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\$100 \$100 \$100 \$100

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**What's Up**

**Wednesday**

**CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Will meet at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the Student Center at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Rose Kennebrew at 846-5717.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC for a general discussion. For more information and call The Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.

**Thursday**

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 229 MSC for a general discussion. For more information call The Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** Will meet at 6 p.m. in 229 MSC. For more information call The Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.

**TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS:** Will conduct a special outdoor teaching session at 7:30 p.m. at Rudder Fountain for beginning and experienced dancers. Singles and couples are welcome. For more information call Ellen at 822-2415.

*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.*

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**Alcohol abuse may stunt girls' growth**

**By Anita Arnold**  
Reporter

Alcohol abuse may have serious consequences for a child's physical and sexual development, Texas A&M researchers say.

Research at A&M indicates that alcohol consumption at an early age interferes with several hormones that control a girls' growth into and through puberty.

A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine is conducting the study for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Alcohol abuse by children is a significant problem because more than 185,000 children have used hard liquor once a week by age 10, Dr. W. Les Dees, an A&M endocrinologist, said.

In 1985, 100,000 children ages 10-11 were drunk at least once a week, he said.

Dees said these children are at a dangerous risk if results on the effect of alcohol in laboratory animals is comparable to that in humans.

"It is possible the child may have minor to major problems, depending on how much alcohol is abused," Dees said.

Experiments on female rats at the same stage of development as children aged 11-14 found that feeding the rats alcohol reduced the level of growth hormone in the animals' blood.

This hormone is responsible for overall physical and reproductive organ development.

Dees said levels of other important hormones involved in physical and sexual development also were affected by alcohol.

Luteinizing-releasing hormone, which stimulates the pituitary gland to release luteinizing hormone, was below normal levels in the alcohol-consuming rats.

Follicle-stimulating hormone, which acts with the growth hormone to allow the ovaries to mature, also was found in low amounts.

The rats that were given alcohol were smaller than the normally fed rats, and development of the ovaries was delayed.

"There's no question that it does depress levels of growth hormone, most likely by an action at a specific location in the brain, Dees said. "And it looks like, because of the decrease in growth hormone, there is a delay in maturation of ovaries."

In human females a delay in development of the ovaries delays entry into puberty and reproductive maturity.

Dees said the next step will involve studies with young primates.

**University receives oldest A&M diplomas**

**By Joe Segovia**  
Reporter

Two Texas A&M diplomas, including one of the first awarded for four full years of attendance at the University, have undergone a restoration process and are on display at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

The diplomas, one from 1879 and one from 1880, are the oldest A&M has in its possession.

During May commencement exercises, Jennifer and Rachel Paderas, on behalf of their grandmother, Mrs. Theodore Paderas from Beaumont, presented the diplomas of their great-great-grandfather, Louis John Kopke, to Texas A&M.

Kopke, who lived in Beaumont, received his first diploma in 1879 for mathematics and German.

Charles Schultz, University archivist, said the diploma wasn't actually a symbol of actual graduation.

In 1879, A&M offered four types of degrees. The type Kopke received was only for completing all the courses offered in mathematics and German, he said.

"I think 1880 was probably the first year A&M had true graduates," Schultz said.

Kopke and fellow classmate William Brown became the first students to spend the full four years at A&M, Schultz said. Kopke received his second degree in civil engineering in 1880.

The diplomas, turned over to the Archives Division of the Sterling C. Evans Library last fall, were taken to a paper conservator for cleaning, preservation and restoration. After being stored in the Paderas' garage for many years, the diplomas had become brittle — one was in three pieces.

The first step in the cleaning process was to test the ink on the document, Schultz said, to make sure that the ink wouldn't run or disappear. The diplomas were later soaked in a series of chemical baths to remove dirt, insect stains and any other blemishes caused from moisture and mildew, he said.

The diplomas then had to be flattened and dried. They were then matted using acid neutral paper and a special paste, he said.

**Plastic bottles could be used to repair roads**

AUSTIN (AP) — Discarded plastic soft drink bottles might become a money-making property, say two University of Texas scientists who would like to recycle the bottles to repair highways.

David Fowler and Don Paul want to recycle the bottles to make polymer concrete, a repair material that has been used for almost 20 years but which has seen many of its advantages outweighed by high costs.

Fowler, a civil engineer, and Paul, a chemical engineer, say they think the bottles could be cheap inspiration for a fledgling industry.

"There's millions of tons of bottles out there to be disposed of," Fowler said. "We could kill a lot of birds with this stone."

The scientists want to use the bottles to make the plastic resins that bind sand and gravel in polymer concrete. The bottles are accumulating because they are not biodegradable and are rejected by public and private landfills.

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