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MSC Political Forum

WHAT A TIME TO GET INVOLVED!



Political Forum General Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 28
206 MSC
7:00 pm

THEY'RE BACK

3C

BAR-B-Q

All You Can Eat Dinner Special

Sunday: Chicken Fried Steak french fries, toast salad bar \$5⁵⁰

Thursday: Chicken Dumplings Black-eyed Peas Cole Skaw corn bread, muffin \$4⁹⁵

Tuesday: Fajita Night!
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Clinical studies test new drugs

By Stephanie Stribling
Reporter

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 study.

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

This scenario may sound familiar to many students.

Paul Research International is a local clinical research firm that contracts with pharmaceutical companies to perform clinical studies.

Jennifer Jessing, director of marketing and development for Paul 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 telephone.

"Hopefully, if we adequately screen these people over the telephone, 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 stomach)."

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 Paul 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 basically 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, however.

The length of the studies varies, she said.

"We have some studies that last anywhere from 90 minutes to several 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 marketing 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."

Paul Research is involved in all four phases of development, Jessing said.

In each phase of the studies, participants are closely monitored.

"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 Paul 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 said.

Committee investigates Austin gangs

AUSTIN (AP) — Faced with a problem that officials say is getting worse, a special committee 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 drug-free, gang-free and responsible for all," Ellis said. "This is an activity that requires total involvement from everyone."

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 at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC.
 - UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES:** will have an Aggie supper at 8 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 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 8 p.m. in Lounge B on the quad.
 - CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/NEWMAN:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's student center.
 - AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:** will gear up for the beginner's caving trip to Austin at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
 - BETA ALPHA PSI:** will have a professional meeting with Coopers and Lybrands at 7 p.m. at the Hilton.
 - WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE:** will meet with women bonfire 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 discuss the Cincinnati trip and the trash-a-thon in 214 Reed McDonald.

- Thursday**
- SOCIETY OF FLIGHT TEST ENGINEERS/AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS 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" in 607 Rudder.
 - AGGIES FOR BOULTER:** will have an organizational meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
 - DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** Continuum will offer information about careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the University Inn parking house.
 - 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 6 p.m. in 145 MSC.
 - NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** call the center at 845-0280 for information on today's meeting.
 - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** call the center at 845-0280 for information on today's meeting.
 - TAMU TURF CLUB:** Tom Werner, Colonial Club superintendent, will speak about "Transition from Student to Superintendent" at 7 p.m. in 440 Soil and Crop Sciences.
 - TAMU INVESTMENT CLUB:** Gordon Wise of Tri-Vest Group Ltd. will speak at 7 p.m. in 130 Blocker.
 - STUDENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM:** Dr. Saylak will speak about evidence for supernatural creation of matter at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
 - ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKER SOCIETY:** will elect officers and discuss a possible name change at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder.
 - INTRAMURALS:** will meet with innertube water basketball team captains at 8 p.m. in 167 Read.
 - INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS:** will demonstrate and teach folk dancing 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:** will have a power lunch for all paid members and I.D. students from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tom'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 308 Rudder.
 - MEXICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:** will meet with everyone working at the Maquila Conference or anyone interested in working at the conference at 8 p.m. in 103 Blocker.
 - 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 Up is 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. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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