

Planned Parenthood offers help

by USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL
Battalion Staff

The student opens the door to the small house sandwiched between White's Auto Store and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. She gives her name to the receptionist and fills out a questionnaire.

Two hours later she has had a pap smear (a pelvic cancer examination), a blood and a urine test and a blood pressure reading and has received confidential counseling. As she walks out the door to the waiting area, the receptionist gives her a supply of birth control pills.

The young woman has just visited Planned Parenthood of Brazos County on College Main in College Station.

"Women that are unemployed or earn below a certain amount of money will get financial assistance from government funds," Sally Mil-

ler, clinic coordinator, said. "We are not a government office. We are a private, non-profit organization that operates with some government funds."

"Many people think Planned Parenthood is a free clinic, but it's not," Miller said.

However, for patients in financial need the private clinic has governmental funds that are appropriated by Congress every year.

Appropriation of Title XX funds, \$198 million for 1980 family services in Texas, has been delayed in the US Congress.

Due to this delay, family planning services in Texas, including Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas Inc., suffered a 15 percent budget cut this year.

Planned Parenthood had to revert its planned spending level to the current fiscal year, 1979-80, which was

in effect a budget cut, according to R.E. Taylor, executive director of Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood of Houston operates in five counties, including two clinics in College Station and Bryan. Other clinics are in Houston, Lufkin, Rosenberg and Huntsville.

Congress' failure to appropriate the already-approved funds for fiscal year 1980, which started September 1979, affected all the clinics severely, Miller said.

"This year Congress reverted to the basic entitlement amount when budgeting the Title XX money," said Dr. Lewis Mundy, of the Texas Department of Human Resources in Austin. Compared to the previous year, these government funds were cut by 13 percent or \$29.5 million, said William Wagner, of the TDHR.

The basic entitlement amount is the amount below which Congress can not legally cut funds for family services, Mundy said. Congress is expected to raise the allotted money above the basic amount, but it is not known when, Mundy said.

The funds, which are accumulated in accounts allotted by the TDHR in Austin, will be used up soon, Miller said.

"We will have to ask everybody to pay for the services now," Miller said. "Although we won't turn any-

body away, we will require documented proof of financial need."

Planned Parenthood's 1979 report shows 44 percent income from government funds, 44 percent from patient fees and 10.7 percent from charitable contributions.

"We'll still see patients that can't pay, but of course it would help if everybody paid, and the fees are not too high," Miller said.

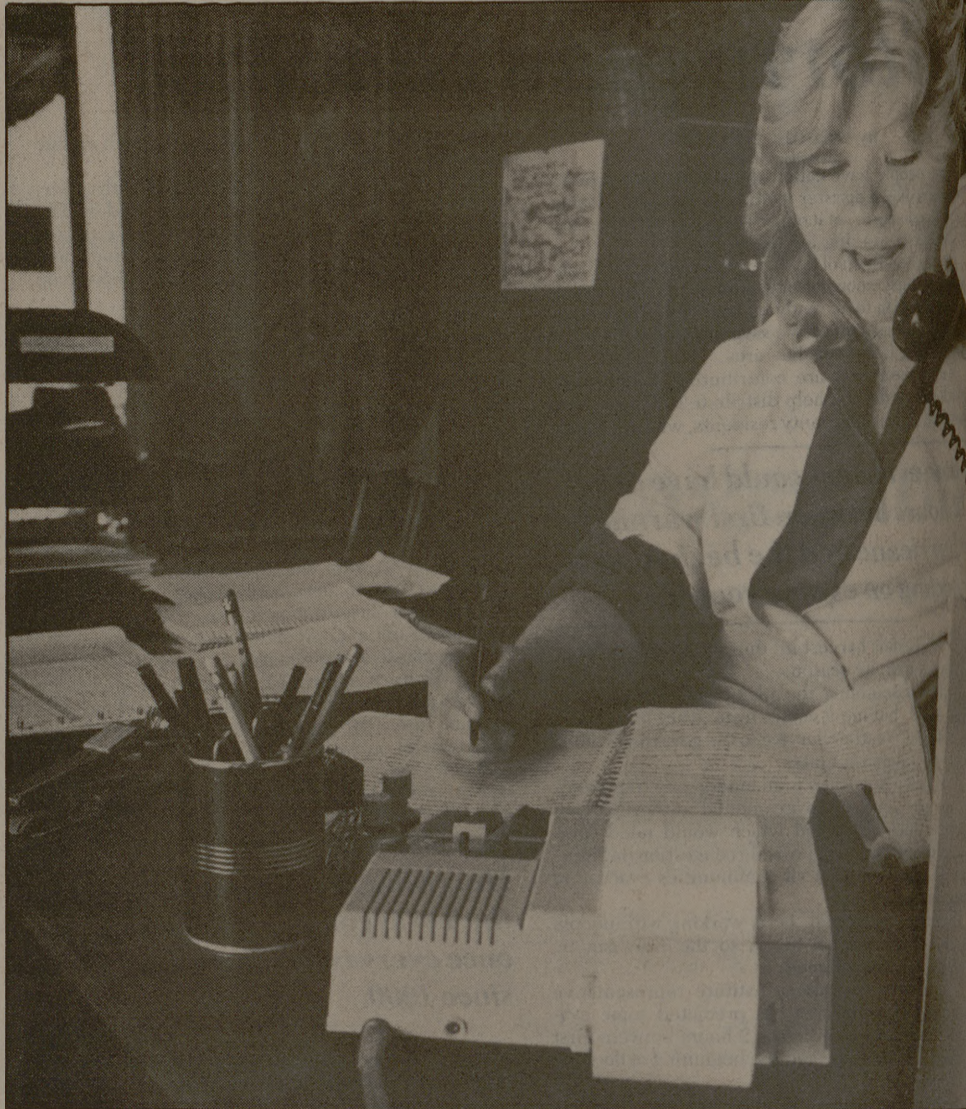
Each patient pays for the birth control of her choice in addition to a \$15 fee for the examination.

Students make up about 70 percent of the patients that seek counsel on birth control and related subjects at the clinic, Miller said. Eighty percent of these are eligible for government funds, Miller said.

Since the clinic opened here in 1975 the number of patients has steadily increased, Miller said. About five thousand women were examined in 1979, an increase of 34 percent from the previous year.

Counseling at the clinic includes information on condoms and foam, birth control pills, diaphragms, intrauterine devices and natural birth control.

Trained community volunteers provide education on family planning and related subjects upon request.



Cheryl Cox, a clinic aid at Planned Parenthood, answers questions for a caller. Seventy percent of the center's patients are students at Texas A&M University.

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Draft registration eyed Senate filibuster ends

WASHINGTON — The Senate Tuesday voted to cut off a 5-day-old filibuster against President Carter's draft registration plan.

Opponents of the plan to register 19- and 20-year-old men for a possible draft have been delaying action on the bill since last Wednesday by engaging in "extended debate" on the measure.

Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd, saying the House and Senate have been considering the draft and registration issues for over a year, urged his colleagues to vote to end the debate on the first try.

The opponents were optimistic they could defeat the cloture move on the first vote despite Byrd's pleas for support.

The vote to limit further debate was 62-32.

A vote of 60 senators is required to limit debate on a bill. Once cloture is invoked, each senator has one additional hour to speak on the bill.

The bill before the Senate would transfer \$13.3 million to the Selective Service System to conduct registration of all 19- and 20-year-old men this summer.

Opponents of the House-passed registration bill had filed 89 possible amendments to the bill, but only a handful were expected to be acted on before the bill comes up for final passage.

The bill went through its fourth day of inconclusive debate Monday

with no action on any of the expected amendments.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker said at the start of Tuesday's session the final vote on the bill could come today if the cloture move succeeded.

Baker said he expects the bill to pass "by a good margin" when the final vote does come.

Opponents of the bill lobbied hard Monday to head off the cloture vote.

"The issue of draft registration is just too significant to be dealt with in a cursory manner," Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said Monday in a letter to his colleagues.

If the cloture move had failed on the first try, Byrd was expected to file a petition seeking another vote in the next day or two.

Hatfield, leading what he described as "extended debate" on the bill, wanted to delay Senate action on the measure in hopes of gaining opposition to the plan will mount to prevent its passage.

In addition to Hatfield's letter, officials of several civil liberties groups also sent letters to members of the Senate urging them to let debate continue.

The joint letter insisted the debate so far "is not a frivolous exercise designed to waste the time of the Senate. The debate on draft registration is far-reaching and deeply substantive."

The letter was signed by officials of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization of Women, National Women's Political Caucus, Americans for Democratic Action, and the National Urban League.

Dual assault charge after duel with fork and tire iron

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A husband and wife who battled with a fork and a tire iron to climax a heated family argument have been charged with dueling, a felony, police said Monday.

James Seals, 33, and Mary Seals, 23, also were charged with second degree assault.

Mrs. Seals told police she was in her kitchen after arguing with her husband when he struck her in the face. She stabbed him with a fork, then Seals got a tire iron from the garage and struck her with it.

The Battalion Classifieds

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Cooperative Education program in the College of Liberal Arts has career placements available for the Fall of 1980 with the following companies: Foley's, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Corps of Engineers, Sakowitz, and various legal offices in the state. Students with Sophomore classification or above are encouraged to inquire about these positions. For more information, please contact Henry D. Pope or Susannah Lindsay at 845-7814 or come by 107 Harrington.

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For more information contact David Hill, 115 Bolton Hall, Texas A&M University, 845-2229 or Jim Dyer, 23AA Bolton Hall, Texas A&M University, 845-3747. EOE/MF.

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