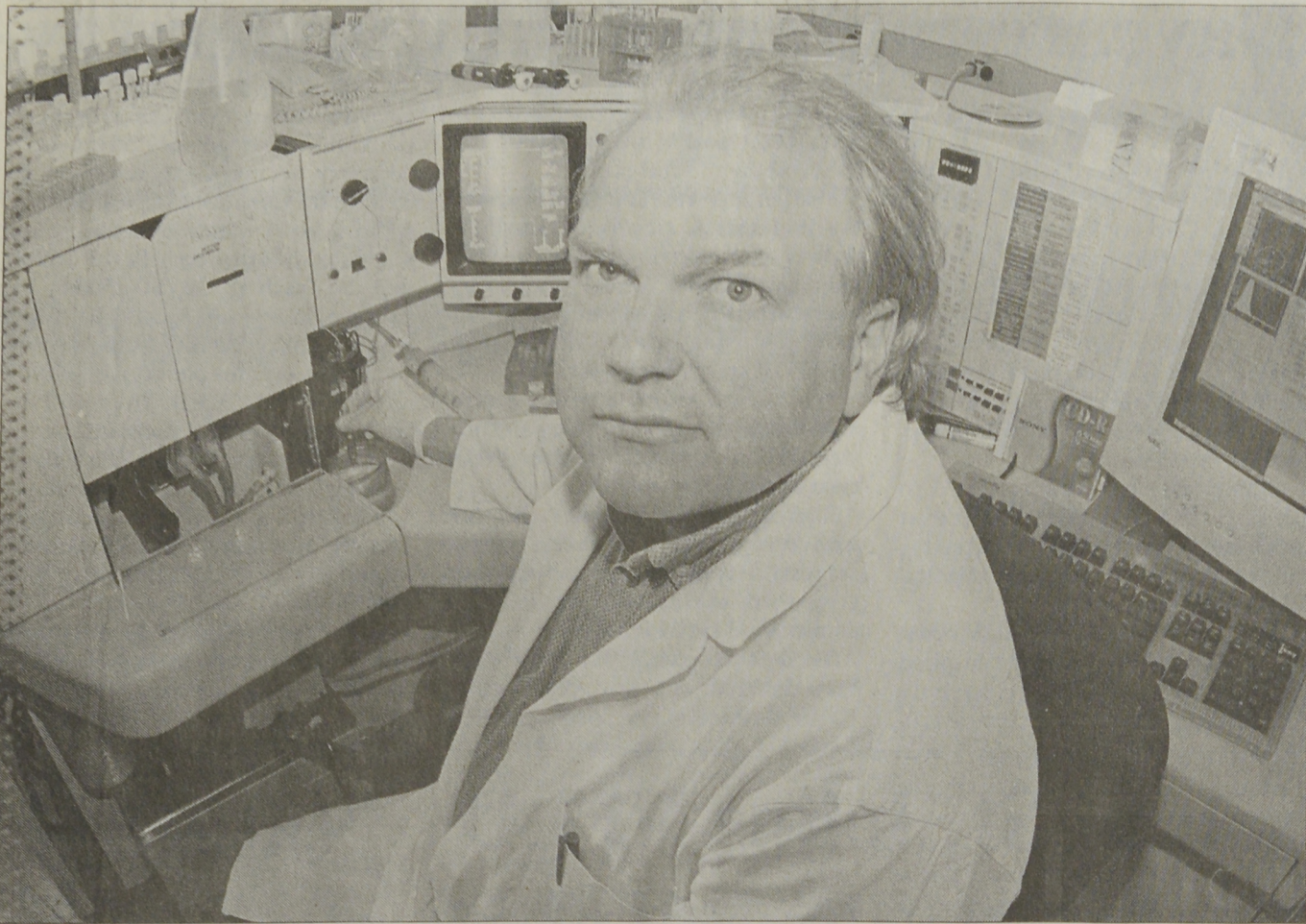




Nic Fensom/The Ubysey

UBC prof closing in on new treatment for cancer

Immune system research may yield new results for cancer patients

by Carlos Sutter, the Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A new treatment for cancer may soon be a reality thanks to research done at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Wilfred Jefferies' immune system research may be the answer cancer patients are looking for.

"Cancer is a disease largely of the very immuno-suppressed," Jefferies said. These include people like the very young, who are developing efficient immune systems, or the very old, whose immune systems are degenerating. It also includes people on anti-transplantation rejection drugs.

"Our work has focused on how your immune system recognizes those cancer cells and detects them and then kills them," said Jefferies, a medical genetics and microbiology professor.

In the early 90s Jefferies made the observation that a large fraction of cancer cells were reducing the activity of a type of pump that generated small

fragments (peptides) within transformed cells. These peptides within cancer cells may be unique and the immune system recognizes those differences and kills them.

"In the absence of those small differences the immune system cannot recognize the cancer and the cancer is able to start dividing uncontrollably and without any recognition by the immune system," explained Jefferies.

"The next thing that we did was we put that pump, which is the normal functional gene that most of your body cells have, into cancer cells in order to try and resurrect recognition of the cancer cells by the immune system."

The pump or gene Jefferies refers to is called the TAP molecule (transporter associated with antigen processing). Jefferies' treatment expands TAP expression through a new vaccine which results in an improved expression of tumor associated antigens. This TAP technology allows the immune system to identify the cancer cells as "alien cells," and then destroys the cancerous cells.

Jefferies believes that this new discovery would work with many other therapies.

"I think it would work in conjunction

with...chemotherapy, radiotherapy and other types of experimental therapies. It may be that TAP can work by itself or it may work to increase the effectiveness of other therapies," Jefferies said.

Jefferies works with a group of about 10 people exclusively on research regarding the fight against cancer. He has graduate students, undergraduate students, project students, post doctoral researchers and technicians working on his team.

Qian-Jin Zhang, a research associate in Jefferies' Lab, believes that the clinical trials in the future will factor in candidates according to their age.

"My personal thinking is that possibly we will select the patients according to the age, maybe age is an important factor. Because for our technology actually based on the immunal response for old patients, the immunal response level is always less than the young ones."

Jefferies is hoping to start clinical trials on people with cancer within the next year. Jefferies has already received a U.S. patent for applying TAP to all types of solid tumours.

"[We're] hoping that when we re-introduce the TAP gene that we start getting [an] immune response...that kills and eradicates the tumours."

When gender matters in rez

Transsexual student feels discriminated against

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Almost is not enough for a former University of New Brunswick student who was denied entry into an all-female residence because she hasn't completed her sex-change operation.

Jennifer Elaan was refused entrance to Tibbits last summer, and is disappointed with the way the residence office handled her situation.

Elaan, now 21, is a transsexual who has been in transition since the age of 18.

She was initially accepted to the all-female Tibbits, but was moved to a co-ed residence before arriving in September.

According to John Craighead, Associate Director of Residential Life, Elaan's "special situation" is what prompted the move.

Craighead said there is a two-year protocol that UNB follows when dealing with a student who wants to change their sex. Careful consideration, he said, is made when deciding what steps to take in residence.

"Quite often the person is excited about the change process; this may be something they've been wanting to do for a long time and they would like the process to move more quickly than the protocol suggests," said Craighead.

He said that when people start wanting to live as another gender or sex it is important to be able to determine whether it's appropriate for them to do so in a co-ed or single gendered res.

"Once a person has actually had the sex change operation or arrived at the end of the protocol then that person would be dealt with in res as per their new gender, as per their new sex," he continued.

Elaan disagrees with the university's

protocol, and pointed out that she has been transitioning for more than two years.

"It sounds bogus," she said. "At this point I'm fully qualified for surgery. Even by their standards, I'm finished."

Though Craighead emphasized the importance of a supportive environment, he made several references to Elaan's "special needs."

"What's the special situation? I'm transsexual. Fine. It just means I look a little funny," she said. "Does it make me any less of a woman? I don't think so."

Elaan is upset that Craighead believes the most "supportive environment" for her would be a co-ed residence.

"Since I'm going to be living the rest of my life as a woman anyway, it might be helpful to get the experience of living in a women's space," she said.

"I figured it would be a valuable experience for me."

Bruns word of the week: excursive adj.

- Funk & Wagnalls

Going in one direction and then another; rambling; discursive; digressive.

Briefly, the news

Irving receives award for clean air

On March 20, 2003 Irving Oil became the first oil company to win a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Excellence Award.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Excellence Awards Program annually recognizes and honours "outstanding, innovative efforts that help to make progress in achieving cleaner air."

"We're honoured to be recognized internationally for the environmental enhancements we've achieved through our low sulphur gasoline," says Kenneth Irving. "We are really, really excited about being recognized by the USEPA for our commitment to clean air."

Unsafe areas for a summer vacation

Travelers considering journeying to the Middle East and other areas are advised to be cautious by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Country Travel Reports.

Faculty, staff and students who are considering trips to such areas are encouraged to check <http://www.voyage.gc.ca/dest/ctry/reportage-en.asp> to determine travel advisories for that region.

UNB employees with Life and AD&D Policies are informed that coverage excludes travel to high-risk zones. They are advised to check with Human Resources to verify any specific itineraries.

Head-shaving fundstravaganza: Neill

This Saturday, March 29th 2003, Neill house will be hosting its annual Head Shaving Fundraiser. Students and other houses on campus are supporting their effort to raise money and awareness for Cops for Cancer.

The program was originally created by an Edmonton police officer in 1994 as a means to support cancer patients who have lost their hair. In 1998, Neill House began fundraising through individual and residence donations, as well as three main events: Camp Neill, Coffee House, and the Head Shaving.

On April 2nd, Neill House will be making their final donation to the Canadian Cancer Society by means of a small presentation at 6.00pm, in front of their residence.

Declaring day of unreasonable tuition

From UC Berkley, famed for its reputation of political activism, students make another effort with the April 2nd National Day of Action against Unreasonable Tuition Hikes.

"We stand united under the premise that raising student tuition by unreasonable amounts reduces the affordability and accessibility of public education," stated David B. Smith, the Executive Director of Mobilizing America's Youth.

April 2nd's Day of Action will include rallies across campuses nationwide, mobilizing students to state capitals for demonstrations, and forwarding the results of an online petition to state legislators.

"Students across the nation are experiencing extreme and unreasonable hikes of tuition for higher education," said Smith. "Many states are balancing their budgets on the backs of students by inflating fees up to 40%."

COMPILED BY JEN BARTH



Headed out of town?

Let Discount take you there

**WE RENT TO DRIVERS
UNDER 23**

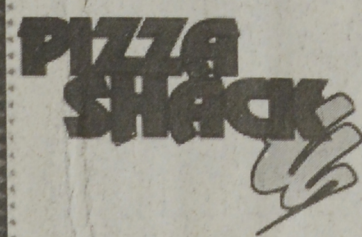
**ONE
Weekend
TWO
Weekends
FREE
Weekend**

One easy number
**310-RENT
(7368)**

**PRESENT THIS
COUPON FOR
YOUR
15% DISCOUNT**



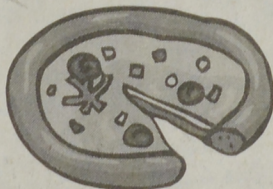
Proudly Atlantic Canadian Owned and Operated



454-4545

Specials

- 1: 12" Works Pizza
12" Garlic Cheese Fingers
Donair Sauce **\$12.99**
- 2: 16" Works Pizza & 10 Wings **\$17.99**
- 3: Two 12" Works Pizzas **\$14.99**
- 4: 2ft x 1 ft Big deal Pizza (5 toppings)
12" Garlic Cheese Fingers
Donair Sauce **\$18.99**



\$1 delivery to most areas

Don't get caught in the web

The advantages of booking your own travel online:

✓ You can do it in your pyjamas

The advantages of having Travel CUTS book your travel:

✓ You get the Best Fare

You're sure of getting the best fare. We check all the online options for you, plus seat sales, charters, Student Class™ airfares not available online

✓ You pay No booking fee

You pay NO BOOKING FEE on Tango, Westjet, CanJet, Jetsgo, and our Student Class™ domestic airfares.

✓ Your money is protected -

by Travel CUTS and industry compensation funds which is not the case if you book directly with the airlines.

✓ You get more

We offer the best trip and travel cancellation insurance, rail and bus tickets, tours, accommodation, and more.

✓ And hey, we don't mind if you visit us in your pyjamas.

TRAVEL CUTS

See the world your way

www.travelcuts.com

tango

WESTJET

CANJET

jetsgo

Travel CUTS is owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students.