

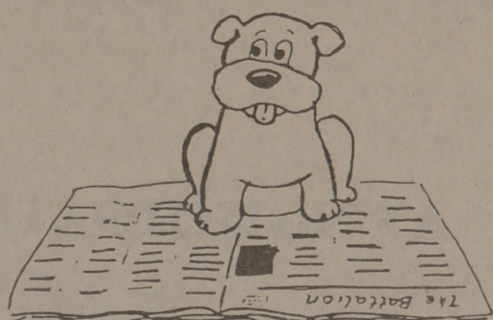
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Testing blood for AIDS

Government favors examinations for high-risk groups

Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — In a recommendation that could affect millions, the Public Health Service recommended Thursday that all people in high-risk groups undergo periodic blood tests to check for infection by the AIDS virus.

While there remains no cure for AIDS, agency officials said, research over the past year shows that virtually all people in high-risk groups who repeatedly test positive to the blood test can infect others.

Thus, they said, people with verified positive results can be counseled

on how to avoid spreading the deadly disease to others, particularly including sexual partners.

Dr. Donald R. Hopkins of the federal Centers for Disease Control, said "The thrust of these recommendations is that we're saying, have this serological (blood) test."

"We have great confidence in this test," Hopkins said. "And it's increasingly obvious that a large part of the problem... is represented by people who are infected but who are not now symptomatic."

Most such people that test positive are infectious, intermittently or per-

manently. "We think it's important for them or their partners to know whether they are positive or not."

The recommendation was announced at a news conference by Hopkins, federal AIDS coordinator Walter R. Dowdle and Dr. Harry M. Meyer of the Food and Drug Administration.

None of the three could say how many people were covered by the recommendation. Hopkins, under intense questioning, estimated it might be between 10 million and 20 million. But Dowdle said the potential figure clearly is in the millions.

The government's list of high-risk population includes homosexual and bisexual men, a figure which some have estimated at 10 percent of the male population.

Others include past or present intravenous drug abusers; people born in countries where heterosexual transmission of AIDS is considered common, including Haiti and Central Africa; male or female prostitutes and their partners; sex partners of high-risk individuals; hemophiliacs who have received blood-clotting-factors.

Soviets televise space launch live

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 world attention on the benign part of their space program.

The Soviet Union has insisted that its work in space is intended only for peaceful purposes.

Soviet viewers could hear Kizim and Solovev reporting back 50 seconds after their craft blasted skyward on a column of orange flame.

Television monitored about four

minutes of radio conversation between Baikonur ground control and the cosmonauts, who answered to the call signal Mayak (Beacon).

Kizim and Solovev, who hold the record for the longest space flight, could be seen for about three minutes, strapped in their seats with the commander reading what appeared to be sheets of instructions.

Before the launch, Soviet television showed the cosmonauts un-

dergoing final medical check-ups, boarding a bus and clambering into the Soyuz T-15.

Soviet television has shown launches live only three times before: in 1975, when a Soyuz went into space to hook up with an American Apollo vehicle; in 1982, when a French cosmonaut flew a mission with Soviet spacemen, and in 1984 when an Indian was aboard.

Reagan favors new bill to overhaul taxes

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that Reagan has said are essential to any "tax reform." It would cut tax rates significantly for individuals and corporations, raise the standard deduction, boost the personal exemption to \$2,000 for almost all taxpayers, restrict deductions for some state and local taxes and interest, and increase investment and saving incentives. It also would retain the tax-free status of most employee fringe benefits.

According to staff estimates, Packwood's bill would cut income taxes for those in the \$10,000-to-\$20,000 income class by 23 percent, compared with 22.8 percent under the House bill and 16.6 percent under Reagan's plan. At the \$30,000-to-\$40,000 level, the cuts would average 9.3 percent in the House and Senate bills and 6.3 percent under Reagan's. Those with incomes over \$200,000 would get a 5.9 percent cut under Packwood, 6 percent under the House bill and 13.1 percent under Reagan's bill.

But the consumer tax increases included in Packwood's bill could reduce the size of the income tax

State cuts funds for Planned Parenthood

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 vealed because of the confidentiality of the pay scale.

"Of course there will be a problem for many women," she says. "So long as people are aware of it, they can usually make arrangements."

"If a person is truly indigent, we will try to provide services any way we can. The problem is we walk a fine line deciding who is truly destitute. It's a judgement call."

Miller says patients will be told of the increases when they call to make an appointment. She says there are no plans to decrease office hours or personnel.

In order to stretch the government money, the clinic tried a new

method to determine financial need for students who are supported by their parents, Miller says.

The student's total income was determined by adding her personal income with her parent's income to determine eligibility for government assistance.

This evaluation method, which excluded many students from receiving any government aid, was stopped in January, Miller says, on the recommendation from Planned Parenthood administration in Houston.

The government cuts have caused Miller to consider future fund-raising events to generate private donations, she says.

Miller says she doesn't see any in-

creases in government funding in the future, only further cuts.

Although a medical doctor is affiliated with the clinic, the exams are usually done by certified nurse practitioners.

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who, after an additional year of formal education, takes a certification exam.

Miller says the clinic will see about 10,000 people this year, and the figure is expected to increase each year.

About 70 percent of the 10,000 clients are students, students' wives or women connected in some way to Texas A&M, Miller says.

"I believe we provide a valuable, nonacute, routine health care service for students which is not readily available elsewhere," Miller says.

Some students are fascinated by A&M's steam tunnels

(continued from page 1)

Wedding Expedition/Bob and Cheri.
 Why do people go into the tunnels?

"I guess it's just the thrill of doing something you're told not to do," says one A&M student and steam tunnel enthusiast, hereafter known as Bill. Over the course of several years and dozens of ventures below ground, Bill has gained an astounding knowledge of the miles of steam tunnels that sprawl beneath the campus.

Bill can explain, for example, how to get into all the old fallout shelters

with their supplies of toilet paper and stale candy.

Bill can speak with authority about dozens of tunnels—describing in detail what sorts of utilities run through each, where each tunnel leads and which tunnels are no longer used. He also can tell you if there are locked doors preventing access to buildings and what it would take to get past the obstruction.

The maintenance department has done everything it can to make it hard to get around in the tunnels, building sturdy doors wherever possible, especially where the tunnels lead into buildings.

On the approach to the Memorial

Student Center, for example, a steel door bars the path. But the bars have been pried apart wide enough to allow a thin person to crawl through. Security concerns are well justified. For example, a pile of garbage was set on fire in a basement storage room of the Systems Building.

Joe Estill, director of the Physical Plant, says he believes the people responsible entered the building through the steam tunnels.

Somewhere beneath the Rudder Theater Complex, Bill stands in front of a door that has been welded shut.

"It would probably take dynamite to open this door," Bill says.

On the wall beside the door, a message is scratched into the paint.

Tunnel Masters opened this door — '84

But just below this claim, the maintenance department replies: "Tunnel Master" busters closed this door.

It's possible that Bill knows the steam tunnels as well as many of the maintenance personnel.

Bill has even studied the steam tunnel diagrams kept in the map room of the Sterling C. Evans Library, but he complains that they are badly out-of-date. Bill's passion for steam tunnels is not unique. He says there's 20 to 30 people who go down on a regular basis.



Charles M. Russell, Indian Scout, 1897, Oil on board.

Painting of the American West

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