

Siblings share more than blood

By Lisa Barton
Special to The Battalion

Karen Prihoda, a technician in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, is described by her boss as "dedicated."

That is because Prihoda donated part of her pancreas to her sister, Sharon Caldwell of Brenham, almost three years ago in an effort to save her from diabetes.

"I would do it again tomorrow — if she developed something wrong with her kidney, I would give her one tomorrow," Prihoda said.

In May 1989, Caldwell, a diabetic and bookkeeper at the Brenham Clinic, read about partial pancreatic transplants being done at the University of Minnesota. She decided to contact the doctors there, although she had a hard time deciding whether to go.

Partial organ donation helps sister conquer diabetes, lead normal life

"She didn't want to jeopardize my life because we knew that it was very dangerous for the donor," Prihoda said. "It is a much harder surgery for the donor than for the recipient."

Because part of her body was taken away, Prihoda said she had to learn to live with only a portion of her pancreas.

"The surgery is like robbing the donor," she said. "And because the (organ) is hard to get to, sometimes they break your ribs to do it."

Before the transplant, Caldwell was in the hospital every three to four months with diabetic problems — infections, vomiting, etc.

Caldwell showed Prihoda the article about the partial transplant.

"We're going to go do this," Prihoda said without being asked if she would.

Prihoda is not only dedicated to her sister, but also to her work at Texas A&M.

"Karen is one of the most dedicated employees Texas A&M has, and is handling responsibilities beyond the levels of the training she brought to the position," said Dr. Fred Miller, professor and sorghum breeder in soil and crop sciences.

"Karen is what I would hope we all could aspire toward."

In Minnesota, two days prior to her surgery, Caldwell told her sister it was not too late to board a plane (and get out of there).

"She just said no way," Cald-

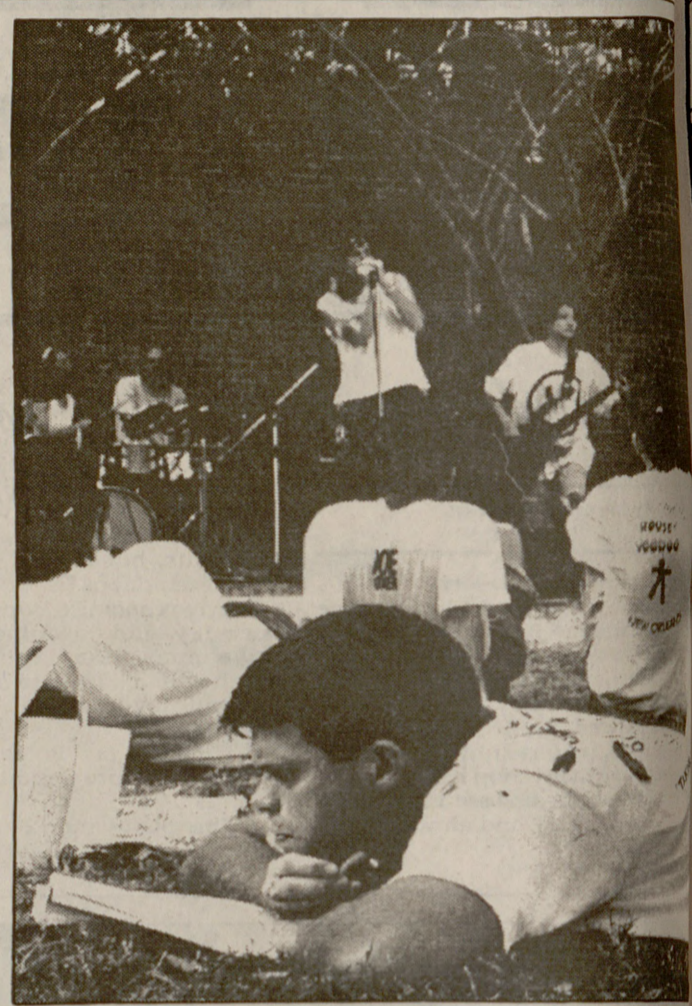
well said. In October 1989, doctors John Najarian and David Sutherland, pioneers of kidney transplants for diabetes patients, performed the surgeries on Prihoda and Caldwell, respectively.

The surgery was a success for both women. However, while Caldwell was ready to return to work after six weeks, Prihoda was sick for months after the transplant.

The day after Thanksgiving, Prihoda was sent back to Minnesota and admitted to the hospital. She stayed until Dec. 22, because of an infection that developed near her pancreas.

"I had a pseudocyst, which is a pocket of blood — an infection — that had developed down by my pancreas," she said. "They inserted a tube to drain the cyst that I

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BILLY MORAN/The Star

Study music

Eric Hale, a junior from Texas City, reads while Crossbones and Butterfly perform at the Northside Concert on the Quad Saturday. The concert included performances by five bands.

Battalion places 3rd in state press contest

The Battalion won 16 awards — including five for first place — at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association annual conference this past weekend.

The Battalion took third place overall in the Division I Newspaper Sweepstakes, competing with other daily college newspapers with large circulations. The Shorthorn of University of Texas-Arlington won first place and The Ranger of San Antonio College placed second in the sweepstakes.

In individual categories, The Battalion won five first-place, two second-place and six third-place awards, and three honorable mentions.

First Place:

Mack Harrison — On-site Print: Newswriting
Steve O'Brien — Division I Newspaper Sports Feature
Stacy Feducia — Division I Newspaper Humor Column
Jay Janner — Division I Newspaper Picture Story
Doug Pils, Scott Wudel, Troy Hall and Anne Woods — Division I Newspaper Sports Page Design

Second Place:

Karl Stolleis — On-site Photo: News/Action
Doug Pils and Bingo Barnes — Division I Newspaper Sports Page Design

Third Place:

Chris Vaughn — Division I Newspaper News Story
Doug Pils — Division I Newspaper Series
Scott Wudel — Division I Newspaper Sports News Story
Karl Stolleis — Division I Newspaper Sports Feature Photo
Karl Stolleis — Division I Newspaper Sports Action Photo
Doug Pils, Todd Stone, Sean Frerking, Holly Becka and Karl Stolleis — Division I Newspaper Special Edition

Honorable Mention:

Tanya Williams — Division I Newspaper General Column
Karl Stolleis — Division I Newspaper News Photo
Carrie Cavalier — Division I Newspaper Opinion Page Design

Dolphin death count rises in Texas waters

GALVESTON (AP) — Nearly 80 Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins have died in Calhoun and Aransas counties' bays since March 1, setting a death rate marine scientists say is unprecedented in the area.

Gina Barron, coordinator of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, said National Marine Fisheries experts are expected to arrive in Texas this week to help investigate the dolphin deaths.

Sixty dead dolphins were found in March and 19 have been reported so far this month, she said.

"It's major. Historically, we've never had an event like this since the Stranding Network was founded in 1980," Barron said.

"The majority of the strandings occur on Gulf beaches. Now we're seeing a lot of animals dying in this bay system and we don't know why yet."

Scientists also are alarmed that the deaths are occurring in bays instead of along the outer edges of barrier islands, Barron said.

The deaths off the coasts of the two counties are up sharply from 1991.

"In March of last year, we had only three . . . in Calhoun County and one in Aransas County," Barron said.

"In 1990, which was consid-

ered a major die-off year, Calhoun had three animals dead and Aransas had only five."

According to the Stranding Network, 121 bottle-nose dolphins were stranded along the Texas coast in all of last year. That is compared with 199 in 1990.

The surge of deaths in the past two months has pushed the volunteer organization beyond its limits, Barron said.

"Until the last few days, all we've been able to do on most of the animals is document that the animals were there, take the length and sex and leave the animal at the site," she said.

Barron said the Texas General Land Office and Parks and Wildlife Department have offered to help investigate the deaths. Volunteers in the two counties also have organized to begin taking tissue samples of the dead animals.

She said there are few clues about what is killing the dolphins, but some experts speculate that numerous deaths indicate a problem with the animals' habitat.

"They're in the bay system and we know that dolphins are high on the food chain," Barron said.

"We've always talked about using dolphins as bio-indicators of the quality of the Gulf. That could also apply to that bay system."

Tuesday balloting to decide legislative run-off elections

AUSTIN (AP) — Without any presidential candidates, electioneering has been pretty quiet the past month. But voters are returning to the polls Tuesday to decide congressional and legislative run-off elections.

The balloting will settle nominations for races without outright winners on March 10. Tuesday's victors advance to the November general election.

Heading up the key races are three congressional runoffs.

In Houston, Democrats will pick a nominee in the new 29th District. That district, one of three new seats awarded Texas after the 1990 Census, widely was regarded as one likely to elect a Hispanic.

State Sen. Gene Green faces Ben Reyes, a Houston city council-

man. The winner meets Republican Clark Kent Ervin, a former White House aide, in November.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, small businessman Phillip Bicantowicz, 42, and Steve Masterson, 30, trust administrator for a law firm, are running for the GOP nomination to face Democratic Rep. Martin Frost in the redrawn 24th District.

In El Paso, former sportscaster Chip Taberski faces former court judge and businessman Paul O'Rourke in a Republican runoff. The winner challenges five-term Democratic Rep. Ron Coleman in a race likely to be influenced by Coleman's writing 673 overvotes at the House bank.

Three state Senate runoffs are being held.

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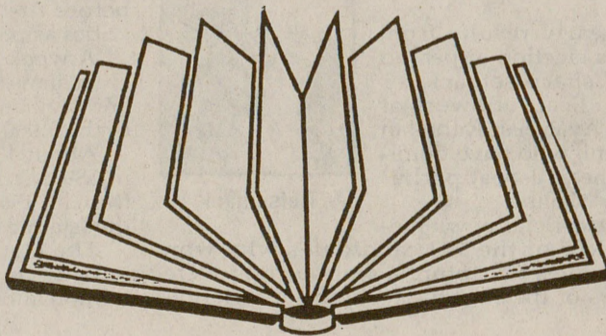
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