

State and Local

A&M graduate remains in mild coma, fair condition after third liver transplant

By Marcena Fadal
Staff Writer

A 1984 Texas A&M graduate is in fair condition and still in a light coma after receiving a third liver transplant, a spokesman at the Baylor Medical Center in Dallas said Wednesday.

John Stone received his third liver transplant Jan. 18 and five days later fell into a deep sleep, said his sister Eleanor Stone.

"We have no idea why," Eleanor said. "The doctors are not sure what it is, but they have several theories. They said he could have had a stroke, but there is no evidence."

She said John has had problems with his liver since he was born and was weak as he grew up. "He began to get bigger when he started college," Eleanor said. "But when he was 19 we found out he was diabetic, which is an Alpha-1 side effect."

John lost his original liver to this rare enzyme deficiency, Alpha-1-Antitrypsin Deficiency, which keeps the body from controlling digestive enzymes. His first transplant was performed Dec. 2 at the Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

On Christmas day after the first transplant, part of the new liver was cut out because the bleeding could not be controlled. This liver even-

tually needed to be transplanted due to infection.

"The situation was asking for trouble," Eleanor said. "Should he need another transplant, the scar tissue would be like cement and they might not be able to cut through. So he needed to have this one now."

The second transplant took place Jan. 5, but went poorly because the liver was too large. He was put on the list for another liver, and third transplant surgery was performed Jan. 18.

"His liver is working beautifully," said Lori Rippert, clinical manager of the transplant program. "His diabetes is a problem though because his blood sugar is not stable."

Marion Stone, John's mother, said he slowly began responding in May, but has not fully awakened and has lost the use of his vocal cords and the muscles in his arms and legs.

"He has been having both speech and physical therapy," Eleanor added. "He gets very upset and frustrated, but there are signs of progress. He can pull his legs up when he wants to but it is very painful for him."

"He can make noises with his throat and in physical therapy they move his body in what is called range of motion," Eleanor said. "His body is very stiff and after his therapy he just sleeps. It's quite a workout."

After months of being fed through tubes, John has been able to eat soft foods for the last couple of weeks.

"We are trying to get him used to eating by mouth to put weight on him," Eleanor said. "The liquid protein he has been having keeps him alive but won't build muscles. He has lost about 35 pounds and he's skinny, but the main thing is to get his strength back."

Rippert said John's recovery is very slow and there is no way to tell when he will fully be recovered.

"John is not a normal liver transplant patient," Rippert added. "Others would hope for better results."

Marion said John's hospital bills are more than \$600,000 with an additional \$50,000 for doctor bills.

"We would like to start paying the doctors off," Marion said. "We have spent so much time with John that we haven't been able to raise funds. The John Stone Fund in College Station has raised \$70,000, but we need more."

Donations can be made to the John Stone Fund, Post Oak Branch of First State Bank in Caldwell, P.O. Box 10130, College Station, TX 77840.

Best Bets

EASTGATE LIVE:
Thursday: Kerouacs. Local rock 'n' roll. \$3 cover.

Friday: Bad Mutha Goose. 7-9 p.m. \$4, after 9 p.m. \$5 cover.
Saturday: Eastgate Jam. Featuring local bands. \$3 cover.

Wednesday: Lippman Jam. Open stage. No cover.

BRAZOS LANDING:
Thursday: Russian Club Singers, Brazos Brass and poetry readings. Benefit for the Bryan-College Station Sister City Project. \$3 donation.

Friday: The Rhythm Rats. Rhythm and blues. \$3 cover.

Saturday: Road Hogs. Rhythm and blues. \$3 cover.

COW HOP EXPANSION:
Thursday: Krank. Heavy Metal. Cover.

Friday: Street Pizza. Hardcore Metal. Cover.

Saturday: Chronics. Cover.

KAY'S CABARET:
Thursday: D.A. McDowell and

Texas Party. No cover.
Friday: Don Overby. Originals and classic oldies. No cover.
TEXAS HALL OF FAME:
Friday: The Velvets. \$4 cover.
Saturday: TBA.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
"The Dead Pool," starring Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry. Opened Wednesday at the Schulman III Theaters.

In this, the fifth movie in the "Dirty Harry" series, Clint Eastwood is faced with yet another difficult task. Apparently people are being murdered in the order they appear on a list. The list, created by a low-budget film director to alleviate boredom on the set, contains Harry's name, and the hunter becomes the hunted in this film. Packed with all the action and adventure that has become a "Dirty Harry" trademark, this movie is a must for Clint Eastwood fans.

What's Up

Thursday

DEPT. OF HUMAN NUTRITION: Will have a free cholesterol screening from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. in 145 MSC. For more information call Suzy Clay at 845-0955.

ATHEISTS, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKERS SOCIETY: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 026 MSC. Brother Who, of the Church of the Mystic Martyr, will speak on Satanic Rites.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: Will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 027 MSC. For more information call the Drug Prevention and Education Center at 845-0280.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 026 MSC. For more information call the Drug Prevention and Education Center at 845-0280.

Friday

TAMU SAILING CLUB: Will have a sailing outing all weekend at Lake Somerville. For more information call Kevin Borden at 764-0688.

TEXAS A&M RUGBY CLUB: Will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Rugby and Polo Fields for the 12th Annual Summer Sevens Rugby Tournament. For more information call the Day Street Rugby House at 846-9772.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

'Long Cold Winter' best yet from Cinderella

Review

By Staci Finch
Reviewer

A couple of years ago, a little band from Philadelphia suddenly became big. Its album went triple platinum and over a million fans saw the band on its first tour.

Then the pressure was on. Could the boys from the East just be a flash in the pan, or could they follow up their success with another good album? Well, the votes are in and the answer is yes, Cinderella has done it again.

"Long Cold Winter" is the title of the second Cinderella album, and with it, the band has not only matched its previous level of musicality, it has surpassed it.

This album has more of a blues feel than the last, and this strong

blues base adds a level of sophistication greater than that on the "Night Songs" album.

The strongest blues songs on the album are the openers. "Bad Seamstress Blues" sounds like it was thought up in New Orleans, and leads right into "Fallin' Apart at the Seams," a much harder rock tune but still with a firm blues base, especially in the guitar solo and the ending. Another excellent blues song is the title track, "Long Cold Winter," a classic blues love song.

The first release of the album, "Gypsy Road," is a typical, hard rock song with power chords all the way through and predictable bass fills. But these songs sell, and tunes like this one and "Take Me Back" are the type that appeal to radio stations and audiences.

But don't worry, Cinderella fans, that the boys from Philly have changed their sound radically.

There are plenty of hard drivin' songs on the album that, although they keep the blues feel, are pure heavy metal, from the screaming Tom Keifer vocals to dual guitar solos and heavy bass and drums. Songs like "If You Don't Like It," "Fire and Ice" and "Second Wind" will completely satisfy the most die-hard Cinderella fan.

The album even includes two ballads. Some fine keyboard work by Rick Criniti, a friend of the band, makes "Don't Know What You Got (Till It's Gone)" and "Coming Home" nice. And, unlike ballad attempts by some heavy metal bands, the lyrics aren't too sappy or corny. The mixing of acoustic guitar and keyboards along with the more traditional electric guitar solos shows a

nice level of improvement for this band.

The biggest disappointment on the album is Keifer's voice. He screams his way through the album like he's Brian Johnson, but somehow it sounds better with AC/DC. Keifer's voice has deteriorated since the last album, and almost doesn't have a key to it any more. And the harsh vocals ruin the ballads. When the lead singer's voice is an affront to the listener, the band needs to watch out.

It's always hard to follow up a smash debut album with another smash. But this one just may do it. Keifer said this album talks about lessons learned on the road, and the lyrics certainly reflect that. This band has grown and matured since 1986, when their last album was released, and they have learned how to make even better music than before.

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