5 million American women have disease of unknown cause, cure

By Adelle Hedleston Reporter

About five million American men suffer from endometriosis, a ease which strikes between puerty and menopause with a variety of symptoms and no known cause or

Endometriosis develops when terine tissue is found in the abdonen, on the ovaries and abdominal ning, bowel and bladder, resulting n internal bleeding, formation of car tissue, inflammation and other edical problems, said Sue Deutsch, rector of support programs for the ndometriosis Association in Mil-

Symptoms of endometriosis are inful menstrual periods, irregular nenstrual cycles, painful bowel novements or urination with a peod, and low resistance to infecons, she said. Chronic pelvic pain, epeated miscarriages, painful sex-al intercourse, infertility and chroic fatigue also may be experienced, he said.

Deutsch said each woman may exerience different symptoms of the

"There is only one sure way to diagnose endometriosis," Deutsch said, "and that is through laparosco-

Laparoscopy is a minor surgical procedure in which a small tube equipped with a light is inserted through the navel and into the abdomen to check the organs, she said.

Although the cause of endometriosis is unknown, several theories have been proposed — one of which attributes the disease to genetics.

Dr. Jim Meyer, assistant professor

for the College of Medicine at Texas A&M, said certain families may be

Deutsch said the disease may be caused by an auto-immunity disorder, birth defect, lymphatic or circulatory distribution of endometrial tissue or, as Meyer said, genetics; but all these possible causes are only the-

A cure has not been found for the disease, Deutsch said. When the disease is extremely disabling, a hysterectomy is performed and the ovaries are removed - but only as a last resort, she said.

Generally, it's unacceptable to have these operations because of the

permanent effects they may have, she said, but endometriosis victims can find hope through various other treatments.

A variety of traditional surgeries and new laser techniques can be used to remove the endometrial growths, Deutsch said, but the disease usually returns. Hormonal treatments that imitate menopause also are used in an attempt to cause the disease to re-

gress and dissolve.

Of the two medications that may be used to treat the disease, only one has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Meyer said the approved medication in capsule form is Danazol, a male hormone which prohibits the menstrual cycle. Danazol's side effects include decreased breast size, deepened voice, unnatural hair growth and unusual weight gain.

Gonadotropin is the medication that hasn't been approved, he said. When this drug is administered, it causes a menopause state.

"The treatment depends on the goal," he said. It depends on whether the woman wants to have children or just wants the pain relieved, he said.

This Week

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Warped







by Kevin Thomas

Waldo







Analysis: Texas faces flat future in defense

DALLAS (AP) — An analysis of the Reagan ministration's defense budget requests indites that direct defense spending to Texas, as ell as other states, will be flat through 1989.

George R. Brown Jr., executive vice president t Data Resources Inc., which did the analysis, aid defense spending in the past five years grew t an average 6.8 percent each year, but such nding in the future will be far less.

"The growth period is coming to an end," own said. "We're reaching a plateau in defense ending, but that plateau is on top of a moun-

William T. Long, an economist at the Federal serve Bank of Dallas, said while defense ending may not continue to be an impetus for growth, it won't be a dark spot in the economy ei-

"The bottom line is that for the state economy as a whole, defense spending will have a neutral effect," Long said. "Still, some industries will continue to benefit. It all depends on what form defense spending takes and how well Texas firms are able to capture contracts."

Direct Pentagon spending represented 6.6 percent of total output in the state last year, Brown said. That figure will hold steady, dropping to about 6.2 percent in 1989, he said.

Texas will continue to keep its share of defense spending up because of research and development funds flowing into the state, Long

DRI predicts that defense R&D funding received by Texas firms will increase an average 5.1 percent annually through 1989.

Donald Hicks, a faculty member of the University of Texas at Dallas who has studied Pentagon R&D funding in the Dallas-Fort Worth area said R&D spending in fiscal 1985 represented 46.7 percent of the Dallas-Fort Worth area's total defense contract dollars,.

Such spending to area firms is growing at a rapid rate — faster than in competing metropolitan areas, Hicks said.

The area ranks among the top four cities in concentration of electrical and aerospace engi-

State senators to discuss employee claims, prisons

AUSTIN (AP) — Senators return from a long weekend today to face the ongoing issue of prison funding and a new problem — coming up with money to pay the workers' compensation claims of state employees. House members have nothing

major on their agenda today but scheduled prison and workers' compensation debate later in the

The Senate met for only five minutes Thursday before turning

the floor over to committee chair-

Today, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said, senators will vote on a House-approved resolution to ease prison overcrowding by rushing up to 500 non-violent in-mates to halfway houses around the state.

The resolution would allow the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to spend halfway house placement money at a more rapid

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