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# CACTUS CANYON

Country...with a Kick!

## Thursday College Night

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Till 11pm

No Cover with College ID

1500 Harvey Rd.  
Post Oak Mall

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## Researchers: Delaying HIV drugs may be OK for many

CHICAGO (AP) — Symptom-free HIV patients can safely hold off taking AIDS drugs longer than previously thought, two new studies suggest.

When antiretroviral drugs first became available in the mid-1990s, their dramatic effects prompted many doctors to recommend immediate treatment for all HIV patients to keep the virus in check.

The drugs are costly, must be switched often to remain effective and can cause serious side effects,

could be comforting to people to realize that watchful waiting won't harm you," he said.

The studies were published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

In one study, researcher Andrew Phillips of Royal Free and University Medical College Medical School in London and colleagues analyzed data from 3,226 patients treated in European HIV clinics from 1996 to 2000.

Patients began treatment with at least three HIV drugs and were followed for an average of more than two years.

Eighty-five percent reached undetectable virus levels by 32 weeks. Those who started out with CD4 counts between 200 and 349 fared just as well as those with initial counts of 350 or higher.

The second study, led by researchers Robert Hogg and Dr. Julio Montaner at the University of British Columbia, involved 1,219 HIV patients who started triple-drug treatment between 1996 and 1999.

By September 2000, 82 had died of AIDS-related causes. Most deaths were in patients whose initial CD4 counts were less than 200 — the bulk in those with counts less than 50. Those whose initial counts were around 200 fared just as well as those with higher levels.

Dr. Roger Pomerantz, chief of infectious diseases at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, said the studies will probably change treatment for HIV-infected patients in developed countries.

Pomerantz said the recommendations may not be appropriate for some patients, particularly women.

“It could be comforting to people to realize that watchful waiting won't harm you.”

— Dr. Jeffrey Laurence  
AIDS researcher

so doctors have sought to delay treatment whenever possible.

Recently revised guidelines indicated the drugs could be started when levels of disease-fighting CD4 white blood cells dropped to 350 per cubic millimeter instead of the previously recommended 500.

The new studies suggest the drugs can still be effective if started when the patient's CD4 count is even lower — at least 200 — and even if there are high levels of virus circulating in the blood. The studies found that for many patients, delaying treatment does no harm.

Dr. Jeffrey Laurence, senior scientist at the American Foundation for AIDS Research, called the studies good news. “It

## Southern forests endangered by urban sprawl

ATLANTA (AP) — Urban sprawl could mean the loss of millions of acres of forest in the South by the year 2020, federal officials said in a report released Monday.

About 6 percent of the region's forests are likely to be lost, but the number of acres should stay about the same because large amounts of cultural land will be converted to pine tree farms, especially in Mississippi, Louisiana

and Arkansas, officials said.

But study leaders Robert Greis and David Wear of the U.S. Forest Service said the forest loss would disrupt native plants and animals and eliminate outdoor recreation areas. Bears, bobcats and foxes are among species that are expected to be unable to adapt, Greis said.

The study found that regions to be particularly vulnerable: the southern Appalachian Mountains, Appalachian foothills stretch from Virginia to Alabama; the coastal plain along the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico; and Florida Panhandle.

Only a small percentage of Southern forest land is managed by the federal government.

Jeff Ghannam, a spokesman for the Society of American Foresters, said his organization wants to help landowners use the best use of their land.

“The idea is to make economically beneficial people to stay in the business of forest management, they're not tempted to sell to that developer who wants to turn it into a shopping center parking lot or whatever,” Ghannam said.

MSC Current Issues Awareness Presents...



# Airport Security

What your government has not told you.

A panel of experts from the General Accounting Office(GAO), the Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI), along with the Assistant Dean of the Bush School will discuss different aspects of homeland security including issues such as Airport security, the probability of future attacks, and allegations the US government ignored warnings given before 9/11/01.

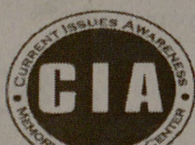
## FREE ADMISSION

### Thursday, Nov 29 Koldus Room 110 7-8:30pm

[cia.msc.tamu.edu](http://cia.msc.tamu.edu)



Persons with disabilities, please call (979) 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs.



Please contact Joe Williams at (979) 845-1515 for more information.

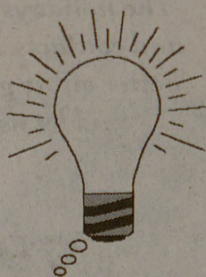
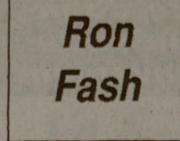
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### BUSINESS IDEA COMPETITION



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20 IDEAS WILL WIN \$1,000 CASH

Awesome door prize!

<http://mangement.tamu.edu/cnve/ideas>