

Local/National

Class of '84 dance set Thursday

The Class of '84 will hold a dance Thursday from 8 p.m. to midnight p.m. at Cell Block Five. The dance will be their first fundraiser with proceeds going to the March 6 Freshman Ball.

Admission to the dance is \$5 per person. Tickets may be bought in the Memorial Student Center or from class officers and representatives. Beer and setups will be free with the price of admission. Corps underclassmen will have a

free night out, class president Jay Cross said.

Cross said the Class of '84 will probably have more fundraisers in conjunction with Cell Block Five, and will also sell T-shirts to raise money.

Trying to cure disorders

Prof studies schizophrenia

By BELINDA McCOY

Battalion Reporter
Physical health is a high price to pay for mental health, but that is exactly the price that some schizophrenics must pay.

With the currently available treatment for schizophrenia, serious side effects usually result. Only about half of the cases can be controlled.

Not cured, just controlled, said Dr. Susan Robinson, professor of medical pharmacology at Texas A&M University.

Schizophrenia is one of two major forms of psychoses — mental disorganizations which result in personality disorders.

The cause of schizophrenia is still unknown, said Robinson, and so is its treatment in many cases.

Robinson is currently conducting a three-year study, funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, to develop new drugs to treat schizophrenia. She is studying the brains of laboratory rats to better understand the human brain.

"Actually I'm trying to make (something) like a map of the brain," said Robinson.

"If we know how the brain is put together, then we can design drugs that act at a certain point, and then we could see if that helps schizophrenics."

Schizophrenia is characterized by a thought disorder, said Robinson.

"They (schizophrenics) just can't see things straight," she said.

There are three common types of schizophrenia. In catatonic schizophrenia — which is characterized by zombie-like behavior — a patient just sits and stares at a wall, said Robinson. It is the most easily recognized form of the disease and also the most easily controlled.

"If we know how the brain is put together, we can design drugs that act at a certain point," said Dr. Susan Robinson, professor of medical pharmacology, "and then we could see if that helps schizophrenics."

Some drugs — called antipsychotic drugs — have been developed to treat schizophrenia. The most important of these, Thorazine, was discovered accidentally in France.

At one time, said Robinson, it was thought the sleep therapy helped mental patients. So, barbiturates were given to them.

To speed up the effect of the barbiturates, Thorazine, an anti-histamine, was developed. Eventually it was found that Thorazine had certain effects on schizophrenia on its own by blocking reception of dopamine in the brain.

Today Thorazine is one of the most commonly used anti-psychotic drugs. But the drugs are always effective on all forms of schizophrenia.

"Only about one-half of the mental patients helped by the anti-psychotic drugs now are able," said Robinson. "There are a whole lot of chronic schizophrenics that these drugs do help at all."

There are also two serious, automatic side effects of the drugs. One of those side effects is the development of Parkinson's disease, a brain disease which in this case will go away as soon as use of the drugs is ceased.

The other side effect, tardive dyskinesia, is permanent, even if the patient stops taking the drugs.

Tardive dyskinesia does not damage the brain, said Robinson, but it changes the neurotransmitter receptors in the brain. It is characterized by uncontrolled movements of arms and facial movements, and can sometimes be embarrassing to the patient and family.

"They look like freaks and they can't control what they are doing," Robinson said.

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MX missile support bases named in Utah and Nevada

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — The Air Force confirmed Tuesday that it prefers to locate the primary support base for the proposed MX missile system in Coyote Springs, Nev., and the secondary base at Milford, Utah.

Ken Olson, Utah coordinator for the MX proposal, said he was informed by Air Force officials that a draft environmental impact statement on the nuclear weapons system would list the two communities as recommended sites to house support personnel.

Coyote Springs, about 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, would serve as the primary support base for the mammoth \$33 billion missile system, while about 6,500 Air Force

workers and their families would live near Milford, 45 miles east of the Utah-Nevada state line in Beaver County.

Olson said the Air Force environmental statement would be released during the second week of December. Utah and Nevada officials will then take about 90 days to analyze and respond to the document.

"We presume that during that 90-day period the new Reagan administration will also be formulating its policy concerning basing modes for the MX," he said.

Pentagon officials have recommended building 4,600 concrete launch sites in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada to house 200 multi-

warhead missiles. The missiles would be moved from bunker-bunker to thwart enemy detection specific missile locations.

Olson said preliminary studies of the Utah MX office indicate Milford would be a good support base site.

"One advantage of the Milford site is that it is about equidistant from Cedar City and Beaver — allowing all three communities to share social impacts and economic benefits of the settlement of thousands of military personnel," he said.

But Olson said the draft environmental statement probably would not include Air Force recommendations on the best way to provide housing and services for its workers.

The Air Force has indicated might house all of the technician security personnel and their dependents on the base itself, he said. He also said those workers might be located off-base if communities in the area had available housing.

"Unfortunately, what that does to rely excessively on the free market when the housing industry is in really bad shape," Olson said. "If I prefer to have their employees located off-base, we think they should look providing federal funds to help communities provide water, sewer and street services associated with housing."

He said such federal investment in localities would help contractors build additional housing units more quickly and cheaply.

As many as 16,000 people might move to the Milford area to work on the MX if that site is approved for secondary base, the Utah coordinator said.

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