A&M study shows addicts not always hooked for life

By MELISSA SPANN

The old philosophy — once an addict, always an addict — does not hold true, according to Dr. D. Dwayne Simpson, a Texas A&M psychology professor and director of a heroin addiction study conducted by A&M's Behavioral Research Program.

"People get off drygs many different ways and

People get off drugs many different ways, and what we established in this particular study is that treatment has a lot to do with that," Simpson said. The treatment may not cause the addicts to get off drugs, he said, but it at least provides them with a place to go

and a support system.

The 12-year nationwide study of heroin addicts shows that daily use of heroin among former drug abusers has decreased drastically, Simpson said.

From a national perspective the study is the longest-running examination of what happens to heroin ad-dicts after they receive help from federally funded community treatment centers, he said.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is funding the study, and the findings are being used by NIDA to help formulate federal funding policies for drug abuse treatment.

An earlier stage of the study focused on program success in treating addicts and on which types of programs worked better, Simpson said.

"As taxpayers, we spend around \$500 million annually supporting drug abuse treatment programs in the country," he said.

Many of the addicts do not realize how they affect other people's lives, Simpson said. He said many addicts are very self-centered and do not think about laws and families.

"As often seen in the philosophy of more recent generations, if using drugs feels good, do it," Simpson said. "It's my life, and if I'm not messing up anyone else then why do you care?'

Although this is the attitude many addicts take, their addiction does affect taxpayers, he said.

During the three-phase study, the addicts were The responses varied, but many had to do with cu-

riosity, sensation seeking, relaxation, psychological effects and getting away from problems, he said.
"The drug scene is much more complicated today,"
Simpson said.

Drug abuse is much broader, and there are many

more different kinds of drugs, he said.
"Drugs are much more faddish," Simpson said. "We

have drugs that come and go.
"The problem we have now is that information and knowledge about the effects of drugs and personal choices are not always consistent. Our attitudes about things often are not consistent with our behaviors.

Many people get pulled in and addicted to drugs the same way as with smoking and alcohol, Simpson

People believe they are different and are in control, he said. The process happens very gradually, and peo-ple get caught in it and don't realize how far into it

they are, he added.

More younger people are becoming involved in drugs, Simpson said. The use of heroin has dropped,

he said, but multiple drug use has increased. Simpson said most drug use is labeled recreational, meaning that people try drugs for fun but don't use

them regularly During the study, addicts were asked why they quit using drugs, and more than 80 percent said they quit because they were tired of the drug life, Simpson said.

Fear of the law was also reported by about 60 per-cent, and about 60 percent of the addicts said their families and friends influenced them to quit, he said. "The philosophy fortunately is changing somewhat," Simpson said. "I think there is still a lot of self-indulgence in our culture, but a lot of it's becoming

health-conscious and preventive in nature Simpson said he believes that AIDS will have some

impact on drug-use patterns. "I think it's going to have a substantial impact, probably as much as anything that has ever happened," Simpson said, "but no one really knows."

Artificial heart recipient in stable condition

HOUSTON — A 41-year-old retired Army officer was listed in sta-ble condition Wednesday after re-The only complication during the ble condition Wednesday after receiving a Jarvik-7 artificial heart, surgeons at the Texas Heart Institute said.

A team at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital headed by Dr. Denton Cooley completed the two-hour operation about 1 a.m. Tuesday on Adm Maj. Harris Kent of El Paso.

Cooley said the operation was necessary because doctors felt Kent the nation this week to receive an imwould die in a few hours without it.

Kent became the third person in the nation this week to receive an implant.

Frazier and Cooley said the artifi-

by a donor human heart. Kent was described as awake and

operation was that the artificial heart did not properly fit in the man's chest and surgeons had to make some slight adjustments, Frazier

The Texas Heart Institute recently received U.S. Food and Drug Adminstration approval to use the

Kent became the third person in

Cooley said doctors inserted an incial heart was being used as a tempo-traaortic balloon pump to help

rary life-saving device to be replaced Kent's heart on Jan. 29. Three days later, his condition stabilized and the pump was removed. Monday, however, his condition worsened and the artificial heart was implanted.

> Cooley, who performed the nation's first successful heart trans-plant in 1968 and the world's first artificial heart transplant a year later, lately has criticized permanent artificial hearts, saying the devices are useful only for keeping patients alive until they can receive a human

"We have felt from the beginning that the total artificial heart in its current form is in the developmental stage," Cooley said.



Bryan, Texas 846-2738

we buy and sell anything printed or recorded

open 7 days a week 10am-9pm Mon.-Sat. • noon-9pm Sun.

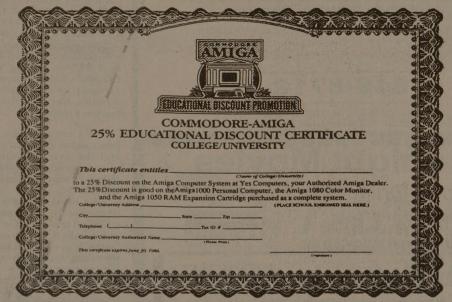
Whether you enjoy reading or listening to music — Half Price Books has it all. Hardbacks, paperbacks, magazines, records and cassettes all at half price or less.

3828 TEXAS AVENUE

\$1 off on any \$2 to \$10 purchase. \$2 off on any \$10 to \$20 purchase. \$3 off on any purchase \$20 up. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. May not be used with any other discount or coupon. Expires Feb. 28, 1986.



Educational Discount Promotion





2553 Texas Avenue **College Station** 693-8080

Battalion Classified 845-2611

Juniors, Seniors, Vets, Meds & Grads



Last chance to have your picture taken for the '86 Aggieland

> Photos will be taken until February 7 at Yearbook Associate's studio, above Campus Photo Center at Northgate. Office hours 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30

No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion this year