

Only 2 more weeks 'til Bonfire



Amy Browning/The Battalion

Senior Brown Pot John Williams of Ozona, evens off the tops and bottoms of logs at Bonfire site on Tuesday. Wednesday marks the beginning of Push, when Bonfire stack will work on 24 hours a day.

Sperm donors give helping hand to infertile couples

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Some A&M students are earning money while helping local couples with infertility problems.

The Bryan branch of Fairfax Cryobank provides a variety of services to the local community, including serving as a sperm bank.

Edward Fugger, program director of the national office, said approximately one in five couples have some type of infertility problem, and depending on the severity, there are a wide variety of treatment methods, including artificial insemination. This procedure involves implanting a fertilized egg into a woman.

Sometimes, if the man is infertile, the couple will go to a sperm bank to obtain usable sperm.

Guy Stone Jr., laboratory supervisor of the center, said about 99.9 percent of the sperm donors are college students.

"There is probably a typical

stereotype of a sperm bank, which is like a plasma bank where just anyone can come in and donate," Stone said. "In reality, more than 95 percent of the applicants are turned down."

Donors must be between 18 and 35 years of age and must undergo an intense three- to four-week screening program designed to find traces of genetically inherited diseases, such as cystic fibrosis, Stone said. Donors are also tested for HIV I, HIV II and Hepatitis, among other diseases.

Even after the donor is accepted into the program, each sample the donor provides is tested and can be rejected for a variety of reasons.

The men then donate at least once a week for six months, and are paid \$40 for each acceptable specimen.

Stone said the center also conducts genetic paternity testing for local medical and legal needs, as well as a wide range of genetic testing.

David Forrest, A&M professor of animal science, re-



Tommy Huynh/The Battalion

The Fairfax Cryobank in Bryan helps infertile couples conceive and gives donors the opportunity to make some money.

cently toured the local facility with a graduate class in Andrology, or male physiology, to see some of the new techniques being used to collect and freeze semen.

"The main benefit of this type of facility is in terms of making alternatives to couples interested in pursuing possible reproductive technologies to allow them to have children when there is a fertility problem," he said.

Stone said the recent concern raised with genetic engineering because of experi-

ments in cloning are unwarranted, and not applicable to Fairfax Cryobank's work.

"Anyone who comes here and sees what we do would have no problem," Stone said.

"We aren't trying to produce superhumans, we're just helping people who have infertility problems."

Stone said insemination is much cheaper than adoption or in vitro fertilization.

Fairfax Cryobank has been in operation for eight years, and the Bryan location has been in operation for four years.

A&M fraternities, sororities celebrate Greek Week

By Andrea Taormina

THE BATTALION

A&M students can "share the experience" this week as Aggie Greeks get together to celebrate Greek life and give something back to A&M.

Greek Week is five days of activities promoting Greek life on campus. The Order of Omega, a national Greek honor society made up of leaders from fraternities and sororities, sponsors the week.

Holly Hortenstine, a member of the Order of Omega, said she and other

members of the fraternity have spent several months planning for this week.

The theme for this year is "Share the experience." Hortenstine said they chose this theme because they wanted to share the experience of Greek life with everyone.

"We wanted to show that we're Aggies first," Hortenstine said.

The major events this week are the Greek picnic on Wednesday at Rudder Fountain from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Greek Games from 3-6 Friday afternoon at Duncan Field and the awards banquet

on Sunday at the Hilton.

Meredith Drees, who supervises Greek Week, said Greek Week promotes awareness of the importance of helping others.

Drees said the week helps portray Greeks in a more positive light because they are raising money for a charity organization.

This year's profits benefit the John J. Koldus Foundation. Drees said this organization was chosen because Koldus, a

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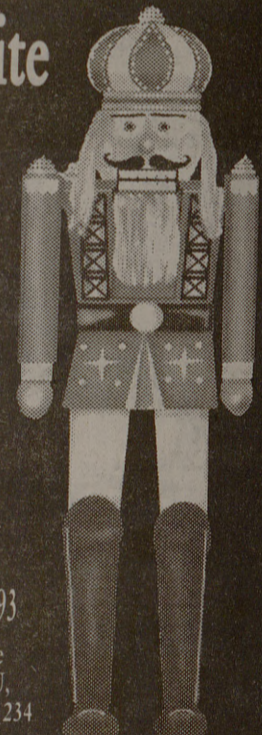
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