

Thursday, May 4, 1989

FREE FLYING LESSONS
 With Purchase of Radio Control Air Plane Set
 10% discount on any R/C airplane, car or helicopter set with this coupon

Keyser's
 Hobbies & Crafts
 823-0916

-Stunt Kites
 -Plastic Models
 -Balsa & Bass Wood

-R/C Headquarters
 -Boats & Trains
 -Art Supplies

For The Graduate

20% off all cross pens & pencils
 70% off 14K chains (except add-a-beads)

We carry ATM dangle rings & charms

POST OAK MALL

GOLD POST

USAIR PIEDMONT
 Airlines present:


GREAT ESCAPE 89

It's your chance to win two free tickets from USAir/Piedmont Airlines. The Airline that takes you to over 100 cities!

COMING MAY 5TH TO OLSEN FIELD
 HOME TO THE NATIONALLY RANKED TEXAS A&M BASEBALL TEAM

Directed by: The Texas A&M American Marketing Association
 Produced by: KTAM

CarePlus Presents **Roc, The Good Doc**



"You've absorbed too much sun!"

Had too much fun in the sun? Roc, the good doc says swim by CarePlus Medical Center. They'll soothe and heal your sunburn as well as recommend an appropriate sunscreen for your next soak in the sun. And don't forget students receive a 10% discount at CarePlus Medical/Dental Centers. For any ailment from sunburn to heartburn, come to CarePlus Medical/Dental Centers.

CarePlus
 1712 Southwest Parkway • College Station, TX 77840
 Medical 696-0683 • Dental 696-9578

Decrepit lab houses AIDS research

Scientists face disease, exploding lightbulbs, sink with no drain

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Scientists at the world's busiest AIDS testing laboratory face not only blood samples contaminated with a deadly disease, but peeling paint, exploding lightbulbs and a sink with no drain.

There's even a sign on the elevator warning people not to use it; it gets stuck.

New York, a leader in AIDS testing and research in this country largely because it has more AIDS patients than any other state, does most of this key scientific work in a laboratory built in 1917.

Potholes line the driveway leading to the three-story brick building, where gleaming computers sit alongside equipment rusted with age. Exposed wires run along walls and paint peels from the ceiling.

"It's kind of ironic," said Colleen Flood, a bacteriologist who runs the program that tests newborns for presence of the AIDS-related human immunovirus (HIV). "We're down here doing work that's at the forefront. When people come in here . . . they say, 'How can you work in such a dilapidated lab?'"

Flood and her colleagues have learned to adjust to a job that brings with it certain measures of pride and indignity. They took the job partly because it is more challenging than routine lab work, but they deal with a disease that still carries a taboo and work in conditions dismally unequal to private labs.

Virtually any testing needed to combat a public health emergency in New York eventually finds its way to the New Scotland Avenue Labo-

ratory here, said Donald Berns, director of the Health Department division of clinical sciences.

AIDS is overwhelmingly the state's most pressing health epidemic. It had 20,476 confirmed cases by the end of 1988, one-fourth the national total, and some 300,000 New Yorkers are thought to be infected with the related HIV virus, a possible precursor of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The state conducts nearly 750,000 AIDS-related tests a year here, including a half-million HIV tests, more than any other laboratory anywhere, Berns said.

Five white freezers hum in one of many small rooms. Each contains 20,000 blood serum samples, part of the state's research stockpile. Each sample taken since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic is kept here as a ready resource for tests done on the disease.

The freezers stand next to a rusted sink covered with a cardboard sign: "Do not use sink. No drain."

It's one of dozens of little reminders of the building's limitations. The elevators were installed before the Roaring '20s. The ovens where glass was made for test tubes and beakers have been dormant for years, so outdated the equipment isn't safe, Russ Toombs, the lab's operations director, said.

Mold sometimes grows on the ceilings, researcher Diana Schoonmaker said. Lights occasionally flicker and bulbs have exploded during power surges.

"It's frustrating to me," Berns said of the

building. "It's a real problem to have to deal with this. But the quality of the people make up for a lot of the problems you have."

"With New York state and all its wealth, it seems they could provide a little better working atmosphere," Mike Neal, a bacteriologist, said.

Berns wouldn't characterize the building as dangerous, "but I also would be dishonest if I didn't say the potential for accidents is far higher here."

Modern laboratories are sealed so germs can't escape from floor to floor. New Scotland's ventilation system is less modern — windows are opened, often in the winter because of inconsistent heating — and it's believed this contributed to the TB virus exposure six years ago, he said.

Gov. Mario Cuomo has called the lab "obsolete, deteriorating and incapable of meeting modern federal standards for biosafety," and asked the Legislature for \$75 million to rebuild it and six other buildings, all built before 1949.

Few people dispute that the building needs to be replaced, "it's just a question of staying with it," said state Sen. Joseph Bruno, who sponsored legislation to appropriate the money. The bill is still pending.

Designs have already been drawn up for the new lab. They're outside Berns' office, awaiting the governmental go-ahead. But money is tight in New York this year, with Cuomo saying he had to deal with a potential \$2.6 billion deficit as he prepared a budget proposal for the fiscal year that began April 1.

Chinese government refuses to recognize student unions, protestors prepare to march

BEIJING (AP) — Students, angered because the government refused to recognize their independent unions, prepared Wednesday to conduct a "historic march" for a freer China on the 70th anniversary of the first movement for democracy.

"Students, let us march together with our heads held high," said student leader Wu'er Kaixi speaking to a crowd of his classmates at the Beijing Normal College.

More than 40 universities around Beijing were expected to take part in

the march Thursday to Tiananmen Square, Wu'er said. If successful, it will mark the sixth time in three weeks that students have marched to the vast expanse, the symbolic political center of China.

To ward off the demonstration, Beijing's Public Security Bureau announced it would close the square. Students said they would go anyway.

"They tried to close it on April 22nd and look what happened then," Wu'er said, referring to the day when more than 150,000 students and their supporters occupied

the square in defiance of a police order. "Our protest . . . will show that Chinese democracy has arrived at a new stage. It will be a historic march."

Late Wednesday night, campuses around Beijing were alive with the sounds of speeches and chants as students prepared for the march.

More than 500 students crammed in an auditorium at Beijing University and applauded wildly as student leader Yang Tao said the protest could be larger than on April 28 when 150,000 students and supporters

Panel questions Wright's partners in well venture

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House ethics committee Wednesday began interviewing a group of Texans involved in a gas-drilling venture that has produced little gas but has resulted in large profits for House Speaker Jim Wright.

The panel began two days of scheduled interviews by questioning San Antonio businessman Morris Jaffe. Jaffe and his son Doug, who are friends of Wright, allowed the speaker and his business partner George Mallick to buy into the well venture last year.

At the same time, a special House ethics task force, created this year to examine House rules and ethics guidelines, opened public hearings in the areas of financial disclosure, outside income, receipt of gifts and use of official resources.

Task force chairman Vic Fazio, D-Calif., also a member of the ethics committee, said the panel hoped to learn from lawmakers' ethics problems

to draft clarifications in the rules and achieve better education of House members and staff.

While Fazio sought to isolate the hearing from the current atmosphere of the Wright case, former Rep. Otis Pike, D-N.Y., did not.

"Your preoccupation with each other's ethics is preventing you from doing your jobs," Pike testified. "It is taking too much of your time, and worse, it is creating an atmosphere and an institution in which suspicion, bitterness, personal dislikes and private vendettas make cooperative efforts in writing laws increasingly difficult."

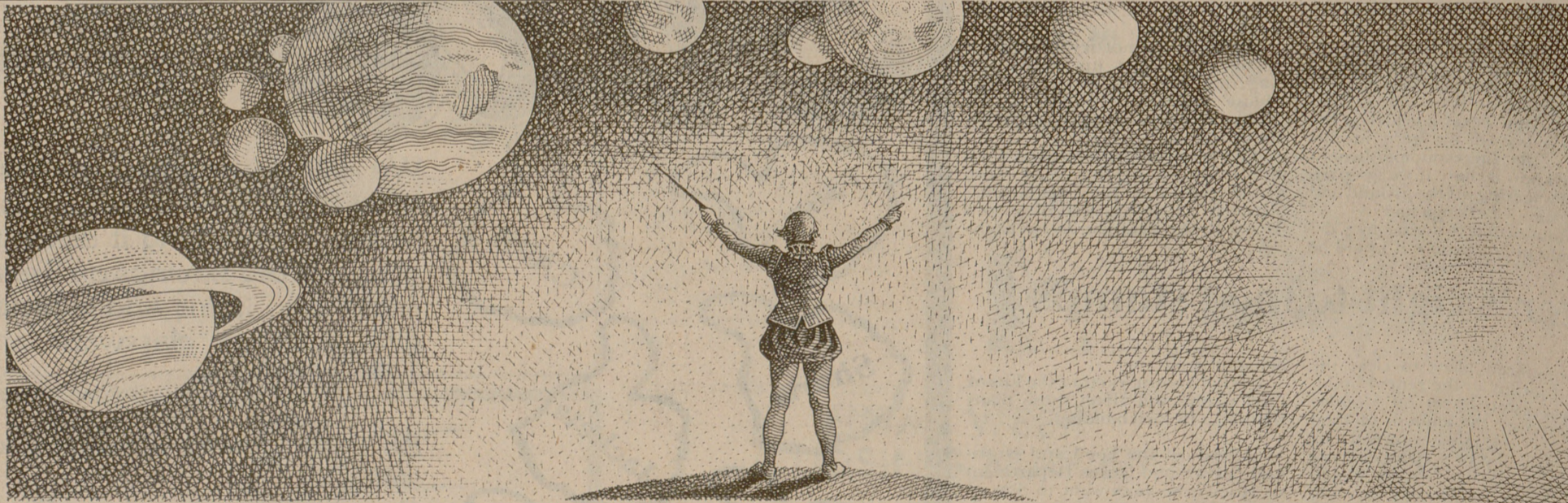
Ethics Committee chairman Julian Dixon, D-Calif., said the session with Jaffe had been productive. Jaffe's lawyer, Stanley Brand, said the questions generally covered the same ground as a 23-page report on the gas deal which he issued earlier in the week.

That report justified the transaction as a legiti-

mate business venture and noted that the remaining partners in the deal plan to drill another well. It was not, the report contended, a gift to Wright designed to gain favor and influence over legislation.

The Wright-Mallick partnership's \$9,120 investment last year grew into a \$340,000 profit over a period of five months. When it announced last week it was charging Wright with 69 House rules violations, the ethics committee said it was continuing investigation of the gas venture, known as the Sabine Lake project, after its location near the Louisiana-Texas border.

The continuing investigation has stalled committee progress toward holding a disciplinary hearing for Wright, the trial-like phase of the ethics process in which evidence is presented and Wright has a chance to make a personal appeal.



It took Galileo 16 years to master the universe. You have one night.

It seems unfair. The genius had all that time. While you have a few short hours to learn your sun spots from your satellites before the dreaded astronomy exam.

On the other hand, Vivarin gives you the definite advantage. It helps keep you awake and mentally alert for hours. Safely and conveniently. So even when the subject matter's dull, your mind will stay razor sharp.

If Galileo had used Vivarin, maybe he could have mastered the solar system faster, too.



Revive with VIVARIN.

VIVARIN

don't let your business bomb.

call 845-2611 to advertise

The Battalion

Use as directed. Contains caffeine equivalent of two cups of coffee. © Beecham Inc. 1988