

# New AIDS Drugs Bring New Hope

By Monica Uddin  
 ■ The Stanford Daily  
 Stanford U.

A set of experimental drugs currently being researched at Stanford U. is renewing hope for the future of AIDS and cancer patients by increasing the body's production of white blood cells.

Studies conducted by Dr. Peter Greenberg, a Stanford professor of medicine, are largely responsible for this dramatic treatment.

Greenberg and other researchers have spent the last 15 years investigating what regulates production of white blood cells in bone marrow — the body's main defense against disease and infection.

The drugs, known as G-CSF and GM-CSF, already have been found to cure children with congenital, fatally low levels of white blood cells. G-CSF and GM-CSF stand for granulocyte colony stimulating factor and granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor, respectively.

Stimulating factors in the drugs activate a part of the white blood cells called neutrophils. Neutrophils act as the cell's first line of defense against bacterial infection and thus prevent their destruction.

Because chemotherapy often destroys both cancer cells and white blood cells along with other essential tissue, many cancer patients are forced to discontinue treatment to decrease the risk of infection.

Some AIDS patients also are susceptible to this phenomenon, as AZT, a drug used to treat this disease, has been found to decrease white cell counts among its users.

However, the experimental drugs help build white blood cells and counteract the negative effects of these treatments.

"With these drugs we can use higher doses of chemotherapy and AZT to improve cure rates," Greenberg confirmed.

"The main purpose (of the drugs) is as an adjunct to standard chemotherapy" and to "treat patients at previously unattainable levels," Greenberg said.

Studies investigating the drug's potential in treating patients in early stages of leukemia also are under way.

**BRIEFLY**

**Cupid's Campus . . .** Mankato State U. in Minnesota will be the envy of every student smoocher this Valentine's Day because it boasts the world record for the most couples kissing at once. To win official recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records, 566 participants locked lips on the school's rugby field for 10 seconds during an event called "Kiss Off! MSU Pucker Breaker '90." Some of the 288 kissing couples met for the first time during the event. Sponsored by Mankato's student newspaper, *The Reporter*, the MSU students made Syracuse U. kiss their old record goodbye; SU set the former record with about 400 participants last summer. ■ *The Reporter*, Mankato State U.

## Dying

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visible sports figures who push the products and are known for using tobacco products themselves.

Because chewing tobacco usually is placed in the same part of the mouth when it is chewed, the exposed part of the mouth is saturated with the tobacco and lesions can result, he said.

"As a result of more tobacco use in men, two to three times as many men develop oral cancer compared to women, he said. Warning signs: white patches in the mouth, followed by sores or ulcers that do not heal after a reasonable amount of time.

"If the time between when the lesion is detected and removed is short, most lesions are curable," Vugrin said.

Vugrin said any amount of good oral hygiene helps, but it cannot defend against the constant exposure the mouth receives when tobacco products are used.

If the use of tobacco products is stopped, for each year that goes by the risk of cancer decreases.

## Green

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after you graduate," Haskins said.

And then there are academic factors. "The percentage is very high that (athletes who go pro early) are in some sort of academic trouble or are struggling with the books, or it's not something they really enjoy," said Iowa coach Tom Davis.

Coaches shouldn't try to stop the players from making money anyway, he said. "Why would anybody stand in their way, knowing that they're going to play basketball most of their life?" he said.

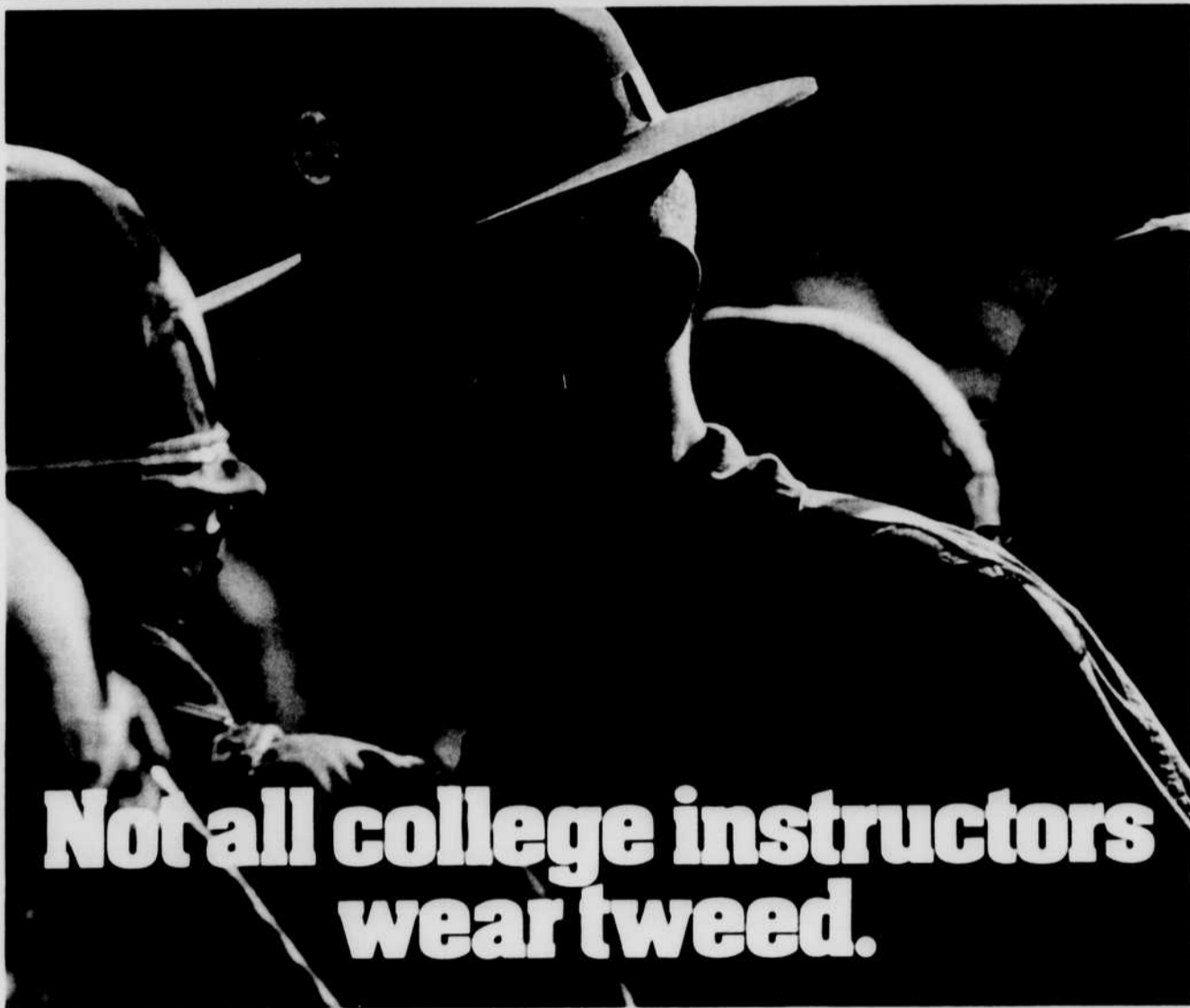
But not all players eligible can make that kind of money or get drafted at all.

Fisher said he wants the NCAA to examine a rule to let players have their final year of eligibility even if they decide to apply for the draft.

"I don't know if that's opening up the door for every good or average upperclassman or not, but I do think they should have that ability (to return)," he said.

Money wasn't enough to lure Michigan State guard Steve Smith into the NBA last year. He decided to stay for his senior year and help the Spartans defend their Big Ten championship.

"Michigan State, in Steve Smith, really showed us what college athletics are all about," Indiana U. coach Bob Knight said.



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