

# A nun and her clams fight cancer

By RICH PERLBERG

An unlikely combination—Sister Arline Schmeier and a sea full of clams—is turning into an encouraging battle against cancer.

Sister Arline, a Dominican sister with a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Medical Center's school of medicine, is director of a project team which is researching what may be an anti-cancer agent in the soft bodies of clams.

Her findings at the American Medical Center in Denver have been confirmed by several authorities, including a Nobel Prize winner, and have put her on the threshold of clinically testing the agent—called Mercenene—on humans.

Recently in Michigan on a fund raising and speaking tour, and she stopped by Our Lady of Victory School in Northville and personally thanked students for their donations to her research.



SR. ARLINE SCHEMEIER

The students have contributed proceeds from two plays, "Bye Bye Birdie" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

THE CLAM STORY literally begins in the kitchen.

In 1962, when Sister Arline was a National Science Foundation Fellow in Massachusetts, she noticed that cancer rarely occurs in marine invertebrates, especially clams.

Intrigued, she put the soft body part of a clam and a little water into a kitchen blender and produced an extract which had a restraining effect of laboratory mice and hamsters.

We found that there was an agent or drug in the extract which inhibits the

growth of cancer or even shrinks it in some animals," she said.

"We don't want to pretend that the cancer is preventable, but there is a possibility of a whole new family of drugs."

AND WHAT a family that would be! Mercenene—named after the marine biologist's monk for clams—is not only cheap and abundant, but it is proving to be a non-toxic agent that may also act as a killer of virus and bacteria.

It also appears to be "selectively lethal," said Sister Arline. It attacks cancer cells without destroying healthy ones.

Until recently, Sister Arline's research was funded entirely by private money. She now receives some

federal assistance but she does not want to become dependent upon grants lest the well run dry.

Through fund raisers, donations and the sale of "I Dig Clams" t-shirts, Sister Arline is trying to meet the \$75,000-a-year cost of testing Mercenene on dogs.

IF THOSE tests—which could take three or four years—are positive, the U.S. Food Administration might authorize clinical testing on humans. Her "hard scientific work which is required to show effectiveness" has put the clam extract "years and years ahead of laetrile," she says.

She said laetrile has suffered because its backers promoted it as a cure-all without waiting for the evidence and have since lost trust within the scientific community.

In this vein, she warned that in no way should people start eating clams as a possible cancer cure. There is no evidence to support that.

Sister Arline, who appears almost grave and deadly serious until a warm smile lights up a friendly face, encourage school youngsters to pursue scientific interests at an early age.

"We really knew very little about cancer when I was your age and that

was about 100 years ago," she laughingly told her young but attentive audience at the Northville School.

Her scientific interests can be traced to childhood days when an uncle would bring home discarded medical books from the hospital where he worked.

She was disappointed one Christmas when her parents gave her a toboggan instead of a microscope.

Today, her prowess with a microscope is recognized. In October, she will be in Buenos Aires to participate in the 12th International Cancer Congress.

## Plight of disabled topic for U-U

Kerry O'Kealey will talk about learning disabilities when he visits the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Farmington 25301 Halsted, as guest speaker at 10 a.m. Sunday.

In his discussion, "I Walk to a Different Drummer," he will tell about his own experiences as a learning-disabled person and then answer questions from his listeners. The public is invited.

## Moral perspectives

# To cut energy use, curb greed

An area restaurant gave me a glass of water with a meal only upon request, and with the information that for every glass of water served, three more would be needed to wash the glass used.

Driving home at 55 miles per hour on highway 94 from a church convention, I was passed by every vehicle on the road.

These two dissimilar experiences illustrate the range of responses to the same issue. We have less than before of what we need for living, but not all are convinced the situation is critical. Some of the remedial statistics are interesting. For example: every 50 pounds of luggage in the trunk increases gas consumption by one percent. "Jackrabbits" starts can cost two miles per gallon. Driving at 55 mph will improve mileage a whopping 20 percent over 70 mph. A properly tuned car will add six miles to each gallon of gas.

BUT THE STATISTICS on miles per gallon or amounts of water required to provide a drink may bequele us. True as they might be they should not



By REV. LLOYD D. BUSS  
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

become the principal focus of our attention.

The heart of the matter is our lack of responsibility for the proper care of the earth and our disregard for the needs of others. We may have less to use with more to care for, but the real problem is human nature and not the providence of God.

There ARE few ways open to us to change our basic human condition.

The most drastic will occur when there is nothing left and the most immediate is a deliberate and voluntary commitment to be a responsible participant in the human community.

The speeding driver and the gluttonous consumer are destroying with malice aforethought the very nature of humanity. Denying the rights of others to have equal access to the gifts of providence, the violators are seriously threatening the precious few chances we have to create a mutually enriching society.

We do not have enough police to enforce the laws effecting this kind of society, nor should we ever hope to acquire them. That kind of society would destroy by its very nature, the kind of life we would want to have.

It is hardly a sign of superior skill or intelligence to avoid being caught in the violation our communal standards to effect a just society.

What is vastly more difficult and infinitely more significant is the commitment and effort of every citizen to curb one's own greed and share equally with others. If "success" is our goal, why don't we seek it in that arena?

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## Your Invitation to Worship

<p><b>For Church Directory Information</b> Please Call: Debbie 644-1100 Ext. 217</p> <p><b>CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST</b> 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia Pastor Gerald Fisher ..... 474-3444 9 a.m. First Worship Service ..... 5:30 p.m. Youth Meetings 10:15 a.m. Church School ..... 7 p.m. Sunday Evening Service 11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship ..... 7:30 p.m. Wed.-The Midweek Service Nursery Provided at All Services</p>	<p><b>ANTIOCH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 13 Mile &amp; Farmington Rd. Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 Sunday School 9:30 Nursery Provided Pastor Bertl Anderson LCA 626-7906</p>	<p><b>"I AM THAT I AM"</b> TEACHINGS OF THE ASCENDING MASTERS OF SCIENCE AND THE SPIRIT WORD STUDIES OF THE AURA ALCHEMY • MANIFESTING CHRIST TRANSMUTATION KARMA (SIN) • KEYPERS OF THE FLAME STUDIES DICES &amp; SINGING NEW STUDENTS MON. 7:30-9:30 TUE. 7:30-9:30 WED. 7:30-9:30 THUR. 7:30-9:30 FRI. 6:00-9:30 SAT. 6:00-9:30 SUN. 10:00-12:00</p>	<p><b>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5631 North Adams Road 151 Mile North of 14 Mile Light Rd. SUMMER SERVICES Sunday 9 AM Family Worship Communion First Sunday of each month Monday 9 PM - Wednesday service Fred W. Maclean, Pastor Diane F. Schaefer, Pastor MI 6-5241 MI 6-5122</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 23233 Lohrer Road (Just N. of 9 Mile) Phone 357-1844 8:30 A.M. Church School 10:45 A.M. The Service The Rev. A. Elden Erickson</p>	<p><b>COVENANT BAPTIST</b> Covenant is a church where Christian Education is important. There is a place for you and your family to study and grow. Church School 9:45 Worship 11 AM &amp; 6:30 PM 5800 W. Maple Rd. W. Bloomfield, Mich 48303 * Mile W. at Orchard LA Rd 650-8181</p>
<p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 26715 Farmington Rd. Farm. Hills (across from Orchard Ridge Campus) SERVICES Sun. 10:15 AM Mon. 8:00 PM</p>	<p><b>NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 14 Mile and Lohrer Road Morning Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Pastors: L. J. Peterson E. W. Dorn Phone 642-0700</p>	<p><b>THE SUMMIT Lighthouse OF DETROIT WOODWARD AVE.</b> 23647 WOODWARD AVE. # 9th Mile 545-6769</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 165 E. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills 12 Mile East of Woodward 338-8223 Minister: Dr. Roger Irsen Church School 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11:00 A.M. Pastors Class 10 A.M. - New Testament</p>	<p><b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b> 35300 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills ENO M. TUORI, PASTOR 474-2579 Worship &amp; Sunday School 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>HOLY CROSS</b> Greek Orthodox Church 25225 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills 477-1677 Rev. S.J. Anthony, Th.B., Priest 9:30 A.M. Orthos 10:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy English Sermon Visitors Always Welcome</p>
<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> 1589 West Maple of Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beaven Harold E. Weemhoff Worship Services 8:30, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Church School 9:30 and 11 a.m. Nursery Care Provided</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> Bates and Wills, Birmingham, Mich. Robert G. Middleton, Minister David W. Sewell Gene H. Koguth Jr. Homer J. Armstrong Emeritus Church School 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p><b>St. John American Lutheran Church</b> 23225 Oak Ridge, Farmington Hills Pastor: Dennis Fox 474-0268 or 474-2579 Worship Services 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Nursery Provided</p>	<p><b>St. Andrew Lutheran Church LCA</b> 6555 Telegraph Rd. Birmingham N. of Maple Worship Services Sunday Church School 10:30 A.M. Thursday Church School 8:00 P.M. Chapel William Pionier 644-3207</p>	<p><b>First Church of God</b> Farmington Hills 25719 Power Road Walter M. Wertz, Pastor Parsonage 474-5616 Church School 9:45 Morning Worship 11:00 Evening Service 7:00 Wednesday Prayer 7:30</p>	<p><b>Prince of Peace Lutheran Church</b> Missouri Synod 12 Mile &amp; Farmington Roads Behind Crowley's The Rev. R.A. St. Pierre - pastor Sunday Worship 8:00 and 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 A.M. Church Phone: 553-3380</p>
<p><b>WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA</b> Farmington Road &amp; Six Mile Road Worship &amp; Sunday School 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. 422-1150 FATHER'S DAY "A Father's Faith" Dr. Bartlett L. Hess "Divine Love and Cheap Grace Don't Mix" Rev. L. Edward Davis Wednesday 7:30 p.m. HOUR OF POWER (Psalm 4) Nursery Provided at All Services Vacation Bible School - June 19-29 - 9:30 to 12:30</p>	<p><b>Bloomfield Hills Christian Church</b> The Community House 380 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday 10:10 A.M. Bible School 11:00 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Prayer Service Wednesday 7:15 P.M. Bible Study 626-6820 Ministers: Robert L.S. Brown James F. Thomas</p>	<p><b>The Orchard United Methodist Church</b> 3040 Farmington Road (between 14 and 15 Mile) Morning Worship 9:30 and 11 a.m. Church School &amp; Nursery 626-6820 Ministers: Robert L.S. Brown James F. Thomas</p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Birmingham, U.C.C.</b> Woodward at Cranbrook Bloomfield Hills MI 4-5111 Worship and Church School 10 AM Minister: Rev. Charles O. Erickson Master of Education</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> United Methodist of Franklin's Village Green 10 A.M. Nursery Care 10 A.M. Lawn Reception following Service Senior Minister: Frank B. Cowick Associate Minister: J. Chester Stubbs</p>	<p><b>Christian Science Churches</b> FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIT. SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis SUNDAY SERVICES ..... 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING ..... 8:00 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. - Wed. .... 7:45 P.M. READING ROOM • 355 East Maple • 644-7935 Open Mon. &amp; Tues. 9:30-5:30 &amp; 7-9 Wed. &amp; Sat. 9:30-5:30 Thurs. &amp; Fri. 9:30-9:00 except Sunday and holidays</p>
<p><b>3:30 Sunday Service</b> Broadcast WMUZ-FM 103.5</p>	<p><b>At Conditioned Sanctuary</b> Nursery Provided at All Services</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON</b> Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350</p>	<p><b>DINE SCIENCE CHURCH</b> 1128 West Maple Road Birmingham, Mich. Sunday Service at 11 A.M.</p>	<p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS CHRISTIAN CENTER</b> Deke Road at Freedom Farmington Hills, MI, 48024 Phone: 478-1811 Rev. Edward Lottier, Pastor Rev. John Walskalyk, Associate Pastor Sunday, June 18, 1978 9:45 AM Sunday School classes for the whole family all summer. 10:45 AM Father's Day Revels in the Holy Spirit 2:00 PM Youth Rally "Trumpet Sounds &amp; Battle Grounds" All graduates will be honored Thursday 7:30 PM - BIBLE STUDY FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY A church where the Spirit of God is moving</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIT. SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MERIDOUAKE</b> Maple at Inkster SUNDAY SERVICES ..... 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING ..... 8:15 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. - Wed. .... 8:00 P.M. READING ROOM in Pine Lake Mall • 851-7740 Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd. 853-0310 Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 10:00-5:30 Thurs. &amp; Fri. 10:00-9:00 All are welcome at our Church Services and the Reading Rooms</p>