

### Raeford residents become Peace coeds

Two Raeford residents were among the approximately 80 not-yet-college-age girls who became Peace College coeds during a recent weekend.

The campus visitors, ranging in ages from 4 to 17, were special guests of particular Peace students during the college's annual Little Sister Weekend, March 30 and 31. The younger girls included little sisters, nieces and friends of Peace students.

Among the visitors were Carol Ann McGee and Michelle McGee guests of Peace student Carla Myers.

Special activities for the young visitors included a scavenger hunt, an ice cream party and sports activities. They also saw the movie "The Toy" and participated in a special Sunday morning devotional service.



#### 20 years service

David E. Lamb recently completed 20 years of unbroken service at the Raeford Plant of Burlington Industries. Mr. Lamb began work with the local firm as a Serviceman in the Sample and Design Department and has since been promoted several times. He presently works in the Weave Department as a Warp Changer. In recognition of his service, he was presented a pearl pin, certificate and gift by Plant Management to commemorate the achievement.



#### The Panther Patrol

Members of the Raeford Troop 404's Panther Patrol appear to be waiting for an assignment during the recent Scout Expo held in Laurinburg. The patrol members are: John Richards, Josh Wither-spoon, Jeff Baker and Steven Clark.

## Dog has pink nose

**DEAR DOCTOR:** My dog has been losing the black color on the end of his nose. Do you have any idea of why this may be happening? He seems to be healthy and shows no discharges from the nose.

**ANSWER:** The cause of the pink nose is a decrease in the pigment in the nose tissue.

When the pigment decreases the normal pink tissue is exposed. Have you changed the feeding or watering bowls lately?

If they are plastic, change to a metal or ceramic bowl and see if that doesn't solve the problem. In some cases the nose will turn from a normal black color to pink due to an allergy.

**DEAR DOCTOR:** Will my cat's claws grow back if I have it declawed? I have a friend who told me that some of her cat's claws grew back when it was declawed some years back.

#### You And Your Pet

**ANSWER:** No, if the claws are properly removed they will not grow back. The claw, or nail, grows from a nail bed that is at the top of the last bone of each toe.

It is important to remove all of this growth tissue when the surgery is done or that nail could return. If by chance a small piece of the tissue is missed, the veterinarian can reoperate and remove it.

The chance of this happening is extremely low.

*Editor's Note: This column is provided as a public service by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association. If you have a question about your pet's health, send it to Ralph H. Lee, Executive Director, NCVMA, P.O. Box 1335, Kinston, N.C. 28501 or call 1-523-9988.*

## Fruit flies may hold key to aging

by Rosalind Reid  
N.C. State University

A key to the many mysteries of the aging process may lie in a group of fruit flies buzzing in a genetics laboratory at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Glenn C. Bewley, associate professor of genetics at NCSU, has been breeding the flies selectively in hopes that they will help answer a basic question: Why do our cells deteriorate and die?

Under a grant from the National Institute of Aging, Bewley is studying the role of an important enzyme called catalase. Found in all higher animals, catalase is thought to protect living cells from chemical damage.

His experiments are designed to show whether aging is the result of certain chemical reactions within the cell -- and to find out how catalase protects the cell from some of these reactions.

Like many researchers in the field of aging, Bewley hopes to help medicine find better ways to deal with painful degenerative diseases and make growing old a more comfortable process.

"We know so little about the aging process," he said. "Most aging research is of a basic nature. Prolonging lifespan is not a goal right now. We hope, maybe, to improve the quality of life in the later years."

Bewley hopes also to provide basic information about how protein-coding genes are regulated in the cell. He has located the gene that codes for catalase -- a major step toward learning how it is regulated.

He is treating the fruit flies with chemical mutagens to produce a population without catalase. That

should provide him a unique opportunity to study the role of catalase. Since no higher organism now exists naturally without the enzyme, scientists have been unable to do comparative studies with strains lacking catalase.

Once a good strain of catalase-negative, or acatalasemic, flies is produced, Bewley will be able to determine whether the absence of the enzyme quickens the aging process, causing a shorter lifespan, or prevents the flies from being able to live at all.

The geneticist is testing a theory of aging that is gaining strength among scientists. That theory suggests that cells deteriorate in old age as the result of accumulated damage from highly-reactive molecules called free radicals.

Free radicals are generated in cells by the normal reactions that are a part of oxygen metabolism. These radicals can react rapidly with cell membranes, proteins and NDA-deoxyribonucleic acid, the material in each cell nucleus that forms the basis of heredity.

"This kind of free radical damage has been implicated as a possible cause of aging, cancer and degenerative diseases such as arthritis," Bewley said. "It has been demonstrated to cause joint inflammation."

Catalase and other enzyme systems, such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), are among the body's defenses against free radical damage. Already, related research has led to the use of SOD as a treatment for joint inflammation.

"Enzymes such as catalase and SOD degrade these high-energy radicals as they're formed and prevent them from doing cellular

damage," Bewley explained.

Catalase is thought to act as a scavenger, seeking out free radicals and preventing harmful chemical reactions by breaking down hydrogen peroxide. Systems such as catalase also seem to have a function in protecting against free radicals generated by X-rays and agents linked to cancer and mutations, Bewley said.

"If catalase's function is important, we want to know why it is expressed in certain tissues at certain times, and what controls the expression," he said.

For that part of the project, Bewley is taking a look at the gene that encodes catalase, as well as other sections of DNA he has found that influence actual production of the protein.

## Walker named top non-com

Tech. Sgt. Barbara J. Walker, daughter of John W. and Martha M. Verbal of Rural Route 1, Aberdeen, has been named outstanding non-commissioned officer of the year for the Air Force Communications Command at Thule Air Base, Greece.

The competition was based on job knowledge, significant self-improvement, leadership qualities, ability to be an articulate and positive spokesman for the Air Force and other accomplishments.

Walker is an air traffic control supervisor with the 193rd Information Systems Squadron.

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