

campus & city

# Handicapped girl finds joy in riding

By CHERYL CESSNA  
Battalion Reporter  
They helped her onto the horse, her smile spread a little wider. Linda Alford, born with spinal cord disease, horseback riding is a new joy.

and mentally handicapped children to ride.  
"She loves it," said Mae Alford, Linda's mother. "She already told her daddy that he had to get her a horse, and she told her granddaddy he could keep it."  
Alford, of Bryan, said Linda has ridden once before.  
"She's always said, 'I want to ride a horse,' but everyone said, 'Oh, no,

you might fall, you might hurt yourself."  
"But the summer before last she went to Camp Fun and Frolics in Bryan and they put her on a horse. She came home all excited, saying, 'I got to do something I always wanted to do.'"  
Alford said Linda, who attends Bryan High School, isn't afraid of injury.  
"As far as falling or anything like that, anyone can fall off a horse. And I think this might help her coordination and balance, because right now she doesn't balance very well."  
Stretching muscles that aren't used to being stretched is the only problem, Alford said.

"The only thing is, she gets sore, but anyone will get sore. She doesn't move around like any of us do. She gets therapy, but she doesn't get that kind of therapy. When we told her therapist about it he said, 'Great! He told her she should do some stretching exercises, like sitting on a cot with one leg on one side and the other on the other side, spread out, a little bit each day.'"  
Alford said she's thankful that Linda, who uses a wheelchair but can walk with crutches, isn't more handicapped than she is.  
"It's a miracle she's as well off as she is, because she had a shunt in her

head to keep the fluid from building up in her brain. That goes along with spinal bifida."  
"When Linda was born, they said if she lived, she might be paralyzed from the waist down, and not have a mind. So Linda is real well off. Our doctor always told us the worst. So then when she could move, we said, 'Oh wow!' and when she turned over, 'Wow, she can turn over!'"  
She said thinking about what could have been makes Linda's handicap easier to bear.  
"People look at her and think, 'Oh, she's in such bad shape,' but if you know that this is so much better off than what we thought she would be, then it doesn't seem so bad."



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# Delta Zeta plans Aggie Fall Fest

By DEBBIE NELSON  
Battalion Staff  
Messages on sticks, 100 kegs of beer and a crowd of people — sound the Delta Zeta sorority, and it's the Aggie Fall Fest.  
The Fall Fest is a benefit, with all proceeds going to the Bryan Home for the Severely Mentally Retarded, the lead member Melissa Mueller.  
The Fall Fest will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. to midnight in the Brazos County Pavilion on Post Office Road from 8 p.m. to midnight. The admission price of \$4 for men and \$3 for women, the sorority will supply all the beer or soft drinks.  
Music will be provided by Peggy Jones and her band, who play everything from country-western to rock, Mueller said.  
Prissy Whigham, coordinator of the event, planned it as a "mini Wursthfest." Besides beer, sausage and kiss-me-tons, the sorority is also holding a

pig-calling contest, with a large bottle of liquor as the prize.  
Sorority president Kathy Crouch said she is unsure of how much money will be collected for the charity, since ticket sales won't be final until Saturday. Tickets may be obtained from sorority members or by calling the Delta Zeta apartment, 696-0765.  
To reduce expenses, sorority members are making buttons for the benefit and several companies are giving discounts on their products.  
A local beer distributor also helped Delta Zeta set up the advertising for the event, Crouch said.  
The sorority chose the Bryan Home for the Severely Mentally Retarded as the charity because several sorority members are education majors who work with the children at the home.  
The money donated will be used in any way for care of the children and to maintain the home, Crouch said.

# Test may predict cholesterol levels

A blood test for children to identify a tendency for high cholesterol levels in later years may result from studies at Texas A&M University, says veterinary pathologist Dr. James Womack.  
Womack is trying to determine which individuals are more likely to have cholesterol problems by investigating genes that produce enzymes, although the findings might not be used in the future to combat cancer and birth defects.  
"If you put 100 people on the same diet, a small percentage will develop cholesterol-related diseases," he said. "The key, then, must lie in the genetic makeup."  
Although still in the future, a medical test to help humans find out

early in life if they are prone to high cholesterol levels in the blood may be one result, said Womack.  
Originally funded by Organized Research, a special appropriation established by the Texas Legislature to foster research of benefit to all Texans, phases of Womack's work have now drawn support from the National Foundation of the March of Dimes.  
Among these genes that produce enzymes, Womack has mapped how the order of the genes' position related to the order in which enzymes appeared, looking toward biochemically detecting birth defects in the embryo before the defect becomes visible.

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