Firefighting . . .

continued from page 1 . . .

level of fire protection in the county. places I've been. We feel it is not up to the level it should be. The problem is mainly cons to having a central unit. with communication.

tion between the area volunteer fire departments as a major problem which needs to be solved in the new contract. Bardell said there have been in-

stances when more than one unit, both volunteer and city, has shown up to fight a fire outside of city limits. Landua agrees this is a major

"Well, I really can't speak for the volunteer fire departments," he said. "We haven't had much trouble with them. I definitely think they need a central dispatch to coordinate things, though.

Philbin agrees.

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"There is a big problem with communication," he said. "Right now there is a problem with com-munication with the sheriff's de-

continued from page 1... partment. I think there is probably a need for some sort of dispatching of view, we are concerned with the unit. I've seen it work in other

Philbin said there are pros and

"On the positive side, you have In a College Station city council meeting on Sept. 27, City Manager North Bardell listed communica-problems, however. You must train people in the dispatch unit, you must decide on the type of system you want and you have to build a place to house it all. It takes money

another problem to be considered. 'If you don't have anything to hook up to, it gets to be a real prob-

times to get to water. You must keep grass fires and such from getting houses and barns. had problems with a lack of water, Landua said. 'It used to be we didn't have any

hydrants outside of the city limits," he said, "so we always had problems finding a water supply." Landua said the city often had to

resort to a "shuttle effect" way of resolving the problem. 'If all else failed, we had to get

water from here in the city," he said. "We would go out and use the water we had, then drive all the way back here and get more water. 'It was easier if we had two units, though. One would battle the blaze

while another would go get water, and vice versa. Adams listed a lack of water Landua said he pushed to get hy-facilities such as fire hydrants as tion is better.

'I sold them on the idea of putting in hydrants in different towns lem fighting any grass fires or some-thing that could pose a threat to homes or property, "he said. "Out in the country, it's difficult some-the metric and the county," he said. "It the negotiations shou run. At the time, we were charging them five dollars per engine mile, so all that coming and going for water

need water supplies, though." Landua said the dispute between

the county and the city has been going on for quite awhile. He listed he 1977-78 College Station Fire Department budget as an example During this fiscal year, Landua said, the fire department had an operating budget of \$479,468. Fire calls outside of College Station amounted to \$100,688 or 21 percent

of the budget. However, Landua said, the county only paid \$28,168.91 for the services - only six percent of the total budget.

"We billed the county on a per-run basis," he said. "They don't have to pay for stand-by time or the time we sit around waiting for the fire. They pay for actual fire-fighting time

The negotiations shouldn't take 'I don't think there's any prob-

'We're not mad at the county

was really adding up. It was costing sometimes \$50 just to make one over," Adams said. "Our obligation The fire departments have always trip. ad problems with a lack of water, "We still have certain areas that that capacity on the basis of the present contract until something happens.

Follow-up test to be held for flu study

By MARJORIE McLAUGHLIN Battalion Reporter This year, the flu season may be

easier for some 2,100 people who participated in a Russian flu imnunization experiment at Texas A&M University last year.

Dr. John Quarles, a mi-crobiologist with the College of Medicine, said he is trying to locate at least 1,200 to 1,400 of the partici-pants for a follow-up test to be held next Wednesday through Friday

The test will determine if people ways trying to find vaccines to com-vaccinated last year are still im- bat these new strains.

According to Quarles, this test may also reveal whether vaccines for one type of flu offer any protection

from other types of flu. Flu viruses run in cycles of three to five years, Quarles said. When enough people become immune to the strain, a virus either dies out or mutates into a new strain. Quarles said researchers are al-

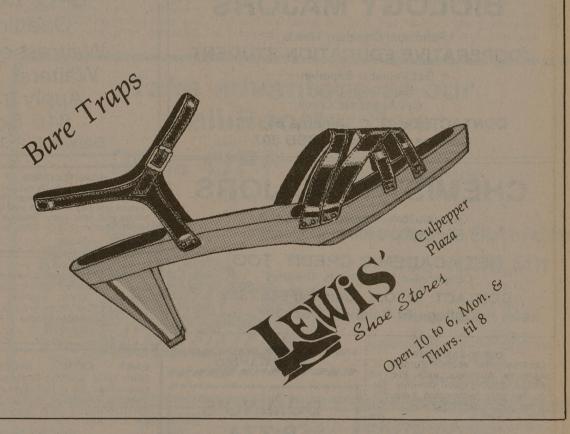
bat these new strains. Vaccines which imitate the actual

Page 3

virus attack give the best protection against the disease, Quarles said. The participants in last year's test were administered the vaccine in

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the form of nose drops, which mimics the infection process. The immunity follow-up tests will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Commons lounge and at Beutel Health Center.



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Sex facts, fiction discussed on campus

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND

Battalion Reporter The belief that it is safe to engage a sexual activity during a woman's menstrual period is just one of the popular myths many people hold about sex and contraception, said Brenda Meddler, a member of Famly Planning

This and other myths about pregnancy and birth control were aired in an open discussion about sex by some staff members of Family Planning and Woman's Referral Service in the Lounge A outside Briggs Hall Wednesday night.

Meddler explained researchers now believe that sperm released into the uterus are capable of fer-

first time a woman has sex.

tilizing an egg up to 10 days later. In

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Meddler, the education coorational Firm tion can not occur the first time a and causes them to rupture. woman has sex. The rhythm method, when used

Any time a woman engages in sex correctly, requires discipline and without using some reliable form of complicated planning, Meddler birth control, she runs the risk of said. There are two types of rhythm. becoming pregnant, Meddler said. In one type, the woman records her People also do not realize that temperature every morning for ing life of the

During foreplay, the male organ secretes seminal fluid just as lubri-The other type uses cation is excreted by the vagina. Contact of this fluid with the outer edges of the vagina is enough to transfer sperm capable of traveling is only 80-86 percent effective, up the uterus and fertilizing an egg, she said.

Other myths Meddler brought up were rinsing the vagina immediately after sex to prevent pregnancy and the belief that conception will not occur unless orgasm is achieved. Meddler and Casey Ray, of the Women's Referral Service, then discussed more reliable methods of birth control.

Methods available without seeing a doctor are condoms, spermicides, rhythm, and withdrawal.

The most effective of these forms Brenda Meddler, education are condoms used in conjunction coordinator for Family Plan- with a spermicide, Meddler said. ning, says some people believe Used together, these forms of birth conception cannot occur the control are 94-96 percent effective. The condom is also the only form of birth control that offers protection

from venereal disease. this way, sperm still present after the end of the cycle and at the time When used separately, the effec-tiveness of these devices decreases,

ganization for health and pregnancy counseling in Bryan. The center has just begun to include students in a program that provides free or low cost examinations and various methods of birth Meddler said.

dinator for Family Planning, said doms. She explained that Vaseline is many people have wrong ideas an oil-base substance that is irritat-about what the effective methods of ing to the lining of the uterus and birth control are. For example, she can cause infections. It is also corrosaid some people believe concep- sive to the latex used in condoms

except for sterilization and the pill. Disadvantages of an IUD The other type uses the length of menstrual cycles over a year to de-termine the time of ovulation. Even is only 80-86 percent effective, Meddler said.

Another popular, but less effec-tive method of birth control is with-drawal, Meddler said. It has only a 80-84 percent success rate. Ray then described several

methods of contraception available from doctors or trained medical personnel. Use of the diaphragm, a barrier method of birth control, has re-

Other myths Meddler brought up were rinsing the vagina immediately after sex to prevent pregnancy, and the belief that conception will not occur unless

orgasm is achieved. gained popularity in recent years, Ray said. Used in conjunction with a spermicidal jell, this device must be fitted to the woman by a doctor. Weight gain or loss of more than 5

pounds requires refitting and the liaphram must remain in place for six hours after intercourse. The two most common methods

available through doctors are the Intra Uterine Device, (IUD) and the birth control pill, Ray said. The IUD must be inserted by a

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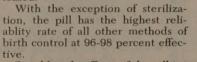
tive Possible side effects of the pill include weight gain, nausea, headaches and growth and tenderness of the breasts. Ray also said that women with a history of hyper-

While no method of birth control is 100 percent effective (there is a one in 300 chance pregnancy will occur after sterilization), there are methods available that provide a high degree of protection, Meddler



encountered by some women in-clude longer and heavier menstrual periods and cramping. Ray said, however, that medication is now available to relieve the cramping in most women Probably the best known method of birth control is the pill, Ray said. The pill contains the two female

hormones estrogen and progesterone. By maintaining high levels of these hormones, the pill "fools" the body into believing pregnancy has occurred and eggs are not released



tension, clotting disorders or mi-grain headaches should consider al-ternate methods.



dler said.

penetration need not occur for a eight months to a year and then woman to become pregnant, Med-plots the days near ovulation when conception is most likely and abs-

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