

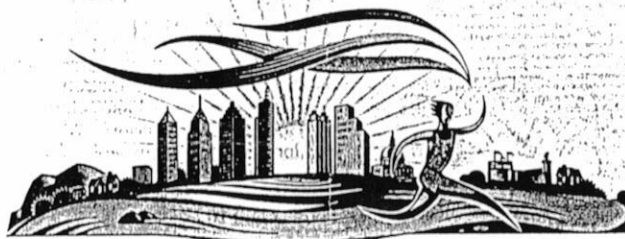
Jan. 31, 1996

1996

★

High 46, low  
DB.

170 DAYS to the GAMES



Don't Miss



Children  
as targets

Columnist Dave  
Kindred reflects  
on the killings  
of area children.

LOCAL NEWS, B3

# ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

50 CENTS

SPORTS FINAL

70  
90

of  
CARE

state Senate  
considers a "direct  
bill guaranteeing  
the option of see-  
-syn within their  
plan without first  
ission from a pri-  
-sician.

WATCH, E3

VICES

ity explore the  
other options  
erations — also  
ted.

31

## AIDS breakthrough: Chimps may test drugs

By Bill Hendrick  
STAFF WRITER

A 15-year-old chimpanzee intentionally injected with the virus that causes AIDS more than a decade ago has become the first non-human to develop full-blown AIDS, the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta announced Tuesday.

The animal, named Jerom by Yerkes researchers, was one of 11 chimpanzees injected with HIV between 1984 and 1986, said Dr. Harold McClure, head of AIDS research at Yerkes at Emory University.

Since the AIDS epidemic began, up to 100 chimps at Yerkes and four other primate centers have been injected with HIV, and scientists had been expressing doubt a chimp could develop AIDS.

McClure said one reason AIDS has been so difficult to control has been the lack of a so-called animal

model, a lab animal that can stand in for people in studies of the disease. Now, he said, it is clear that chimps can be used to test AIDS drugs.

McClure said HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, showed up in 10 of the 11 chimps injected with it in the 1980s. Two other chimps injected with "an HIV clone" never developed HIV infection, he said. Another, named Nathan by researchers, received an injection of another strain of HIV and also did not develop the infection.

But Nathan received a blood transfusion from Jerom last August, immediately became infected and has started to develop symptoms.

Researchers diagnosed AIDS in Jerom last August. No other HIV-infected chimp has developed AIDS.

Neither Jerom nor Nathan is in pain, and Jerom has been treated in recent months for opportunistic infections common among AIDS pa-

Dr. Harold McClure (right, with a colleague) of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center says chimps can now be used to test AIDS drugs.



Special

tients, McClure said. The chimp's infection-fighting CD4 immune cells, typically depleted by AIDS, have been declining and now are at "critically low levels," he said.

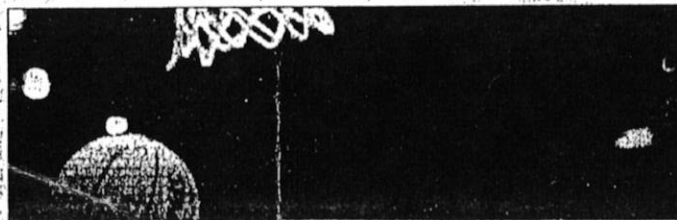
None of the chimps at Yerkes will be treated with AIDS drugs on the market, McClure said.

Yerkes spokeswoman Cathy Yar-

brough said most of the 201 chimps at Yerkes are involved in behavioral research, with only a few in biomedical research.

Animal rights advocates have criticized the use of animals in such research. But McClure said chimps must be used, even though they are endangered in the wild.

Magic's  
back for



Georgians'  
cash backs