

# Researchers will spend \$250,000 to find factors that cause diabetes

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Researchers will spend \$250,000 trying to determine why the incidence of diabetes among Mexican-Americans in San Antonio is 50 percent higher than among residents of Mexico City.

Unraveling the phenomenon may help researchers discover what dietary or other lifestyle factors trigger the chronic disorder.

"Diabetes in Mexico, as it is in most of the world, is a major killer," said Dr. Clicerio Gonzalez, a physician at ABC Hospital in Mexico City.

"Most of the beds in the hospitals in the specialized units are occupied by patients with diabetes or diabetes-related diseases," Gonzalez said Friday at the UT Health Science Center.

"It seems like now the problem is at the level of an epidemic," he said.

A preliminary study during the past two years by Mexican doctors showed nearly 10 percent of Mexico City residents of lower socio-economic status.

But in San Antonio, 15 percent of Mexican-Americans from similar backgrounds had diabetes, said Dr. Michael P. Stern, chairman of the study of disease trends at the health science center.

The health science center completed a computer link with research facilities staffed by Gonzalez and Dr. Joel Rodriguez, a professor of dis-

ease trends at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City, for the diabetes study.

Stern said the differences appeared to be occurring despite similarities among the subjects in Mexico City and San Antonio in genetic predisposition to diabetes.

Native American ancestry is a key indicator of susceptibility to diabetes, researchers said.

San Antonio Mexican-Americans living in lower-middle class neighborhoods are 40 percent to 45 percent Native American, Stern told the *San Antonio Light*. Among Mexico City residents the percentage is be-

lieved to be 50 percent or better.

Heavy sugar use has long been suspected to increase the likelihood of developing diabetes, Stern said, and Mexico rates at the top of all nations in sugar consumption, making the lower incidence rate even more puzzling.

"What we have is an opportunity to study a population that has a high genetic susceptibility, that has a high sugar consumption and yet may have less diabetes than the corresponding San Antonio Mexican-American population," Stern said.

# New law fines for possession of milk cases, other containers

AUSTIN (AP) — A new law taking effect Sept. 1 to fine people who illegally possess milk cases and similar containers will help save millions of dollars, a Texas dairy official said Friday.

"The (milk) case loss in Texas and across the nation is tremendous," said Glenn Brown, president of the Dairy Products Institute of Texas. "The state of Texas had a loss last year amounting to over \$7 million."

Brown said the colorful milk cases, which are used to deliver milk to groceries and restaurants, are popular among college students who use them for shelving in dormitories and apartments.

The cases also are popular for storing things in garages and trucks, he said.

However, Brown said, the losses dairies suffer "not

only affects the dairies but ultimately raises the price of milk to consumers. The industry regrets that this action had to be taken, but the costs are prohibitive and keep increasing year after year."

Under the new law, illegal possession of a milk case can bring a fine of up to \$300 for each case. The law also applies to grocery carts, bread trays, laundry carts and egg baskets.

There will be a 60-day grace period, lasting until Nov. 1, during which people can return milk cases without penalty.

"College students are big violators, as they use them for shelves and supports in their dormitories and apartments," Brown said.

# Dallas cleans up from exhibit of ancient Egyptian god-king

DALLAS (AP) — Ramses, the 3,000-year-old god-king, is leaving town, but the effects of the internationally famous exhibit will linger, as the city counts the revenues and reaps the good will it produced.

And as the last visitors left the Dallas Museum of Natural History on Sunday, officials prepared for a public sale next month of every Ramses sign, badge and administrative knickknack.

During preparations for the March 5 exhibit opening, officials

predicted it would draw one million visitors, \$10 million gross income, and \$50 million to \$100 million for the Dallas economy.

"We basically hit them all," Robert Townsend, executive director for the museum association, said.

About half the visitors came from outside the metropolitan area, and more than half of those stayed at least one night, Townsend said. Each out-of-town visitor spent be-

tween \$180 and \$200 a day, he said.

Since Ramses arrived, the museum, which had about \$20,000 in the bank six months ago, stands to stash away a \$1 million endowment and its membership has soared to more than 5,000 from about 350.

The exhibit was coupled with an unexpected debate about how African and how black Ramses was. Some Dallas black leaders threatened to boycott the exhibit unless organizers portrayed Ramses as black.

# Man pulls co-worker's skirt; another takes photo

AUSTIN (AP) — A Travis County sheriff's deputy resigned and a veteran lieutenant was demoted after the lieutenant told his fellow deputy to snap a photograph of a co-worker as he pulled down her skirt, officials said.

John Barton, 45, who was in charge of the department's information services section, instructed Deputy Mike Phillips on Aug. 14 to get a Polaroid camera and be prepared to take a picture, officials said.

As a civilian employee walked past, Barton pulled down the woman's skirt, Deputy Chief Dan Richards said.

"As soon as the skirt had been tugged down, the lieutenant said something to the effect of, 'Now, or OK, Mike,'" Richards said, "and the picture was made in just a matter of a few seconds."

Barton, who has been with the de-

partment since 1972, will begin his new duties Tuesday as senior patrol deputy. His annual salary will be cut 22 percent, from \$41,200 to \$32,136, Richards said.

"It was horseplay, but it turned out not to be amusing to anybody," he said.

Following an internal investigation, Phillips, 40, was told he could keep his job but he chose to resign, Richards said.

"The investigation supports his (Phillips) story that he reacted to the order of his superior, and that it happened quickly enough that he didn't exercise his own good judgment in it," Richards said.

Richards said officials discussed firing Barton but decided on the demotion after considering his length of service with the department and his work record.

# Houston demonstrators rally for pro-choice laws

HOUSTON (AP) — Pro-choice demonstrators, some carrying signs warning lawmakers not to pass legislation restricting abortions, gathered at a rally Saturday in an effort to demonstrate widespread support for legalized abortion.

the "Rally for Choice" Saturday morning at Sam Houston Park. The rally served as the kickoff to a grassroots campaign aimed at showing legislators that all types of voters support legal abortions, organizers said.

Sarah Weddington, the attorney in the historic Roe v. Wade case that led to legalized abortions in the United States, told the crowd that it was up to them to lead the fight in keeping abortions legal.

Weddington said that while she and others were part of the past struggle, "you are the ones we look to in the future."

"All we can do is take a step at a time and remember our dreams," she said, adding that she looks to the day when "every child is a wanted child and every mother is a willing mother."

More than 1,000 people attended

"The best person to make a decision about abortion is the woman herself," rally emcee Susan Nenny of Planned Parenthood said.

Supporters wore pins and carried signs at the rally, including some that read: "Responsible Parents for Choice," "We Vote," and "Baby, Maybe, I'll decide." Another sign that specifically addressed legislators said, "Take our rights, lose your job."

Some wore white clothes and purple sashes in honor of the suffragettes who wore all white as they fought for a woman's right to vote.

# Parachuters jump with instructors' help

ODESSA (AP) — Mark Owen told his mother in Union Mills, Ind., that he probably would not parachute out of an airplane.

He did.

Jumping from 3,800 feet, he landed standing up.

At heights up to 8,000 feet, the last thing most people would like to hear is, "Get out of my plane."

But skydivers at the Eagle's Nest Parachute Club are accustomed to soaring from planes at high altitudes.

Owen, 19, and Rodney O'Shields, 20, both trained and jumped in the same day recently at Eagle's Nest, 22 miles southeast of Odessa.

They got involved in the sport through two friends, Todd Robins and Craig Kersting, both 19, who made their second jumps the same day. They are all in the Air Force stationed at Abilene.

Jim Fowler, owner of Eagle's Nest, has been skydiving for 31 years.

He and his instructors train about 150 people to parachute every year.

"Snow skiing is more dangerous than skydiving," the 50-year-old Fowler said.

"If you're skiing down a hill, you don't have a second chance. Where do you end up? At the bottom of a hill in a tree. In skydiving, you do have a second chance."

The element of risk is there; and that's why we do it.

"The American way is to carry it to the line without losing it."

Fowler has only had to use that second chance or reserve parachute once in 4,468 jumps.

He credits his success to being safety-conscious.

"The equipment now has been so tested that all the problems come from the individual," he told

"If you're skiing down a hill, you don't have a second chance. Where do you end up? At the bottom of a hill in a tree. In skydiving, you do have a second chance."

— Jim Fowler, skydiving instructor

his students. "If that gear is put on by me it's on right."

"If you have a question during the day, you ask. If you're at 3,800 feet in the air, that becomes a big question. And once you leave the aircraft, you have to answer that question on your own."

As the time came closer for their jumps, the four students began to realize what they were going to do.

"OK, now I'm nervous," Robins said as he climbed into the Cessna 182.

"You're supposed to be," Fowler replied.

The small plane took off in a cloud of dust, and Robins and Kersting landed about 15 minutes later without incident — except for the wind changing direction while they were gliding down.

"I almost hit a swing set," Kersting said. "But they were watering the grass, so I just sort of slid in to home plate out there."

Robins said that the three seconds of free fall were the most exciting for him.

"You're out there in the air and you know there's nothing you can do about it now," he said.

Carl Chelette of San Angelo began parachuting in college.

"I have been to about 10 other jump centers and this is clearly the best," he said.

"They have a lot of hands-on training here."

Chelette, 40, re-entered the sport after about seven years.

"Once you do it for a while, it gets in your blood," Chelette, who has 143 jumps, said. "You can't get rid of it."

"This sport is not for everyone," Fowler said.

"About 90 percent of the people jump one time and only 10 percent come back to jump again."

Owen and O'Shields made their first jumps only hours after they began training.

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