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Warped

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Waldo



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TWO-PERCENTER! WITH THE AGGIE
FOOTBALL TEAM AND THE POWER OF
THE 12+1. MAN, WE'RE GONNA BEAT
THE ©#*% OUTTA £.M.!

by Jeff MacNelly



Some local women skip hospital, seek midwives for baby delivery

By LEN BRILEY

Reporter After considering her options, Leone Hines, 24, rejected the clinical, impersonal atmosphere of a hospital delivery room and decided to have her first child delivered by a midwife at home, where she could have champagne after the birth or

record the event on videotape. At home, Hines, a Texas A&M graduate student, was steadied by the presence of her husband, who chose to cut his newborn son's umbilical cord.

Hines says that for a combination of reasons, among them comfort, se-curity and affordability, her decision o employ a midwife was an easy

She is just one of an increasing she was there to rub it." number of Bryan-College Station area women who are finding the services of a midwife more attractive

than a hospital delivery. In fact, the number of home deliveries by midwives in Bryan and ollege Station rose from 19 in 1983 fortable o 49 in 1984, according to the Col-

982, 2,340 births were recorded. In 983, that number fell to 2,201 and 1984 that number again fell to there to rub it. ,183, says Janet Deininger, director

medical records. She did not offer reason for the decline. When midwife Donna Ruscher arrea there were three to five midwife deliveries a month, she said. Now here are almost eight a month, two or three of which are by A&M stu-

Leslie Paulson, Ruscher's partner, ays business has more than doubled says business has more than doubled say they enjoy the quality treatment during the three and a half years she of an out-of-hospital delivery.

has delivered in the area.

'And within the Mexican-American community, it (the number of home births by midwives) has increased more than that," she says.

Because many Mexican-Americans are accustomed to a woman's presence in the delivery room, she

Tracey Wilkinson, 18, who recently gave birth with the help of a midwife, says, "The hospital sometimes leaves you during labor. My midwife was always there (during labor). When my back hurt,

says, they are more likely to choose

lege Station city secretary, who keeps birth records for both cities. There have been 61 home deliveries so far fluences a woman's choice.

Tracey Wilkinson, 18, who re-While home deliveries have risen cently gave birth with the help of Ruscher, says, "The hospital sometimes leaves you during labor. My midwife was always there (during labor). When my back hurt, she was

Hines says, "During labor and delivery, Donna (Ruscher) stayed with me from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

She also says that midwives realize ived in the Bryan-College Station the importance of a birth to the

"In the hospital, they do what is convenient to them, not to you," Hines says.

Besides the personal touch of-fered by a midwife, midwife patients

Hines says, "They don't do a slop job. It's very professional.

Before accepting a patient, Paulnurse, says she compiles a prenatal profile on the expectant mother. Her initial laboratory tests check for diabetes, anemia, venereal disease and determine weight and blood

type, she says.

If the mother is anemic, overweight, diabetic, has high blood pressure or a venereal disease, or if the fetus is positioned in an abnormal way, Paulson says she will not perform the delivery and recom-

mends hospital delivery After the initial check, Paulson monitors the mother's blood pressure and the baby's heart rate and performs other tests once a month until the eighth month, when they are performed twice a month. In the ninth month, she says she runs the tests three times.

Paulson says she has three and a delivery by a midwife because they say it makes them feel more comwife. Ruscher says she has been a midwife for seven years, after she apprenticed under a doctor and an-

Many women also choose delivery by a midwife because of affordability, although middle-income patients constitute almost one-half of Paul-

son's patients, she says.

Based on a three-day visit, a patient at St. Joseph will spend an average of \$1,500 for delivery, varying for the type of treatment received. Those prices do not include prenatal checkups before checking into the

Paulson says she charges \$295 plus \$15 for each prenatal visit. Hines says she spent \$320, includ-ing prenatal visits and delivery, for

Ruscher's services.

Both Wilkinson and Hines say they were referred to the services of their midwives by friends who used

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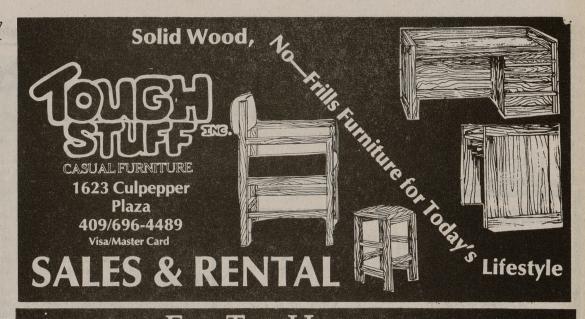
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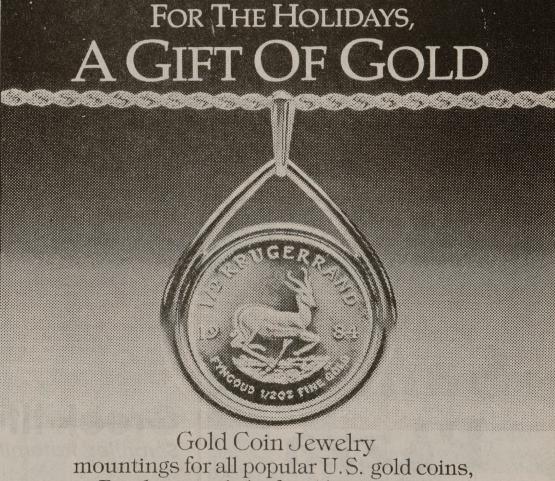
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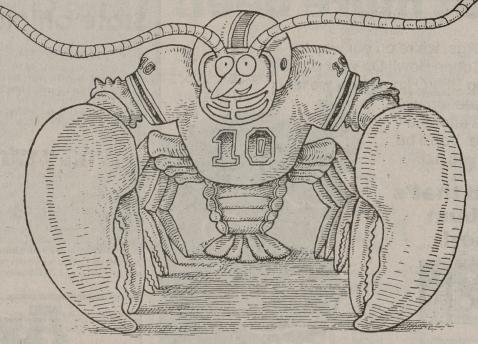




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