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Lab theft undetected in move  
**Stolen fetuses found in bayou**

United Press International  
TURKEY CREEK, La. — A box containing six miscarried fetuses and other human tissue taken from a medical laboratory was found next to a central Louisiana bayou by a startled woman who described one of the forms as doll-like.

"It looked like a doll — but it couldn't be, because it had a navel cord and they wouldn't have a doll like that," said Brenda Johnson, 20, who reported the find to the Evangeline Parish sheriff's office Friday. "Then I saw another one, not quite as old."

Deputies said the box was taken from Acadiana Medical Laboratories in Opelousas, La., during the past week. The lab moved to new offices during that time and the theft went undetected until the box and its surprising contents were discovered.

"It was apparently taken for drugs or something and they missed the ball on that one," said Dan Marcantel, a sheriff's department detective. He said the most fully developed fetuses were five to six months old.

The discovery was made about 40 miles south of Alexandria, La.

Dr. Ronald Padgett, director of the laboratory, said his firm performed pathological analysis on fetuses and other body parts for a number of hospitals. He said a check of laboratory inventory after the box was found revealed no other specimens were missing.

"I'm sure it's just a freak thing associated with the moving," Padgett said. "Our doors are locked and padlocked, and you usually don't anticipate something like this occurring."

Other objects in the box included

part of a human liver and containers of bodily fluids, Marcantel said. All were returned to the laboratory.

"When the tissue is removed (during surgery) we analyze it and keep it a period of time and then we incinerate it," Padgett said. He said tests had been completed on all the specimens in the box.

Padgett refused to comment on the sheriff's department's speculation that thieves seeking drugs were the culprits.

The time of the theft could not be pinpointed, but Marcantel said the box was observed as early as Thursday by Johnson's mother, although the contents was not known at the time.

"Nothing was decomposed because all the tissues and fetuses were placed in alcohol," Marcantel said. He described the dump site as "just a bayou bridge in the middle of nowhere."

Padgett said his laboratory kept specimens for varying periods of time depending on their nature.



Just waiting

Bill Robbins and son Bobbi, 5 months, pass time in the Memorial Student Center watching people walk by. Bill is a junior geophysics major.

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Episcopalians meet to set church policy

United Press International  
DENVER — The Episcopal Church's two-week General Convention opened Sunday with more than 1,000 bishops and lay leaders scheduled to discuss issues ranging from ordination of homosexuals to a major revision in the church's Book of Common Prayer.

More than 300 resolutions, memorials and petitions have been submitted for consideration by the more than 150 bishops and 900 lay and clerical deputies at the gathering, the first such convention in three years.

The convention's task will be to lay the direction, set the budget and elect officials to carry out the church's work for the next three years.

The convention is the highest governing authority of the Episcopal Church, which has 2.8 million

members. Convention delegates will meet in two separate houses to discuss the various issues.

Some of the issues — such as ordination of homosexual clergymen — are considered highly controversial and a spokesman predicted some of the more controversial matters would be considered early.

Presiding over the House of Bishops will be Bishop John M. Allin of New York City, while Dr. Charles R. Lawrence will preside over the House of Deputies, composed of clergy and elected lay persons from throughout the United States, Europe and missionary dioceses.

A study on the issue of ordaining homosexuals to the ministry was ordered at the last convention meeting in Minneapolis in 1976 and the panel, chaired by Bishop Robert Rae Spears of Rochester, N.Y., recommended the church not make homosexuality "an absolute barrier to ordination."

The panel said the question on ordination should be whether the person can lead a life which is a "wholesome example to Christ's flock."

Freshmen are pessimistic

United Press International  
NEW YORK — A national survey of 17,000 high school seniors showed college freshmen this year are much more pessimistic about America's future than their counterparts last year.

Reporting on the study in Psychology Today magazine, they said 60 percent of the college freshmen expect things to become worse in the United States during the next five years, compared with 40 percent holding that view in 1978.

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