## Decrease of 'right' births may cause lower standards

ight" people are not having babies ow, children born to many other mericans may have a lower standard of living when they grow up, says a Georgetown University re-

The problem is not that "the wrong people are having children— it's that the right people are not having them," says Dr. Andre E. Hel-legers, director of Georgetown's loseph and Rose Kennedy Institute

"The American middle and upper classes — those who can most afford to have children — are less likely to have them," he said in an interview. They are the people most apt to produce children who will have equate incomes as adults and conibute to the social security system, e added. Hellegers specializes in he biological and social problems of

He said the crunch will come beause the number of older Amerians is increasing and they are living nger than ever before, while the birth rate is declining. About three million babies are born yearly, compared with slightly more than bur million a year in the late 1950s. The problem facing the United tates is the opposite of the popula-ion explosion in Third World counries, Hellegers said. Instead of too decreased.

WASHINGTON - Because the care, there are too many older people in proportion to the work

"As a consequence, fewer people are becoming responsible for more people," he said. "Then the question is to look at the competency of those who will do the supporting."

Twenty percent of the children of today's smaller families will be born to the consequence whose preparathered.

to teenagers, whose parenthood often interferes with continued

At the same time, professional couples or well-educated young adults who have been brought up with the concept of zero population growth are having fewer children or postponing them or deciding against parenthood.

Hellegers said the teenage birth rate has been decreasing for a decade and people over 20 are having even fewer children.

'The ability of these children of teenagers to make it into an advantageous economic grouping is highly questionable," he said. "This puts an even greater burden on the remaining children to contribute.

Hellegers expects the future to bring higher taxes and a lower standard of living unless affluent people produce enough children to support the so-called dependency burden or unless that dependency burden is



Battalion photo by Ed Cunnius

## Glowing work

Students can be assured that Texas A&M University will be a well-lit campus, especially when men work on Saturday to repair a street lamp. Norman Gentry, with glasses, and Curtis Holder fix the light beside the bus stop in front of the Reed

## After Rockies, Mississippi was easy, says modern Huck Finn

NEW ORLEANS — Compared with his sailing trip to the Pacific Ocean that included a 200-mile climb over the Rocky Mountains, Phil Babiak said his 1,300-mile trip down the Mississippi River from Louisville, Ky., in a 27-foot log raft was a snap.

Two years ago he rowed from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean, with a hike over the Rockies. By comparison, the Mississippi River

was an interstate highway, he said.
"We ran through the usual stuff
you'd expect," Babiak said Sunday after stepping off his craft near Jackson Square in the French Quarter. "We got caught in an eddy, we got stuck on a tree floating in the river and there are some dikes in the river between Natchez, (Miss.), and Cairo, (Ill.).

"We had some minor repairs to the raft and a tow boat broke up in front of us — the individual barges were floating free right at us - but

Babiak, 20, made the last half of his trip with Paul Camuso, who jumped on the raft in Vicksburg, Miss. Camuso was part of a kayak expedition from Brockway, Pa., to New Orleans earlier this summer and when he passed Babiak in the river he signed up for the home

Babiak's original crewmate, Mark Stano, decided to call it quits at Vic-

"He got tired of the way of life," Babiak said. "We had to stay in an 8-by-12-foot private cabin. We had a fire box on top where we cooked all our meals. We did it all without

motors. We had two sweeps, which were about 20-foot long oars. The trip started April 15

Babiak said his next trip will be to the Virgin Islands for the start of an around-the-world cruise





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## 'Rabbit' test finds disease treatment, not pregnancy

LONDON - The case of the gid rabbits is a classic example in ne dreaded neuromuscular disease

onual meeting of the British As-ociation for the Advancement of

weakness that is accentuated by exercise and can lead in severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and that the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and that the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and that the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and that the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or their rabbits and the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or the severe cases to death by respiratory failure or the severe cases and case of the severe cases are the severe cases and case of the severe cases are the severe case of the severe cas

that attacked his own neuromuscu-

Dr. Roger Harrison and Dr. ion in connection with studies into coveries maintained for months e mechanism by which nerve cells called neurones make contact with other nerve or muscle cells across the specialized junctions named

The chemical messenger involved at the contact is the molecule

"It was the isolation of the acetylcholine receptor that led to the awakening of interest in myasthenia gravis, the doctors said.

The major problem of isolating

acetylcholine receptors from mammalian muscles is getting enough of he substance for research. The Bay of Biscay electric fish proved invaluable because, although pharamacologically identical to mammaian muscle, its electric organ has

10,000 times more receptors.

There was another ally for the reearchers in the venom of certain obras which contain small proteins

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role in the complex process of isolat Aristotle Onassis.

Two British scientists brought his continuing story up to date in apper prepared for delivery to the mulal meeting of the British Aristotle Onassis.

By the early 1970s, a number of laboratories had used this procedure and were engaged in determining the properties of the acetylcholine receptor. One experiment in the laboratories had used this procedure and were engaged in determining the properties of the acetylcholine receptor. One experiment in the laboratories had used this procedure and were engaged in determining the properties of the acetylcholine. ciation for the Advancement of purified receptor protein into rab-cience at Bath.

Myasthenia gravis is a disease in rabbits developed muscular

The American researchers noted similarities between the paralysis of their rabbits and that of patients sufthere have been many theories to the rabbits produced anaplain its action but the one that tibodies against the injections but ow appears to have been closest to these cross-reacted with their own be actuality was the suggestion by a British researcher in 1960 that it was an auto-immune disease in which the patient developed antibodies sent in the blood of sufferers and in 90 percent of tests in Britain these

Dr. Roger Harrison and Dr.

George G. Lunt of the University of change in which the blood of paBath said it took 13 years for the tients is cleared of antibodies by me with an unexpected observa- trifuge. There have been sharp re-

But, the doctors cautioned, the

to the acetylcholine receptors of able because it is "time consuming, skeletal muscles — that they can act be repeated four to eight times) and as sensitive markers and play a vital extremely expensive (it may have to be repeated four to eight times) and carries some risk to the patients.

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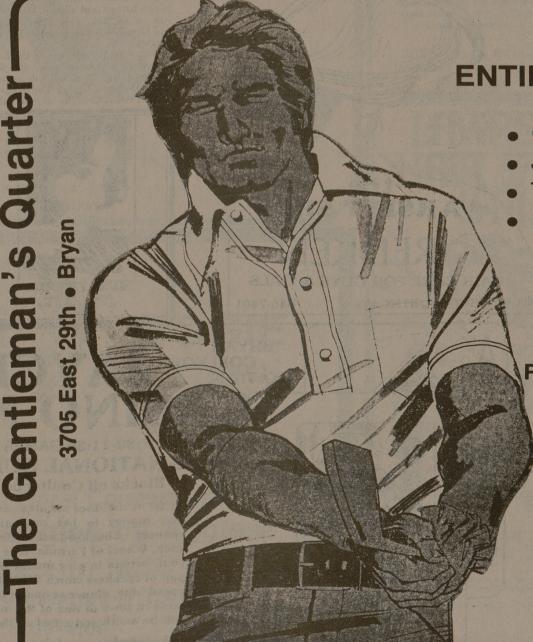
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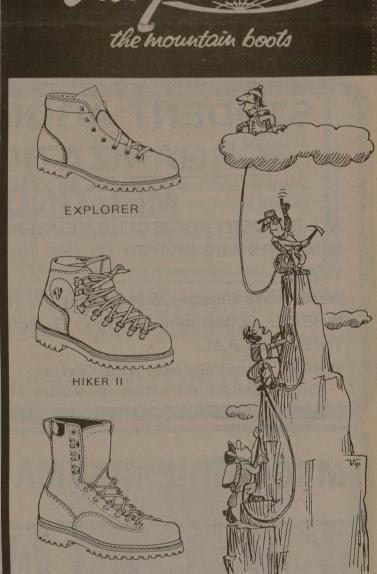


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