

the nation

Generosity of sperm donors may increase genetic risks

United Press International
DENVER— Generous sperm donors, who may be fathering as many as 15 children in a three-year period, are causing Denver doctors some concern.

Health professionals are afraid that some sperm donors may be too giving and increasing the odds of a donor's offspring mating.

Dr. Paul Wexler, chief of obstetrics at Rose Medical Center, said individual donors may be siring as many as 15 children over a three-year period. He is concerned about the consequences such generosity may have on society in the form of genetic disorders.

"If we have a donor who has been working three to five years for more than one physician, there is a risk that his children may someday meet and marry," he said, adding that the donor's offspring would be about the same age and would likely be in the same social and economic group.

Although the procedure has been used with some success since the 1860s, effective, large-scale use of artificial insemination has occurred within the past 30 years. More than 6,000 children born in the U.S. last year were conceived by artificial insemination.

Except for the formal position taken against it by the Roman Catholic Church, the procedure is socially acceptable, Wexler said.

He estimated nearly all of Denver's 140 obstetricians and gynecologists occasionally perform artificial insemination. Most of the donors are medical and college students or physicians in training who have fathered healthy children.

"It's a way for these guys to earn some extra income," said Wexler. Most donors are paid from \$25 to \$45 for each semen specimen.

Wexler said most obstetricians test donors for genetic defects or history of disease, but there is no formal policy, either in Colorado or nationally, requiring that they do so. Because of the sensitive and confidential nature of the donation, few doctors ask donors to provide more than a minimal health history.

Under Colorado's Uniform Parentage Act, the woman's husband is considered the natural father of the child if he consents to the artificial insemination. But there are other liabilities regarding donation of sperm.

Denver attorney Scott Honegger said a sperm bank could be held liable if sperm received by a woman

is mislabeled.

"This gets into an interesting area of product liability, and whether or not product liability applies in this case," Honegger said.

He suggested a "product liability" issue could be raised if, for instance, the woman received a mislabeled donation and the resulting child was not of the same race as the couple.

A consent form used at Wexler's hospital stipulates the donor be of the same race as the couple wanting artificial insemination and that there be no obvious genetic abnormalities.

Wexler said he favors guidelines requiring that both the woman and the donors be tested for genetic abnormalities, that records be kept on the donors, that follow-up be done on infants born of donors and that sperm donations per donor be limited.

Wexler, who is secretary of the Colorado Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said his group backs such guidelines. The group also favors a registry of donors.

Carter's pastor fired for dating 28-year-old

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter's pastor, Dr. Charles Trentham, has been fired by the congregation of the First Baptist Church for dating the daughter of the bible class teacher, church officials said Monday.

Officials said the congregation voted 166-140 Sunday to accept the recommendation of the deacons that Trentham's contract not be renewed.

Trentham, 60, had been dating the 28-year-old daughter of Sunday School teacher Fred Gregg. Gregg's daughter was separated from her husband but not divorced. Tren-

tham has been divorced twice.

There was no comment from the White House. Carter and his family joined the church shortly after he became president. About once a month, the president takes Gregg's place in teaching Sunday School.

Although Trentham broke no church laws, lifetime deacons accused him of "poor judgment" and "conduct not in accord" with the standards of the congregation.

The close vote was taken after a three hour, bitter debate. Trentham made a statement in his own defense before the meeting, saying his relationship with the woman had been "above reproach," then left before the balloting began.

Chemical warfare nearly used on Japan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A newly released report dated 1950 indicates America may have used chemical and biological warfare against the Japanese on a small scale if World War II had not ended when it did.

The document, labeled top secret, describes government efforts in the fields of chemical and biological warfare during the war and said one antipersonnel biological bomb was "brought to the point of manufacture" by a facility at the Vigo Ordnance Plant near Terre Haute, Ind.

The report said the bomb "was known to be grossly inefficient," but was deemed to be effective.

The document was presented to the defense secretary's ad hoc committee on chemical, biological and radiological warfare by Col. William M. Greasy, chief of the research and engineering division in the Chemical Corps chief's office, on Feb. 24, 1950.

A copy, first declassified in 1977, was made available by American Citizens for Honesty in Government, an arm of the Church of Scientology.

The document defined biological warfare as the military use of bacteria or other living organisms, their toxic products or chemical plant growth regulators to kill people, animals or plants or to reduce food supplies.

"Preparations for the use of certain of the chemical plant growth-inhibitors were also well in hand by V-J Day," it said. "Had the war continued a few months longer, it is believed that these agents would have found actual employment, at least on a small scale, in the Pacific Area."

The report added, without further explanation, that in 1948 American, British and Canadian forces engaged in a "successful large scale seaborne field trial" of biological warfare agents in the Caribbean.

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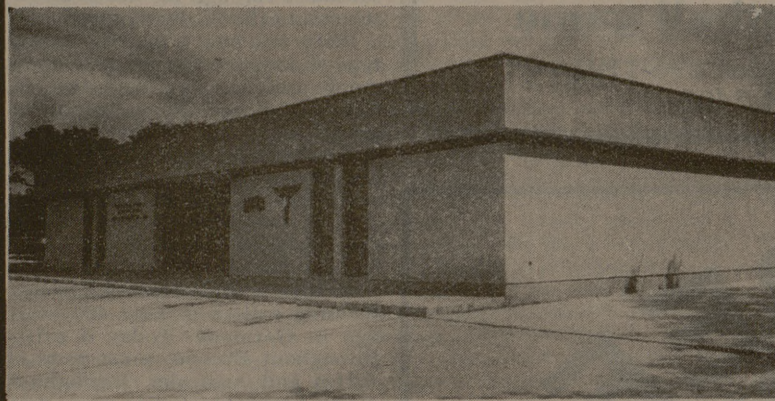
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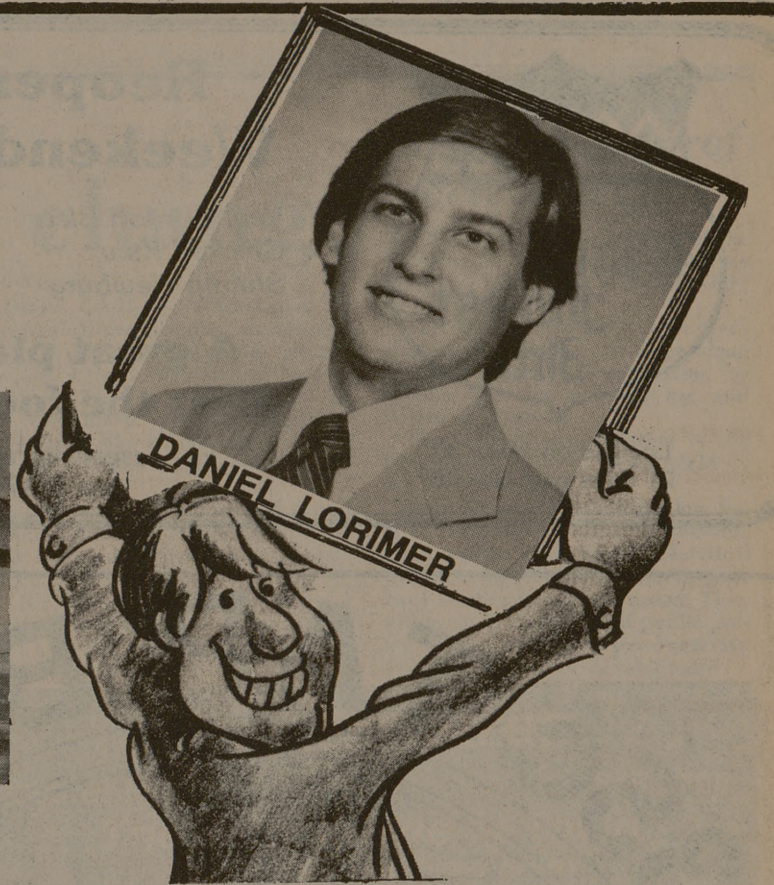


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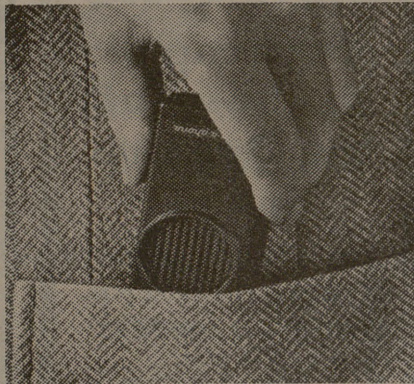
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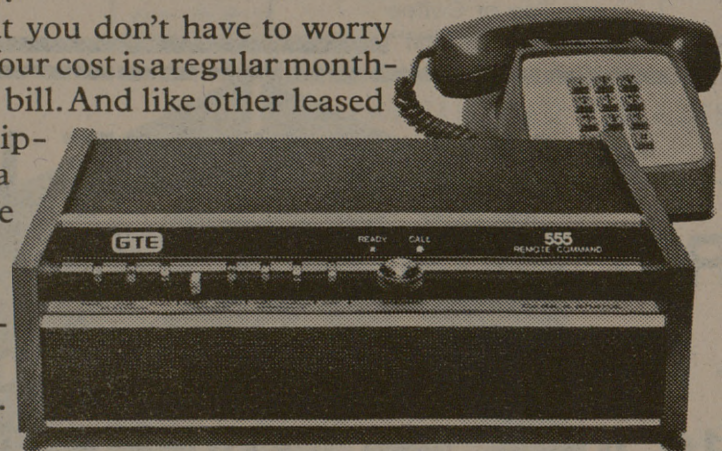
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