

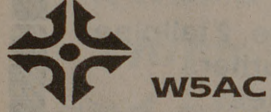
Now
you know

United Press International
The world's tallest mountain is Hawaii's Mauna Kea, not Mount Everest. This volcanic peak rises more than 32,000 feet above the floor of the Pacific, 10 percent higher than its Himalayan rival.

The MSC Amateur Radio Committee

will have its last meeting of the semester and annual fling at **Dr. Tom Comstock's QTH Thursday May 5 at 6 P.M.**

Maps and details in the shack or call 845-7245, 845-1515, or 146.82/.22 MHz.



Child abuse worse than reported

Bryan shelter aids victims, family

by Michelle Powe
Battalion Reporter
Gary and Annette Mehrtens have dealt with many kids in the last year and a half — many special kids with special problems. The Mehrtenses have taken care of two-year-olds in casts; babies, who have been branded by their parents; little girls, who have been sexually abused and now are terrified of men; and children, who have been locked in closets all their lives and whose only contact with people has been when they were being raped.

The Mehrtenses, who have a baby girl of their own, are the live-in parents at a children's shelter in Bryan — Sheltering Arms. The children they care for are among the more than 1 million children reported abused each year in the United States.

It's difficult to know exactly how many children are abused each year. Statistics on child abuse are hard to find, largely because so many cases go unreported or unrecognized. The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect reports 2 million children abused every year in the United States, but estimates that the number is closer to 10 million.

The center also reports that 6,000 children die each year as a direct result of abuse.

Dr. John Stuemky, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma, says child abuse may be the leading cause of death for children ages six months to 12 months and one of the leading causes of death in those one month to two years.

In Texas, the Department of Human Resources investigated over 54,000 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect in 1982. Of those reports, about 13,000 cases were confirmed. Over 1,500 of those cases were sexual abuse. In 1981, 118 children died in Texas from child abuse — the number only covers cases in which criminal charges were filed.

According to the Department of Human Resources, at least 8.5 percent, or 283,000, of the state's children are in danger of being abused or neglected each year. But relatively few cases of abuse and neglect are reported.

Child abuse is a frightening problem to deal with, a problem people often find easier to ignore. But ignoring the problem won't make it go away. Child abuse cuts across social and economic lines. It happens in all

ethnic and religious groups. It happens in Brazos County.

In Brazos County, 729 children received protective services from the Department of Human Resources to prevent the reoccurrence of child abuse or neglect in 1981. Each month, 37 families are reported to the department because of possible child abuse or neglect. This April, 48 families were reported.

If a social worker investigating a case thinks a child's life is in

"Most of the parents hate themselves. They have low self-esteem. We go in and try to help them." — Sue Ann Jackson, social worker.

danger, the department gets a court order to take the child into protective custody — always within 24 hours. An emergency custody hearing is held 10 days after the department takes custody of the child.

To keep a child from his parents the department must show just cause with sufficient evidence that a child will be in danger if returned home. If the department cannot come up with enough evidence, the child goes home.

The department presently has 21 children in protective custody.

When a child is taken from his parents, he is placed in the children's shelter in Bryan temporarily, until a more suitable place is found for him — a foster home, an institution, a relative's home or back with his parents.

Sue Ann Jackson, a social worker at the Department of Human Resources and acting supervisor for Brazos County, says the department is not in the business of taking people's children from them, and does not want to keep children from their parents.

The department works with the family members, she says, to try to rehabilitate them. The de-

partment offers parents' counseling, day care services and anything else that can be done to help the family. The services are funded by the state.

People who abuse or neglect children characteristically are unable to handle stress, including the stresses that accompany parenthood. Their victims are most often their own children or the children of a close friend or relative.

Some abusers were abused by their own parents. They also are often under financial or marital stress.

The department tries to help the people deal with the problems.

"Most of the parents hate themselves," Jackson says. "They have low self-esteem. We go in and try to help them."

One way the department tries to help the parents is by helping them recognize how they feel when they are about to abuse a child. Many find that their stomachs hurt and their hands shake.

Social workers tell these people to call the department when they begin to feel this way. Someone at the department will try to calm them down. If it is necessary, the social worker will go to the home.

The department also has in-home care specialists who visit homes to teach child management and other basic skills like cooking and cleaning.

Brazos County has a high success rate, Jackson says. The majority of children that the department takes into custody are returned to their parents, she says.

Despite this success, Jackson says that severe physical abuse and sexual abuse have significantly increased in Brazos County within the last year. Very few of the abusers are being prosecuted, Jackson says that only about 2 percent of known sexual abuse offenders are prosecuted every year.

Some of the offenders are not prosecuted because they are receiving counseling. Often there

isn't enough evidence to prosecute because the abuser is too young to testify or is one or both of his parents allow him to testify.

No community is immune to the problem of child abuse. In one neighborhood another, people insist it doesn't happen here. They are often reluctant to report an upstanding community member suspected of child abuse.

Doctors don't want to fill out forms, call police and appearing in court or they don't want to change their practices. Judges don't want to believe the stories that children tell.

Child abuse cannot be ped as long as there is a problem even exists. As long as the problem exists society will pay the price. According to Dr. Arthur Green, psychiatrist and director of Family Center at New Columbia Presbyterian hospital.

Green, author of "Child Maltreatment: Untreated abused children a constant drain on the sources of our community to their vulnerability to illness, vocational and educational failure, proneness to violence and criminality, their tendency to repeat patterns with their own in the following generation.

The proneness to violence and criminality of children is evidenced by an alarming number of prisoners who were abused children. Of the San Quentin inmates convicted for a violent crime, 100 percent were abused as children.

It is against the law in and in most states, to report a suspected case of child abuse or neglect. Any reports a case in good faith protected from civil and criminal liability.

In Brazos County there are no laws that require a person to call to report a suspected case of child abuse or neglect. 800-252-5400.



The UNIVERSITY OF ST. LUCIA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE invites you to participate in A GREAT ADVENTURE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chartered by the government of St. Lucia, and in association with Victoria Hospital, the largest medical health care facility on St. Lucia where the University is centered, the School of Medicine has established a unique program, to commence in September 1983

THE PROGRAM

- a thirty four month trimester program with instruction in English leading to the Doctor of Medicine Degree
- utilizes an interdisciplinary clinically correlated approach, focusing on organ systems
- integrates from the very outset of the medical school experience traditional academic medicine with active patient care responsibilities
- includes participation in comprehensive health care of members of the St. Lucian community
- utilizes state of the art educational media and communication resources such as Computer Assisted Instruction
- includes guaranteed supervised clerkships for all qualified students
- provides supportive programs and services for spouses and school age children

THE FACULTY

- skilled and effective international educators
- qualified M.D.'s or clinically oriented Ph.D.'s (or equivalent) dedicated to practical patient care
- personable and enthusiastic professionals committed to working in a team environment

FACILITIES

- the beautiful Caribbean Island paradise of St. Lucia, a stable democratic government, and an independent member of the British Commonwealth
- luxurious dormitory facilities

Qualified and motivated students interested in taking the first step toward a rewarding experience in 21st century medical education should contact by mail or phone:

Educators International Inc.
official United States Representatives of
The University of St. Lucia
School of Medicine
The Lincoln Building
60 East 42 Street
Suite 2201
New York City, N.Y. 10017
attention: Dr. Isaac Kairney
Dean of Admissions
Telephone: 212-490-0130-0159-0324

If you would like us to visit your school and give our slide presentation, please have your Pre-Med Advisor call us collect. Applications are now being taken for the September 1983 Class. We provide complete admission services with no placement fee.

JOIN US IN THE GREAT ADVENTURE

"the secret of patient care is caring for the patient!"

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE PRESENTS **MAD MONSTER PARTY**

THURSDAY, MAY 5 8:15 and 10:00
IN THE GROVE FOR \$1.00. UNRATED.



Rock 'n roll really stirs with the exciting taste of Seagram's 7 & 7UP. And so does country and western, and jazz, and disco—in fact, everything sounds better with 7 & 7. Enjoy our quality in moderation.

Rock 'n roll stirs with Seven & Seven

Seagram's

Perfect for Mothers Day

She will love these beautiful blouses from our Miss Rodeo America Collection

Made of comfortable 100% cotton, this sleeveless blouse is just right for those warm days. White eyelet trim. Color: blue. Sizes: 5/6-13/14

\$30.00

Easy care poly/cotton, sleeveless eyelet blouse. Accented with appliques and contrasting trim. Color: white. Sizes: 5/6-13/14.

\$32.50

WESTERN WORLD FEATURING NATIONALLY ADVERTISED BRANDS

BRANDS
MAY 5
MAY 6
MAY 7
MAY 8
MAY 9
MAY 10
MAY 11
MAY 12
MAY 13
MAY 14
MAY 15
MAY 16
MAY 17
MAY 18
MAY 19
MAY 20
MAY 21
MAY 22
MAY 23
MAY 24
MAY 25
MAY 26
MAY 27
MAY 28
MAY 29
MAY 30
MAY 31