

Drunken Rats Aid In Studying Disease

(From the Oregon Mental Health Division)

University of Texas researchers are turning teetotaling rats into heavy boozers in an effort to determine the cause of a little-known complication of alcoholism: breakdown of skeletal muscle.

The drunk rats (who ordinarily won't touch the stuff) are breathing vaporized alcohol 24 hours a day in a special cage

designed by researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.

The muscle destruction, called 'alcoholic myopathy', occurs in most and possibly all chronic alcoholics, says Dr. James Knochel, professor of internal medicine at UT SW, and the principle investigator in the half-million dollar three-year program.

The team has been able to produce the same sort of muscle damage in the rats that can occur in people with alcoholic myopathy.

One explanation of the mysterious disease relates it to loss of phosphorus from the blood. As blood phosphorus levels drop, muscle cells immediately begin dying from loss of ATP, a phosphorus-containing chemical compound.

Santiago Appointed HUD Indian Aide

Irvin Santiago, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico, was sworn in September 7 by Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris of Housing and Urban Development as her Special Assistant for Indian and Alaska Native Programs.

As Special Assistant, Mr. Santiago is responsible for coordinating all programs of the Department relating to Indian and Alaska Native housing and community development.

He brings to his new position more than 12 years experience as a housing officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, specializing in Indian Housing programs funded by HUD and the Department of Interior in the states of Nevada and Arizona.

In accepting the appointment, Santiago said, "Secretary Harris expresses confidence in me with this appointment, an honor I appreciate and will strive to deserve. I welcome this opportunity to assist in the provision of housing and housing services to the Indian community. The challenge is great, but greater still is the need to meet our goal of

decent, safe and sanitary housing for the Indian people. To achieve that goal, I will work with the Indian community, Secretary Harris, and all who can help."

Secretary Harris called the Santiago swearing-in ceremony a "proud moment for HUD and the Indian community. Mr. Santiago and I both seek improved Indian housing and community development, and we commit our efforts to achieving those goals in a manner that respects Indian culture and traditions."

During the last two years, Irv Santiago served as a multi-family housing representative for the office of Indian Programs in HUD's San Francisco Regional Office, with a duty station in Phoenix, Arizona. In that capacity, he informed Indian Housing Authorities and Indian communities about current HUD programs and policies.

Santiago has been active in tribal politics on the Laguna Indian Reservation in New Mexico, and several six years on the Tribal Council, during which

time he held the offices of Tribal Secretary, Tribal Treasurer, and Tribal Governor.

While a member of the Council, he served on the New Mexico State Advisory Committee to the Commission on Civil Rights. He was also appointed by President Johnson to the Community Services Committee.

Mr. Santiago was a regional vice president of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest Indian organization in the country, and has served on virtually every local tribal committee of the Lagunas. He also represented the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at the 5th International Indian Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, in 1964.

Mr. Santiago, 52, and his wife Agnes, have five children and are foster parents of two daughters.

National Indian News Briefs

CONGRESS APPROVES SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR BIA:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs notified Area Directors by telegram August 31 that Congress has approved a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 1978 which includes \$10.1 million for contract support under the Self-Determination Act and \$3.7 million for social services. The appropriation for social services eases an emergency situation in which BIA had anticipated the possibility of having to reduce Indian welfare payments. The supplemental also included \$7 million for fire prevention and suppression; \$815,000 for Crow and Fort Belknap irrigation project damages and almost \$19 million for increased pay costs.

ANDRUS, GERARD VISIT HOOPA RESERVATION, SITE OF FISHING PROBLEM:

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus and his Assistant for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard went to northern California September 6 to, figuratively, pour oil on the troubled waters of the Klamath River where the salmon this year have been few and the fishermen, Indian and non-Indian, angry.

After months of bickering about the proper regulation of fishing on the river, officials of the State and the Interior Department on August 29 agreed, because of very small fish count in the river, to stop all fishing below the highway 101 bridge and to allow only subsistence fishing by Indians above the bridge.

There has been resistance to the ban by some of the Indians who had previously been allowed to gill net commercially on the river. There were scattered reports of violence in some confrontations between the Indians and Federal and State agents.

INDIAN WATER RIGHTS MAY AFFECT LAND OWNED BY CONG. CUNNINGHAM:

Representative Jack Cunningham of Washington described as "ludicrous" reports that he wanted to abrogate Indian treaty rights to protect land he owns in Yuma County, Ariz., where Indian tribes are attempting to exert prior treaty claims to water.

"I think that somebody is taking a cheap shot . . . if there is a conflict with Indian treaty rights, that is the first I have heard of it," Cunningham told a Seattle newspaper.

George Vlassis, general counsel of the Navajo Tribe, said he was surprised to hear that Cunningham denied knowledge of the Indian claims on water. He said, "Anybody who farms in the Welton Mohawk District (which includes the Cunningham lands) would be talking about it at breakfast, supper and dinner. It is a staple item of conversation seven days a week." The Cunningham land, valued at an estimated \$500,000 is leased out on a straight (no percentage of the crop) lease.

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THERE ARE A LOT OF people who drink too much, but this one guy said that he knew his capacity. It's just that he gets drunk before he reaches it. YIKES

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THERE WERE THESE ladies that lived in the neighborhood and were planning on having a picnic on the weekend. Also living in the same neighborhood was this old gripy lady who was hard to get along with. No one had invited her to the picnic until the day before when one of the ladies went over to her house to invite her to join them. The old lady said, "It's too late because I've already prayed for rain." YIKES

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AFTER THE FIRST DAY'S school, a girl came home and told her mother that she was going to be a nutritionist. Her mother inquired, "how's your experience with foods?" "Just great," said the girl. "I eat it all the time." YIKES

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THERE WAS THIS GUY who came into the office one morning and he was in a good mood. Everyone noticed the excited expression on his face and finally one of the guys asked, "Why are you so happy?" "Oh!" the guy said, "we're having a happy event soon in our household." The other guy asked, "Are you having an addition to the family?" "No," said the guy, "my mother-in-law is finally going home." YIKES

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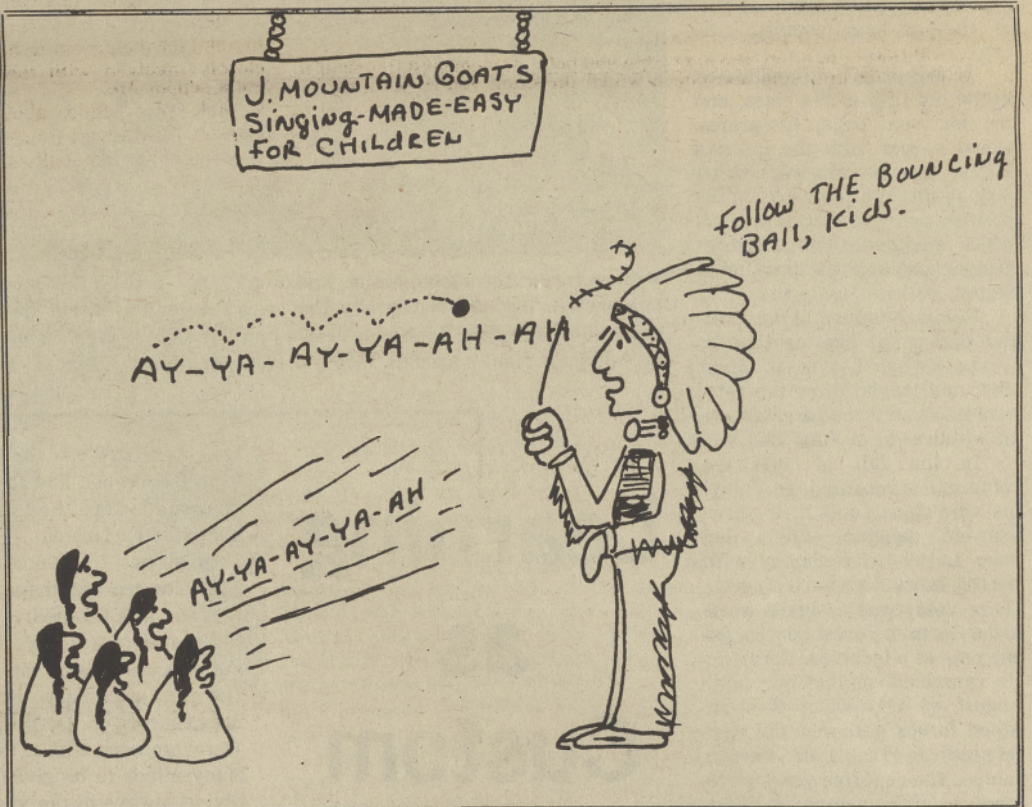
THERE WAS THIS Polack who finally decided to sue another guy who caused him to break his leg. This happened six weeks ago. The lawyer put him on the stand and told him to face the jury and tell them just why he waited so long before deciding to sue.

"Well," said the Polack, "I was going to town to pick up some supplies when this guy came along with two cows on his pickup truck and forced me off the road. We both wrecked. I was laying there when the State Trooper came along and asked me, 'What's wrong with that cow?' I said it had a broken leg. He pulls out his Magnum automatic and shoots the cow. He asked what was wrong with the other so I told him it also had a broken leg. BOOM!! He shoots the other cow. Then he comes over to me and asks, 'Whats wrong with you' I was taking no chances and said that there was nothing wrong with me, not after what I saw him do to the two cows for their broken legs! YIKES

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THERE WAS THIS GUY who came home one day and told his wife that he found a good job, good pay, week-ends off, all kinds of benefits. There are a lot of opportunities offered with the job. "That's just great," said the wife. "I knew you would like it," he tells his wife. You start next Monday." YIKES

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