

Friday, November 9, 1990

German adoptee locates natural mother overseas

ODESSA (AP) — Glenn Bergman's search for his natural mother spanned an ocean, but the result was the realization of a dream. "My search for you has finally made my dreams come true," he wrote to the woman he only dimly remembered. He plans to visit her in Germany next month.

Born in Germany in 1961, Bergman was adopted four years later by Col. and Mrs. H.A. Bergman, stationed at Hahn Air Force Base. He became a U.S. citizen, grew up all over the United States and is now a counselor for Mariah Flats, a group home for the retarded in Odessa.

His parents never hid the fact of his adoption, and recently Bergman became curious about his German mother.

"You always in your mind would

like to know what your mother and dad look like, and what kind of characteristics you have in common," he said. "It's been a recent goal of mine to track her down."

Despite the confusion of working between countries and the language barrier (Bergman no longer remembers any German), his search took only eight months.

There is more openness about adoption records in Germany, Bergman said. He had only a few incomplete records to start with, including a certificate that listed his original name as Jurgen Sondro instead of Jurgen Sondro Klein. But he persisted in writing, and the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization had a record of his naturalization which included his full name.

From that he was able to obtain

his original German birth certificate, which listed the town of his origin as Hanau.

With the help of German authorities, Bergman obtained the name of his birth mother, and a German agency even contacted her before giving out her address. The rest was up to Bergman.

His first letter was tentative, since he wasn't sure how she would respond. But his fears were laid to rest a few weeks later when an airmail envelope arrived.

The letter had been translated by a friend, because Bergman's birth mother, Hildegard Weber, doesn't speak much English. But the emotion of the moment is clear enough. After talking about the family and the dog, the letter suddenly says: "Please excuse me, but I can't find the right words at the moment."

Brains battle for bowl title

By TWILA WADDY
 Special to the Battalion

What is the top diamond producing country by quantity? What disease causes the skin and eyes to become yellow? What are five plays that have become successful movies?

The above are not questions from a game of Trivial Pursuit, but instead are questions used in the MSC College Bowl tournament Wednesday night.

College Bowl is based on a game show that aired during the '50s and '60s called the G.E. College Bowl, says Sethuraman Srinivasan, chairman of Texas A&M's College Bowl.

Srinivasan says questions used in College Bowl cover a variety of subjects and topics.

"They vary a lot," he says. "They go from liberal arts, English and history to sports and sci-

ence."

College Bowl started at A&M in 1979, and steadily has grown during the years. Thirty-eight teams participated in the tournament this year, Srinivasan says.

Teams can be formed by any organization or residence hall. Students also can register to be assigned to teams, he says.

A team consists of four members plus an alternate. Teams were put into eight divisions this fall.

Eight division winners and eight additional teams participated in Wednesday's semi-finals.

Winning teams in the semi-finals included Hegemony, New Delhi Catessens, All Night Fair, Quadrumvirate, Rambin, Dazed & Contucius, Holmes Boy's and Adolf's Poster Children. Finals were scheduled for Thursday night.

Holmes Gwin, a sophomore

nuclear engineering major and a member of the Holmes Boy's team, says he uses little things he picks up along the way to answer questions.

In a College Bowl game, teams are asked to answer questions worth 10 points. Either team's members can answer, the contestant who pushes a buzzer quickest has the first shot at the question.

The team that answers the tossup question correctly gets a chance at the bonus question, worth 20 to 30 points. After two seven-minute matches, the team with more points wins.

An all-star team will be chosen this spring from the champion team and other high-scoring individuals.

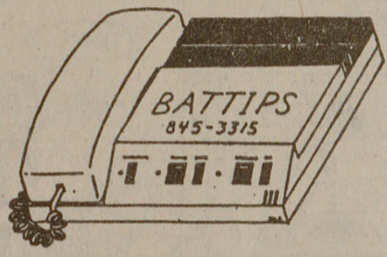
The all-star team will attend the regional tournament at the University of North Texas. The winner will continue to the nationals in April.

BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.



KTSR to throw party honoring new format

By KRISTI TAYLOR and SHARON UNGER
 Special to the Battalion

To introduce KTSR-FM's new format to the Brazos Valley, the station is throwing the "biggest party of the season," KTSR general manager Ben Downs says.

Champagne Party '90 will begin at 5 p.m. Friday at the Sundance Club in the College Station Hilton. Free champagne will be served, and area merchants will provide door prizes. Everyone over 21 is invited, and admission is free.

"We're anticipating a large turnout at the bash," Program Director Bobby "Slam" Duncan says. "We're pleased with public response so far, and I want everyone in town to know we're just getting started — you ain't seen nothing yet."

Texas A&M students are finding a new home on the FM dial. Rock 'n' roll music finally has come to the Brazos Valley, Duncan says.

Duncan has changed the pace of the station's music selections and livened it up with a mixture of classic

and new rock.

"At KTSR, we're all excited about the music we are playing now," he says. "If you like the (Rolling) Stones, the Who, Stevie Ray Vaughan, ZZ Top, Eric Johnson and Bad Company, then you're going to love us."

Duncan, who spent six years in Houston at KLOL-FM, has decided to import its successful format to Bryan-College Station. "It's a drastic change, but so far the results have been astounding."

Students seem to like KTSR's new sound; some compare the format to the popular classic rock/rock 'n' roll stations 101.1 KLOL and Q102 of Dallas.

Duncan says phones constantly are ringing with people telling KTSR to "keep up the good work." Listeners are sick of the "non-stop rap/disco New Kids on the Block type of ... well, I won't even call it music," he says.

"I truly feel the average listener in Bryan-College Station would much rather listen to the Eagles and the Black Crowes than Kool Mo Dee."

High school band contest to be held this weekend

More than 3,000 students from 27 high schools will strut their stuff at the Aggie Band's third annual high school marching band contest at noon Saturday on Kyle Field.

The Aggie Band will culminate the day's event with a performance at 7:15 p.m. The \$2 admission fee will benefit the National Association of Military Marching Bands, which is in charge of the contest.

Five former band directors will select the top bands in each high school division, as well as best overall band.

Michael Sullivan, Aggie Band public relations and recruiting sergeant, says the contest has become the largest recruiting event for the Aggie Band.

While last year's contest resulted in 10 recruits, the band will recruit more actively this year, Sullivan says.

"This is a good recruiting opportunity for the band and for the University in general," he said. "It's a chance to show the high schools Aggies really are interested."

Twenty-five bands competed last year, with Kingwood High School winning the best overall category.

'Lean on Me' principal to speak

Joe Clark, the principal and educator who reformed a New Jersey high school and was the subject of the movie "Lean on Me," will speak at 7 p.m. Monday in Rudder Theater.

His appearance, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the MSC Black Awareness Committee.

Clark's presentation, "From Disgrace to Amazing Grace," will

include the story of how he reformed New Jersey's Eastside High School and the importance of discipline in an educational atmosphere.

While sharing his beliefs, strategies and success stories, Clark also will emphasize the need for educators to be dedicated to youth.

More information can be obtained by calling Florence Rice, 845-1514.

Evolution battle nearly over

AUSTIN (AP) — A decades-long battle over teaching the origin of life in public schools neared a conclusion Thursday as the State Board of Education members considered whether to approve textbooks that teach evolution.

The battle between religious fundamentalists and those supporting the instruction of evolution has waged for years, with the fight reaching a climax recently over text-

books that will be used for the next six years.

Education board members, meeting as a committee, were scheduled to make a preliminary vote on whether to approve the books, with a final vote set for Saturday.

Both sides of the controversy agreed the decision would have a national impact, because Texas is one of the largest textbook buying states.

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