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Many options exist for A&M students to get birth control

By Jennifer Townsend
 Reporter

Female students at Texas A&M have many options for gynecological care and family-planning counseling available at a variety of prices.

Brazos County Planned Parenthood, The Family Planning Center, A.P. Beutel Health Center and various gynecologists in the Byran-College Station area are some of the places students can go for women's health care.

Prices for gynecological exams, including lab work, may range from no charge (Planned Parenthood and Family Planning) to about \$85 (local gynecologists).

Planned Parenthood and Family Planning both operate on a sliding-fee scale based on the patient's income.

Because of state funding, Planned Parenthood can keep exam and birth-control prices under \$20, Planned Parenthood Director Sally Miller said.

Exams at Planned Parenthood are performed by nurse practitioners — registered nurses with training in gynecology, Miller said. The exam includes a Pap smear, blood count, physical exam, breast exam, counseling and four cycles of birth-control pills, she said.

Planned Parenthood stocks and dispenses birth-control pills, diaphragms and condoms to patients. It does not issue intrauterine devices.

Miller explained that because IUDs cost about \$85 each, they are basically unavailable to the clinic because of budget reasons.

Nurse practitioners spend about two hours with each new patient, Miller said. Patients are informed of services and available options and additional counseling is available to patients who require it.

Another option available to A&M students is the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Aside from the \$15 health center fee, the only charge at the center is a lab fee of about \$12, Center Director Claude Goswick said.

Patients are issued prescriptions for birth-control pills to be filled at the A&M Pharmacy, Goswick said.

Maureen Maillet, receptionist at the health center pharmacy, said birth-control pills cost \$3 a cycle with a \$2 charge to fill the prescription.

Goswick said the health center does not fit diaphragms, insert IUDs or issue condoms.

"We don't have the equipment to fit IUDs and diaphragms," Goswick said. "We have been pressured to stock condoms, but I don't think the University community is ready for it. I do, however suggest to our patients they use a condom."

Miller said, "Condoms are the name of the game. It is ultra-important for men and women to protect themselves from sexually-transmitted diseases."

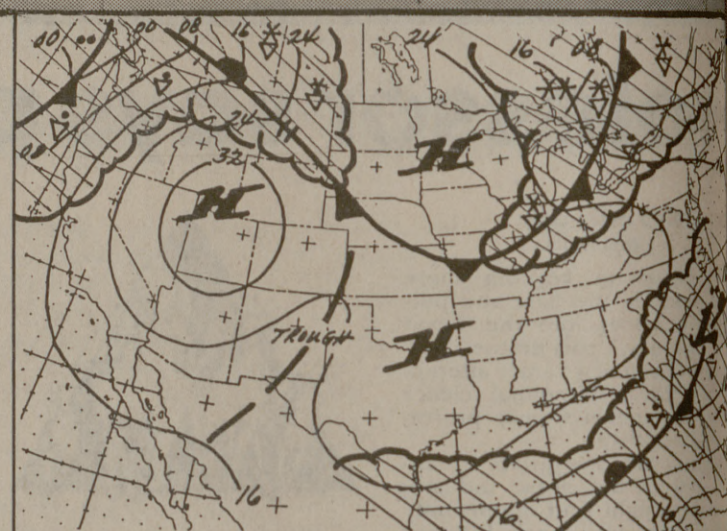
Women also can have gynecological exams and obtain birth control from private gynecologists.

At Scott and White Clinic, an initial office visit and gynecological exam cost \$64 plus a \$17 lab fee. If more than the 15-minute examination is required there will be an additional charge.

Prescriptions for birth control pills can be filled by local pharmacists.

Jack Bender, a pharmacist at Revco Discount Drug Center said a one-month supply of birth control pills costs between \$11.99 and \$13.99. Diaphragms cost between \$14 and \$16.

Weather Watch



- Key:
- ⚡ - Lightning
 - ☁ - Fog
 - ⚡ - Thunderstorm
 - ☔ - Rain
 - ** - Snow
 - ☂ - Drizzle
 - ⚡ - Ice Pellets
 - ☔ - Rain Shower
 - ☂ - Freezing Rain

Sunset Today: 5:25 p.m. Sunrise Friday: 6:55 a.m.

Map Discussion: An intense upper-level low-pressure system and associated polar jet stream will drive the surface cold front through the Great Lakes, producing some snow showers and much colder temperatures through the Great Plains states. High pressure will dominate the South Central and the Western states with partly cloudy skies and cool temperatures. The stationary front through Florida will persist and will produce scattered rain showers while an easterly onshore flow in south Texas will be accompanied by widely scattered showers.

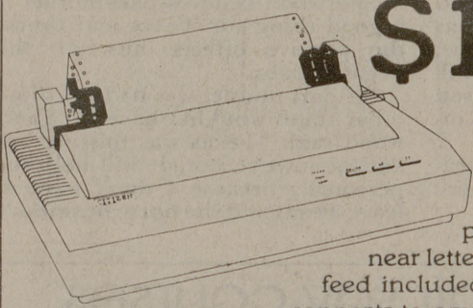
Forecast:
Today: Mostly cloudy and cool with a high temperature of 56 degrees and northeasterly winds of 10 mph, gusting to 18 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy and cool with a low temperature 37 degrees and winds from the northeast at 7 to 12 mph.
Friday: Partly cloudy and continued cool with a high temperature of 59 degrees and winds north-northeasterly at 5 to 8 mph.

Weather Fact: Height pattern — in meteorology, the general geometric characteristics of the distribution of height of a constant-pressure surface as shown by contour lines on a constant-pressure chart.

Prepared by: Charles Brentner
 Staff Meteorologist
 A&M Department of Meteorology

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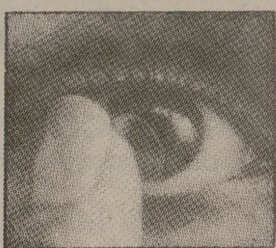
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100-year-old home for unwed mothers fills as beliefs about abortion change

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Edna Gladney Center, the 100-year-old matriarch of maternity homes, has seen society's attitudes toward unwed mothers come almost full circle.

The center, originally a haven for women banished from society because of their pregnancies, fell nearly silent after the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

But today, 90 of the center's 130 dormitory beds are filled by single women, some as young as 15, others in their early to mid-20s. Although the center has not returned to its pre-1973 adoption level of more than 350 babies per year, last year 258 babies born to residents were placed in adoptive homes.

"There was a large group of people who thought that abortion was going to be the answer to everyone's problems, but we're seeing more girls who say that isn't right for them," said Eleanor Tuck, who started as a counselor for the home 24 years ago.

The center is planning a weekend centennial celebration to raise \$2 million. Barbara Bush, grandmother of a child adopted through the Glad-

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— Eleanor Tuck, counselor

ney agency, will attend as honorary chairman of the festivities, which include a Willie Nelson concert at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth.

Teen-age mothers at the home said they were there for different reasons.

Chrissie, 19, said she was so frightened by the thought of abortion that she kept her pregnancy secret for months.

"I thought, 'If I ignore it, it'll go away,'" she said. "Well, it didn't go away, I just kept getting bigger."

After she finally told her parents, Chrissie decided to go to the Edna Gladney Center to spare her parents embarrassment.

Another college freshman said she had received a negative pregnancy test but then found out the lab had made a mistake. By that time

her pregnancy was already in the third trimester, to late to undergo an abortion by Texas law.

She said friends in her hometown believe she is in college while classmates think she is taking a semester off from school.

The Gladney center, a shaded, two-block campus, has stayed out of the political crossfire. Tuck said the center considers itself a pro-life organization, but noted, "We're not a picketing, bomb-throwing pro-life group. We're very pro-pregnant woman and pro-child."

The Gladney home began in 1887 as a makeshift adoption agency operated by a Methodist minister who strove to find foster families for homeless children shipped west from the crowded slums of north-

east cities. Forty years later, social worker Edna Gladney took over the center taking in unmarried, expectant mothers and homeless children.

Gladney ran the home for 40 years, lobbying to pass laws that dropped the notation "illegitimate" from birth certificates and "Gladney" from the same inheritance laws for adoptive children as for natural-born children.

The center has an annual budget of about \$4 million, finding donors to contribute about 20 percent of that. Another 30 percent is funded through interest from a trust established by residents' patient fees and insurance, but the balance comes from fees paid to Gladney's adoption service.

About two-thirds of the young mothers at the center choose to place their babies up for adoption.

Tuck said the adoption decision is left entirely to the mother, although she believes many single mothers are pressured by their families to place their babies.

"We want to be careful to not demand her to be a parent when she's not ready," she said.

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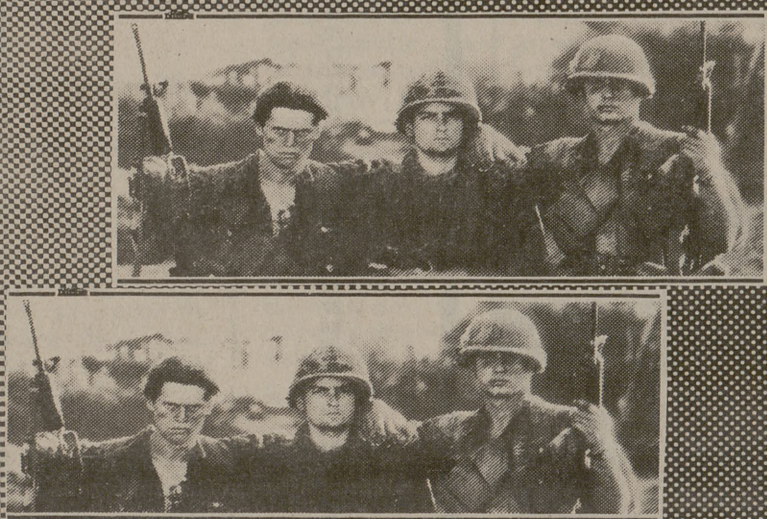
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