

Students unite to demand better gynecological care

By SANDRA SUTPHEN
Reporter

"We must demand proper gynecological care and access to birth control."

A flyer with this message was distributed throughout the Texas A&M University campus as publicity for a meeting held in the MSC Lounge Tuesday night.

The meeting was held in response to an article that appeared in the September 25 edition of The Battalion.

The article dealt with the cancellation of some health services at A.P. Beutel Health Center — particularly the lack of a gynecologist on staff.

About 50 students and faculty responded to the flyer by attending the meeting.

Three students — Katie Cokinos, Ann Robbins and Emily Lee — organized the meeting because they said the health center should serve the needs of the students, and more than 12,000 of these students are women.

The group's organizers said they feel there should be ready access to gynecological care at A&M without having to go outside the University to a private doctor or clinic.

The health center has been sending students who need gynecological

care or birth control to Planned Parenthood because of understaffing and unwillingness of doctors to handle birth control cases, Robbins said. Cost is a problem with students

Organizers of the group have joined with MSC Great Issues to provide speakers at Rudder fountain to bring the health care problem to the students Thursday beginning at 11 a.m.

having to go elsewhere for these services, said Sarah Hambrick, a junior psychology major.

One member of the audience mentioned that the cost of a private doctor may be prohibitive when both the husband and wife are students.

The health center does offer some gynecological care, but it must be a specific problem, Robbins said. No examinations are given.

Officials at the health center have been reluctant to talk about the subjects of birth control and gynecological care, Cokinos said.

Robbins said the group's organizers are not affiliated with any organization. They are simply students concerned about what they see as a problem with health care at the University in general, Robbins added.

It seems as if health center officials are trying to make a moral judgement, Hambrick said.

"The point is that it is discrimination," said Gregg Cantrell, a doctoral student in History.

The group decided to take action. Cokinos and Robbins plan to write and submit a bill to the student senate on the topic of improper health care at A&M.

Ideas such as petitions, picketing and a "silent march," which is a midnight march to President Vandiver's house, were suggested as a way to educate the students and show student concern over the problem.

Cokinos and Robbins have united with MSC Great Issues to bring speakers to speak at Rudder fountain Thursday to bring the health care problem to the students because this is a topic which many students may not be aware of, Robbins said.

Three A&M representatives of the National Organization of Women (NOW) suggested that the group unite with NOW to get the benefits of being a campus organization.

Tests show cattle, human blood similar

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — The need for human blood donations could be drastically reduced some day if Dr. Mario Feola's hypothesis about cattle blood proves valid.

For the past eight years, the professor of thoracic surgery at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has inched along with his development of a method of purifying cattle hemoglobin for human use, and he says within a few months it should be ready for testing in humans.

"All hemoglobins are the same more or less," Feola said, so the beauty of the cattle hemoglobin, if it works in humans, will be that there will be no need for typing and cross matching of blood in an emergency. The cattle hemoglobin, mixed with a saline solution, would be injected in the recipient and would pass through the system, providing building blocks for the body's replenish-

ment of the blood supply, he said.

Theoretically, emergency medical technicians could carry powdered hemoglobin in ambulances and give transfusions at the scene, Feola said.

Also, "we destroy all viruses in the blood, so there is no danger of disease being transmitted, so we eliminate that risk," Feola said.

He believes the cattle hemoglobin will be accepted.

"Right now people are afraid of human blood," he said, "because of the fatal diseases such as AIDS that can be transmitted through the blood."

Some other doctors in the United States are trying to create the hemoglobin powder from human blood, he said, but he considers the bovine blood better.

"It transports oxygen better than human hemoglobin," Feola said.

From the results of the experiments in animals, Feola is optimistic about the bovine hemoglobin's use in humans.

In his recent experiments with lab animals, Feola said the bovine hemoglobin has been working.

He has drained two-thirds of the blood volume from different species such as mice, cats and monkeys, and then injected them with the cattle hemoglobin. He said all have done well.

"They're surviving forever," he said of the animals. "They start rebuilding their own blood much faster than with just a saline solution."

Within a week, the animals have rebuilt the two-thirds of their blood they lost, he said.

Feola and a lab in Boston are in the process of designing new technology that would create the cattle hemoglobin on a large scale for humans, he said.

Feola said he can make only one liter of the hemoglobin at a time using his present method, but with the new technology he says he hopes to produce 100 liters a day.

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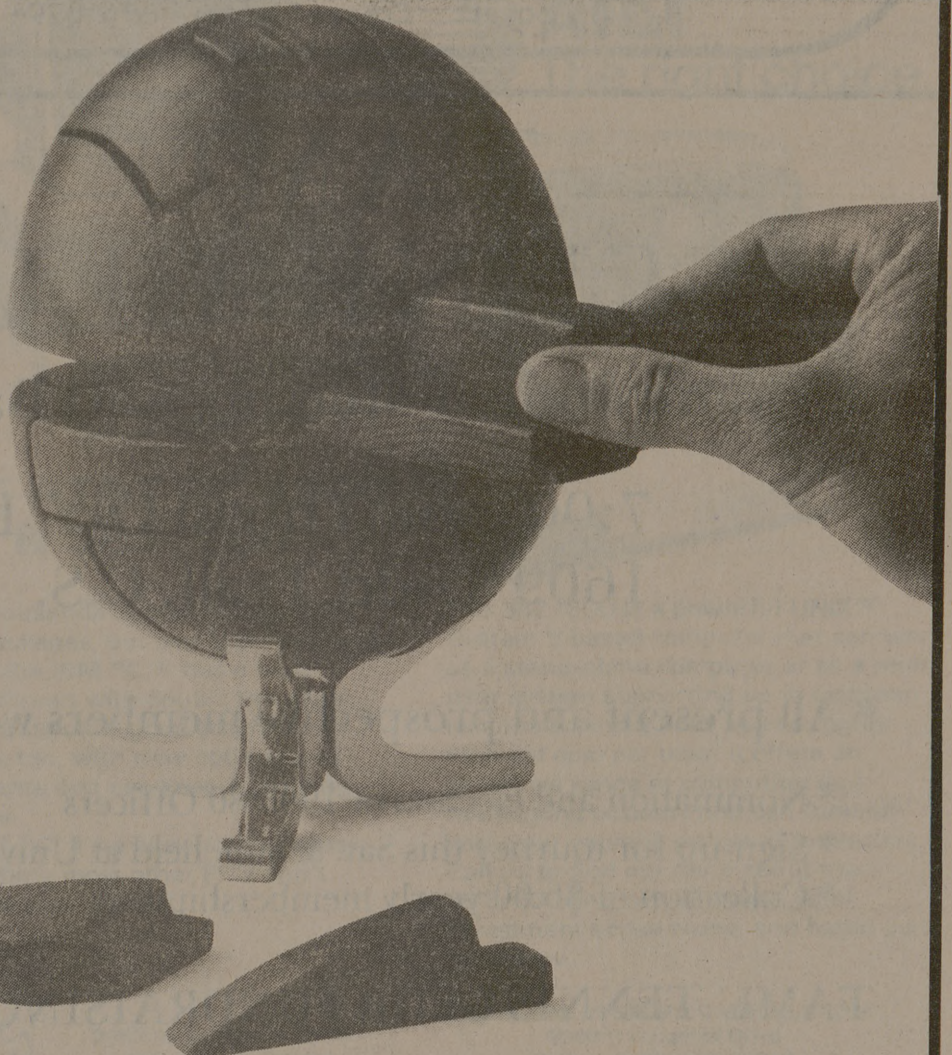
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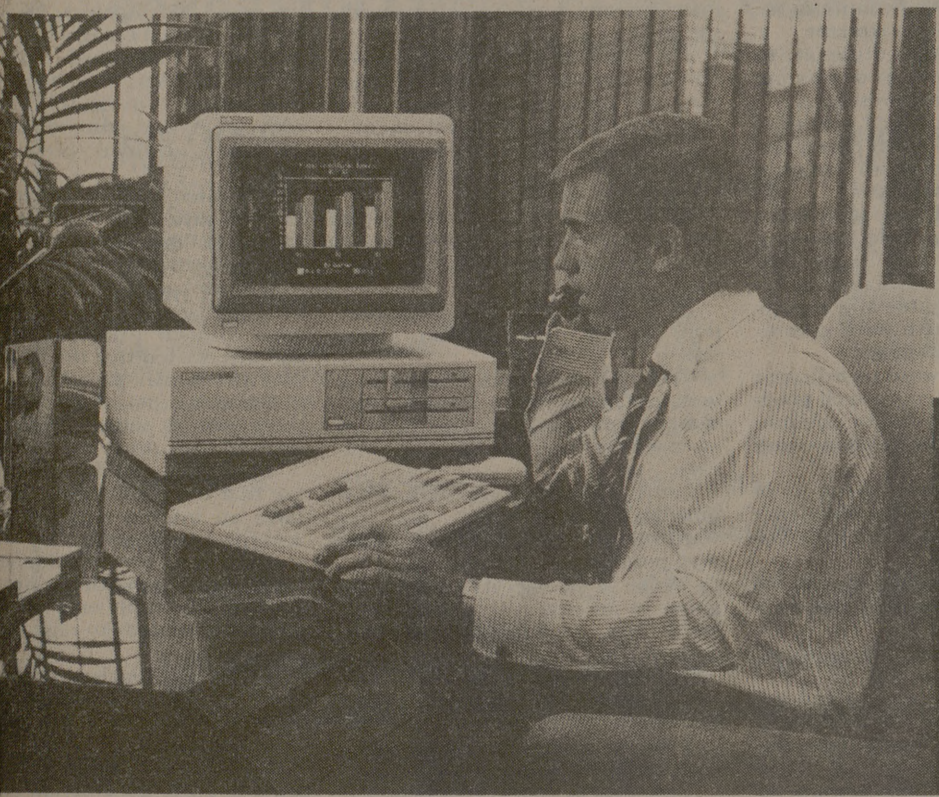
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