

# Answer to cancer hiding in Bay of Fundy brine



Somewhere in the chilly waters of the Bay of Fundy may be swimming the cures for a dozen diseases. And Maritime chemists, stimulated by the pioneering work of the University of Hawaii's Paul

J. Scheuer, may yet discover innumerable marine-based drugs and other valuable compounds.

Dr. Scheuer will visit the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, from Oct. 31-Nov 2, to give the 1977 series of F.J. Toole Lectures. The distinguished organic chemist is considered to be the leading investigator in the field of marine natural products.

In "Chemistry on the Halfshell", a non-technical opening lecture on Monday, Dr. Scheuer will discuss compounds being discovered in marine invertebrates.

Steroids, natural hormones with many medical uses, including

treatment of arthritis and cancer, are an example of a drug obtainable from marine sources.

UNB chemistry professor Zdenek Valenta noted that marine chemistry research is open-ended, but most current interest is in pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Scheuer will give a lecture on marine toxins on Tuesday, and will speak on the chemical communications of marine invertebrates on Wednesday. The last lecture will be of specific interest to biologists, chemists and biochemists.

All three talks will be at 8

p.m. in Rm. 146, Loring Bailey Hall (the UNB biology building).

Dean of Science Douglas Brewer said that the choice of Dr. Scheuer reflects the UNB chemistry department's long-range goal to become heavily involved in marine products research. For a Maritime faculty already taking a leading role in natural products research, the move from largely forest-based products to compounds of marine origin is a logical one, Dr. Brewer said.

Dr. Scheuer joined the University of Hawaii in 1950, after receiving a PhD from Harvard

University for work done with R.B. Woodward. His developmental work in marine chemistry is the antecedent of much of the world-wide high level research and interest in marine natural products.

He has lectured internationally and his work is recorded in 91 publications.

The Toole Lectures commemorate Francis Toole (1894-1975), long-time chairman of the UNB chemistry department and vice-president (academic), who did much to establish the stature of UNB in natural products chemistry.

# Heroin treatment disappoints doctors

Methodone maintenance programs, set up some ten years ago to replace heroin and thus rehabilitate heroin addicts and stop crime, are doing neither. Reporter Blake Fleetwood, who details her own investigation in New York magazine, suggests instead that the \$1-billion (dollar) program is creating more junkies than it "cures".

Fleetwood's first surprise came when she cruised into a New York

methadone clinic and within two days was receiving 50 milligrams of methadone, although she had never been addicted to anything. This was accomplished with the help of a street junkie who told her that it would be "no problem" to do so. So one could conclude that many other non-addicts could get their dope just as easily, and become hooked.

According to the researchers who were originally enthralled

with the idea of substituting methadone for heroin, methadone is not supposed to be an opiate, and is not supposed to get you high. In fact, in a "high enough dose", it is supposed to prevent you from even getting off on smack. The catch is, however, that the "high enough dose" is ten to twenty times the amount of opiate that addicts would normally buy on the street. One addict told Fleetwood that although she

needed only 20 milligrams a day to keep her "feeling good," the clinic raised her dosage up to 100 milligrams daily, which reduced her to a "zombie" unable to function.

There are other striking differences between the early, enthusiastic expectations, and the reality which later reared its ugly head. A study at Rockefeller University eleven years ago reportedly showed a 94 percent success rate in ending the criminal activity of former addicts.

But a more recent comprehensive study has found that three years after the addicts leave the methadone program, only one-

third can be described as "doing well". Another third are about the same, while the last third are doing worse. Moreover, since methadone maintenance began, crime has gone up dramatically, while the number of heroin addicts remains about the same.

Ironically, all this methadone use and abuse is killing more people than heroin ever did. When New York City's chief medical

examiner reported in 1973 that methadone poisoning killed nearly twice as many people as heroin, it caused such an official hue and cry that such statistics are no longer kept. (Newscrip)

# Zoo saves rare species?

Zoos, which have long been criticized for inhumanely caging wild animals, may soon become the last-remaining hope for many rare and endangered animal species.

The U.S. National Zoological Center has just opened its new Virginia Conservation and Research Center with the hope of breeding and preserving species of nearly-extinct animals.

Although it's only been in operation a short while, the Conservation Center is already tending herds of wild Zebras, Kangaroos, camels, monkeys and

deer. The animals are free to roam and graze over some 3,000 acres of rangeland. But there are also barns, 11 huge paddocks and some seven-miles of chain-link fence to protect and house the animals.

Unlike most zoos, the Conservation Center is not open to the public. And according to curator Dr. Chirs Wemmer, "The idea (of the park) is not just to maintain

the (animal) population, but to increase (each species') number each year." Already, the zoo has had good luck in reproducing the Pere David's deer, which are extinct in the wild. And six of the remaining 80 golden lion marmosets, an endangered species of monkeys, have already produced three litters at the park. (Newscrip Credit: Bill Sievert for Pacific News Service)

## Public skating

The following hours have been established as public skating at the Centre for these two months only, beginning Friday, October 21.

- OCTOBER**  
 21 - 10:00 - 11:30 p.m.  
 22 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
 28 - 10:00 - 11:30 p.m.  
 29 - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
 31 - 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.

- NOVEMBER**  
 10 - 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
 18 - 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
 26 - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
 28 - 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Gordon A. LeBel  
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## ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



John Ogdon

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under VICTOR YAMPOLSKY  
 Soloist: John Ogdon, Piano  
 ALL BEETHOVEN CONCERT  
 Overture "Leonore" No. 3  
 Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major

Intermission

Music from Egmont  
 Symphony No. 5 in C Minor

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- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Section - Adult - \$27   | A Section - Adult - \$6   |
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| A Section - Student - \$18 | A Section - Student - \$4 |
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