

## The patter of little feet costs money

### Dual-career parents find spacing between children a problem

The Associated Press

WACO — Once a toddler begins to walk and talk, people often joke that he or she is making way for a new sibling. But for many families that next infant may not come for another five to 10 years.

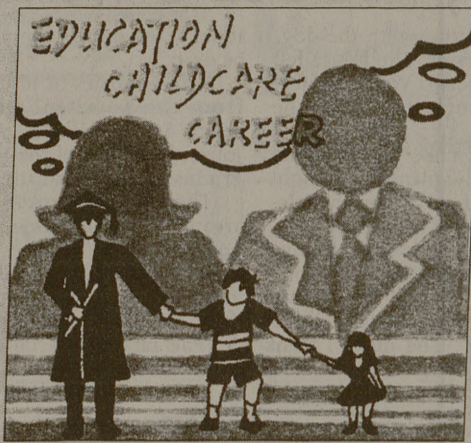
Spacing has always been a major concern for parents, but it may be especially troublesome for today's dual-career parents. The decision often depends on whether the mother is a homemaker or a part of the work force, said Dr. Elise Pinney, a clinical child psychologist.

"If the mother works and the couple is strapped with the high cost of child care, they may put off having children for several years," she said. "It's just too expensive to have two children in day care."

Pinney said parents should take comfort in knowing that from a psychological perspective, there is not really one better way to space children over another.

"My friend summed it best when she said, 'It's like pulling off a band-aid. Do you prefer to pull it off fast or slowly? It hurts either way,'" Pinney said.

Most research suggests that children who are spaced closely together present more challenges to parents than those who are spaced years apart, said Dr. Helen Benedict, a psy-



Pey Wan Choong/The Battalion

chology professor at Baylor University.

The kind of attention you give to a child is maximized when they are spaced at least three years apart, she said.

"Many of the important developmental aspects of childhood happen within the first three years of life and if you have an infant with which to share your attention, you may not have the time to devote to your toddler," she said.

In addition, parents who space their children closely together should expect more problems with sibling rivalry, Pinney said.

"Kids have a harder time giving attention over to a new child when they are accustomed to being the special one," she said. "They of-

ten feel as if they are being upstaged."

But there are advantages to spacing children closely together. They will be close to the same developmental stages in life, which will make vacations and activities easier to plan, Pinney said.

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, who devotes a whole chapter to spacing children in his book "Touchpoints," recommends that parents space children further apart.

He writes that a space of several years between children teaches the older child the value of nurturing and gives the younger child an opportunity to acquire the skills of older siblings.

"When you are expecting a new baby, let older siblings participate and identify themselves as a caregiver," he writes. "Instead of pushing him away to protect the new baby, let him learn how to be tender and gentle, how to hold and rock and feed the baby."

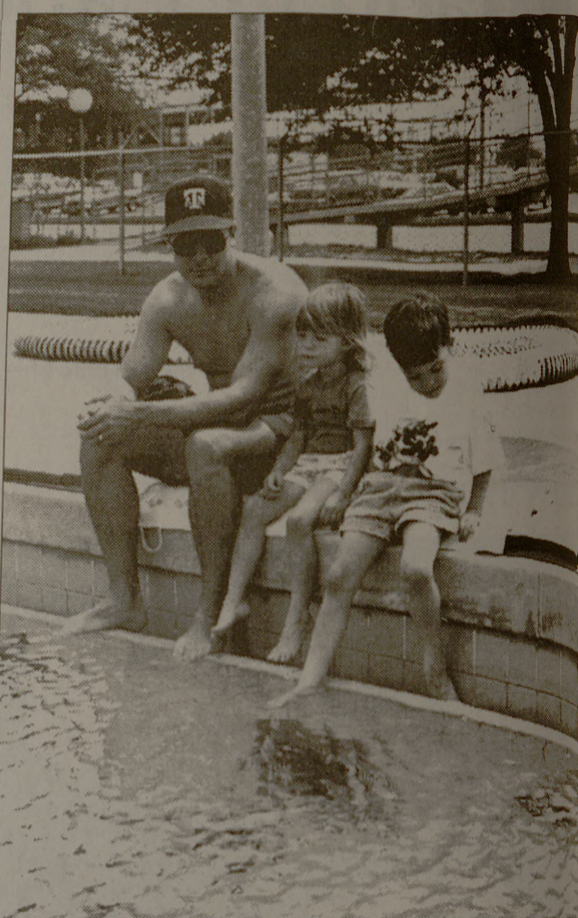
Pam Bailey, a licensed professional counselor at Counseling and Assessment Insights, said from a health standpoint, it is important for mothers to let at least a year go by after the birth of a baby to let their bodies recover.

Many mothers may find it difficult to put energy into taking care of a new infant when they have a toddler who is in his or her "terrible twos," she said.

"Children at this age are active and moving out into the world and it is difficult to attend to a newborn when you have a toddler who is getting into stuff," she said.

What it all boils down to, Bailey said, is there is never a perfect time to have a child. If you want them, have them.

## Relaxing by the pool



Richard Cody Bland/Special to The Battalion

Diving Coach Kevin Wright directs his divers from the pool side during class at the Wofford Cain Pool Tuesday afternoon. He was visited by his "assistant coaches" Kate and Wesley who came to relax from the day's heat.

## Graduates face bright job market, officials say

By Angela Neaves  
The Battalion

Graduating seniors are not facing as bleak a job market as they might think, officials at the Texas A&M placement office say.

Earnest Bean, assistant director of placement, said there are many job opportunities available, but some students do not take advantage of the center's services.

"The placement center has seen a decline in registrants," Bean said. "We are getting an overwhelming response from recruiters. We're really on the upswing. The market really looks good."

Job opportunities have declined only 2 percent since last year, he said.

Last fall, 3,236 students registered with the placement center,

and 9,018 interviews were conducted.

Bean said they have no definite data on how many students actually got jobs through the placement center.

"We have no systematic way to track which students got jobs," Bean said. "We give students forms to fill out about their job search, but it is done on a voluntary basis."

The fields of engineering, business and industrial distribution are hiring the most, he said.

But Bean said the placement center is trying to do more for liberal arts students by aggressively pursuing small and medium-sized companies.

Summer internships also are available for students who have

waited until the last minute to find a job, he said.

"We have large binders full of summer job opportunities," Bean said. "The problem is many students wait until the last minute and then are picky about what kind of work they do and where they do it."

Bean recommends that students begin interviewing three semesters before graduation.

"If you get some practice with interviewing early on, you won't feel so pressured," Bean said. "In three semesters, you might find yourself interviewing with a company you are already familiar with."

Graduate students also use the placement center, Bean said. Almost 700 graduate students regis-

tered with the center last fall.

Dr. George C. Fowler, associate professor of business analysis, said graduates in the field of business analysis are entering a more diverse job market.

"The job market seems to have picked up this semester," Fowler said. "Many more diverse companies are recruiting."

Fowler said he has also noticed that companies outside of Texas are actively recruiting new employees, and students of various levels of academic achievement are finding jobs.

"We have students who are going to work for companies in North Carolina and Tennessee," Fowler said. "Both the good and marginal students are getting some offers."

## IRS receives 2 explosives in mail

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Officials at the Internal Revenue Service center in Austin have instructed workers to inspect envelopes carefully after receiving two explosive devices disguised as tax filings in the past week.

Kenneth Vargas, an IRS spokesman in Austin, said Tuesday that the business-sized envelopes contained "apparent incendiary devices" that were set off by an automated mail processing machine.

There were no injuries or reports of damage to IRS equipment.

"We have met with employees who handle the mail and have briefed them about the letter devices. Precautions are being taken to handle suspicious looking mail prior to opening it," Vargas said.

"At this time it's still not determined how dangerous the devices were or what they were intended to do," Vargas said. "We do not believe they would have resulted in very serious injuries or damage."

Vargas said the letters appear to have originated from Kansas.

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## AGGIE RING ORDERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS  
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER  
DEADLINE: APRIL 27, 1994

**Undergraduate Student Requirements:**

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated, cannot count as credit hours.)
- 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University. If you did not successfully complete one semester at Texas A&M University prior to January 1, 1994, you will need to complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in residence. (This requirement will be waived if your degree is conferred and posted with less than 60 A&M hours.)
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

**Graduate Student Requirements:**

If you are a May 1994 degree candidate and have never purchased an Aggie ring from a prior degree year, you may place an order for a '94 ring after you meet the following requirements:

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If you have completed all of your degree requirements, you may request a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies and present it to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted. The original letter must be received by April 27, 1994.

**Procedure To Order A Ring**

- If you meet the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office **no later than Wednesday, April 27, 1994**, to complete the application for eligibility verification (requires several days to process).
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring in June 1994, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, Visa or MasterCard **no later than April 29, 1994**.

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The approximate date of the ring delivery is June 15, 1994.

## ATTENTION

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For information, please stop by our table in the MSC on May 2, 3 and 4 from 11:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. Remember, if you are a fan of Aggie athletics, get involved with the 12th Man Foundation.

As a New Graduate member,  
you are entitled to a free gift when you join.

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