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# ORGANIC!

222 8-10pm Tue. 2/11 & Wed. 2/12 Quiz, Parts 1 & 2  
 227 6-8pm Mon. 2/10 Quiz Part 1; Tue. & Wed. Part 2


## STUDY PACKETS! LAB PACKETS! BOPS!

CHEMISTRY/PHYSICS/BIOLOGY/ORGANIC

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## COMMUNICATION

Is The 

Communications Career Fair & Workshops

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 1997 1-6 p.m.  
 5th Floor Rudder Tower

- Resume & Portfolio Critiques
- Scheduled Professional Workshops
- Internship/Job Recruiting
- Great Door Prizes

Tickets \$5 at Rudder Box Office  
 (Aggie Bucks, Credit Cards, Checks and Cash Accepted)

ALL MAJORS WELCOME!!!

Sponsored by: Public Relations Student Society of America & International Association of Business Communicators

### Career Fair/Workshops Itinerary

- 1-1:15 p.m. Welcome & Introduction
- 1:15-2 p.m. Sherry McDonnell, Vice President PR, NationsBank
- 2-2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:15-3 p.m. Dress For Success--A presentation on the "Do's & Don't's"
- 3-4:30 p.m. Resume & Portfolio Critique Booth open & Internship/Job Recruitment Booths open
- 4:30-5:15 p.m. IABC/Brazos Valley Roundtable--A panel of professionals offering practical job advice.
- 5:15-6 p.m. Alex Travieso, Head Recruiter, SBC Communications (formerly SouthWestern Bell, Corp.)
- 6 p.m. Close & Announcement of Door Prize Winners

PROFITABLE NUMBER! 845-0569 THE BATTALION CLASSIFIEDS

# THE BATTALION NATION

Page 1  
 Monday • February 10, 1997

## Researchers lose cure for cancer

Scientists receive grant to synthesize compound found in sea animals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a dark cave 100 feet below the surface of the Pacific, hidden in the tissue of a rare sea creature, scientists found one of the most powerful cancer-fighting compounds they had ever seen.

They have not been able to find it again.

The discoverer, William Fenical of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has returned repeatedly to the Philippine island of Siquijor in a vain search for more of the chemical.

"We've been looking for years, and still have never found it again," he said. "We find some creatures that look a lot like it, but none of the animals there had the right compound."

Researchers do not even know if the creature itself produced the compound, or if it was a byproduct of some symbiotic fungus or bacteria.

But the story, reminiscent of the 1992 fictional movie *Medicine Man*, in which Sean Connery finds — and then loses — a cure for cancer in the Amazon, may have a happy ending.

Researchers at the University of California-Santa Cruz saved some of the sample, and say within a few years they expect to synthesize the compound, called diazonamide A.

Fenical's team, working on a National Cancer Institute grant, made their discovery in 1991.

They collected samples of a rare creature called *Diazona chinensis*, a jellylike animal related to the sea

squirt, which attaches itself to rocks and filters its food from the ocean.

The creature had been studied two or three decades earlier, but showed no promise.

This time, laboratory tests turned up something new.

"Much to our surprise and shock, there were enormous amounts of this new molecule, and the molecule had the ability to kill human colon cancer cells with very high proficiency," Fenical says. "It was very potent at very small doses."

He emphasizes that such test tube success does not mean the compound works in humans. That can only be determined by clinical trials, and many times such compounds prove too toxic for medical use. But the lab tests were exciting.

Diazonamide A was also exotic structurally, with an unusually rigid, compact form that interested chemists. Fenical sent some to chemistry professor Joseph Konopelski at UC Santa Cruz.

"My own interest was in the fascinating structure of the molecule itself," Konopelski said.

But when he tried to build a model of the molecule using plastic balls to represent its 99 atoms, it would not work.

"The pieces don't fit — you have to jam them in," Konopelski said. "Nature seems to have gone to a lot of trouble to put this thing together."

No one is certain what role it plays in the sea creatures. It may help the

soft-bodied animals repel predators, Konopelski said.

Fenical wanted more of the compound to run more elaborate cancer tests. Konopelski wanted to explore its chemical properties.

**"... there were enormous amounts of this new molecule, and the molecule had the ability to kill human colon cancer cells with very high proficiency.."**

William Fenical  
 Scripps Institution of Oceanography

But despite repeated efforts by Fenical, including more than two months of actual search time over four years, none of the creatures they found contained diazonamide A.

So Konopelski stepped in with a \$500,000 American Cancer Society grant and began trying to synthesize the compound.

"This is the most challenging project I've ever been associated with," he said.

Slowly he has assembled pieces of the molecule, and believes the

end is in sight.

"Our goal is to make enough of this stuff to test, and I believe we'll succeed," Konopelski said. "I have two graduate students who are doing their Ph.D.s on it."

In the long run, both Fenical and Konopelski say, the failure to find a natural source of diazonamide again may be for the best.

"It's one thing to have a cure come from a yew tree," Konopelski says, referring to another cancer fighter. "But if you have to go down 60 meters to get something you're always going to have a supply problem."

In addition, pharmaceutical companies cannot patent natural compounds, so to develop and market a drug they need to change its chemical nature.

Fenical said synthesizing the compound also opens up more possibilities. "If I had found the original molecule, I would only have a chemical substance, and it may have been abandoned as a potential drug and nobody would have looked at anything else," he said.

By assembling the molecule, Konopelski and others can make variations that may prove to be successful.

Ultimately, Konopelski will need in synthesizing the compound and perhaps even more effective compounds, Fenical said.

"So I don't feel like the mad scientist in the movie," he said.

## American Airlines dispute goes to federal mediation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Both pilots and management at American Airlines say they do not want a strike, but a walkout looms as they prepare for federally mediated talks this week.

The Allied Pilots Association and AMR Corp., parent company of American Airlines, take their dispute before the National Mediation Board on Monday, five days before a strike deadline of 12:01 a.m. EST Saturday.

Failure to agree could mean the nation's largest domestic airline could be grounded during the busy Presidents' Day weekend. It's a scenario that has passengers, businesses and Amer-

ican's 90,000 employees making arrangements in case the stoppage comes.

Union president Jim Sovich said last week that a strike is "more likely than not" after the union met with American president Donald Carter and other top American managers.

The union has created a "war room" to follow its pilots this week to assure they will know if a strike is called and to help them if the airline stops flying and leaves them stranded.

To pay the bills in case a strike ends flight operations, the airline has borrowed \$1 billion from an existing credit line and has pledged its fleet as

collateral for another \$1 billion in credit.

The money would support the carrier through a three-month strike, based on a projection that a strike would cost the carrier about \$1 billion each 30 days.

The pilots have not had a basic wage increase since their contract became available in 1993.

They have vowed to strike if demands met for raises of about 11 percent over four plus increased stock options.

The company is prepared to increase pay by 3 percent this year and 2 percent in 1998.

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# Now Playing AT THE REC

**TAMU Outdoors**  
 Student Rec Center  
<http://recsports.tamu.edu>

**Outdoor Lumberjock**  
 A Smorgasbord of Adventure Demonstrations, Clinics, and Presentations

**Saturday February 22**  
 Come try or watch demonstrations on fun outdoor activities like:

- SCUBA
- Outdoor Cooking
- Kayaking
- Texas Wildflowers
- Outdoor Photography
- Bird Watching

**try it enjoy it experience it feel it savor it love it**

**Rec Sports**

**Come take a look at our NEW outdoor gear retail shop.**

For more information call the TAMU Outdoor office at 845-4511

**Intramurals**  
 More Than Just Fun and Games

**Valentine's Day Run**  
 February 14  
 Register Today  
 No entry fee

**2.1 miles**  
 Win A Free Dinner, Haircut, & Flowers

Friday, Feb 14, 5:00 pm

The winning team will be the one whose runners' combined race time is the closest to its predicted time. Partners may, but are not required to, run together.

**Intramural Registration Dates**

Sport	Registration	Fee
Valentine's Day Run	Feb. 3-11	free
Slam Dunk Contest	Feb. 3-11	free
Handball	Feb. 3-11	\$5
Racquetball	Feb. 3-11	free
Eight Ball Doubles	Feb. 10-18	\$2
Free Throw Contest	Feb. 10-18	free
Badminton	Feb. 17-25	free
Pickleball	Feb. 17-25	free



Have you had your break today?

## Golf Course Department Scramble

Challenge Another Department

**March 8th 8:30am**  
 Limited to first 20 teams!

**\$30/Player with cart includes ditty bag**

Game features three person scramble with ABC players shotgun start. One student worker is allowed from each department. Pick up registration forms at the TAMU Golf Course and Rec Center. For more information, call 845-1234.

**Deadline for entries is 3/1/97**

## Feature Program

**WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE**

Only **\$10** for Rec Members

**Mon. & Wed. Feb. 17 and 19 7:30-9pm**

Dr. Steven W. Powell, an 8th Degree Belt and Instructor of Blinn College's Self Defense Kinesiology programs, will teach women practical defense skills that do not require size or strength for effectiveness.

## Rec Sports FREE Healthy Living Lecture Series

### You Need To Know

February 12 Female Weight Management

Dr. Jane Cohen and Debra Shipley will explain the relationship of weight management to fat cells. They will also discuss the Food Guide Pyramid and General Nutrition Guidelines.

**Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm**  
**281 Rec Center**

Valid through 2/28/97

## McRib is Back!!

For a limited time enjoy the great taste of McRib available only at McDonald's.

McRib Sandwich	\$2.19
McRib Extra Value Meal Sandwich	\$3.49
Large French Fries	
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Super Size any Extra Value Meal for 39c.