

Battalion Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DURING SPRING BREAK
Texas Transportation Institute needs students from Amarillo, Brownsville, El Paso, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Waco to survey child safety seat use during spring break. \$5./hr. Call Julie at 845-5815 between 8am and 5pm, Feb. 26 or 27, for interview. 10612/27

Microcomputer Programmers Wanted- Assembler and 'C'. If you are self-motivated, goal-oriented and can work 40 or more hours weekly, Call 268-5809. 10513/6

CLASSIFIEDS

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Battalion Classifieds
845-2611

Judge: Conduct during pregnancy not cause for case

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A judge threw out a criminal case Thursday against a woman whose baby was born brain-damaged after she ignored doctor's orders to avoid taking drugs and having sex while pregnant.

Municipal Court Judge E. Mac Amos said prosecutors were wrong to apply a section of the Penal Code to the case of Pamela Rae Stewart. He said the statute is used to ensure that parents pay child support, not to punish women for conduct during pregnancy that could affect their unborn children.

Deputy District Attorney Robert Phillips said no decision had been made whether to appeal the case. But he told reporters outside court that he felt the judge erred in his decision, which was based heavily on the declaration of the former assemblyman who wrote the section of the law that prosecutors tried to use.

Richard Boesen, an attorney for Stewart, had asked Monday that the charges be dismissed based on what he said was an unconstitutional prosecution.

The American Civil Liberties Union got involved in the case on Stewart's behalf because it said the outcome had wide-ranging implications for women's right to privacy.

Stewart, 27, of El Cajon, was arrested Sept. 23 in connection with the death of her son, Thomas, who was born brain-damaged in November 1985 and died on New Year's Day 1986.

She has been free on \$2,500 bond. Prosecutors based their charges against Stewart on her alleged failure to provide medical care to the fetus.

The California Legislature amended a portion of the penal code section to read, "A child conceived but not yet born is deemed to be an existing person insofar as this section is concerned."

Boesen said the Legislature did not intend the section to be applied for purposes of criminal prosecution.

Prosecutors contend that Stewart ignored a doctor's advice to stay away from street drugs, refrain from sexual intercourse and seek prompt medical attention if she began to bleed during pregnancy.

A coroner's report listed maternal drug abuse as a contributing factor in the baby's death.

Tests showed the baby was born with methamphetamine in his system.

Pentagon's screening shows 2,100 personnel test positive for AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon, more than halfway through screening active-duty military personnel for AIDS, has identified about 2,100 men and women who have been exposed to the deadly disease, knowledgeable sources say.

Those results, when added to the tallies from the testing of recruits, mean the Defense Department's 17-month screening program has now found more than 3,000 people who tested positive for exposure.

Moreover, the department — which already runs the most extensive AIDS testing program in the world — is now debating whether testing should be extended to civilian employees, the sources added.

The new figures on testing were compiled Wednesday when Pentagon officials agreed to discuss screening results for active-duty personnel.

The Pentagon now routinely reports the results of its AIDS screening for new recruits. But the department has yet to release any results on the testing of personnel already on active duty, despite more than a year of testing.

According to the sources, who asked not to be identified, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have now tested almost 1.3 million, or 62 percent, of the 2.1 million men and women currently on active duty.

Last Dec. 12, the Pentagon announced that 976 of the 641,220 recruit applicants screened during the year ending Sept. 30, 1986, had tested positively.

The discovery of 2,100 active-duty "positives" translates to an incidence rate of roughly 1.6 cases per 1,000 individuals tested — almost exactly matching the incidence rate for recruits of 1.5 cases per 1,000.

The blood screen employed by the Pentagon can only detect the presence of an antibody associated with the disease, indicating exposure. The test cannot predict with certainty whether an individual will contract the disease.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Scientists have used genetic surgery to cure unborn mice of mutations that cause infertility and deadly shivering, procedures that may someday help prevent inherited human diseases.

California Institute of Technology biologists cured mouse embryos of a defect that would have doomed the rodents to uncontrollable shivering, convulsions and short lifespans caused by the lack of a certain gene, or basic unit of heredity, the researchers said Thursday.

In December, scientists at Genetech Inc. in South San Francisco reported they had cured mice of an inherited hormone deficiency that prevented normal sexual development and made the mice infertile.

Genetech biologist Timothy A. Stewart said.

The shivering mice lack a gene that normally is responsible for production of a protein that insulates certain nerve cells.

A mutation, or inherited gene abnormality, leaves the mice without the gene and the protein, so their nerves can't transmit impulses properly.

As a result, the mice start shivering continually at two weeks of age, suffer increasingly violent convulsions starting at 2 months, and die within 3 to 4 months, compared with a normal 2- to 3-year lifespan.

"They're really quite pathetic," Caltech biology division chairman Leroy Hood said.

Gene surgery on mice may spur human cures

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Syrian commander in west Beirut on Thursday ruled out a military mission to free Americans and other foreigners held hostage by Moslem extremists.

Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kanaan, also chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, told a news conference he did not believe any of the 26 foreign captives were in Beirut's Moslem sector or other territory under Syrian control.

He said Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite was "excessively courageous" and "too humanitarian" in visiting Lebanon in an attempt to free the hostages, eight of whom are Americans.

Waite dropped from sight Jan. 20 after leaving his hotel in Moslem west Beirut to meet with Shiite Moslems holding Americans.

Syria moved thousands of troops supported by tanks into west Beirut last Sunday to stop a week-long war

between rival Moslem militias. At least 300 people were killed and 1,300 wounded in the battles between the Shiite Amal militia and an alliance of other mostly Moslem militias.

Kanaan said his forces had closed all 70 Moslem militia offices, killed 23 pro-Iranian Shiite militiamen and 15 other gunmen and arrested 20 people in their effort to end both the battle and three years of militia anarchy in the Moslem sector.

Kanaan also said the battle between Amal and Palestinian guerrillas for control of Beirut's Palestinian refugee camps had eased "because there are no militiamen surrounding the camps anymore."

Asked whether the 7,400 Syrian soldiers would mount a military operation to free foreign hostages, Kanaan said, "The issue of the hostages is not a military as much as it is a political one. We condemn kidnapping on humanitarian grounds."

Syrian commander rejects plan for hostage rescue

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