sensical statements made," he said.

However, Glashow did not deny that he has been in contact with University officials.

"There have been discussions at a very general level about a permanent assignment," Glashow said.

He said he would give "serious consideration" to a permanent position if a firm offer was made, but that no mention has been made of a sabbatical.

Glashow is scheduled to teach a seminar at Texas A&M later this month.

The attempt to attract Glashow to Texas A&M is part of an effort to lure outstanding faculty members to the University.

Board of Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright has said Texas A&M is looking for faculty "superstars" — especially professors who have won the Nobel Prize.

"We have no Nobel Prize winners now," Bright said. "The University of Texas has two and Harvard has eight. We are trying to get one right now."

Harvard has been outbid for several other "star" professors in recent years. Steven Weinberg, who shared the Nobel Prize in physics with Glashow, was hired by UT two years ago for a reported six-figure salary.

At Harvard, the top faculty salaries — \$80,000 a year — go to professors holding the title of "university professor." Glashow is not a university professor.

Study needed, scientists say

Hydrogen fuel years away

by Jennifer Carr

Battalion Staff
Several years of detailed study are needed to perfect the hydrogen production process before it can be used on a large scale, the project's researchers say.

Texas A&M researchers Dr. Marek Szklarczyk of Poland and Dr. Aliasgar Q. Contractor of India said they must do a detailed study of how and why the process works. Contractor said that at this time, he and Szklarczyk know the process works, but they have only a general idea of why.

The hydrogen production process involves using solar light to separate the hydrogen and oxygen in water. So far, the experiment only has been conducted using simulated solar light.

The light is projected onto a negatively charged electrode — or cathode — immersed in water. A positively charged electrode — or anode — also is immersed in the water. The charges from the electrodes pull the water molecules apart. Positively charged hydrogen ions attach themselves to the cathode and the negatively charged oxygen ions are attached to the anode.

The sun's energy is used to excite electrons to a state of high energy, where they become reactive.

Each electron then joins with a hydrogen ion to produce hydrogen gas.

But a film soon forms around the electrodes and greatly reduces their efficiency. Szklarczyk and Contractor said they eliminated this problem by electroplating a covering, or doping, of platinum over the film which allows the film to conduct charges.

Their next step, Szklarczyk said, is to "go up on the roof."

Using direct sunlight will allow the researchers to experiment for longer periods of time. Contractor said they have constructed a special cell for outside use that should be ready in a few days.

The research team's process, although not the first to produce hydrogen gas from water, is considered exceptional because of its 12 percent efficiency rate. Researchers at the University of California and Berkley and the University of Turin have produced recovery rates of only 0.05 percent.

Contractor and Szklarczyk said they will try to increase the 12 percent efficiency rate by studying the nature of the film surface and trying to discover exactly why the process works.

Contractor said he believes they have not yet

reached the optimum conditions for the experiment.

He said he wants to experiment with other dopings that may increase the efficiency rates.

Szklarczyk said he wants to improve the condition of the doping. These include the thickness, the condition of the electroplating and stabilization of the doping.

Once the efficiency rate is maximized, Contractor said, engineering researchers will take over to design a large-scale model to produce the hydrogen. But these processes will take several years, he said.

Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time, unlike solar energy, which must be used almost immediately. A major problem is determining the best way to store the hydrogen, Szklarczyk said.

It can be stored as a gas under high pressure, as liquid hydrogen or in the form of hydrogen hydrides. The hydrogen can be used directly in any of these forms.

Hydrogen fuel's greatest advantage is its lack of pollution. After hydrogen fuel has been used, it reverts back to water which could be collected and used repeatedly. But Contractor said he doubts that would be necessary because water is so inexpensive.



staff photo by Rob Johnston

Squeeze it in the trunk

Kimberly Massey, a senior from San Antonio, had a problem — her motorcycle broke down on campus Wednesday. So she went home, got her

car, and loaded the motorcycle in to take it for repairs. It was a tight fit. Massey is a pre-vet student majoring in animal science.

Shipyard workers forced to return to jobs in Poland

United Press International
GDANSK, Poland — Under threat of courts-martial and possible death sentences, workers called off plans for a general strike Wednesday and reported to the Lenin Shipyard, "militarized" by the government after two days of strikes.

"There were no workers at the gate, no flowers or inscriptions on it," said one witness who stood by the main gate of the shipyard, where an August 1980 strike led to the birth of Solidarity.

The strikes of the previous two days were peaceful, but were followed by street clashes in Gdansk between police and gangs of youths throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails late into the night.

Polish television late Tuesday said 148 people had been arrested in Gdansk in the two days of disturbances, but the toll was feared to be higher following Tuesday night's clashes.

The shipyard workers had been threatened with dismissals or army conscription if they remained on strike. Authorities "militarized" Lenin Shipyard Tuesday, making a strike equivalent to disobeying army

orders and offenders liable to the death penalty.

Witnesses stressed there still was a possibility of demonstrations in Gdansk or elsewhere later today to mark 10-month anniversary of martial law.

ZOMO riot police mounted a heavy guard 20 yards from the shipyard gate, checking identification cards.

About 200 yards away, one water cannon and five heavy vans filled with fatigued riot police stood by.

"There were indications that the resistance of the workers was suppressed after the shipyard was militarized," one witness said.

But with telephone and Telex communications with the outside world cut off for the third straight day, it was impossible to give more details.

Shipyard workers refused to work the morning shifts Monday and Tuesday to protest the Polish parliament's decision Friday to outlaw Solidarity and impose a tough new labor law forbidding strikes and limiting the size and power of unions.

They demanded the release of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and the reinstatement of Solidarity.

Freshmen elect officers

Despite the rain, over 700 freshmen turned out to vote in Tuesday's runoff elections. Billy Cassel was chosen as freshman class president, Brad Winn was elected as vice-president, Robert Shepard won the secretary-treasurer spot and Lori Zeigler was elected social secretary. The results were verified by the judicial board and are posted at the MSC Student Programs office.

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forecast

Continued clear and dry through the weekend. High 70, low tonight in mid 50s.