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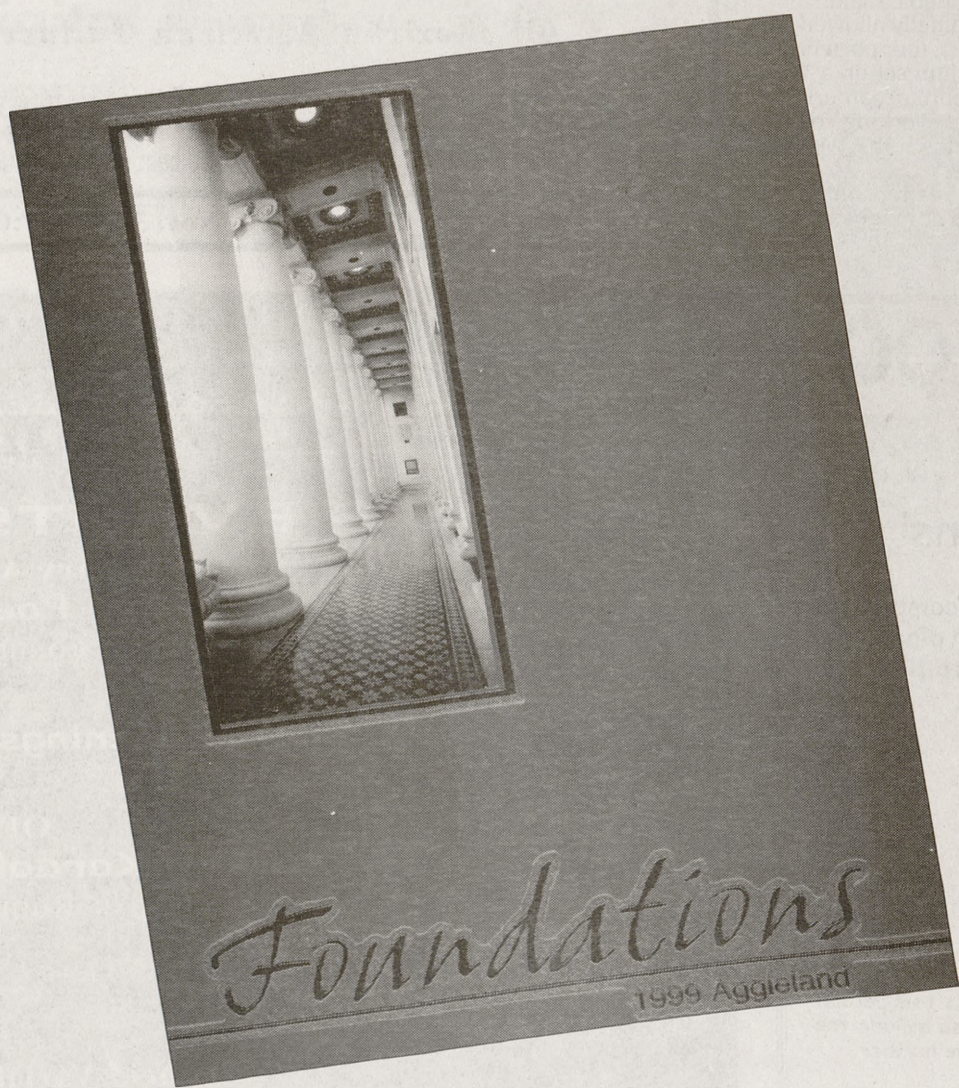
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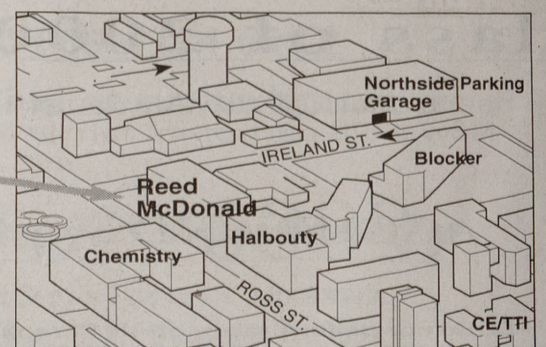
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NATION

Page 6 • Monday, November 1, 1999

Organ donations subject of study

CLEVELAND (AP) — When it comes to talking to families about organ donation, nurses are better than doctors, timing is critical, and health care workers' attitude makes a huge difference, new research finds.

The conclusions are drawn from the largest and most comprehensive look at the sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives who must decide, in a moment of utter grief, whether they will donate their loved one's organs to patients awaiting transplants.

About half of families say yes, and half say no. Researchers in Cleveland and in Pittsburgh set out to find what makes the difference.

"It has the same psychology of sales," Laura A. Siminoff of Case Western Reserve University's medical school said. "If someone is negative and they say, 'You don't really want to do it, do you?' they're probably going to look at you and say, 'Absolutely not.'" She conducted the

study with Dr. Robert Arnold of the University of Pittsburgh.

Siminoff and Arnold will present their results today to about 55 transplant coordinators, doctors, nurses, bioethicists, donor families and other experts from around the country. Organizers hope the group will develop a model for approaching families that can be tested in a scientifically rigorous national study.

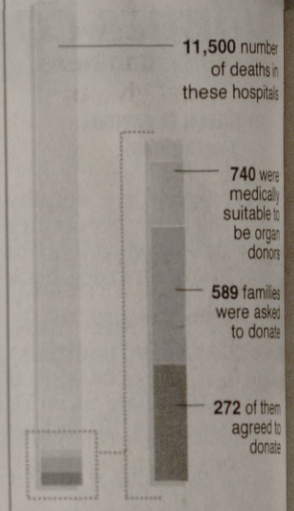
Last year, organ donation increased for the first time in years, edging up to 5,500 donors. Still, 4,300 people died while awaiting a transplant, and more than 66,000 patients now are waiting for a donor organ.

This week's conference is one of several efforts to boost donation amid a bitter fight in Washington over how to allocate donated organs.

The Department of Health and Human Services wants more organs for the sickest patients, no matter where they live, while many transplant surgeons defend

Potential donors

In a four-year study of nine hospitals in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, researchers found that fewer than half of the people asked to donate the organs of a loved one agreed to do so.



Source: Laura A. Siminoff, Case Western Reserve University

the current system, which is largely on geography.

Lawyers to present defense in Shepard case

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — The theory that Aaron McKinney pummeled Matthew Shepard because he made a sexual advance goes on trial this week as lawyers try to prove McKinney suffered from a diminished capacity at the time of the beating.

McKinney is on trial for robbery, kidnapping and murder in the death of the gay college student. His lawyers are seeking conviction on a lesser offense, like manslaughter, to avoid a possible death sentence.

They have two approaches, both of which are aimed at proving McKinney suffered from a mental disease or defect that prevented him from knowingly or purposefully committing murder — the "diminished capacity" defense.

When McKinney's defense gets into full swing today, the lawyers plan to offer testimony his mental capacity was diminished by drugs and alcohol, an approach allowed under Wyoming law. But they have combined that approach with the theory that a person with latent homosexual tendencies will have an uncontrollable, violent reaction when propositioned by a homosexual. Some have called this the "gay panic" defense.

McKinney's lawyers have contended he lost control during a drunken, drug-induced rage because a sexual advance by Shepard triggered memories of a childhood homosexual assault.

"It's the 'excuse defense,' and it has never been allowed under Wyoming law," Carbon County Attorney Tom Campbell, who is not involved in the prosecution of the case, said.

No state legislature has recognized the gay-panic defense because there is no scientific evidence to support it, he said.

Judge Barton Voigt is expected to rule today whether McKinney's lawyers will be allowed to present evidence supporting the theory.

McKinney and Russell Henderson, both 22-year-old roofers, are accused of luring Shepard out of a Laramie bar and taking him to a remote area near the town where they robbed him of \$20, lashed him to a wooden fence and pistol-whipped him into a coma. Shepard, 21, died five days later.

Henderson is serving two life sentences after pleading guilty to murder and kidnapping.

During testimony last week, prosecutors offered a timeline of the events the night Shepard was beaten, ending with McKinney's jailhouse confession.

McKinney's then-girlfriend, Kristen Price, testified he went on drug-and-alcohol binges which sometimes lasted for days. But she said she did not see McKinney use drugs or drink the day of Shepard's beating.

The Battalion



"We're not losers, champions are just We can't just..."

on A&M bounce a 51-6 loss

"I think today's a positive note. We can't win this game and that we can't win if we put our m..."

on A&M's

"It's fitting that win was an appropriate time win. Still, significance is in this decade won a bunch..."

on his 1

"Just like what we're not us happened to us It kind of shocked team, a..."

Ma on A&M's 51-6 loss

The Bat Top 25

Team

1. Florida St.
2. Penn St.
3. Virginia Tech
4. Florida
5. Tennessee
6. Kansas St.
7. Georgia Tech
8. Mississippi St.
9. Marshall
10. Nebraska
11. Texas
12. Wisconsin
13. Alabama
14. BYU
15. Georgia
16. Michigan
17. East Carolina
18. Purdue
19. Michigan St.
20. Ohio St.
21. Miami Fla
22. Texas A&M
23. Arkansas
24. Southern Miss
25. Boston College

Associate Top 25

Team

1. Florida St.
2. Penn St.
3. Virginia Tech
4. Tennessee
5. Florida
6. Kansas St.
7. Georgia Tech
8. Mississippi St.
9. Nebraska
10. Wisconsin
11. Texas
12. Alabama
13. Marshall
14. Georgia
15. BYU
16. Michigan
17. Purdue
18. East Carolina
19. Michigan St.
20. Ohio St.
21. Texas A&M
22. Miami Fla
23. Mississippi
24. Notre Dame
25. Southern Miss

Big 12 St

Nor

1. Kansas St.
2. Nebraska
3. Colorado
4. Iowa St.
5. Missouri
6. Kansas

Sou

1. Texas A&M
2. Texas Tech
3. Oklahoma
4. Oklahoma St.
5. Baylor