

New drug may help alleviate sickle cell pain; UNC scientists look to NCCU for subjects

By Jim Jarvis

Current research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a drug called cetiedil may help ease the severe pain that accompanies sickle cell disease, and NCCU students—19 or older who have the disease—are encouraged to enlist as subjects in the research, according to Dr. Eugene P. Orringer, associate professor of medicine and chief scientist for the project.

Interested students should contact Orringer through the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program at 966-2467.

At present, there are 15 subjects in the program. Orringer would like to have 25.

"The drug (cetiedil) was originally synthesized in France and used for hardening of the arteries," said Orringer. Only later was the drug found to benefit sickle cell victims.

Over 2 million people have the disease worldwide and

it can affect every organ in the body; some of the larger ones include the heart, the brain, and kidneys. The disease also subjects its victims to severe pain—commonly called painful crises.

These painful crises, which the drug will hope to alleviate, occur when some of the victim's pliant, donut shaped, oxygen carrying red blood cells take on a rigid banana or sickle-shaped appearance—clogging the capillaries and thus cheating the body of vital oxygen. The drug is now being tested for its ability to de-sickle those blood cells and turn them back into their normal shape.

"There is evidence," Orringer said, "that those persons carrying a single sickle cell gene appear to be somewhat resistant to malaria." That is why the gene didn't fade from society, but has persisted till today. About 10 percent of black Americans carry a sickle cell

gene. These carriers of a single gene are called sickle cell trait individuals and normally carry out average healthy lives.

The problem occurs when a person inherits two sickle cell genes; these are people who are affected by the disease. About one out of 500 black Americans have sickle cell.

"The drug was used in the early '70s in Africa for sickle cell disease without much rationale, but looked very promising. Therefore investigators in this country have been involved in testing and showing the anti-sickling properties of the drug in research laboratories. And now we are carrying those experiments to the clinical arena, using the drug in its trial," said Orringer.

When painful crises occur, the patients will receive oxygen, painkillers and fluids—standard procedure for treating sickle cell victims. But the patient will also be

injected with cetiedil, the test drug, or an equal measure of an inactive substance called a placebo.

Neither the investigators nor the patients know which of the drugs have been given until after the study has been completed. This type of study is called a "double blind" and is very useful since it eliminates psychological responses to a treatment that is being tested.

Orringer doesn't have any results yet, but he says in laboratory tests, the drug reduced the sickle cell count from about 85 percent to 10 percent.

Orringer called the drug "a very potent anti-sickling agent when compared with urea or cyanate," two other anti-sickling drugs that were tested and used but have since been discarded.

Similar testing with cetiedil is being conducted in three other laboratories in the United States.

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Washington D.C. rally Students protest proposed new cuts in financial aid bill

By Calvin Lee Williams

with reports from the American Council on Education

"I was very disappointed in the rally because NCCU was the only black school from North Carolina; and I was even more disturbed that only four colleges besides NCCU (N.C. State University, Duke University, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) from North Carolina attended the rally-meeting," said Curtis Massey, SGA president at NCCU, during the March 1 rally-meeting for National Student Lobby Day sponsored by the U.S. Student Association held in Washington, D.C.

An estimated crowd of 3000 students representing colleges and universities from all parts of the United States gathered on the U.S. Capitol grounds to voice their opinions to the proposed budget cuts in higher education.

Massey said the purpose of the rally-meeting was to speak to members of the congress about the budget cuts in education. He said the students questioned the proposed budget cuts in the following federal programs dealing with education:

- PELL GRANTS -- the foundation program for federal students assistance -- would be reduced from \$2.3 to \$1.4 billion in fiscal year (FY) 1983. This would eliminate over one million students, assuming a maximum award of \$1,800 as provided for FY 82, and leave only 1.6 million recipients with family incomes under \$14,000 (compared to 2.8 million current recipients with family incomes up to \$27,000). To avoid such drastic cuts in eligibility, the administration is proposing to cut the maximum award to \$1,600 -- a 12 percent cut for the neediest students, although college costs in 1983-84 will



Shepard shines!

The brothers of Ebony Alpha Ebony clean and polish the statue of Dr. James E. Shepard in front of the Administration Bldg. during one of their many service projects held in February. Pictured from left to right are Artis Moore, Jerry Graves, John Bullock, and Vador Whitaker. (Staff photo by Winfred Cross)

be 15-20 percent higher than this year. (However, the budget projects a further cut to \$1 billion for Pell Grants in FY 84.)

- SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS (SEOG) would be eliminated. Presently about 615,000 students receive these awards.

See STUDENTS PROTEST, page 3

Howell, McKinney elected as student officials for '82

By Winfred Cross

In an election in which only 22 percent of the total student body voted, N.C. Central elected Student Government officials, Miss NCCU, publication editors, and class officers.

Duane Howell, a junior from Goldsboro, won a decisive 575-396 victory over Darryl Banks in the SGA presidency race.

James Webb, a sophomore from Leland, was unopposed in the SGA vice-president slot. He received 799 votes.

Lori Grier, a junior from Charlotte, was elected Miss NCCU with 319 votes. Virginia Hargrove was first attendant with 277 votes, while Brenda Baldwin's 183 got her the second attendant spot.

Marion McKinney, a junior from Thomasville, won a narrow 441-425 victory over Mark Adams for the editorship of the Campus Echo. It is the first time in the history of the university a white student has won a major elected position.

Earnest Walker and Lori Conway were unopposed in the respected

positions of Ex Umbra Editor and Eagle Yearbook Editor.

According to election board chairman Marie Gamble, this year's election was a disappointment because of a "lack of student interest, especially in the senior class."

"Only 146 graduating seniors voted," she said. "It seemed nobody cared who their student leaders were going to be next year."

A total of 1,066 students voted in the election. The sophomore class had the largest number of voters, a total of 323 voters.

Gamble said this was also the first year Central has used actual voting machines. In the past, voting was done by paper ballots.

"The voting machines were a learning experience for a lot of students. The machines enabled us to get the final tally by 5:15 p.m."

Eric Jackson, a junior member of the election board, agreed the machines were helpful but said students inability to use them correctly was a sign of "low voter registration on campus."

See ELECTIONS, page 4

Friday lifts ban on photographs

Censorship story prompts institutional protest

By Marion McKinney

The UNC system's ban of several photographs from N.C. Central's summer school catalogue has been lifted due to "an institutional protest" issued by Chancellor Albert N. Whiting. The protest came following a story published in the last issue of The Campus Echo.

But the summer school catalogue has already been published with the "corrected" pictures the UNC system requested.

According to catalogue editor Dr. Tom Scheft, there was a Feb. 17 printing deadline for the catalogue.

On Feb. 22, Whiting issued the protest to Dr. William Friday, president of UNC, after receiving letters from Dr. Waltz Maynor, director of the Summer School program, and Scheft outlining complaints about the censorship of the catalogue.

"I called Dr. Friday to register an institutional protest about a reference made by Dr. Edward Crowe that a student's cornrows were 'a negative black stereotype,'" Whiting said.

The student in the photograph, Marietta Poole, had complained to Whiting about the embarrassment she had suffered following the publica-

tion of the photograph in The Campus Echo. According to Whiting, Miss Poole walked into the student union while other students were reading the paper. Some students identified her as the woman in the photo by pointing and saying, "There she is."

The second reason Whiting objected was "in reference to the insensitivity in conducting a review of the pictures in the catalogue knowing that the review and the consent decree represented a touchy issue."

Whiting also suggested that either Friday or Crowe apologize to Ms. Poole. "Dr. Friday felt that it was necessary," said Whiting, "and accordingly Dr. Crowe telephoned Ms. Poole to explain his comment, and I presume, to apologize."

Friday said that the restrictions on the use of the pictures in the summer school catalogue no longer applied. But the lifting of the censorship came six days after the catalogue was sent to the printers.

However, Whiting was optimistic about the outcome of the issue. "As a result of this incident," Whiting speculated, "it is my belief that the whole review process of campus publications will be re-examined."

Campus Speakout

What is your opinion on UNC administrator Dr. Edward Crowe's comment that cornrows and beads are "a negative stereotype"?

Darryl Hylton, senior, Washington, D.C.



Darryl Hylton

Amelia Clay, freshman, Roxboro

"It was wrong. I don't think anyone has the right to say something about the way someone wears her hair. She should be able to wear it anyway she wants."

John Bullock, junior, Soul City

"It was very silly of Crowe to call it a

stereotype. The braided hair style is a part of the black heritage not a negative stereotype.

Marlaina Bowers, sophomore, Washington, D.C.

"Cornrows are a hairstyle that a lot of people wear. It seems that he (Crowe) is stereotyping blacks. He has

no right to tell us how to wear our hair."

Sandra Winstead, freshman, Rocky Mount

"Because he is a white person, I don't think he would really know what offends black people. Braided hair has its origin in the black heritage. In 'Roots,' for ex-

ample, Cicely Tyson wore her hair braided."

Betty Jackson, freshman, Charlotte

"Having your hair braided doesn't offend me. I don't think he had the right to say what offends us" and what doesn't."



Betty Jackson