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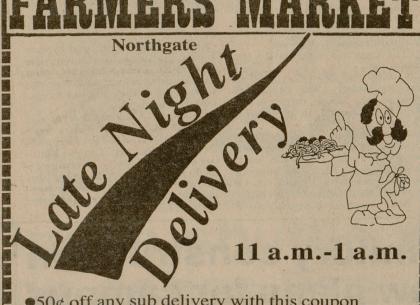
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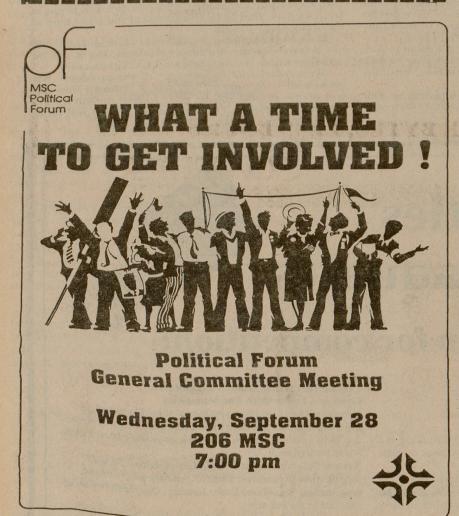
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Clinical studies test new drugs

By Stephanie Stribling

A college student, leisurely thumbing through the newspaper, stumbles upon a classified ad offering \$200 to persons with ulcers who are willing to participate in a clinical

Driven by an imperative that is stronger before that first-of-themonth paycheck, the student may reach back into a repertoire of symptoms from the past, hoping to turn up something vaguely resembling an

This scenario may sound familiar to many students.

Paull Research International is a local clinical research firm that contracts with pharmaceutical compa-

nies to perform clinical studies.

Jennifer Jessing, director of marketing and development for Paull
Research, said the firm conducts a variety of studies and uses a variety of drugs that address several categories of symptoms.

Basically we stay within the same therapeutic areas," Jessing said, "allergy and asthma, hypertension, gastroenterology (stomach and intestines), and some microbiology and antibiotics.

For those in pursuit of the monetary reward only, some ailments may seem simple to feign. However, Jessing said that applicants must get past some sophisticated screening, the first of which occurs on the tele-

"Hopefully, if we adequately screen these people over the tele-phone, and they give us accurate information, we should be able to save them from having to come in and waste their time," Jessing said.

Even then, she said, further

screening is often required, because telephone interviews may not always reveal those who would be excluded from the studies.

'Most of our studies do require some sort of physical exam and/or laboratory assessment," Jessing said. 'Depending on the nature of the symptoms, laboratory assessments range from skin tests for allergies, bloodwork for hypertension, and endoscopy for ulcers (passing a tube down the throat to view the sto-

Individuals who do not pass the physical examination or meet the criteria of lab tests may be excluded from the study. Jessing said applicants who have been turned down sometimes feel that the decision was made arbitrarily. But she emphasized that Paull Research has been given a predefined set of criteria for participants by the pharmaceutical companies.

'Every study has a protocol which lists inclusion-exclusion criteria," Jessing said, "That protocol is ba-sically a legally-binding contract."

If the applicants meet the protocol requirements, they generally are accepted for the study. They are not paid until the study is complete,

The length of the studies varies,

'We have some studies that last anywhere from 90 minutes to seven months," Jessing said. "It depends on what the drug is, and what the pharmaceutical company is trying to

determine in a given study."

Under the supervision of Dr.
Barry Paull, participants are administered drugs which have been approved for research by the Food and Drug Administration. Jessing emphasized that approval for research is not the same as approval for mar-keting to the general public.

"Drugs go through four phases of development," Jessing said. "Once laboratory testing in animals is complete, researchers are allowed to begin Phase I testing on human subjects after review and approval by the FDA.

Paull Research is involved in all four phases of development, Jessing

In each phase of the studies, par-

"When someone is taking an investigational drug," Jessing said, "we monitor them closer than a private physician would have to monitor that person." They are in a very controlled environment.

The FDA monitors Paull Research as closely as the research firm monitors its participants, Jessing said. The FDA can come in at any time to review their records, she

Committee investigates Austin gangs

AUSTIN (AP) - Faced with a problem that officials say is getting orse, a special committée has been formed to investigate reported gang activity and student assaults in the Austin public schools.

'The issue of gangs is heating up, and it's a serious problem,"Austin Independent School District superintendent John Ellis said.

Ellis said that besides disrupting students trying to learn, groups of non-student teen-agers also may bring drugs onto school campuses.

'We have to keep campuses drugfree, gang-free and responsible for all," Ellis said. "This is an activity that requires total involvement from

Freda Holley, assistant superintendent for secondary education, said the committee to study the problem will consist of educators, parents, other concerned citizens and police.

The problem is with off-campus individuals, and we are looking into it," she said. "We want to get to the root of it. We are going to look into the problem in depth, see how serious it is, and determine what we can do to get to the bottom of it."

A group of parents told school trustees they fear for their children's safety in the wake of on-campus assaults last week of five Johnston High School students by a gang of teen-agers who don't attend classes.

"No junior high or high school should feel immune from the problem," parent Angel Zuniga told the trustees. "We cannot allow continued development of these gangs, because in time they may take control of the schools.'

Zuniga said his 16-year-old son, who attends Johnston, had been "harassed" by groups of students who don't regularly attend classes although they are enrolled.

He said the victims of the assault last week aren't back in class.
"These children are at the point

where they do not want to return to school," Zuniga said. "Gangs pretty much take control of students. They pick on them, they beat them up, they intimidate them.'

What's Up

Wednesday

POLITICAL FORUM: will have a general committee meeting a 7 p.m. in 206 MSC

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supperate

p.m. at A&M Presbyterian Church. PI SIGMA EPSILON: will have a pledge meeting at 6:30 p.m.in

Blocker. The room number will be posted. AMARILLO AND PANHANDLE AREA HOMETOWN CLUB

will elect officers at 8:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder STUDENT Y/BONFIRE RELOAD CREW: will have a training

session at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder. OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: will discuss trip plans at 7 Wa

p.m. in 607 Rudder.

TAU BETA PI ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY: Dr. William Hyman will speak at 7:05 p.m. in 208 Scoates.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD: will discuss high tension and how to deal with it at? p.m. in Lounge B on the quad.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/NEWMAN: will meet a 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's student center.

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will gear up for the be ginner's caving trip to Austin at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

BETA ALPHA PSI: will have a professional meeting with Copers and Lybrands at 7 p.m. at the Hilton. WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE: will meet with women bon-

fire chairmen at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion

Call the center at 845-0280 for details. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion

Call the center at 845-0280 for details. AGGIE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION: will have a general meeting Check the call board at 141 Blocker for details.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: will discus

the Cincinatti trip and the trash-a-thon in 214 Reed McDonald.

Thursday

SOCIETY OF FLIGHT TEST ENGINEERS/AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERO NAUTICS AND ASTONAUTICS: John Hicks, chief engineer for the X-29, will

speak about flight testing at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

JUNGIAN SOCIETY OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY: Dr. David Rosen of the psychology department will present "Carl Jung and his Psychology: An Overview"

AGGIES FOR BOULTER: will have an organizational meeting at 8:30 p.m.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Continuum will offeri formation about careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the University Imper

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN CATHOLIC STUDENTS will discuss the fall retreat at 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's student center.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general discussion at 6pm

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: call the center at 845-0280 for information on to ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the center at 845-0280 for information on

TAMU TURF CLUB: Tom Werner, Colonial Club superintendent, will spear about "Transition from Student to Superintendent" at 7 p.m. in 440 Soil and Cm

TAMU INVESTMENT CLUB: Gordon Wise of Tri-Vest Group Ltd. will speak at a

7 p.m. in 130 Blocker.
STUDENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM: Dr. Saylak will speak abouted dence for supernatural creation of matter at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKER SOCIETY: will elect officers and the supernature of the supernatur

discuss a possible name change at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder. INTRAMURALS: will meet with innertube water basketball team captains at INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS: will demonstrate and teach folkdand

from European and Mediterranean countries at 6 p.m. at Rudder fountain. GAY STUDENT SERVICES: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION:

have a power lunch for all paid members and I.D. students from 11:30 a.m. p.m. at Tom's Barbecue.

p.m. at 1 om's Barbecue.

AMERICAN DIABETES SOCIETY: will have a meeting for anyone interested diabetics or non-diabetics, at 8:30 p.m. in 604 Rudder.

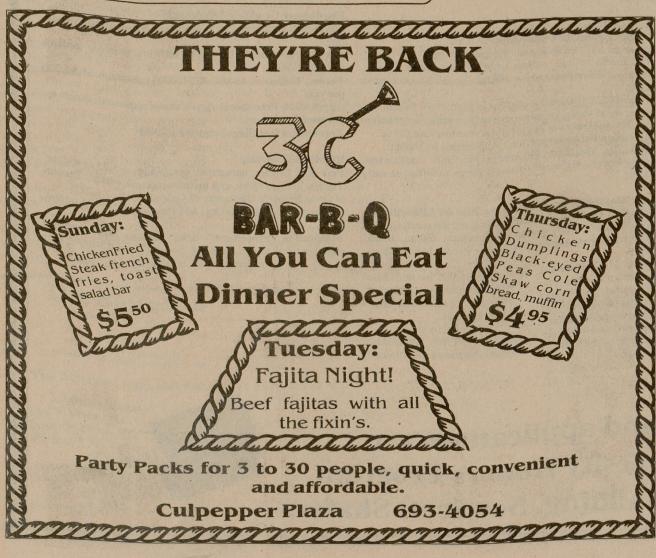
FENCING CLUB: will discuss weekend activities at 7 p.m. in 267 Read. Information and sign ups for "Wizardry and Warriors" will be from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the MSC through Friday.

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 200 Puntage.

MEXICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet with everyone working at Maquila Conference or anyone interested in working at the conference at 8pm

KAPPA ALPHA PSI: will have a fall smoker at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's lips a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run lips have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.





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