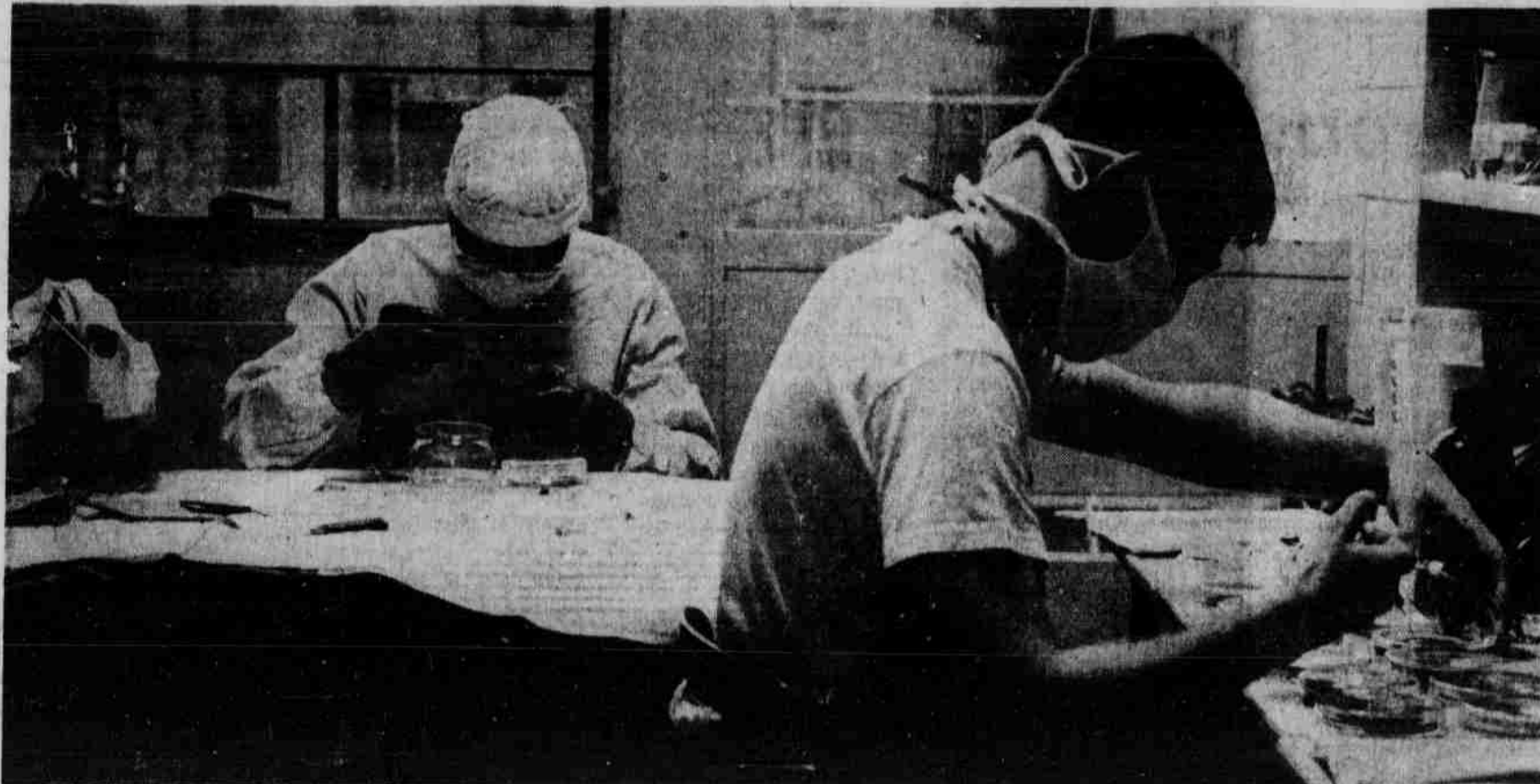


Dentists Spearhead Cleft Palate Work



EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is one of a number that will be published by the Daily Nebraskan this semester in an effort to show the nature and the extent of work that goes on outside the classroom—and what makes a university great.

Early in the morning two young University dentists cover themselves with pale-green sterile clothing, lay out their equipment and begin work on an extensive and closely coordinated research project.

Silently Drs. Bryon Chan and John Konegni lean over their microscopes, squinting at tiny animal life.

At that hour they are the only moving and visible evidence of one of the most cooperative scientific staff ventures undertaken at the University.

However tired the two graduate students might feel at 3 a.m., they draw comfort from the probability that what they are doing will some day lower the cold statistics telling that thousands of Nebraskans and one out of every 750 newborn babies in the United States suffer from a cleft palate condition.

Tissue Failure

A cleft palate is the failure of the tissue of the palate to close before birth, resulting in an opening in the roof of the mouth that sometimes extends to the upper lip.

Seven years ago a joint effort was begun by the department of pharmacology and the graduate department of orthodontics to develop an animal congenital cleft palate.

Cooperation snowballed under the direction of Dr. Sam Weinstein, College of Dentistry, and Dr. Robert D. Gibson, dean of the College of Pharmacy.

For the past several years, scores of academic and research staff members of the University have committed themselves to help the cleft palate research in whatever way they can. This number includes professors of dentistry, medicine, pharmacology, mathematics, speech therapy, anatomy, psychology, nutrition and veterinary science.

Willing Helpers

The men and women work behind Chan and Konegni as advisors and consultants, and are unpaid and unheralded. Working in their off-duty time, they are given a number of tasks, but accept them in a cooperative spirit.

Chancellor Clifford Hardin described the effort as "an example of the very substance or essence of the meaning and direction of a responsible and dedicated university community."

Among the many who have aided progress in research into the cause and prevention of a cleft palate is Dr. Thomas Morarity, a University research associate in pharmacology. His efforts have been centered on the mechanics by which the palate closes.

He and the two young dentists have already successfully determined almost to the minute when the palate closes in the growth of a normal rat.

Human Application

When they can apply their growing knowledge to humans, discover the palate closure time for humans and sophisticate their techniques, they will have found another of the many answers needed for prevention of the condition.

James D. Church a research assistant in mathematics, and his professors Drs. Robert Harris and John Birch, supply the dentists with experimental design and analytic aid.

Rexford Beckham, science librarian, acquires scientific manuscripts and books for all of the men.

Two blocks to the north of their research center, Chan and Konegni find help in answering detailed computations from Dr. John Christopher, director of the computing center. Months of calculations are boiled down to minutes in the huge machines.

Cell Information

Information on growth and development of cells is obtained on the Ag campus from Dr. Donald M. Pace, director of the cellular research center there.

They are often dealing with life smaller than a dress sequin, and for confirmation of their work they turn to Drs. John Latta, anatomist, and Edward Holyoke, anatomist and physician at the College of Medicine in Omaha.

Dr. George Young and other veterinary scientists at the College of Agriculture are helping them find an animal mouth that more closely approximates that of the human.

Dr. Hazel Fox, College of Agriculture nutritionist, offers such information as how the diet at a certain time in pregnancy affects closure of the palate.

Rat Handler

A graduate student in psychology, Mrs. Evelyn Thoman, lends help in the handling of experimental rats.

Glassblower Lloyd Moore at the University's scientific stores, blows special glass protective covers for the tiny tissue covers.

Kaz Tada, a University photographer, helps them develop techniques to study the cellular structure through microscopic photography.

The names of people taking part in the project go on and on. But the two graduate students in their early morning, antiseptic world have their eyes on tomorrows, looking for prevention and the stop-it-before-it-starts answers.

Help Today

But what of the misery of sufferers today? What can be done for those who find difficulty eating, breathing and speaking? What can be done for children who very soon find out that their faces are not like others?

Here the cooperative effort gets even bigger. It spreads among more University researchers concerned with therapy to former students, men of learning in other institutions, practicing physicians, dentists, psychologists, and social workers in Nebraska.

Seven years ago Dr. Frank N. Stewart, a Lincoln pediatrician, helped the Nebraska cleft palate team under way.

Dr. Stewart, dean of the Graduate College and University research administrator, characterized the cleft palate research project as an example of how a university works and pulls together at its best.

Health Service Gives Dental Project \$13,148

The U.S. Public Health Service has granted \$13,148 to support a dental research project at the University. The proposed project is to determine the relationship of tongue and cheek to the position of the teeth in the mouth.

Dr. Edward Fry, associate professor of anthropology, will direct the study with the assistance of Dr. Sam Weinstein, associate professor of orthodontics, and Dr. Donald

Haack, associate professor of engineering mechanics. Pressure of the stronger muscles, Dr. Fry explained, can push teeth outward or inward from the generally vertical position they assume. Sets of twins between the ages of five and fifteen will be observed over a period of three years to determine any possible genetic factors affecting these muscles. The rate of growth and its effects will also be observed.

Early Morning Hours Find Drs. Chan, Konegni Already On The Job

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Five Students To Represent Algeria At Midwest Model United Nations

Five University students who will represent Algeria and Nebraska at the Midwest Model United Nations have been selected, according to Dennis Christie, campus chairman of MMUN.

The students are: Jeff Pokorny, Gary Radil, Susan Segrist, JoAnn Strateman and Carla Tortora.

This year's MMUN will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, March 27 through the 30.

Jeff Pokorny, a sophomore in Business Administration, will concern himself primarily with the economic and financial aspects of the questions to be debated.

Gary Radil, a pre-law junior, is interested in the trusteeship committee.

Susan Segrist, freshman in Arts and Sciences, has stated her interest in the special political committee at the convention.

Carla Tortora, junior, will participate in the workings of the political securities committee.

Jo Ann Strateman, sophomore, will attend the meetings of the social, humanitarian and cultural committee.

The alternate delegate is Everett Madson, a pre-med freshman.

Miss Tortora's political and security committee will consider the seating of the People's Republic of China in the UN and all its organs.

Pokorny will take part in study of the improvement of world-market conditions and the UN bond issue in the economic and financial committee.

The trusteeship committee will be concerned with South West Africa, the possessions

of the United States and Angola.

Miss Segrist will help determine the levels of radiation to which man is currently exposed and the effects of radiation on individuals and their descendants.

Miss Strateman's selection, the social, humanitarian and cultural committee, will take up the following issues: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East; race conflict in South Africa and the question of refugees and the right of asylum.

NU Rifle Coach Trains Vietnamese Villagers

By JOHN LONNQUIST
Nebraskan Staff Writer

"Most people just don't realize how big an operation that is over there," commented Sgt. Calvin VerMeer on his return from Viet Nam.

Sgt. VerMeer, who teaches tactics, supervises the firing range, and coaches the varsity rifle team, is a member of the Army ROTC detachment at the University.

About a year ago Sgt. VerMeer was sent to Viet Nam as one of 11,000 American military advisors who are stationed there. Accompanying each regiment of Vietnamese soldiers, is one or two of these advisors, Ver Meer said.

While in Viet Nam, Sgt. VerMeer's job was to set up a training center in the village of Ninh-Hoa, which is situated about 250 miles north of Saigon. This center was designed to train the Self Defense Corps.

The Corps is equivalent to the Home Guard, which was set up in many of the United States during World War II after the National Guard was federalized.

Minutemen

The Corps is a minute-man type group of older citizens. Most of the men are between the ages of 40 and 60. They remain at home while their sons are

Ski Trip Patches Now On Sale In Union

The Student Union ski trip patches for all those who have been on a Union ski trip are now available, according to Susie Pierce, chairman of the Union tours and trips committee.

The patches may be purchased for 50 cents at the cashier's counter near the north entrance to the Union, Miss Pierce said.

serving in the National Army.

After the training center was set up, the villagers and those in the surrounding area came forth and were supplied with several types of rifles. They were then taught the use of these, their care and basic squad and platoon tactics.

Do the Americans teach them judo or any hand



Photo by Pixie Smallwood
HOME FROM VIET NAM Sgt. Calvin VerMeer relaxes after returning from his teaching duties in Viet Nam.

fighting? "Hah, they can teach us that," said the Sergeant. It is called Vietnamese boxing; they use hands, feet, elbows, toes, and eye gouges, "everything goes," he added.

A typical day in the life of this military advisor: up at 5 a.m. and out training at 6:15 a.m. The Americans do not train the troops themselves, but merely advise the Vietnamese officers who are in charge. At noon, when the temperature reaches 120 degrees, the Vietnamese take what in Latin America would be called a "siesta." All business stops for about two hours.

Bugs 'Pleasant'
Three or four nights a week, the troops are taken out and shown the use of flares and methods for judging distances at night. "Then we would come home, spray each other, get the leeches and ticks off. They were very pleasant," the sergeant said sarsactically.

"When I got there you needed an armed escort to go anywhere, but when I left the communist element had been fairly well cleared out of our area. In spite of this, all the supplies and troops are flown in by Army and Air Force planes because the roads weren't safe. The Viet Cong have a habit of putting holes in those who use the roads," he said.

Living in constant danger from the bullets of Viet Cong rebels for a year didn't seem to bother Sgt. VerMeer much, but some of the University's students may find his ideas of danger a little different from their own. Commenting on skiing, Sgt. VerMeer grinned and said, "You couldn't get me to do that, they come down there about sixty miles per hour."

High School Students See NU Saturday

One hundred-ninety high school seniors from 14 towns in eastern Nebraska visited the university Saturday to attend classes.

The conference was an orientation program designed to acquaint students with college classes and procedures, according to Dr. William E. Hall, professor of education psychology.

The students attended colleges of their choice to learn how freshman level students are taught.

Attending Saturday's program were students from Albion, Ashland, Cresco, North Bend, Palmyra, Papillion, Schuyler, South Sioux City, Syracuse, Tecumseh, Wahoo, Waverly, Weeping Water and Yutan.

Music Committee Sponsors 'Take 5'

The Student Union contemporary music committee will sponsor a half-hour of informal entertainment every Wednesday beginning this week, according to Sue Oberle, chairman.

The musical program, "Take 5," will begin at 3:30 p.m. and feature small groups, solos, readings, instrumentals and various special acts.

Among those scheduled for coming programs are Christy Johnson, Marv Rubeck, the Zeta-Tones and Jarvis Greene, said Miss Oberle.

Firemen Reach Dorm To Find 'False Smoke'

Steam from a pop-off valve in front of the Women's Residence Hall was mistaken for smoke early Saturday morning and for the second time last week the fire department was called to the University campus.

The fire trucks were recalled when the false alarm was discovered.

NIA Week Opens With Talent Show

Foreign Students Sing, Play, Dance

University foreign students initiated International Student Week Sunday night at the Union with a Nebraska International Association (NIA) talent show.

Norman Bray, representing Canada, began the show and Siti Sulchan followed with an Indonesian folk dance. A group of Americans sang American folk songs.

Iraj Saberi of Iran played a Santei, an Iranian instrument similar to a piano.

The Nigerian Highlife dance, a folk dance of that country, was performed.

Combo

Las Tropicales combo members from Bolivia, Trinidad and Jamaica played selections from each of their countries.

Hosea Prendes of Cuba played the trumpet and Nore Coto played and sang Spanish songs. Mrs. Jagjit Singh of India did an Indian folk-song.

This display of talent was only the beginning of a week full of foreign student activities. On Tuesday at 4 p.m. three foreign students and three foreign professors will compare education in their country with that in the United States, giving the good and bad points of each.

Dr. Franklin Houn, political science instructor from North China, Dr. Maan, genetics agronomist from India and Dr. Oikawa in law research from Japan are the participating professors. Bill Cawood of South Africa, Jackie Eaglesone of Bolivia and Yousef Meshiea of Lybia are the students.

Several foreign students and a professor will discuss how Communism penetrates a nation at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

'Dinner With The Profs.'
Foreign students will dine with American students Thursday in students' living areas. Also on that night will be "Dinner with the Profs" with Dr. Robert Sakai, History professor. Fifteen students can sign up at the Union program office to join Dr. Sakai at 5:30 p.m.

Las Tropicales combo will play for International Jazz 'N' Java Friday at 4 p.m. in the Union Crib.

A Polynesian theme will prevail at the Annual Ag Winter Dance at 8 p.m. Friday in the Ag College Union. Foreign talent will perform during intermission.

The Union cafeteria will add foreign food to the menu.

There will be a European travel display in the Union Lounge. It will present information for different types of European trips available to students. Free bulletins will be distributed.