

# Male contraceptive works on rats

**United Press International**  
 LONDON, Ontario — It was a chance find which may go down in history with the discovery of gold in the Yukon or, as the myth goes, Lana Turner at Schwab's drug store.

A Canadian researcher looking for a compound to induce puberty found a powerful male contraceptive — but it has only been tested in rats.

John Wiebe, a reproductive endocrinologist in the zoology department at the University of Western Ontario in London, said tests over two years with the compound have shown it stops sperm production completely in male rats.

Unlike other experimental male contraceptives, the compound contains no hormones and appears to have no side effects like reduced libido or body changes.

"If we were looking for an ideal contraceptive, we would want to stop sperm production but not hormone production," Wiebe said. "We want to continue producing those. Most of us are chauvinists about keeping the male hormones intact."

Wiebe declined to be specific about the compound's contents, but it was described as a biological non-toxic molecule which is already present in body cells and can be made artificially. University attorneys are preparing to apply for a patent for the compound.

In current testing, it is injected directly into the rats' testes. Researchers also plan to use it on monkeys. More testing will concentrate on another important aspect of developing a male contraceptive — to see if it is reversible.

He also could not speculate on when, if experiments on monkeys are successful, tests might begin on humans. But with the evidence culled so far, the compound "certainly may have some important practical applications," he said. "Frankly, we were quite astounded at what we found. We're still astounded."

In the initial experiment, the substance was injected into the testes of male rats which were then mated soon after with females. In the first mating, the females became pregnant. By the second mating, only some did, and by the third mating, two weeks later, pregnancies resulted.

"The reason is sperm are stored for quite a long time in the ducts outside the testes," said

Wiebe. "The stored sperm led to a high sperm count at the first mating. But by the third mating, there was a 99.99 percent reduction in the sperm count. Pregnancy was zero."

A male contraceptive has to knock out at least 96 percent of a man's sperm production, estimated at as many as 80 million sperm daily, to be considered effective.

"The other thing you want in a contraceptive is not to interfere with the libido," said Wiebe. "When we tested this in mating experiments, the treated rats were just as interested, if not more interested, in the females as the control rats."

The researchers in the past few weeks have re-tested rats treated 22 weeks ago. "All of them mated and all of the females re-

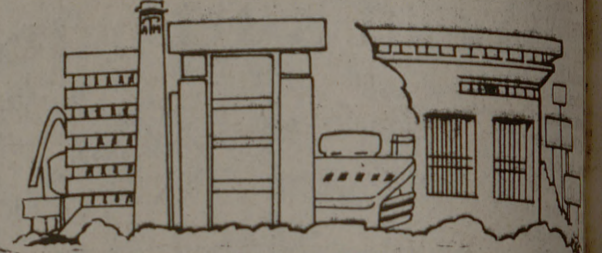
mained infertile," he said. "So it's certainly a long-range effect."

Wiebe said he was originally looking for a puberty-inducing compound just as basic research to understand how sexual maturation process takes place.

Other male contraceptive compounds being tested use combination of synthetic female hormone to suppress sperm production with testosterone to limit side effects such as loss of libido.

Researchers are also investigating gossypol, a derivative of cottonseed oil discovered in China in the 1950s. The Chinese have found, however, it suppresses sperm production as long as two years after a man stops taking it.

# Around town



**Battalion taking staff applications**  
 Applications for positions on The Battalion staff will be accepted until 5 p.m. Tuesday. Anyone interested in writing and reporting, taking photographs or producing artwork for The Battalion should pick up an application in 216 Reed McDonald. Students from all majors are welcome to apply.

**Professor wins "best article" award**  
 Dr. John J. Kanet, associate professor of business analysis and research in the College of Business Administration, has won the "Best Article for 1983" award from the American Production and Inventory Control Society.

The announcement was made at the society's recent international conference in New Orleans. Kanet's article, "Toward Understanding Lead Times in Materials Requirements Planning Systems," earned the \$500 award given annually for the best judged article appearing in the society's Production and Inventory Management Journal.

**Student Y wrapping Christmas gifts**  
 The Student Y Association is offering a Christmas gift wrapping service today through Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 211 Pavilion. The service is free to Y members, but non-members will be charged from 50 cents to \$1.25 depending on the size of the gift. Bows and ribbons will be included in the wrapping, but boxes must be provided by the owners.

**Society offers free help sessions**  
 This will be the last week that pledges from Tau Beta Phi, national engineering honor society, will be available to help any student in Math 151 and 253, and ME 211 and 212. The help sessions will be Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in 104D Zachry. For more information call Glynn Lattney, chapter president, at 846-3316.

**Aggieland photos taken at Pavilion**  
 Juniors, seniors, veterinary and medical school students can have individual pictures for the 1984 Aggieland taken today through Dec. 9 at the Pavilion on campus. This will be the last chance for students to have pictures made.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

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# Crowd encourages man climbing tower

**United Press International**  
 HOUSTON — Would-be stuntman Skip Stanley, who spent most of the day climbing a 2,400-foot broadcasting tower, parachuted to the ground Sunday as a crowd of onlookers

cheered him on.

Authorities surrounded the KTXH television tower as Stanley waited safely to the ground at about 5 p.m. He eluded arrest for about 2 1/2 hours by escaping to a nearby residence, a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said.

He was arrested in the house and was taken to the Fort Bend County jail to await arraignment before a county magistrate Monday morning. Authorities said he would be charged with criminal trespassing.

The spokeswoman said Stanley landed in the back yard of the house, but traffic problems in the area kept deputies from immediately reaching him.

More than 100 spectators, who had watched the so-called Blue Bandit climb the tower most of the day, cheered and whistled as he descended from the tower.

Two policemen stationed in an elevator three stories from the top of the tower tried in vain to talk Stanley out of jumping.

Stanley's brother, Kenny Stanley, filmed the entire event. He said his brother had a minor problem with one of the chutes but was not injured in the jump.

Stanley had already mastered Houston's 71-story Allied Bank,

a stunt he concluded with a parachute jump to the ground.

He began his climb of the KTXH tower at 3 a.m. Sunday, carrying a water bottle, a portable telephone and a yen to break into the movie stunt business.

"I can't just take off and go to California to work as a stuntman," he said.

Stanley, 21, who said he stands 5-feet-9 and weighs 155 pounds, climbed with about 60 pounds of gear on his back, including pulleys and ropes, parachute and harness.

He said he was not carrying food, because he did not "intend to be here that long."

He also said that though he had not received permission to be on the tower, he did not fear that anyone will interfere with his climb.

"I called Channel 20 asking if I could do a stunt like this and they said no way. They feel the risk is too high," he said. "After I start climbing, most people won't come after me. It takes about one minute to get out of reach."

Stanley said getting up the tower was not so much a problem as the parachute jump at the end.

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