

STATE AND LOCAL

Doctors hope baby will live after transplant

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Doctors at Texas Children's Hospital Tuesday said they were "cautiously optimistic" that an 11-week-old infant suffering from immune deficiency syndrome would survive an experimental bone marrow transplant operation.

The infant, identified only as Agnes Theresa, was born Oct. 28 without the ability to combat diseases.

Doctors on Dec. 11 transplanted two ounces of bone marrow from the baby's 6-year-old sister in hopes that Agnes' system then would begin producing her own ability to fight infection.

Since the transplant, Agnes has grown four pounds and three inches and now weighs 12 pounds, 10 ounces and measures 28-1/4 inches, the hospital said in a statement.

"Agnes Theresa appears to be my most successful transplant patient to date," Dr. William T. Shearer, director of the David Center at Texas Children's Hospital, said.

The center is named after Houston's so-called "Bubble Boy," who also suffered from severe immune deficiency syndrome and lived virtually all of his 12 years in a plastic germ-free bubble. Complications following a bone marrow transplant forced physicians to free David from the bubble. He died last Feb. 22.

Agnes' progress has been so good doctors have been able to remove a special tube in her heart that was inserted in case she needed additional drugs to combat reaction to the marrow transplant.

"The baby's growth told us weeks before the laboratory tests turned positive that an early and powerful immunological reconstitution was taken place," he said.

Shearer said it would be another month before doctors can say for certain whether the initial progress would be sustained.

Unlike David, whose bone marrow transplant was not a perfect match, Agnes Theresa's was perfect, doctors said.

It was the second such operation at Texas Children's Hospital.

Official says water bill needs modifications

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The water bill before the Legislature needs revisions to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, a Texas Farm Bureau official said.

John Baker of Temple, chairman of the bureau's water policy committee, said the main problems are water rights, the formation of water districts not controlled locally and the control of ground water.

"We believe the key issue in new water legislation for farmers and ranchers will be to maintain the existing ownership of ground water rights and to give no further grounds regarding surface water rights," Baker said at a Farm Bureau luncheon.

The House Committee on Natural Resources continued its review of the water package put together by Gov. Mark White, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Speaker Gib Lewis.

Baker said underground water should remain the property of the landowner and the state should not regulate underground water conservation districts. The Farm Bureau would rather see the districts controlled on a local level, he said.

Other issues of concern to the Farm Bureau are conservation program research, agricultural loan programs, provisions on bays and estuaries, future water storage facilities and water quality and pollution, Baker said.

The bay and estuaries provision in the water bill is of major concern to farmers and ranchers, especially those who use reservoir water, he said. Coastal interests want any water bill to include protection of fresh-water flow to bays and estuaries.

During the 1984 drought, Baker said, Gulf Coast rice growers were hurt when reservoir water was sent downstream to help shell fish nurseries.

"The consequence was less water for rice growers at a critical time in their production cycle," Baker said.

Farm Bureau President S.M. True of Plainview said his group also will monitor farm labor legislation, tax changes and farm-to-market road bills.

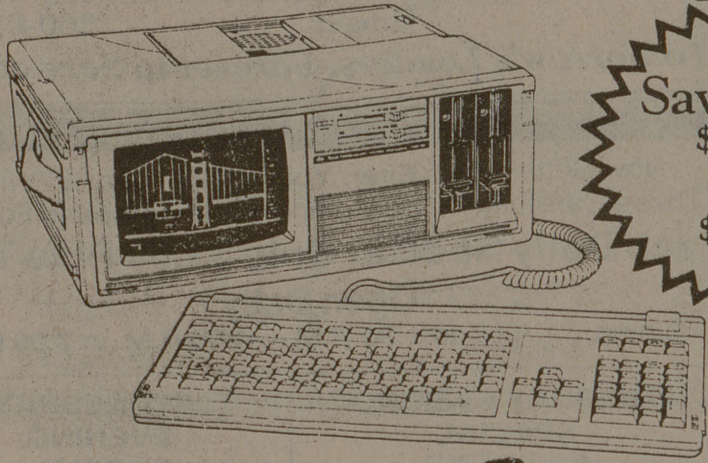
"These are vital issues to agriculture because they affect our costs and the way we farm," True said.

True said some farmers and ranchers will have a hard time complying with new pesticide regulations, especially those in high density population areas.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower has put together a pesticide regulation package that some farmers say would be costly to implement.

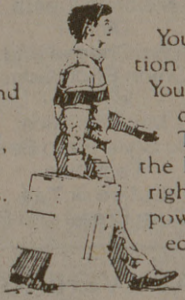
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Around town

Fish camp counselor applications open

Student 'Y' Fish Camp has counselor applications available now through Feb. 28. Interested persons may pick them up on the second floor of the Pavilion. For more information, call 845-1133.

Big Event looking for job requests

Bryan-College Station area residents and businesses are encouraged to submit job request for the Big Event, a four-hour service project sponsored by Student Government. More than 5,000 Aggies will participate in the project on March 2. To place a job request, contact Maritza Pena at 845-3051 in the Student Government Office.

Students may nominate professors

Forms for the Former Students Association Distinguished Awards for teaching may be picked up in 802 Harrington Tower. Students may nominate liberal arts professors for teaching, student relations and staff/faculty awards. Nominations are also being accepted for the 1985 "Preferred Prof Award". This award, sponsored by the Cap & Gown Senior Honor Society, is presented each year to a faculty member exhibiting outstanding qualities of service, leadership and scholarship. Nominations are due Friday by 5 p.m. in 208 Pavilion.

Law school scholarships offered to Aggies

Three tuition-free scholarships are being offered to Texas A&M students wishing to study law at Baylor University. These are the Joseph Milton Nance scholarships available for first year law students and renewable in the second and third years if the recipient maintains a C+. Only students who have done all or most of their pre-law work at Texas A&M will be eligible. At the time of applying for scholarship the student must have applied or be in the process of applying to Baylor Law School. The application deadline is Feb. 8. For forms and additional information, contact Dr. J.M. Nance at the History Dept. in Harrington Tower.

Senior honor society accepting members

Applications are now being accepted for membership into Cap & Gown Senior Honor Society. Qualifications include a 3.25 GPR, 75 hours completed by Jan. 1, 1985 and active involvement in scholarship, leadership and service activities. Information sheets available in Cap & Gown cubicle on the 2nd floor of the Pavilion, the library and at information sessions held Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Applications are due on Feb. 8 by 5 p.m. in 110 YMCA.

Masquerade Ball scheduled Friday

The Class of '86 will present a Masquerade Ball on Friday from 8 p.m.-midnight. Tickets are \$10 per couple and on sale now at the MSC.

Duchesses needed for Cotton Pageant

Applications are now available for duchesses to the 51st Annual Cotton Pageant. Any campus organization is invited to enter a contestant, as well as sororities and fraternities. The winner receives a \$500 scholarship to TAMU. Entry fee is \$40. The pageant will be held March 29 and 30. For applications and information, call Patricia at 764-7133.

Writing contest accepting entries

The Texas A&M Writing Contest will be accepting poetry and short stories from graduate and undergraduate students from Feb. 4-15. Entries can be sent through the campus or delivered directly to the English Department mailroom. Address entries to: The Texas A&M Writing Contest, Students may submit up to three poems and/or one short story. All entries must be typed and must not include student's name on the poems or short stories. A 3x5 index card should include name, address and phone number. The contest will publish up to 15 poems and up to 5 short stories, available April 12.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

Panel is questioning care of discharged state mental patients

Associated Press

AUSTIN — "Serious questions" exist about whether the state provides adequate care for discharged mental patients, according to a panel monitoring court-ordered improvements in Texas' mental hospitals.

In a report issued Monday, the three-member panel said it had doubts about whether hospitalized patients are getting better care, even though the state met the first of four court-ordered deadlines and now has more staff and fewer patients at its eight hospitals.

The panel cited recent newspaper coverage about patients being bused to Houston, dropped off at a bus station and left to fend for themselves.

That and reports of inadequate after-care service in Austin "raise serious questions about the mental health delivery system's current capacity to adequately serve and maintain clients who have been discharged from the hospitals," the report said.

The panel also said mental health workers in the eight state mental hospitals are suffering from "serious morale problems."

The persistence of those problems raises questions about whether the measures taken by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to meet the first

deadline are "having the desired effect of improving the quality of care for mental patients," the panel said.

The department is operating under an order by U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders of Dallas. The order requires each mental hospital worker to be caring for no more than five patients during the day and no more than 10 at night in September.

Department officials have said they plan to achieve the new staff-to-patient ratios by reducing patient rolls by 352 or hiring 70 workers every three months.

The panel reported the department met the first deadline by reducing by 369 the number of mental patients and by hiring 70 mental health workers from May through October 1984.

The panel said it reviewed records of patients at Austin State Hospital and Terrell State Hospital in an attempt to determine the kind of care received by discharged patients.

The records noted where the patient would be living upon discharge and showed, in almost all cases, an outpatient appointment had been scheduled with a community agency, the panel said.

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