

Consol kids in health study; TEA to evaluate soon

By KAREN ROGERS
Battalion Staff

Although physical examinations for apparently healthy children may not seem necessary, early detection of hidden health problems can improve a child's learning ability.

In May the Texas Education Agency will wind up a two-year pilot study designed to determine whether early detection can improve students' achievement and attendance in school.

About 900 children have been screened at A&M Consolidated, one of the participating districts, since the project began in January 1978.

Eleven school districts in counties with populations ranging from 14,000 to 2 million were chosen to participate in the study.

Each year, with their parents' permission, students in kindergarten, first and fourth grades are screened for medical, developmental, dental, vision or hearing problems.

Heart irregularities, anemia, vision and hearing problems have been detected, but dental problems are by far the most common, said Susie Feldman, the nurse in charge of the project at Consolidated.

"The screening is not meant to take the place of an examination by a doctor," she said. "If the child is found to have a problem, we refer him to a doctor."

"When the child goes to a doctor following referral, we ask the doctor to fill out a form detailing the diagnosis and treatment and return it to us."

At the end of each month, this information is sent to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where consultants are compiling medical data for all the districts for evaluation by TEA.

Definite statistical proof is not yet available on whether attendance and achievement levels of children who have been treated have improved.

Dr. Ernest Roberts, one of the TEA project monitors, said TEA "can't deter-

mine overnight whether the problems detected and corrected had any effect on the children's learning ability."

In a preliminary report sent to the Legislature last January, TEA recommended that the program be funded for another two years "to better evaluate the medical and educational impact."

Follow-up studies will be made on performance of those students who have received medical attention. Should performance levels prove to be increased, the project could become a permanent program and would be required in all Texas schools.

The biggest problem with the study, Roberts said, is poor follow-up on referrals.

"A lot of families don't have the money to pay for medical or dental care. The nurses do the best they can to find local organizations to help with the funding," he said. "But then there are those families

who just don't feel their child needs to go to a doctor."

Based on the first five months of the study, about 55 percent of those Consolidated students referred were taken to a doctor as compared to 39 percent of the total number of students in the 11 districts.

Roberts said TEA would also like to determine if the screening program is cost-effective.

The total cost for screening 3,216 students in the 11 districts last year was \$221,770, making the average cost \$69.78 per student.

Roberts said he expects the cost will drop this year to about \$20-30 per student. He explained that during the first year of the program, the districts had capital outlays for equipment that will not have to be purchased this year.

He added that districts should be able to screen twice as many students in the 1978-79 school year since the nurses started in September.

The program had to be delayed until January last year while equipment was bought and nurses received special training at UTMB.

Betty Janke, a licensed vocational nurse who aided Feldman in the screenings, said, "It's hard for me to put a monetary value on the program when you find one child who had a problem and has been helped."

Both women said they feel the program should be continued, although not necessarily in its present form.

"I have mixed feelings on the program," Feldman said. "We are concerned that parents may utilize this instead of a regular physical. We tell parents this is not meant to take the place of a physical. We are very well aware of our limitations; we don't have all the resources a doctor has."

"However, few parents take their child in for an examination past the age of 5 or 6. The parent consultation after the screen

gives me a real non-stress opportunity to visit with them. It also gives the parents an opportunity to visit with a health professional about some concerns they may have."

The parent response has been very enthusiastic at Consolidated, Feldman said.

"We're going to need time to evaluate the program beyond the two years allotted by the legislature. We're definitely finding enough children with a variety of problems, but I don't think any of us can say at this time whether the things we've found are keeping them in school."

Janke said, "We try to use the program to break down fears the children may have about doctors and nurses by playing games with them during the screening process."

"The project has definitely established a need for a health program in the school system, but exactly how it should be done in the future, I can't say."

THE BATTALION

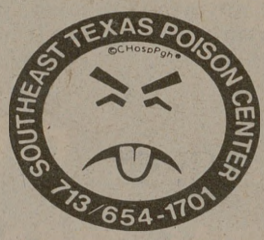
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Monday, March 19, 1979
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News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Mr. YUK wants you

Who is Mr. YUK and why does he want you? Here's a hint: National Poison Prevention Week began Sunday. See page 5 for more details.



Sentencing set for today in Burnett murder trial

Q-drop today- 'F' tomorrow

Today is the last day to Q-drop a course.

Students who wish to drop a course with a grade of "Q" and no penalty must see their academic adviser by 5 p.m. to secure an add-drop request form which must then be taken to the dean of their college.

A grade of "F" will be recorded for courses dropped after today.

deliberation on a sentence — either a lethal injection of a chemical or life in prison.

An appeal is automatic under the state's death penalty statute.

Throughout the trial, Burnett had insisted her lover, Ovide Joseph Dugas, 32, was the real murderer of his in-laws — including a 2-year-old child — and that she was an innocent pawn.

But a mysterious taped conversation, reportedly made by defense attorneys while Burnett was hypnotized, indicated she pulled the trigger in four of the slayings. Despite defense objections, the tape was offered into evidence and it was left up to the jury to decide if the voice on the tape was actually that of Burnett.

At about 4:30 p.m. Saturday, the jury asked that the so-called "hypnotist" tape be replayed. The judge ordered everyone from the court except the jury and attorneys, the doors were locked and the tape was replayed for the panel. It was the second time the tape was heard by the jurors — the first time was during the trial.

Burnett and Dugas were accused of kill-

ing Bishop and Esther Phillips of Winnie, their son, Elmer, his wife, Martha, and their son, Jason, 2, who were visiting from Woodward, Okla. Dugas currently is awaiting trial in Corpus Christi.

Burnett was tried first in the shooting of the baby, but the voice on tape said Dugas — who allegedly masterminded the crime out of anger about his divorce from Bishop Phillips' daughter, Mary — actually pulled the trigger and killed the boy.

"I think I killed the four people and he killed the baby," the voice said. "I told him no way. He'd have to do it. I turned my back when he shot the baby. I did not let myself look at the baby. That was too much."

The female voice on tape said she wished she had killed Dugas instead of the Phillips, who were found in a mass grave on a deer preserve west of Beaumont on July 10.

"I really wanted to let these people live and to kill him," the voice said. "I really wanted that and I feel like kicking my own tail because I didn't do it like that. I really am guilty about that."

Dugas, a refinery worker, allegedly was driven to murder by his divorce. Testimony suggested Burnett and Dugas also discussed killing her ex-husband.

The tape told of the five murders in gory detail and discussed Burnett's sex life in explicit detail.

Prosecutors told the jury in closing arguments that Burnett was a masochistic woman who preferred "sex before violence" and thrived on a succession of "mean men."

District Attorney James McGrath pointed at a sobbing Burnett and screamed: "They had sex before they killed my people. That's the woman we're trying here today."

Following the emotional plea by McGrath, Burnett toppled to the floor in a faint while being led back to her cell.

Defense lawyers never admitted to the jury that the voice was hers, but did tell reporters the tape was made with Burnett.

Burnett refused to give prosecutors a voice sample for technical comparison to link her with the recording.



A Ruff Rider

"He's our guard dog," says Sandy Moreau. Pepper, a two-year-old miniature Schnauzer, goes everywhere with Moreau and her husband, who own and operate a trucking company. The Moreaus, from Leviston, Maine, were in College Station last week delivering bookshelves for the Sterling C. Evans Library addition.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Mideast peace

Arabs, hard-line Israelis rebuff treaty efforts

United Press International

National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski ended an apparently unsuccessful Middle East mission today without the Saudi Arabian and Jordanian support he had sought for the proposed Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Though Brzezinski described his talks with the leaders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia as "useful and constructive," reports from Amman and Riyadh suggested his mission was not successful.

In Israel, Prime Minister Menachem Begin called his Cabinet into session today to approve the full text of the draft peace

treaty amid signs of dissent by three ministers pressing for a tough stance on what autonomy will mean for the 1.1 million Arabs on the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza Strip.

Political sources said the ministers, members of Begin's coalition partner, the National Religious Party, want the government to commit itself to no Palestinian state in the territories, claim control of public land and water sources there, declare continued Jewish settlement and make Jewish settlers subject to Israeli law.

Despite the dissension, the Cabinet was expected to approve the draft treaty,

which then goes to the full Israeli Knesset, or parliament, for a two day debate to begin Tuesday.

The Israeli Armed Forces radio Sunday said most Cabinet ministers agreed with Begin that to publicize the Cabinet's viewpoint on autonomy before signing the treaty with Egypt could be damaging. Instead, Begin would prefer "to cross that bridge when they come to it."

Last week the Cabinet approved without dissent Carter's compromise proposals that broke the deadlock threatening the treaty after six days of intensive shuttle diplomacy by the president.

In an interview with the CBS program "60 Minutes" Sunday, Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat said he would call for an embargo of Arab oil against both the United States and Egypt for betraying the Palestinians.

Arafat, interviewed at the PLO headquarters in Beirut Friday, accused the United States of pursuing a policy of neo-colonialism in the Middle East.

Upon landing in Cairo Sunday, Brzezinski described his talks with King Hussein and King Khalid as "useful and constructive" — diplomatic jargon meaning there had been no change in the Jordanian or Saudi positions.

Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al Faisal said only the discussions Saturday with Khalid had produced agreement to "remain in close contact in connection with the evolving issues in the Middle East."

Brzezinski said he would fly back to Washington today, quashing reports Damascus might be a last-minute addition to his trip.

Library move one-third over; north and south doors closed

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

For the next two to three weeks, students will need book marks not to find their place in a book — but to find the book's place in the library.

The library move, begun March 9, is one-third finished. So far the card catalogs, technical services, and much of the furniture have been moved from the Sterling C. Evans Building to the new library annex. Most of the books have yet to be transferred.

One change has been completed, the north and south entrances are closed, leaving only the new east doors open for library patrons.

All floors of both buildings are open, but that may not help much, Dr. Irene Hoadley, director of libraries, said Sunday night.

"Students may have difficulty finding some books during the move." Library assistants will help

locate books and solve other problems.

The move should be completed in about two to three weeks, Hoadley said. Library hours have been shortened for the move. Closing time is 10 p.m. instead of 1 a.m. New weekend hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-10 p.m. Sundays.

Access to the building has also been changed. People can now enter the building only from the east side, since the old entrances on the north and south sides have been closed off.

The archives entrance is unchanged.

The circulation department, card catalogs, reference division and processing department are on the first floor of the annex. The second floor will house microtexts, current periodicals, administrative offices, technical divisions and the map

room.

Most social science books will be moved to the third floor of the new building (divisions K-Q), and the fourth floor predominately will have science books (divisions QH-Z).

General materials and the rest of social sciences (divisions A-H) will be transferred to the fifth floor. The documents collection and the 70,000-80,000 books classified by the Dewey decimal system will be on the sixth floor of the annex.

When the move is complete, the old part of the building will be remodeled. After the renovation some of the books and departments will be moved back, including current periodicals, the reserve reading room and the documents division.

"We're going to spread out and give ourselves room to grow," Hoadley said. "Now we're so packed in there's not much space for more books."

Tentatively approved tax relief sees final House action today

United Press International

AUSTIN — A legislator's wedding ceremony in the Capitol today threatened to overshadow a final House vote on a \$450 million tax relief bill designed to reduce the taxes Texans pay on their homes, cars, agricultural and timber lands.

The House scheduled a 2:30 p.m. session to take final action on the tax relief bill which was tentatively approved last week, and Rep. Ralph Wallace, D-Houston, planned his wedding to Jo Ann Jensen, 27, at 4 p.m. in the House Chamber.

An aide to Wallace said 1,500 persons had been invited to the wedding, although the gallery also will include timber industry lobbyists who watched anxiously last

week as the House narrowly turned back an effort by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, to deny to large corporations the tax break on timber land guaranteed to family timber farmers.

The tax relief bill implements provisions of the so-called Tax Relief Amendment, adopted by voters last November, to the state Constitution. It provides a system for taxing agricultural and timber land based on its productive value rather than market value, gives a \$5,000 homestead exemption from property taxes for all homeowners and an additional \$10,000 exemption to senior citizens, exempts two cars per family from property taxes and sets a limit on the growth of state spending.

In addition, lawmakers unofficially will

be discussing Gov. Bill Clements' offer to consider a one-year state budget this year rather than the traditional two-year spending plan.

Clements told a news conference Friday the one-year budget plan has significant benefits because of unstable economic conditions which make revenue estimates for the next two years difficult.

The governor said he opposes regular annual sessions of the Legislature, but said, "Under these circumstances and uncertain economy and with the inflationary factors we have, we might well make an exception this year and have a one-year budget and have a mandatory special session limited to budgetary matters next year."