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**World and Nation** 

# **Recent findings may lead** o new treatment for AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sciens think they have discovered how ne people fight off the virus that ses AIDS, a finding they say ld lead to a new approach to tment as well as to an explanawhy some infected people don't the fatal disease.

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uest esearchers at the University of ifornia, San Francisco, said irsday that the discovery may Ittee at to a way of using the immune em that is attacked in AIDS —acred immune deficiency syndrome to counterattack the disease withe Thursday. using toxic antiviral drugs.

n a report to be published Friday the Dec. 19 issue of the journal

ducing.

The researchers said these cells appear to be at work in several patients who have been infected with the virus for up to four years.

These patients either have not otten AIDS or, if they already were infected, their disease seems to be in remission.

If the suppressor T-cells prove to control the virus in humans, the researchers said, it may be possible to boost the number of these cells to stop the virus from reproducing and arrest progress of AIDS. "This is the first indication that in-

dividuals have in themselves a means wy said a sub-group of white blood is called suppressor T-cells ap-ar able to control the virus in cell dividuals have in the denservers a means of controlling the virus," Levy said in a telephone interview. "This discov-ery could be the first step toward an effective therapy for AIDS, using a

cultures by keeping it from repro- person's own immune cells rather than drugs that are toxic to the body.

"The drama of this observation is that we are finding people who are antibody-positive, meaning they are infected, and we can't get virus from their blood and they seem to improve all by themselves.

'We now have a mechanism that could explain this." The AIDS virus attacks another

group of T-cells, called helper Tcells, which govern the other components of the immune system.

The virus penetrates the helper T-cells, reproduces, and destroys its

More than 28,000 Americans have been diagnosed with the incurable infectious disease, half of whom have died.

Levy, with Drs. Christopher Walker, Dewey Moody and Daniel Stites, found that suppressor T-cells, whose normal job is controlling the production of antibodies by other cells, appear to emit an unknown substance that keeps the virus from reproducing after invading the

helper cells. When certain suppressor T-cells that have a protein on their surface called CD8 were removed from blood cultures, the virus started to grow in the remaining blood cells, the scientists reported.

But when the suppressor T-cells were put back into the cultures, reproduction of the virus was suppressed, they said.

The suppressor cells do not destroy the virus or kill the host cells.

### Almost 600 AIDS cases now classified as heterosexual

ATLANTA (AP) — Almost 00 previously unexplained IDS cases have been reclassified heterosexually transmitted, bubling the percentage to 4 per-ent of such cases, government esearchers said Thursday. By 1991, one researcher said,

erosexual cases could make up arly 10 percent of AIDS cases The national Center for Dise Control also reported that AIDS case count in the ted States stands at 28,098, ce the number reported 13 nths ago. Fifty-six percent of victims are dead.

The CDC said it now can re-classify 571 AIDS cases — all in apparently heterosexual, nondrug-using people who were born outside the United States in areas such as Haiti and central Africa, where heterosexual contact is the chief way of spreading the disease.

Evidence indicates heterosexual transmission in those cases, the CDC said, because some of the patients have other sexually transmitted diseases and because some male AIDS patients report-edly have been with prostitutes.

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## Court affirms Hasenfus conviction

IANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — evolutionary appeals court on isday confirmed the guilty verand 30-year prison sentence imd on American mercenary Eu-Hasenfus.

ne decision upheld the Nov. 15 on by the three-member Peo-Revolutionary Tribunal cong Hasenfus of helping to airlift ns to U.S.-backed Contra re-

his is the definitive sentence

AGGIES!

wengol Cuadra Lopez, said after the ruling was read. "The defendant, yer, and a carpenter and a clerk. Eugene Hasenfus, must serve the

maximum penalty of 30 years." The People's Revolutionary Tri-bunal, made up of a lawyer, a truck driver and a laborer, found Hasenfus guilty of violating public order and security, criminal association and terrorism.

The case was reviewed automatically by the higher court, known as

the three-member appeals court, Ar- Tribunal. The higher court was The tribunal system, which is out-

side the regular law courts, was created by the Sandinista government to try those defendants considered counterrevolutionaries.

Hasenfus, 45, of Mariette, Wis., was captured Oct. 6, one day after a plane ferrying weapons to the Con-tras was shot down by army troops in southeastern Nicaragua. He was the has been decided," the head of the Superior People's Revolutionary only survivor out of a crew of four.

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#### host cells as it spreads to other cells. In this way, the AIDS virus, variously known as HTLV-3, HIV or LAV, cripples the disease-fighting immune system, leaving sufferers vulnerable to numerous infections and cancers that lead to death.

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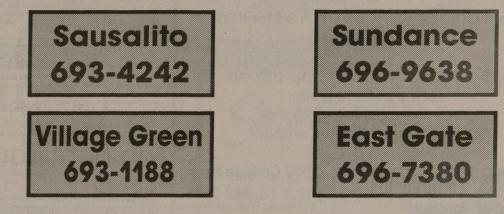
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