

Cell study may aid cancer battle

Literally "miles" of 16 mm films of the microscopic world within a single cell have been produced in a University project which eventually may aid medical researchers battling diseases such as cancer.

In the ongoing, basic research, a University team directed by biology professor Andrew Bajer, 49, is using a camera and a microscope to film various stages of mitosis, a technical name for the multi-staged growth process during which cells in most organisms — including humans — divide and form new cells.

"Time-lapse" photography is used by the researchers to film the various steps of cell division, which can take up to eight hours.

The laboratory cinematography focuses

primarily on the cells of "newts," a type of salamander Bajer says is commonly known in Oregon as a "waterdog," and on cells of the *Haemaphysalis*, or African "blood lily."

The specific goal of the investigation, according to the researchers, is to learn more about the mechanism which allows components of a cell — such as the tiny chromosomes which carry a cell's genetic coding — to move about during mitosis.

Bajer says he hopes a long-range benefit of studying the cellular growth process will be to help medical researchers understand and treat diseases including cancer, which he described as "basically a stage of uncontrolled cellular growth."

"The project is intended to help humans...I per-

sonally feel the direct application to cancer is much closer than many expect...and we would prefer to use human cells in the research," Bajer says.

However, he says human cells are too small to be used in the filming of cell division. Structure of the larger salamander cells is similar to that of a human cell, he says.

Bajer recently was awarded a grant of \$84,322 from the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) as continued support for the research, which he has conducted since coming to the University some 15 years ago. His wife, Jadwiga, also a biologist, works with him on the project as a research associate.

The recent PHS grant was the third installment of a five-year support contract.

Student style is no style, says Soviet dressmaker

"I couldn't really tell a student by the clothes he wears," says Vyacheslav Zaitsev, the Soviet Union's leading couturier.

"The student style is really the absence of a single style. It is too diversified, especially when you take all the fads into account."

In the corridors of Soviet higher educational institutions — the Leningrad University or the Tomsk Polytechnical Institute in Siberia alike — there is such a variety in dress that one has to agree with Zaitsev.

Bright-colored jumpers, suede jackets, classic dark suits, painted T-shirts and jeans, ponchos, gypsy shawls, stylized Russian calico sarafans and cowboy shirts — everything is worn both in and out of the lecture halls.

Hardly any of the higher Soviet schools have official dress codes. True, some have their traditions: for example, dressing for lectures as you would for an office job.

But the observation of these traditions is a matter of choice, and many disregard them. Opponents of ties and those who like bright colors or near-tattered jeans follow their own traditions.

But there are higher educational institutions which have their own uniforms and do not tolerate any deviation from that. Among these are the higher nautical schools training specialists for the merchant marine or the passenger fleet.

Their students sport sailors' striped jersey undershirts, black pea-jackets and navy caps — all the trappings of naval uniform.

The same is true of the institutes for civil aviation engineers, where the uniform is blue with gold stripes on the sleeves denoting the year of study.

The uniform worn in medical schools is, of course, the white robe and cap. In the Baltic republics students wear their schools' colors in caps, but only by choice.

Every year students spend a few weeks doing production practice, or working in their specialties at various enterprises. Some of them wear special uniforms corresponding to their future professions.

To the question of whether the styles favored by Soviet students differ from those of their American colleagues, most of the students in the Soviet Union reply in the negative. True, they aren't sure.

Mikhail Sibiryakov, graduate of the Moscow Foreign Languages Institute, who underwent practical training in the USA a couple of years ago, is better qualified to

judge.

"I believe," he says, "that if you get a group of Americans and our students together, it would be hard to tell who is who by the clothes they wear. The difference is slight."

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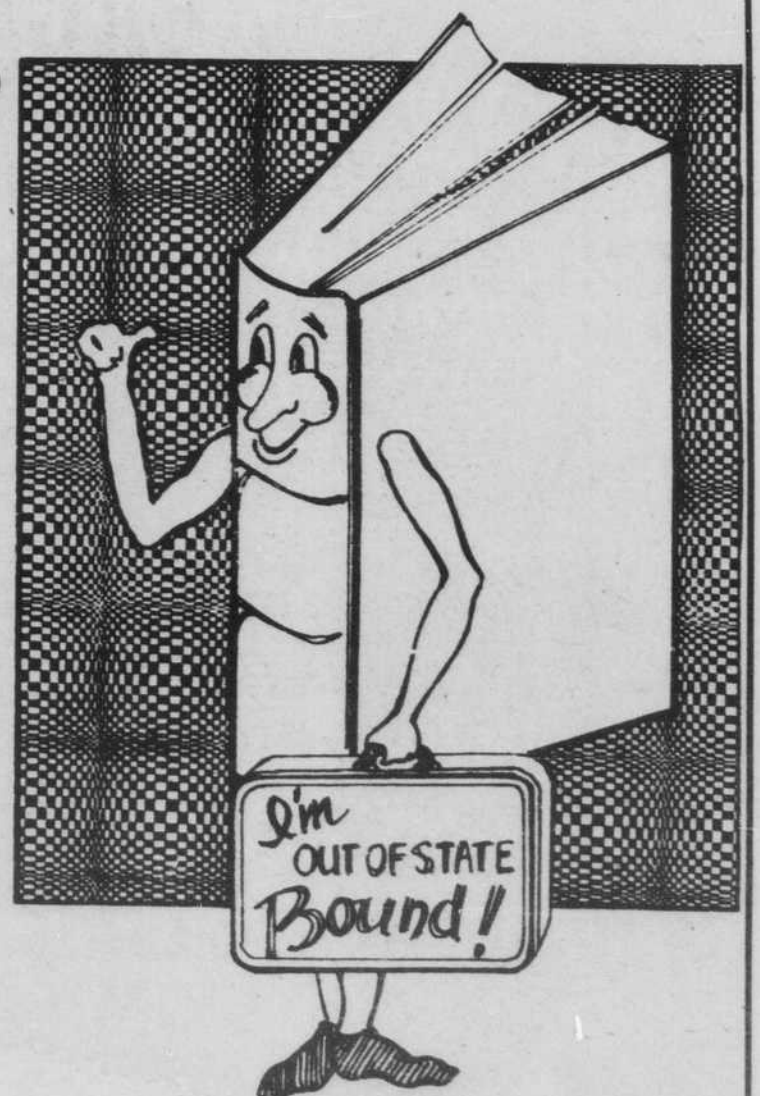
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