

Consol High hires new principal

Rodney E. LeBoeuf was hired as principal of the A&M Consolidated High School during the regular meeting of the board of trustees Monday night.

LeBoeuf, who will start work July 1, replaces Jim Foreman, acting principal, and Vernon Files, director of administrative services. Vernon Files will return to the classroom teaching Distributive Education, and Foreman will resume his duties as assistant principal.

For the past year, LeBoeuf has been superintendent of Kountze Independent School District.

The new principal received his B.A. degree in English and History from Lamar University, completed a Masters of Education degree in Education and Administration at Texas A&M University and is currently enrolled in that doctoral program here.

LeBoeuf says he will work with the administration to keep the community informed about high school academic programs and extra-curricular phases.

He and his wife have three daughters aged 14, 12 and 6. The family is excited about getting involved in the community.

"We were interested in the geographic area, but especially interested in getting our children back into a community that wants a good school program, and we feel that College Station is that community. We want to get involved in a quality education program," he said.

His classroom experience includes one year at Woodlawn Jr. High School, four years at Port Neches Jr. High School and three years at Port Neches-Groves High School.

In 1969, LeBoeuf was named Assistant Principal at Port Neches-Groves High School and two years later gained the position of principal, which he held for five years.

Doctor says birth control is safe, sure

LOS ANGELES — An obstetrician-gynecologist says there is a sure and safe method of birth control that does not require contraceptive devices or the pill.

Dr. Victoria Georges Hufnagel of Cedars-Sinai Hospital said the method relies on the body's natural safeguards against pregnancy.

She said the technique is totally unrelated to the so-called rhythm method but instead is based on the fact that conception is possible only during a few days each month. During the rest of the time natural barriers make impregnation impossible.

"Further, the few days during which a woman is fertile can easily be recognized by certain clearcut external changes."

The changes show up in bodily secretions, specifically cervical mucus. The secretion, which a woman can test for daily, changes slowly during the month, becoming thin during the period of ovulation and thick during infertile periods.

"Under an electron microscope," she said, "it can be seen to form a natural barrier. It actually prevents fertilization."

"We've known about it for some time," she said. "But many doctors, including gynecologists, don't know enough about it."

One big problem, however, is that the method requires a period of abstinence of six to eight days, said Dr. Gabriel Bialy, head of the contraceptive branch at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Washington.

He said there is a paucity of statistics, but the data that are available suggest the natural family planning method is 95 to 98 per cent effective if followed accurately by couples.

The method, known since 1970, is being taught to 154 couples at the Cedars-Sinai's Natural Family Planning Center in a project that got underway last year.

The program, funded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's child health institute, is the only one in the country. The only other program, also administered by Cedars-Sinai, is being conducted in Bogota, Colombia.

The effort is aimed at gathering the data necessary to confirm its effectiveness and to determine how attractive the technique is to the public. Bialy said the method has its opponents as well as proponents.

"Quite plainly, HEW wanted a method which did not rely on drugs or implanted devices," Dr. Hufnagel said, "but rather upon one's own physiological dynamics."

"At about the same time, the United Nation's World Health Organization also recognized the urgent need for safer birth control methods that would not meet cultural resistance, and it made a similar commitment."

"There is a certain cultural stigma about learning to be in touch with your body," she said.

Bagpipes, SSTs, noise and the EPA

WASHINGTON — America is a land of contrast and contradictions. On the one hand, New York authorities refuse to permit the Concorde supersonic transport (SST) to land at John F. Kennedy Airport because of the noise factor.

In this area, on the other hand, federal authorities have authorized a downtown bagpipe concert. According to a Smithsonian Institution press release, "An Evening of Scottish Piping" will be held at the Museum of History and Technology next Friday.

It will feature the Great Highland Bagpipe (GHB) in a program of traditional Scottish music, which presumably will include "Who Threw the Kilts in Mrs. MacTavish's Haggis?"

I asked the Environmental Protection Agency how the government could square allowing the Scottish GHB to be played in one section of the country while the Anglo-Franco SST was barred from landing in another.

The GHB, I pointed out, is capable of producing a decibel count roughly 17 per cent above the noise level recorded during Concorde test landings at Washington's Dules Airport.

A spokesman for the agency said there were a number of considerations involved in the decision. "Kennedy Airport is in the midst of a densely populated residential area. The Smithsonian museums,

by contrast, are more or less isolated along the Mall. "We believe that granting playing rights to the GHB on Friday evening after most downtown workers have gone home will cause only minimal complaints."

The main consideration, however, is political. Scotland has spent a fortune to develop the Great

Highland Bagpipe and has exerted strong diplomatic pressure to obtain playing rights for it in the United States. Earlier proposals to restrict GHB playing rights to the Mojave Desert were unsatisfactory to the Scots. They contend that for a bagpipe concert to be fully effective, it must be held where someone can hear it.

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