

# Herpes vaccine may help man

By CATHIE ANDERSON  
Reporter

A successful vaccine against the herpes virus in cattle has provided information which ultimately could help prevent herpes and other herpes-related diseases in humans, says Dr. Stewart McConnell of the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Saul Kit, head of biochemical virology at Baylor College of Medicine, developed the vaccine which McConnell tested on cattle at A&M.

Swine and cattle herpes do not affect humans, but the viruses are similar in their chemical makeup and ability to cause recurrent infections, Kit explained in an earlier press release.

"Information we obtain from developing and testing these vaccines will also be transferable to preventing herpes virus infections in humans — particularly chicken pox, genital and oral herpes," Kit said.

McConnell, who has worked with Kit for two years on this experiment, said researchers are looking for a preventative method for herpes, not necessarily a cure for people who already have the virus.

"This is not its (the vaccine's) intended purpose," he said. "Knowing the difficulty when it comes to getting studies done (on humans), I feel that it will take another five to 10 years before we come up with a vaccine for people."

Even this estimate, he said, may be too optimistic.

Several animal vaccines for the herpes virus currently are on the

market, McConnell said. These vaccines, however, can be potentially harmful to animals at certain ages or at certain stages of pregnancy.

"The uniqueness of the new product is that it's a little safer and that it prevents what we call 'colonization of the ganglia,'" said McConnell. "I guess the best way to explain this is . . . if you have any friends who have cold sores, you may find that they will get them after a condition of stress. Our vaccine stops the condition from arising because of outside stimuli-like stress."

"I feel good and bad (about the vaccine)," McConnell said. "I feel good because there's something promising coming. I feel bad because we haven't got it for use right away, and I'm really sad that it can't go into the hands of people (ranchers) who really need the product."

The product cannot be marketed yet to animal owners because experiments are not yet completed.

Several cows, from 45 days to four months pregnant, were vaccinated on July 12, McConnell said. Next, on Aug. 22 the cows were inoculated with the herpes virus.

"They're all healthy," McConnell said. "We're expecting them to calve in either late December or early January."

A one-time vaccination that could be given to pregnant animals would be a major benefit for ranchers, farmers or feedlot owners, McConnell said.

# Speed reading has drawbacks

By MARCY BASILE  
Reporter

While you attempt to read Beowulf, your friends are out partying. Instead of getting frustrated and ditching your studying to go out, why not investigate another option — speed reading.

At least one speed reading course is offered throughout the year in the Bryan-College Station area.

The Learning Center, located at 505 University Dr. E., offers a speed reading course individually tailored to the student. The course, according to Learning Center Director Dr. Carol Robeck, consists of reading a prepared booklet aided by a speed encourager.

"Students read to a tape that has a beeper," she said. "The object is to keep up with the beeps. The beeper's timing is preset for each individual."

As the student progresses, the beeper is set faster. Eventually, the student is taken off of the beeper and reads while being timed. This is to see if the increased reading speed is being maintained.

The objective of the Learning Center's course is to alter the usual word-by-word reading style. "Chunking," or reading groups of words at a time, is a faster reading style. The course also helps students with outlining and organizing ideas.

Do speed reading courses actually increase reading speed?

"Depending on the person's beginning reading speed, reading speed could possibly double," Robeck said. "If a person comes in reading about 180-200 words per minute, they could be reading probably about 400 words per minute."

College students often take speed reading courses to help them make better grades.

But think twice before taking a speed reading course. Speed reading is designed for certain types of reading material.

"You can't speed read things you need to comprehend," said Jerry Oslin, a senior English major who took a speed reading course at Richland Junior College. "You should speed read only things at a sixth grade

level, magazines and newspapers."

Robeck agreed with Oslin. "Speed reading is associated with certain material," she said. "Once past a certain speed, a person is just skimming the material. Comprehension does drop."

Oslin said 40 percent comprehension at the fast reading level, between 700 and 900 words per minute, was extremely good. A reason for a decrease in comprehension is the total emphasis on increasing reading speed.

The Learning Center's speed reading course costs \$100 for eight lessons. The lessons are given over a four week period, two lessons per week.

# Pope Paul begins first Canadian visit

United Press International

QUEBEC — Pope John Paul II arrived Sunday in the cradle of North American Catholicism, beginning a historic 12-day pilgrimage to Canada with a tribute to Quebecers as the "first witness to the faith" in the New World.

The 64-year-old pontiff's chartered Alitalia DC-10 arrived at Quebec City Airport at 11:25 a.m. after a flight from Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport, marking the first time a pope has visited Canada.

The pope, brushing back his hair against a stiff breeze, left the plane at 11:42 a.m. and kissed the tarmac at Ancienne-Lorette Airport. A 21-gun salute was sounded.

He arrived protected by the tightest security ever assembled in Canada following last Monday's bombing in the Montreal Central Station, in which three people were killed

and more than 40 injured.

Canadian Prime Minister John Turner, Quebec Premier Rene Levesque and Governor General Jeanne Sauve were among 2,000 invited guests on hand to greet the pope on the first stop of a 12-day pilgrimage through Canada.

On his arrival at Quebec airport, the pope said he had come to Canada as "pastor and brother" to the 11.4 million Catholics who make up 43 percent of Canada's population of 25 million.

The pontiff stressed he was making his first visit ever to Canada as a spiritual leader, and not as a head of state. "My word does not claim to furnish an answer to all your questions or to replace your searching."

John Paul, who will spend a third of his Canadian visit in Quebec, said he was "very happy" to begin his nationwide pilgrimage in the cradle of

North American Catholicism.

"I greet you, Quebec, first church in North America, first witness to the faith, you who have raised the cross along your roads and who have spread the Gospel throughout this blessed land," he said.

Sauve greeted the spiritual leader of the world's 800 million Catholics, saying "we receive you as a prophet."

"More than any other contemporary leader, you have been successful in identifying the causes of our universal anxiety," Sauve said.

As the pope's plane approached Quebec, he broadcast a statement by radio hailing the "dauntless faith" of Canadians and praised French explorer Jacques Cartier, who founded Quebec and held the first mass in North America on Sept. 8, 1535.

"On this day it is with a full heart that I pay tribute to the dauntless faith of those men and women who,

following Jacques Cartier, were willing to cross the seas to establish the faith and the Church in Canada," the pope said in a prepared statement broadcast by radio.

"Here, 450 years ago, Jacques Cartier raised the cross," the pope said, recalling Cartier's first trip to "New France" and the explorer's expressed desire to evangelize the native people.

Authorities refuse to discuss specific security arrangements or to disclose how many federal, provincial and municipal police, military personnel and volunteers are assigned to protect the pontiff.

About \$15 million of the \$50 million total cost of the papal tour is being spent on security.

A Vatican spokesman said the bombing in Montreal Monday did not change any plans for the trip, John Paul's 23rd trip outside Italy.

# Sully Symposium: a chance for Aggies to improve communications

By PATRICIA FLINT  
Staff Writer

As a group grows larger, the need for communications between members becomes more important. To help improve communications between the student body and the student leaders of Texas A&M, Lambda Sigma, a sophomore honor society and service organization, will be sponsoring a series of talks.

The talks, called Sully Symposium, will be held every Wednesday between 11 a.m. and noon in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Statue. They will start this Wednesday and continue for 10 weeks.

The purpose of the symposium is exchanging ideas, primarily between student leaders and the student body, about the needs and responsibilities of all students, says Cindy Gay, Lambda Sigma president.

"We wanted to bring back what A&M was like in the past, the attitude that we had when the school was smaller and there was more contact between people," Gay says. "We wanted to carry out the services of years past, plus something distinctive."

Robert Beard, in charge of public

relations for the new project, agrees with Gay.

"Originally we thought of it because we thought there was a pretty strong need for it," Beard says.

The symposium gives both groups a chance to communicate in an open-air-type forum, in which all are encouraged to give their views and ideas.

"We don't want to control the crowd; we don't want them stifled," he says. "We want a freer exchange. We want people to be able to speak up and give their ideas."

Dr. Ron Darby, professor of

chemical engineering and faculty advisor of the group, supports the students' efforts to improve communication on campus with the Sully Symposium.

"It is important to establish and maintain good communication between the student body and student leaders, the faculty and administration," Darby says. "Communication is the key to effectiveness in any organization."

Three A&M football players — Matt Darwin, Ray Childress and Scott Polk — will be speaking at the first symposium. Darwin says they

will be discussing what it is like being a student athlete, but said specifics of the talk have not yet been decided.

Other speakers lined up for Sully Symposium for the next few weeks are Dr. John J. Koldus, director of student services; David Alders, student body president; and Pat Wood, director of the Memorial Student Center.

Confirmation of the six other speakers for the semester still is pending.

Gay says that they chose those people to speak because they rep-

resent groups that are of interest to all Aggies. Dr. Koldus, although not a student leader, was asked to speak because he works so closely with the students, Gay says. She says that more students would like to talk to him than almost any other administrator.

Every student leader has jumped at the chance when asked to speak, Gay says.

Other Lambda Sigma activities include: an annual Christmas tree sale, an elevator escort service to A&M alumni at football games, and poster routes.

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