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Battalion Page  
June 16, 1981

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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

## Aggie plans to build foster home, halfway house for local kids

by Susan Dittman  
Battalion Staff

Sometimes it takes hard work and help from others to make a dream come true.

For Billie Douthitt, opening a home for runaways, truants and throw-aways has been a long-time dream which is now just on the threshold of reality.

The foster home/halfway house, Brazos County's Stepping Stone Inc., would cater to young people, ages 10 to 17, who have had problems at home or school or are runaways.

Douthitt, 51, said that she has "always loved kids, especially the ones with problems," and that she had a difficult teenage life herself.

The children would be placed in the home by the Department of Human Resources

and the juvenile probation office in Brazos County, as well as by parents of the children, said Sherry Brown, director of public relations for the home.

"The county will pay a certain amount of money for each child they place with us," Brown said, but the home would mainly be supported by donations.

Douthitt, a 1980 Texas A&M graduate in sociology, has spent the past year laying the groundwork for the home by finding people to help her accomplish her dream. Currently, the board of directors for the home consists of 10 members of the Bryan-College Station community ranging from a general practitioner to an Episcopal priest.

The next step for Brazos County's Stepping Stone is to collect enough money to rent a

house large enough to accommodate eight children.

"A committee is working finding a place," Douthitt said. "Our goal, right now, is to raise \$65,000 for operating costs."

Eventually, she would like to build a home for 64 of the children, she said.

"Right now the children are brought in are kept in cells even though they have committed any crimes," she said.

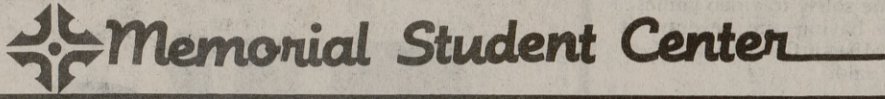
Douthitt said education is the main thing she wants to see the home do.

"We're going to try to educate them to want to learn."

For more information, contact Brazos County's Stepping Stone, Inc., call Sherry Brown at 696-2295 or write P.O. Box 1436, Bryan, TX 77806.

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## Houston water poses potential health hazard

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A recent test of Houston's water supply and four types of bottled water showed the municipal tap water and one manufactured brand contained a suspected carcinogen, officials said Tuesday.

The test, conducted by Houston's Spectrix Corporation, a federally certified drinking water laboratory, showed the city's water supply also had a high sodium level, which officials said could cause health problems to people who drink the water.

The study was done at the request of Evian Waters of France, a company which sells bottled natural spring water in Europe and the United States.

Donald A. Flory, executive vice president of Spectrix, said today the city's water carried chloroform, which he said was a trihalomethane, or suspected cancer-causing agent. Flory said test results showed that Ozarka, a bottled processed water, also

had a high level of trihalomethanes.

Other water tested included Perrier, Evian and Ar bones ar Those three products showed no sign of the suspected carcinogen, according to Spectrix test results.

Trihalomethanes are produced when chlorine reacts with decaying organic matter in water and produces chloroform and other compounds. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set a safe level of 100 parts per billion for trihalomethanes.

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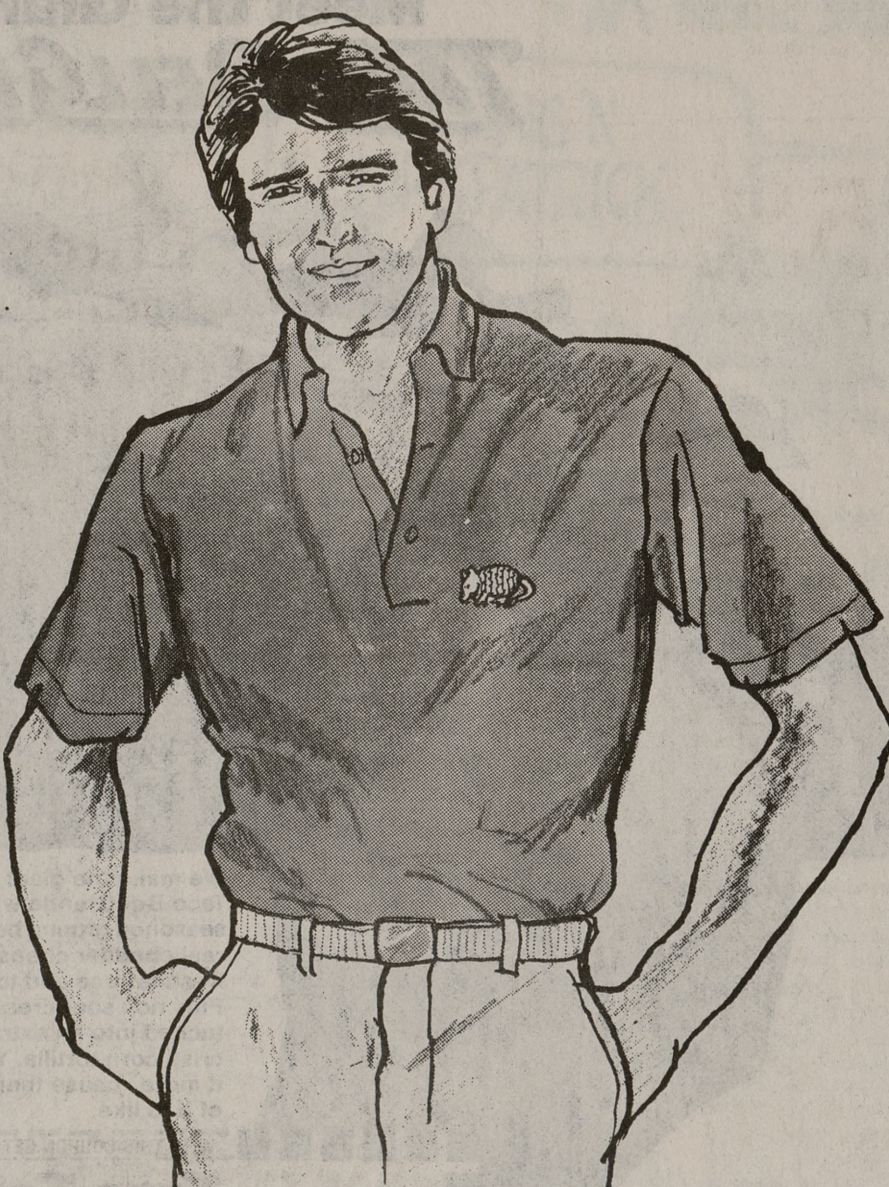
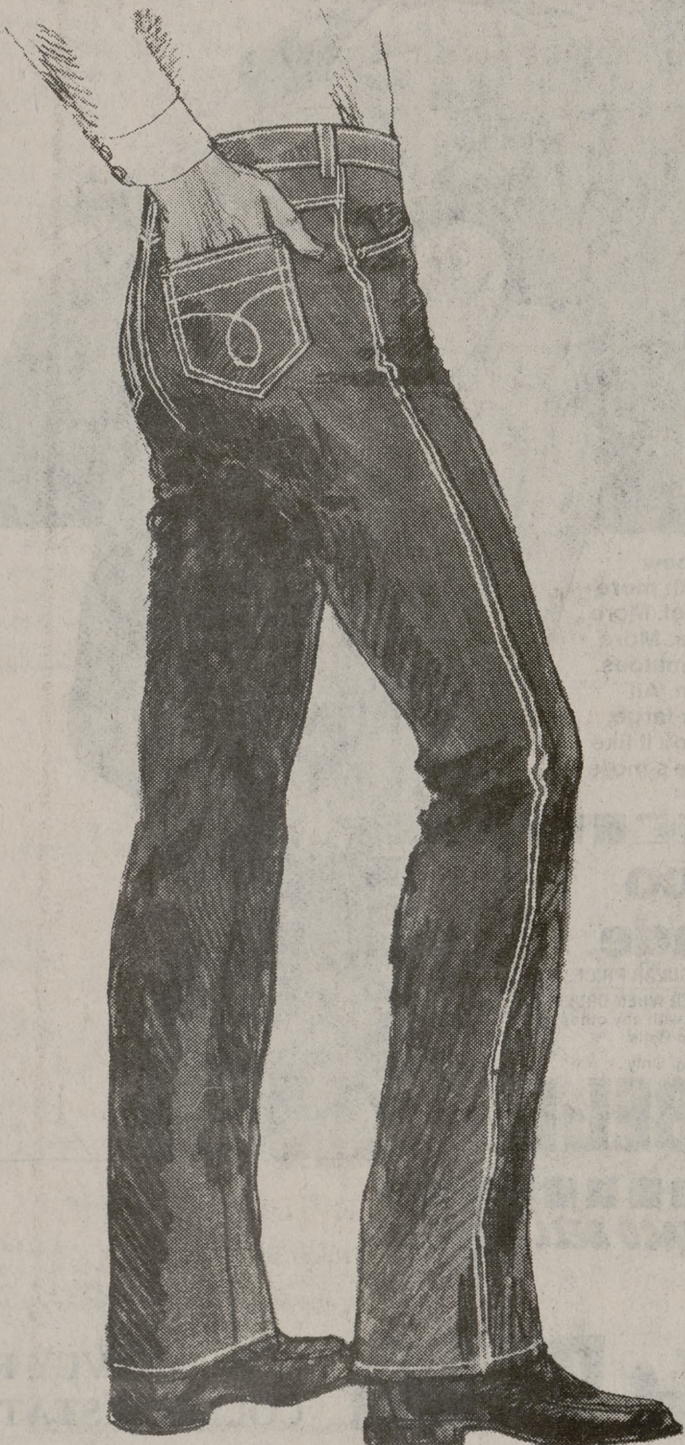
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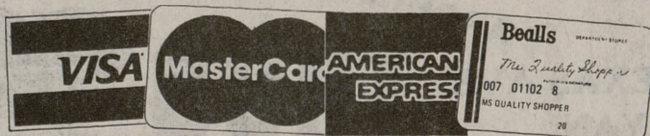
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