

# Germ-free world

## 'Bubble baby' celebrates seventh birthday

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Little David, the immune deficient youth whose life is restricted to a sterile plexiglass isolator, took time off from his schoolwork Thursday to celebrate his seventh birthday with family and friends.

He unwrapped gifts inside his isolator in the family den with his sister, cousins, friends his own age, and grandparents looking on. From there, the festivities moved to a spaghetti dinner and chocolate birthday cake.

David's full identity has never been revealed publicly to protect the child and his family.

He suffers from severe combined immune deficiency disease, which means his body has no natural defense against germs. Catching the common cold could prove fatal.

David has spent all but the first few seconds of his life in a plastic "bubble" and is the oldest of about five SCID patients.

Along with his presents David has a new attending physician. Dr. William T. Shearer, recently

appointed professor of pediatrics, microbiology and immunology at Baylor College of Medicine, also will work training immunologists — those who eventually may find a cure for his disease.

Shearer said he will protect David and not let him become a "laboratory experiment." He discussed David's progress with reporters Wednesday.

"When David was born, the field of immunology was young and the body of knowledge was less," he said. "In immunodeficiency pa-

tients, variation is the key finding. One person with SC will not respond to treatment in the same way as another."

Shearer reported that David has been exposed accidentally to a limited number of nondisease causing bacteria.

"These pathogens, though normally non-disease producing, can be harmful by causing what is known as opportunistic infection. So the fact that David lives with these organisms in his body with no ill effects is encouraging.

"Any systematic introduction of bacteria into David's system, however, would be extremely risky. It takes a while for all children's immune system to become strong — most children have four to six virus infections a year — but we are not at the point of sophistication in science where we can give David exposure to germs without inflicting serious health hazards.

"It is my opinion that David would be unable to survive outside the bubble even with limited exposure," he said.

## Public views of police differ, Torres case lawyer says

By CANDICE HILL  
Battalion Reporter

Police should defend both order and human rights, says Bob Bennett, a criminal lawyer from Houston. The attorney defended one of the policemen in the Joe Campos Torres case. Bennett was on campus to speak to Political Forum Thursday.

"These days there has been much public concern over the social relationship between police and citizens in a free society," Bennett said. He discussed the police mission and gave a list of what is believed to be the standard functions of policemen: crime prevention, crime investigation, traffic control and providing of emergency services.

These performances should accomplish the police mission through the maintenance of peace and security in the community, Bennett said. This is the concept most people have about the police function.

But the role of police is viewed differently, he said. The policeman sees it as the cops versus robbers

role, engaging in the symbolic rights of chase, search and capture when they arrive on the scene of a crime. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice says this is a widespread role concept by police and frequently by citizens, Bennett said. People with this view see police engaging in the dangerous, exciting and competitive enterprise of apprehending criminals, he said.

Citizens may have a similar concept role but they have different demands of the police. A policeman is expected to act as a family counselor, physician, public relations specialist, athlete, social worker and educator.

"He is expected to perform these functions with the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the strength of Goliath," Bennett said.

The majority of police time is spent in activities involving difficult and complex social and behavioral problems, he said. In handling these problems they find they must work with situations rather than persons and this tends to present a bad situation, Bennett said.

Citizens begin to react negatively to this attitude and it puts a strain on police-community relations. Also, Bennett said, the apprehension of danger on the policeman's part adds tension and frustration and this affects the performance of duties. He said the very basis of police-community relations are likely to be negative.

Policemen are sometimes in the position where being courteous does not work with citizens, so he begins to act rudely every time he comes into contact with the public, Bennett said; it is natural for negative feelings to arise.

"The citizen's expectation is, and it rightfully should be, that the representatives of their government... should be courteous, should be restrained and they should be effective and should be able to cope with any situation that they encounter," he said.

The real conflict comes when a citizen's rights are breached and contact with the police becomes necessary. Bennett asked what the American sense of justice dictates when reacting to the problem of conflict between police and citizens. He said he hoped the citizens would respond to the question with reason and not with emotion.

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**CB operator gets obscenity conviction**

United Press International  
DALLAS — Gary A. Hancock, Texas citizen's band radio operator in Dallas, has become the first person convicted since the recent Supreme Court obscenity ruling the "seven dirty words" case in New York.


Hancock entered a plea of guilty to the federal indictment containing one count charging violation of 18 U.S. Code, Section 1464. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment and fined \$1,000. The sentence was suspended and Hancock was placed on probation for two years and required to participate in a group counseling program.

The Federal Communications Commission said Thursday Hancock was convicted on one count in U.S. District Court for the district of Texas Sept. 15 on charges of using obscene language by means of radio communication with a radio.

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## what's up

### Friday

**TAMU RACQUETBALL CLUB:** Members of the club will participate in the Texas championships at the Handball and Racquetball Clubs of San Antonio tonight and extending through the weekend.

**AGGIE CINEMA:** "Sorcerer," a film that focuses on four strangers trapped in a filthy and primitive South American Backwater; the only hope is to volunteer for a suicidally dangerous job, will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

**MIDNIGHT MOVIE:** "I Will, I Will... For Now," a spoof of manners and casual relationships in the 1970's, starring Ellen Gould and Diane Keaton, will be shown in Rudder Theater.

**VOLLEYBALL:** The women's team will go to the San Diego State Tournament in San Diego, California today and tomorrow.

**SOFTBALL:** The women's team will travel to Denton for the Texas Women's University Tournament today and tomorrow.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** There will be a men's and women's Invitational Cross Country Meet here.

**TENNIS:** The women's team will play in Texas sectionals in Corpus Christi today and Saturday.

### Saturday

**FOOTBALL:** The Texas Aggies will play Boston College in Boston, Mass., at 5 p.m. Central Daylight Time. The game will be on radio station WTAW.

**BIO-MED:** The Bio-Medical Science Association Hamburger Fry from 4:30 p.m. until dark at Hensel Park. New people are welcome to join the association for \$3. Members are free; date members are \$1.50. If interested, call Ed at 693-3088.

**DANCE:** The Texas A&M Mainland Mother's Club invite students and faculty to attend a formal dance at the Texas City Theater Civic Center. Tickets are \$10 per couple. For more information please contact Mrs. Anrew Giamfontone at (713) 935-9492. "The Dukes of Aggeland" will play at the dance.

**AGGIE CINEMA:** "Outlaw Blues," about a song-writing convict who gets out of prison only to find that his music has been stolen, and tears up Austin in revenge will show at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. The movie stars Peter Fonda and Susan Saint James.

**RHA:** The Texas Resident Hall Association will hold a one-day meeting in Rudder Tower.

**AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS:** an "Afternoon in the Country" rally will be held in Parking lot 50 at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person and includes dinner and beer.

### Sunday

**AGGIE CINEMA:** "Oliver," a superb British cast and musical carry you through the Dickens classic Oliver Twist. This winter's six Academy Awards stars Ron Moody and Oliver Reed and will be shown at 2 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

**TENNIS:** The women's team will have Texas Sectionals in Corpus Christi.

### Monday

**CAREERS NIGHT:** The College of Business will have a careers night, with mock interview and departmental speakers from 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

**FENCING:** The TAMU Fencing club urges anyone to try to "fence a fencer" and win a gift from area merchants at the fountain today and tomorrow from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**CAMPUS SCOUTS:** Will plan an outing at their meeting in room 502, Rudder at 7 p.m.

**MSC ARTS:** All interested people are welcome to go to the MSC Arts meeting in room 216, Memorial Student Center (student programs office) at 8 p.m.

**OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS:** The Off-Campus Student Association will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the MSC Student Programs Office conference room.