

# Prenatal care advocated

United Press International

"Babies need not be born sick," says Dr. Mary J. Hughes, who is crusading on behalf of 250,000 infants born sick and deformed annually in the United States.

No new drugs or therapies are needed to bring Dr. Hughes' dream — well babies for all — to realization, she said.

"We're not talking about research down the road, but about things we know that need to be applied to save babies."

A well-informed, well-motivated mother is the first step in Dr. Hughes' campaign. That starts with every baby being planned, she said. She does not believe in "babies by chance."

Dr. Hughes is vice president and director of public health education for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, a voluntary health agency whose cause last year was supported by more than \$80 million in contributions.

"Having a baby is not a pathological thing," Dr. Hughes said. "It is a physiological event meant to come out well and not sick."

"If we could encourage women to better take care of their own health and that of

their unborn babies we would significantly reduce the number of sick babies born in our country.

"We're not talking about research findings to come, but about what is possible right here and now from what we know."

The health educator said said fewer sick babies would be born if mothers-to-be would also:

- Get into care the minute they know they are pregnant.
- Stop over-the-counter drugs, smoking and drinking.
- Join an exercise program.
- Sign-up for childbirth education classes.

Dr. Hughes said women who need assistance following the advice should contact the local March of Dimes for information about the location of childbirth and exercise programs in their communities.

"It's a trend, a trend supported by the Foundation, that hospitals now are expanding exercise and childbirth classes along with prenatal clinics," she said.

"When you think of the expansion of medical science relative to the unborn baby, it is fantastic. We can look at the baby in the womb. We can monitor the fetus. We can perform surgery

on babies in the womb. It blows your mind."

Some causes of birth defects, cited by Dr. Hughes and the Foundation include:

- A child may be born with defects because of a virus infection of the mother during pregnancy. Rubella is an example, and immunization is the way to prevent such defects.
- Birth defects may be caused by a mother's exposure during pregnancy to excessive amounts of alcohol, lead or drugs. Smoking also is a known hazard.
- Defects may be due to a disease of the mother-to-be. Diabetic mothers-to-be require special

monitoring throughout pregnancy to help assure the birth of a well child.

• A baby may inherit abnormal genes or chromosomes from either parent and be born with heart, brain, kidney, blood or metabolic abnormalities.

Genetic services now are available at more than 100 centers in the United States, established in most cases with start-up support from the March of Dimes. The services include a wide range of specialized diagnostic procedures, as well as the expertise to translate findings into a basis for informed decisions by prospective parents and individuals at risk for birth defects.

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# Arraignment, bond set

United Press International

BROWNSVILLE — Three men were arraigned Monday on charges that they beat and robbed a member of the Marshall Tucker Band's road crew on the beach at South Padre Island.

Clyde Wilson of Key Biscayne, Fla., who said he was in town with the band to record an album, told police he was beaten, robbed of \$186 and left bleeding from the mouth at Andy Bowie Park last Saturday

evening.

Michael Dane Tanner, 21, Lee Boone, 22 and William Wayne Witt, 22, all of Harlingen, were brought Monday before Justice of the Peace Alex Perez who set bond at \$7,500 each.

Wilson told officers he met the trio in Harlingen and was going to hire them to work with the country rock band.

The three men drove Wilson to the island at about 5 p.m.

Saturday, he told investigators.

"Wilson said that during the drive, the three men started asking for their pay in advance for a job that was to be done today," Cameron County sheriff's investigator Ronald K. Saenz reported.

Wilson said he refused, the trio allegedly stopped the car on the beach, beat his face, took his wallet, money, birth certificate and credit cards, and then drove away.

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# DWI

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Brown said it will take several such steps, and that during the next legislative session, MADD will be back lobbying for still tougher laws.

The new laws, Brown said, have only brought Texas to a level where it should have been in 1970. Texas is one of six states where it is legal to drink and drive, and one of a few where the legal drinking age is under 21, he said.

The drinking age and the allowance of open containers in cars also were debated in the legislature but no changes in the present laws were passed.

However, Brown has faith that the new laws will be enforced. "Another reason they will be enforced is that we (MADD) will be watching," he said.

Local attorney Tyler Moore says the laws will result in more DWI cases going to trial with fewer people trying to receive probation.

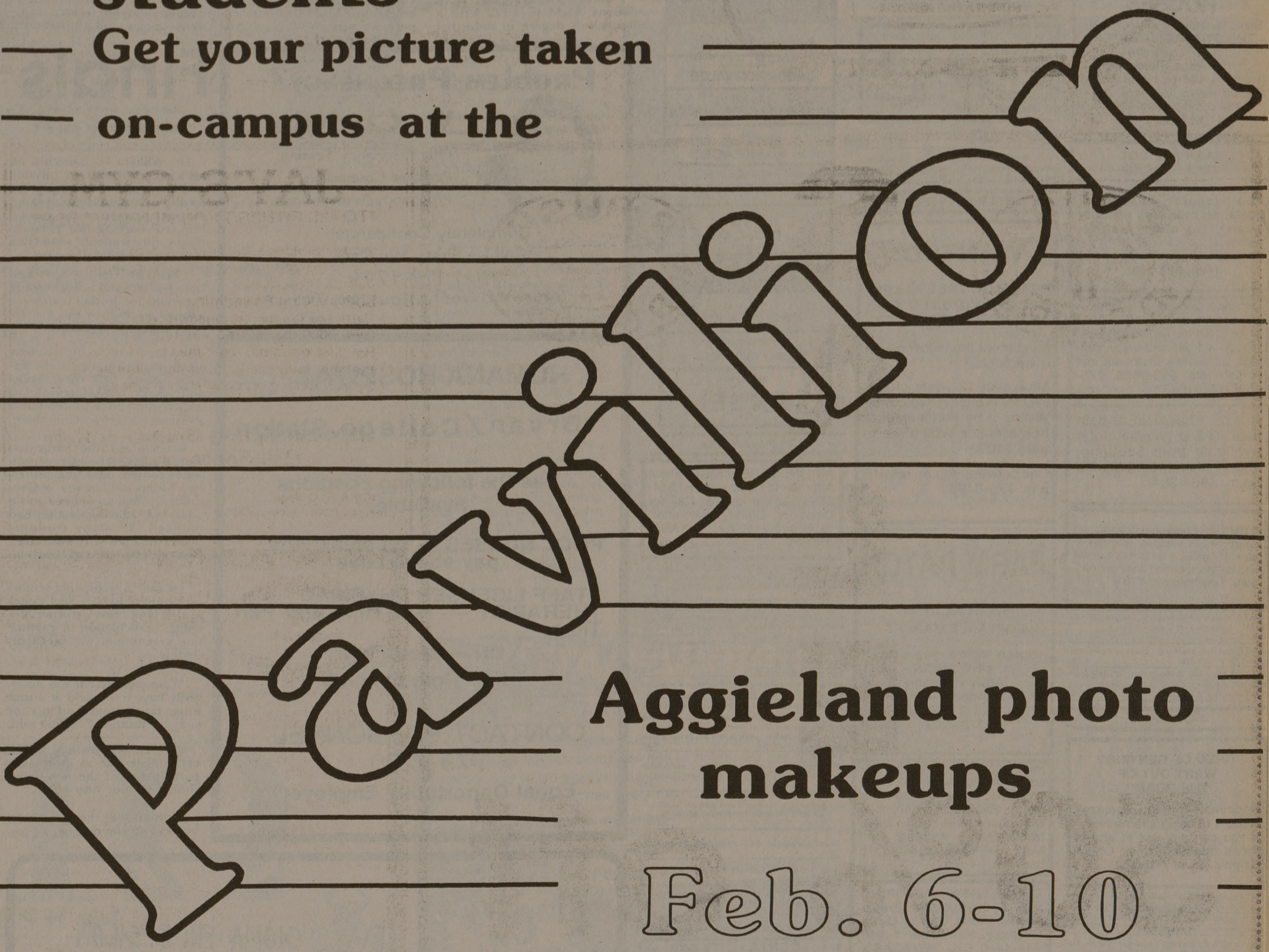
The major topics of the new laws are:

- The definition of intoxication was changed from a presumption of intoxication to per se intoxication for a blood alcohol concentration of .10 or greater. Previously, if a defendant's blood alcohol concentration was .10, it was up to the jury to decide whether he was intoxicated.
- Deferred adjudication is no longer applicable to persons charged with DWI or DWI involuntary manslaughter.
- Refusal to take an intoxilyzer or blood or breath specimen to determine alcohol concentration will result in a mandatory 90 day suspension of offender's driver's license. The refusal is admissible in later criminal action against the offender.
- Punishment for a first offense is a \$100 to \$2,000 fine and 72 hours to two years in jail. A second offense is punishable with a \$300 to \$2,000 fine and 15 days to two years in jail. Third and following offenses are punishable with a \$500 to \$2,000 fine and 30 days to two years in the county jail or 60 days to five years in the state penitentiary.
- If serious bodily injury is caused by DWI, the minimum jail term is increased by 60 days and the minimum and maximum fines by \$500.
- Even if the punishment is probated, a jail term is required for all but first offenders. For a second offense the term is 72 hours in jail. After the second offense the term is 10 days in jail. The term for a DWI involving serious bodily injury is 30 days in jail, and for a DWI involuntary manslaughter it is 120 days in jail.
- Counties with a population of 25,000 or more are required to purchase videotape equipment to record DWI arrestees. The tapes are admissible in court as evidence. Failure to video record an individual also is admissible at trial.

• A district attorney is allowed to petition for forfeiture of a vehicle from a person who received a DWI while on probation for DWI involuntary manslaughter, or from a person who gets a fourth DWI related offense.

• A three year insurance premium surcharge may be assessed against DWI offenders. An additional three year surcharge may be assessed upon each subsequent conviction.

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