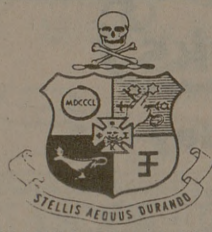


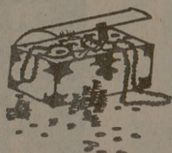
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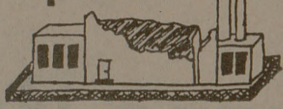
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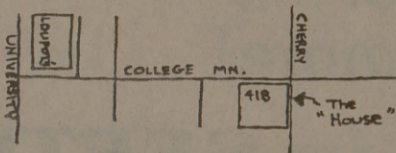
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Fetal heart monitoring questioned

Study: Practice has 'no advantage' in routine pregnancies

BOSTON (AP) — The common habit of continuously monitoring fetal heartbeat during childbirth leads to slightly more Caesarean deliveries but doesn't produce healthier babies, a new study concludes.

Although continuous electronic monitoring is considered prudent during high-risk pregnancies, the researchers found that it carries no advantage for routine deliveries, even though most doctors use it for all births.

"There are no infant benefits that we could detect in low-risk deliveries," said Dr. Kenneth J. Leveno of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, along with a second paper suggesting that private doctors perform more Caesarean sections than do residents on hospital staffs.

In both cases, researchers suggested that fear of malpractice suits is one factor prompting physicians to monitor fetal hearts and deliver infants by Caesarean section.

Since introduced almost two decades ago, fetal monitors have become a standard tool in delivery rooms.

Leveno's study suggests that when doctors use the monitor with the sensor strapped to the mother's abdomen to look for trouble, they will find it, even when none exists.

The problem, he says, is that fetal monitors "do not precisely identify the baby in distress all the time. Most children with abnormal fetal heart rates are really in good condition."

However, Dr. Henry Klapholz of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, said routine monitoring may still be worthwhile.

"It's my belief that periodically there are patients who benefit," he said. "There are not many and there is a cost. If one is interested in get-

ting the maximum possible protection for their baby, then one should use this."

In a separate report, Dr. Robert Haynes de Reight of City Hospital Center at Elmhurst, N.Y., studied the Caesarean rate at four New York City hospitals. Patients of private practice doctors were significantly more likely to have Caesarean deliveries than were those attended by resident physicians on hospital staffs.

De Reight wrote that a "prudent consideration is physicians' concern about professional liability if there is an adverse outcome."

Debate

(continued from page 1)

moving from an industrial age to a high-tech age and therefore, nothing is more important than a commitment to education.

"No investment our government can make will pay richer dividends than an investment in education," he said. "Unquestionably, balancing the budget is high priority but we've got to distinguish between costs and investments."

"Government is like any other business. The day it stops investing in its future is the day it starts to decline."

Barton also addressed a question concerning further cuts in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

He said no representative wants to cut or reduce a program his constituents support and that TAES has done a lot for Texas farmers.

"But I also believe the number one problem facing this country is the deficit," he said.

The extension service is not exempt from any automatic cuts under Gramm-Rudman, Barton continued, and it would receive across-the-board cuts if Congress refuses to make priority decisions.

But Geren said that Barton voted for a budget that wouldn't just trim TAES but would have cut it by 57 percent.

Agriculture, he continued, is the nation's largest industry and is facing serious problems.

"We're having a difficult time competing in the world of international trade," Geren said. "We've had an agricultural deficit for the last three months — unheard of in the last 30 years of our nation's history."

"Yes, we've got to cut... but we've got to distinguish between expenses and investments. We've got the best agricultural industry in the world, but we've got competition now... from other agricultural nations."

"If we're going to stay the best agricultural nation in the world we're going to have to continue to invest to make it better."

Texas A&M plays a big part in the research that helps agriculture, Geren said.

"If we back up now and stop making these investments in the future we are shortchanging future generations just as much as we are when we pile on big budget deficits they're going to have to pay for," he said.

The candidates also spoke about the trade deficit.

Recently the Omnibus Trade Bill came before the House. The bill stated that America would no longer tolerate unfair trade practices or unacceptable trade deficits.

"If I were in Congress today," Geren said, "I'd advocate a trade policy that empowered our president, demanded our president, to turn to the prime ministers of Germany and Japan and say 'Until your trade barriers come down, your Toyotas and BMWs are going to stack up on the docks in Houston.'"

But Barton opposes the Omnibus bill.

During a press conference preceding the debate, Barton said, "That is a political document (drawn up) in a campaign year to make certain members of certain parties look tough on trade."

He called the bill a meat-ax approach to trade policy and said the government needs to work within its current framework to negotiate fair trade practices.

"We have a deficit that is not going to go away by feel-good answers," Barton said.

Stock market shows uneven gain

NEW YORK (AP) — A late rally led by blue chips enabled the stock market to post uneven gains Wednesday, rebounding from a sell-off in the previous session.

The turnaround came in spite of a second straight day of rising interest rates in the credit markets.

The Dow Jones average of 30 in-

dustrials, down 27.98 on Tuesday, rose 10.97 to 1,881.33.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange stepped up to 154.31 million shares from 135.53 million Tuesday.

In the credit markets, prices of long-term government bonds, which move in the opposite direction from

interest rates, showed losses of \$5 to \$20 for every \$1,000 in face value.

Upward pressure on interest rates since the trading week began on Tuesday has been attributed in part to concern that inflation might revive, as reflected in climbing gold prices.

Moldavian quake left widespread damage

MOSCOW (AP) — About 4,900 apartment buildings and 45,000 houses were damaged in Moldavia by an earthquake and strong aftershock this week, a government newspaper *Inter* said Wednesday.

The article was the most detailed report of damage from the quake, which rocked the Balkans and part of the Soviet Union early Sunday morning.

It was the first mention of an aftershock Tuesday morning in *Inter*.


Moldavia, which *Izvestia* said registered force 5 on the Soviet scale, a magnitude 5 aftershock is capable of "shaking buildings, cracking glass and plaster and waking sleepers. Rice, at home according to a Soviet encyclopedia, is dia."

Sunday's quake, which centered in Romania about 100 miles west of the Moldavian town of Kishinev, registered force 5 on the Soviet scale, making it one of the most powerful of heavy damage.

At its epicenter north of the town of Charest, it registered 6.5 on the Richter scale of ground motion. *Izvestia* said damage to houses and apartment buildings ranged from cracks to demolition.


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