

# State and Local

Big Kiss' to raise money for MDA

## A&M puckers up to break record

By MARY ANN HARVEY  
Staff Writer

When was the last time you had a "Big Kiss"?

If it was on Kyle Field last Valentine's Day, then you know it's time to pucker up again for what has become a kissing tradition at Texas A&M.

Last year A&M students and area residents stocked up on chapstick and mouthwash, preparing to break the record for the most couples kissing in the same place for the longest amount of time.

The record was set at Oregon State University in 1981, with 1,100 couples kissing for two minutes straight.

A&M broke that record when over 2,400 participants formed a heart shape on Kyle Field and kissed for three minutes.

The event raised over \$10,000 for the MDA and sparked new interest from other schools in breaking the record.

Although Oregon State claims to have recaptured the record, and MDA spokeswoman says that no verification of this has been received.

But on Friday, Valentine's Day, A&M and several other colleges will be trying to "kiss" the University's old record goodbye at 7 p.m. on Kyle Field while raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Challenging A&M on Valentine's Day this year will be the University of Houston, Houston Baptist University, St. Thomas University in Houston, Tyler Junior College, Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas.

A&M's second annual Big Kiss is sponsored by Kappa Alpha fraternity, Delta Delta Delta sorority, the Corps of Cadets and radio station KKYS-FM.

Skip Bishop, program director for KKYS, said he will have someone keeping a count of participants at UT.

Bishop will be called as soon as

UT's kiss is over with a report on the total number of participants.

"We will be able to find out if we beat them that night," Bishop said.

Bishop said the actual kiss won't begin until 8 p.m., but the station would like to have everyone on the field before that time.

He said Dr. Vaughn Bryant, head of the Department of Anthropology, will be on hand to advise the crowd on the art of kissing before the three-minute count begins.

There also will be a guest appearance by Tico the talking dog, Bishop said.

Tico, whose home is in Snook, has appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" four times.

Other entertainment before the actual kiss will include music from Four Hams on Rye, a Bryan-College Station band. The band will be playing during the arrival of the participants and throughout the night.

The registration fee is \$5 per person. Those who wish to participate

may register at the Memorial Student Center, the Commons, Sbis Dining Hall, the Blocker Building and all area 7-Eleven stores.

The fee includes a "Big Kiss" visor and "Kiss Kit" made up of Hershey Kisses, Dentyne gum, chap stick and other various sample products.

Those who want to participate but don't have a partner can join the "Lips Without Partners" section, Bishop said. Singles can mix and mingle and pick someone to pair up with if they want.

"Last year we had over 30 people in the 'Lips Without Partners' section," he said. "We also had a lot of families with kids participate last year."

"We have a kiddie corner supervised by the the sponsoring organizations for those with children," Bishop said. Singles can mix and mingle and pick someone to pair up with if they want.

MDA Program Coordinator Robyn Lindsay said this year they are hoping to have 5,000 participants and to make about \$20,000.

## Mother confesses baby's abduction never happened

Associated Press

ROUND ROCK — A woman who claimed her baby was kidnapped by two men posing as plainclothes policemen and a woman claiming to be social worker has admitted the incident was a hoax, authorities said.

Round Rock resident Denise Buck, 24, the mother of Justin Buck, was charged with filing a false police report after admitting she made up the kidnapping story, police said.

"The whole thing was a hoax," Round Rock Police Chief Wesley Wolff said. "She said she gave the baby to a sitter for the weekend. The baby sitter notified us."

Wolff speculated Buck may have made up the story because she and her husband have been having marital problems.

"She may have done it to get even with him or to convince him to come back to her," he said.

During a polygraph examination Tuesday, Buck admitted the kidnapping never took place, Wolff said. She was placed in the Williamson County Jail, where she remained Wednesday afternoon in lieu of \$3,000 bond, sheriff's officials said.

Her son was placed in the temporary custody of the Department of Human Resources, Wolff said.

"We filed on her because we don't want a repeat of this," he added. "This took a lot of time and man-hours to resolve. It also costs the taxpayers of Round Rock a lot of money."

A statewide alert was issued Friday when Buck reported her 10-month-old son was kidnapped by two men posing as plainclothes police officers and a woman posing as a Department of Human Services social worker.

Buck said she found her son Sunday after a woman called her and told her the infant was in her car.

Wolff said authorities doubted the validity of the story from the beginning, because Buck contacted local media before notifying police.

She also went to her Austin waitress job the next day, but did not return to her home until two hours after her shift ended.

"We had a feeling everything wasn't on the up-and-up," Wolff said.

## Brazos pregnancy center provides free counseling

By NANCY NEUKIRCHNER  
Reporter

Jane, 19, is a sophomore at Texas A&M and likes to dance to country & western music. She has a 3.5 grade-point ratio and plans to graduate in May 1988. She's just like any normal college student — except she thinks she's pregnant.

Scared, she calls a hotline number from an advertisement she's seen — 823-CARE. And care they do — 24 hours a day.

Although Jane is a hypothetical person, situations such as this one are real. Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Services counsels and assists about 50 women a month, and 70 to 75 percent of them are A&M students.

Judie Bruegger, who runs the center, said, "We answer questions and help as much as we can."

The organization, funded entirely by donations, opened in May to counsel and assist pregnant women. It also offers free pregnancy testing.

The center and hotline are staffed by 24 men and women — all volunteers. The counselors all have different experiences that enable them to better relate to the women who call or visit, Bruegger said, and they attend a mandatory training session.

Lori Goetz, a hotline volunteer since September, wanted to work at the center.

"I felt, firstly, that they were doing a good job and secondly, that they needed help," Goetz said.

Goetz said most women call because they are frightened they are pregnant, but some call to get infor-

mation about birth control or venereal disease.

"I try to place them emotionally," Goetz said. "Sometimes they just need to be heard."

The women who call on the hotline are encouraged to go to the center to determine if they are pregnant, Bruegger said, and all information is kept confidential.

She said the counselors try to convey to the women they do have the time to sit down and think about their decision.

Bruegger said although the organization is pro-life, its workers realize that abortion is an option. She said their first priority is to help the woman and to make an effort to present all the options.

The center can contact "shepherding homes" — families that take in pregnant women and give them financial and emotional support. They also work closely with adoption agencies and doctors, who offer services at a reduced rate for the women, Bruegger said.

Bruegger said the center also keeps a closet filled with maternity and baby clothes, which they give to pregnant women to help lessen the financial burden of having a child.

In addition to counseling, she said the volunteers also speak at high schools and to church groups and home and family living classes about making choices.

Bruegger added that the organization is trying to expand its services to include sex education, so its pregnancy counseling may be unneeded someday.

## Gramm, Pickle seek to end uncertainty about '86 bonds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two Texas congressmen are trying to dump a provision in the pending tax reform legislation they say is "wreaking havoc with bond markets around the country."

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Rep. J.J. Pickle, D-Austin, want to change the retroactive date in a provision of the tax reform bill that limits tax-exempt status for local government bonds.

Some projects, including the \$1.2

billion Texas water plan approved by voters last year, have been halted because of uncertainty created by the proposed restrictions, which would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1986.

"Without changing the date, it just effectively stopped it (the water plan)," said Reg Arnold, development fund manager for the Texas Water Development Board in Austin.

The tax reform bill, which has been passed by the House and is pending before the Senate, would

put a \$175-per-person ceiling on the amount of tax-exempt bonds a state can issue.

For Texas, the total would be about \$2.6 billion, state economic analyst Elaine Furlow said.

But while the legislation is pending, bond attorneys can't certify the tax-exempt status of bonds for 1986.

Bonds to finance local government projects are sold to investors who are repaid with taxes or revenues.

The tax exemption is an incentive to investors.

A bond counsel must certify tax-exempt status before bonds go on the market.

The bond market nationally has dropped to 5 percent of what it was last year, Furlow said.

"Last year, Texas accounted for \$20 billion of the \$160 billion in bonds sold in the United States," Gramm said.

The bill also would eliminate tax-exemption for bonds for other categories of projects, such as facilities that benefit private entities, like some airport facilities.

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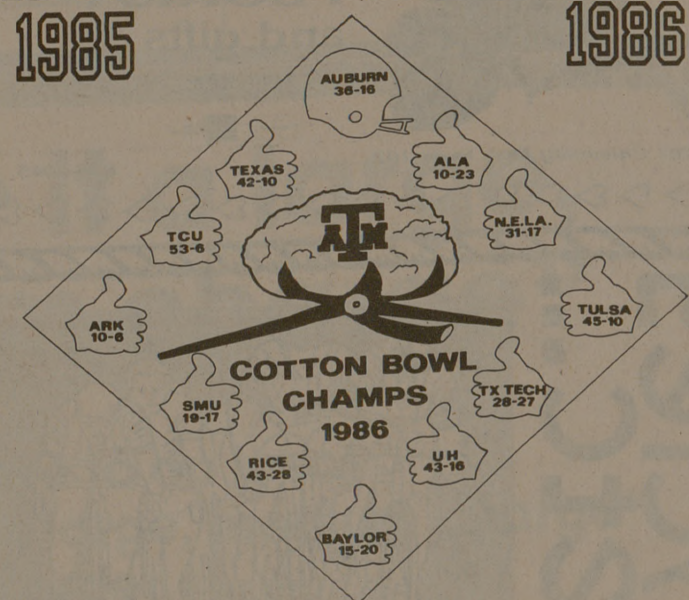
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