

Around town

Graduate receives entomology award

Frederick P. Baxendale, who received his master's degree and doctorate at Texas A&M, received the John H. Comstock Award for his outstanding graduate work in entomology, at the Entomology Society of America annual meeting last month.

Baxendale was a graduate teaching assistant and a graduate research assistant at Texas A&M. He was also an undergraduate teaching assistant at Cornell University.

Troupe searching for male dancers

Male dancers are currently needed for in the Texas A&M Dance Troupe. Experience is helpful. Male dancers with experience in ballet, jazz or modern dance can contact Lynn Berry, 268 East Kyle from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Friday.

Defensive driving course offered

A defensive driving course, conducted by the Brazos Valley Safety Agency will be Friday and Saturday at the Ramada Inn. The class will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday evening and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday morning. Students must attend all eight hours.

Another class will be Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 also at the Ramada Inn. The class will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. both evenings. Those interested can pre-register by telephone at 846-1904 or 846-9271 or at 5 p.m. at the Ramada Inn before the classes.

The purpose of the defensive driving class is basic driver improvement. By taking the class the driver can obtain a 10 percent reduction in insurance rates and traffic fine dismissal. Fees for the class are \$20 per student payable at pre-registration.

Tickets sales continue for pageant

Tickets are now available for the 5th Annual Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant scheduled for 7 p.m., Feb. 25. Tickets are \$3.50 for students and \$6 for non-students and can be purchased at the MSC Box Office.

Mills committee to award fellowships

The W.G. Mills Memorial Fellowship Committee is accepting applications for the W.G. Mills Fellowship in Hydrology for the Spring semester. Deadline for application is Jan. 27.

The Fellowships provide financial support to four or more highly qualified graduate students in hydrology. Appropriate areas of study include engineering hydrology, stochastic hydrology, hydrometeorology, geohydrology, watershed management and hydrologic techniques in water resources planning.

A&M offers foals' 'blue baby' test

By CAMI BROWN
Reporter

Texas A&M is one of the few places worldwide that can provide a blood serum test to predict the often fatal "blue baby syndrome" in a mare's foals.

The \$10 test, which is in its second year of existence at Texas A&M, is very effective in determining if a mare will bear a foal with neonatal isocythrolysis, or NI, which is like the blue baby syndrome in humans.

NI is a rare and often fatal disorder contracted by the foal during its first hours of life as it nurses the mare's colostrum, the

life-sustaining milk secreted by the mare just after foaling.

Depending on how potent the harmful antibodies are in the colostrum, the foal can live a varying number of hours before it dies. Death is caused by a lack of red blood cells, which burst in the bloodstream in the presence of the harmful antibodies.

To test a mare for the NI-causing antibodies, the owner may send a sample of the mare's blood serum to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory one to three weeks before the mare is to foal.

If the test proves positive, the foal simply is not allowed to

nurse until the mare is "milked out" of colostrum. During this time the foal is given stored colostrum or a commercial substitute.

Although similar tests have been used to diagnose disorders in other animals, the NI test has recently been adapted for use with horses. Dr. Bruce Abbitt of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory attributes the adaptation to the dramatic increase in the value of horses over the past decade.

"Very few places offer the test because NI in horses doesn't occur very frequently," Abbitt says. "Less than 1 percent of the foals born are affected with NI."

Yet the possibility of eliminat-

ing even the smallest chance of NI is well worth the \$10 fee for the test, he says.

"We're getting to the point now where a foal could be worth

half a million dollars before it hits the ground," Abbitt says. "When you start dealing with that kind of money people get nervous."

Nursing home loses funding for second time in 5 months

United Press International

LUBBOCK — Brentwood Manor Nursing Home has lost its second federal funding for the second time in five months, state health department officials said Wednesday.

The home was decertified in August because of skin lesions on many patients as well as other problems. State health official Jimmy Harper said a survey team found violations during a December inspection, but the latest problems were not as serious as those in August.

The home was decertified the first time and put on vendor

hold this time, which means the temporary withholding of Medicaid reimbursement payments.

Harper said the survey team did not report any immediate threat to patient health. Brentwood Manor is owned by the Holiday Management Company, which in March assumed the home that has a history of problems.

The 15-year-old home has changed owners five times in the last four years. Texas Department of Human Resources officials said if a home is put on vendor hold twice in one year then its contract is cancelled.

A cancelled contract means the home must reapply to the Department of Human Resources to get funding reinstated, officials said.

Manor administrator Elva Jackson said the home was decertified in August not only because of present violations, but because of its history.

"I think because of the home's history of noncompliance, we're picked on a little more than other facilities, not by state health officials, but by the public," she said. She recently was named administrator.

Corps

(continued from page 1)

Burton said that none of these changes are iron-clad and that he is willing to look into the possibilities of modifications.

A modification that Joseph said he would like to see is permission to wear combat boots on Corps-wide runs. He said that the use of tennis shoes on such runs would be embarrassing to the cadets.

Another policy change has been initiated by Corps staff. It modifies study hours for juniors. Abbott said that juniors can fall into three categories:

- If their overall and semester grades are below 2.0, they will have mandatory study five days a week.

- If their overall is below 2.0 but they made above 2.0 for the semester, they will study three days a week.

- If their overall is above 2.0, but they made above 2.0 for the semester, they will study three days a week.

Abbott said that the new study policy is also open to modifications.

We're tooting our own horn.



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Film funds diverted to playroom

United Press International

AUSTIN — While Gov. Mark White was praising the Texas Film Commission for the fine job it did last year, commission director Joel Smith was lamenting the loss of more than \$42,000 reportedly diverted to remodel a playroom for White's sons.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram Wednesday quoted a source as saying White expropriated \$42,221 from the film commission last July 26 and another \$75,000 from other administration funds.

The newspaper said the funds went to "mansion expense" and other administrative expenses.

Comptroller records show more than \$34,000 was paid last year to a contractor and architect to convert a room of the carriage house behind the governor's mansion into a playroom for White's sons Andrew, 11, and Wells, 13.

The revamped playroom includes a toilet, shower and kitchen, storage space and a bumper pool table. The boys use it to do homework and entertain their friends, a governor's spokeswoman said.

"We could have used the money," said Smith. "It hurt us. There were some things we could have done that we really needed."

Among them were the purchase of word processing equipment and the printing of a new locations brochure, which the commission would have used to promote promising spots in the state where producers can film their movies.

Meanwhile, White was praising the film commission's work at his regular Tuesday news conference.

Some 30 feature-length theatrical and television movies were made in Texas in 1983, including the major productions "Terms of Endearment" and "Silkwood." In 1982 13 movies were shot in Texas.

"I think we have had truly outstanding successes the past year with Joel's leadership in the film commission," White said.

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