

Siamese twins stable; await separation State

United Press International
EL PASO—Sophisticated tests will be necessary to determine what organs are shared by Siamese twin girls born last week in a set of triplets, doctors said Wednesday.

The girls, joined at the upper abdomen and lower chest, were delivered by Caesarean section at Sierra Medical Center. Doctors

said separation would not be possible until the two became stronger and could breathe on their own.

The names of the babies were not released, but they were reported in stable condition. Their sister was in excellent condition and expected to be released soon. The babies' pediatrician, Dr.

Jose Alva, said a successful separation would depend upon which organs the two girls shared.

Alva said the girls shared intestines and might also share one liver. He said tests would be conducted to determine if they had separate gall bladders and bile systems but they do have separate hearts.

Disputed turkey drop still o

United Press International
YELLVILLE, Ark. — Despite the flap about the 1980 turkey drop at the annual Turkey Trot festival, Yellville officials are still planning to toss turkeys from an aircraft to a crowd waiting in the courthouse square below during the event Oct. 9-10.

Last year, animal protection groups in Arkansas and California objected to the drop, but Chamber of Commerce officials ignored them.

This year, however, the Chamber will not ignore the Federal Aviation Administration's objections to an airplane flying lower than 300 feet over the town for the drop. The FAA

suspended the license of the pilot who did it last year — Marion County Judge Gay Rorie — and has refused a waiver for this year's drop.

Consequently, the Chamber of Commerce is considering a helicopter or hot air balloon for the drop.

"We'll throw the turkeys off the top of a building if we have to," said chamber president Terry McPherson.

The turkey drop is no less humane than a greased pig contest or calf roping at a rodeo, McPherson said. The turkeys fly to the ground and whoever catches the turkey can keep it, he said.

"We're not doing anything

we haven't done in 35 years — nothing that is harmful to anyone," McPherson said. "No one from the Humane Association ever came up to see what we do. All they do is squawk from miles away that we're being mean."

But Douglas Lee, a field inspector for the Arkansas Humane Association, said he had watched the clipped-wing turkeys tossed from a plane last year.

"The first bird out of the plane fell like a bomb," Lee said. "I have a videotape of it lying on a rooftop with a broken neck."

Lee, who reported Rorie to the FAA last year, said he and FAA officials will be in Yellville

for the planned drops.

"There are regulations on loading and unloading animals," Lee said, "and the hasn't told them anything, throwing objects out of a craft."

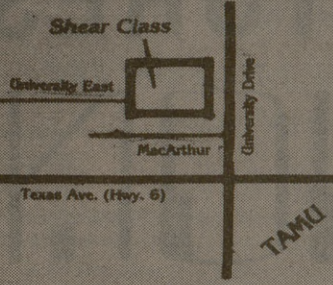
One year, the Chamber of Commerce tossed frozen keys to the crowd, but Lee that was no better.

"Imagine if it hit the shield of a moving vehicle," Lee said.

The Turkey Trot will include a national turkey contest and the selection of Miss Drumsticks, chosen on the basis of legs visible in a large portrait of a turkey.

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Vietnam vet accused of deserting

Military arrest a mistake

United Press International
FORT SILL, Okla. — Military police re-checked their orders before mistakenly arresting a Texas man — honorably discharged from the Army 13 years ago — and charging him with deserting his unit in Vietnam, authorities said Wednesday.

Officials said a mix-up in their records resulted in the man's name being sent to Fort Sam Houston, where military police were told to pick up Roque Vela in Laredo.

Marla Jones, spokeswoman for Fort Sam Houston, said the military police "checked and re-checked" with the deserter information center at Fort Benjamin Harris, Ind., and were told the man was absent without leave.

Vela was arrested Sunday at a party in Laredo and was held for

three days at Fort Sill before the mistake was discovered.

One of Vela's attorneys, Julio Garcia, said the Army's treatment of his client was less than adequate.

"He's kind of broken-hearted that this would happen to him after six years of service, including a 10-month tour in Vietnam," Garcia said.

Vela was released Tuesday and offered transportation back to Laredo.

But Garcia said Vela declined the transportation offer because it was inadequate.

"Now that everything is over and done with, they (the military) said he would have to fill out a voucher claim and that even then they'd only give him the cheapest transportation available," Garcia said.

Vela left Fort Sill with another of his attorneys and a family friend who had delivered a copy of the former soldier's 1968 discharge to Oklahoma Tuesday, Fort Sill spokesman Jon Long said.

Long suggested the mix-up was caused by "some records lost somewhere along the line."

He said Vela was arrested on a warrant issued by the Army's administration center at Fort Benjamin Harris, claiming Vela had been AWOL from his unit in Vietnam since July 15, 1967.

But Garcia said his client was wounded in battle eight days after that date, an injury that contributed to his winning the Purple Heart and several other commendations.

"To top it off, in September they (the military) sent him to Hawaii for rest and relaxation and then he was honorably discharged in January," Garcia said.

Despite his offer to show them the documentation of his honorable discharge, Vela was taken into custody by military police

from Fort Sam Houston. Laredo authorities reported Vela was arrested, the attorney said.

Vela was transported to Fort Sill Monday.

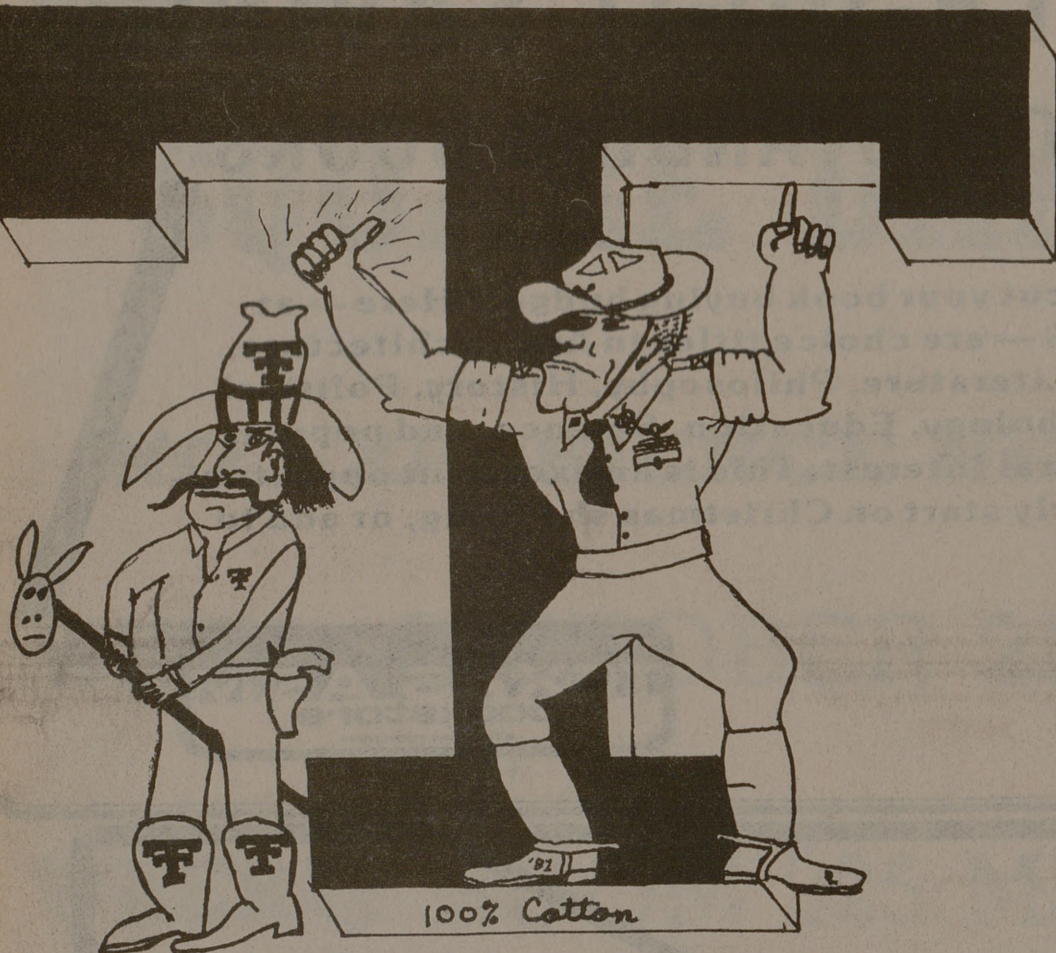
"He was brought in as a deserter; he was arrested on a warrant for that," Long said.

He said contact was made with Fort Benjamin Harris Tuesday morning "in an effort to determine (Vela's) status" and the center reported Vela AWOL in 1967.

"Our facility told the center the man claimed to be discharged from the Army, a copy of his orders bringing him back to California for the purpose of a discharge," Long said.

The administrative center advised a release would be granted if Vela could produce documents, Long said, and a release was made within an hour of the time the attorney and Vela brought the discharge to Fort Sill.

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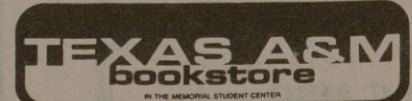
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