

## Pharmacy discovery

While looking for a new kind of compound with anti-depressant properties, two researchers at the University of Alberta discovered a compound that will produce drugs effective in the treatment of arthritis symptoms and useful for weight control or loss.

Edward Knaus, associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, and Kinfe Redda, a student under his supervision, created compounds that yield a drug with three properties: it kills pain, it reduces inflammation, and it creates hyperglycemia (a condition of excessive blood sugar levels). The first two properties have many applications; the third could be used to control weight: when the blood sugar level is raised, the body must break down stored fats to create the necessary glucose. Once the glucose is in the blood, it is easily burned up or excreted.

Dr. Knaus and Mr. Redda have taken out a number of patents on the compounds that yield the drugs — the first patents in the 60-year history of the University's faculty of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

The three properties of the drugs are now being separated and investigated by other researchers.

## Ethnic TV (cont'd. from P. 5)

news from France. And there are many individual shows such as a *Ukrainian Christmas Eve* dinner and a *Ukrainian children's puppet show*, both produced in Winnipeg; *Children's Passover*, produced by Vancouver's Jewish community; and a one-hour show on Vancouver's Armenian community sharing their folk dancing, music and poetry.

There are events which get special

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coverage on Vancouver's Cable 10, such as the annual *July Folkfest Parade*, bringing the best of Vancouver's many cultural groups together for a day of national celebration. Last year on July 13, the Italian community presented their own folk festival in Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre, which, recorded by Cable 10 and the video tape, has been shown several times. The same was done when the Japanese community put on an evening of traditional music with local artists.

The city's Pakistani community put on two specials last year, as well as

*Festivities from the Fjords*. The Norwegian music and Christmas Eve celebration included a visit to Vancouver's Amundsen Seamen's Centre, with interviews with visiting Norwegian sailors far away from their homeland at Christmas.

Premier Cablevision plans to establish a separate multilingual cable channel on the expanded service which would require subscribers to have a mid-band converter. The company hopes to have this and other cable channels providing community information early in 1978.

## News briefs

- The Canadian Wheat Board has sold 62.5 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union for shipment next year. The contract calls for shipment of 1.45 million tons of No. 1 and No. 2 Canada Western red spring wheat and 250,000 tons of Canada Western Amber durum wheat during 1978. According to current Canadian export prices, the sale has an estimated value of \$180 million.

- The Government bill making it more difficult to collect unemployment insurance was given third and final reading in the Commons on July 19. Main features of the bill are: A ten-week to 14-week period of employment, increased from eight weeks, to become eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. The ten-week period is for areas where the unemployment rate exceeds 9 per cent ranging to 14 weeks where unemployment is below 6 per cent. A minimum of ten weeks to a maximum of 50 weeks is required for receipt of benefits; a series of experimental programs of job creation and work sharing is planned, as well as an offering to unemployment insurance recipients of voluntary participation in community-oriented work projects.

- Production in the economy increased by a strong three-tenths of one per cent in May, after April's decline, Statistics Canada reported on July 26. The federal agency's seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product stood at 127.2 in May, up from 126.8 in April. In January, the index was 127.0 and the five-month rise in production was less than two-tenths of 1 per cent.

- The Prime Minister's Office has announced that Marcel Cadieux, the former Ambassador to the United States, will take over the intensive negotiations with the U.S. over boundaries to the two countries' 200-mile fishing limits. The U.S. representative will be Lloyd Carter, a Washington lawyer who will have rank of ambassador. The negotiators have until October 15 to report their recommendations covering boundaries and fishing in and near those boundaries. A temporary interim reciprocal fisheries agreement will continue until the end of the year.

- Western Canadian farmers may be able to discard fears that the acre will be eliminated in favour of the hectares. The Government has told MPs who were fighting conversion to the metric system in the grain industry that it was willing to negotiate.

- An Ottawa man has been awarded \$400 damages in small claims court for a prematurely-rusted Ford car in what is believed to be the first reported case of its kind in Ontario.

- Manitoba Finance Minister Saul Miller has announced the sale in Germany of a provincial government bond issue amounting to 150 million Deutsche Marks — about \$65 million in Canadian funds. The issue carries an interest coupon of 6½ per cent, and was sold at 99.50 to yield the investor 6.59 per cent. The issue, dated June 30, 1977, is for seven years. Proceeds of the sale are to be advanced to Manitoba Hydro for its capital undertakings.