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News

Page 10

THE BATTALION

Monday, October 1, 2001

'Baby Moses' law expanded

DALLAS (AP) — Parents who want to abandon their newborns have more time to make the decision and more safe places to do it under a law recently expanded to give unwanted infants a better chance at survival.

The broader "Baby Moses" law allows parents to leave infants up to 60 days old at designated "emergency infant care providers," such as hospitals and adoption agencies with emergency medical personnel, with no questions asked.

The original law, which Texas pioneered, allowed parents to leave infants up to 30 days old at hospitals and fire stations.

Parents are protected from prosecution as long as the baby is not harmed.

The law is driven by wrenching stories of abandonment, such as that of "Baby Boy Jay," found cold and dehydrated last year in a paper shopping bag near a Houston mailbox.

In 1993, "Baby Noel" was found around Christmas under a table in an Arlington coin-operated laundry, her arms and legs blue.

"If we can save one baby, then all of our efforts would have been for something," said Dr. John Richardson, the Fort Worth pediatrician who helped blaze a trail for the law in 1999.

Since then, 35 states have followed suit, according to the National Conference of State

Legislatures.

"It just kept getting larger and larger," said the law's sponsor state Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria.

In Texas, 18 babies 30 days or younger are known to have been abandoned last year, but only five were left in designated safe places, according to Morrison's office.

"Even if we saved one baby's life, it was definitely worth it," Morrison said in Sunday's editions of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Still, critics charge that bolstering such statutes encourages irresponsible behavior, discourages open adoption and unduly stigmatizes children. Advocates say the irresponsible behavior occurs before an unwanted child is born.

"If someone is going to abandon their baby, I'd rather them have options," said Cheryl Sutterfield, president and chief executive officer of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.

It's too early to gauge the consequences of the law, which was expanded in September, experts say.

But Richardson says awareness about the law is crucial if it's going to succeed.

"This is going to have to be publicized to teenage girls to get them to take advantage of it," Richardson said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police power over gambling ships at sea in question

HOUSTON (AP) — Questions involving a gambling ship prompted a Brazoria County Council to ask the Texas attorney general to define the extent of enforcement jurisdiction of Texas coast.

The Surfside Princess gambling ship, which makes gambling days into international waters, raised the question of how Texas law reaches.

The behavior aboard the gambling ship has been mostly law-abiding, Brazoria County District Attorney Yenne says the situation has no questions.

Two officers are aboard the ship during its trips into international waters, where gamblers can take of casino gambling without violating state law.

"There are a lot of unresolved issues," Yenne said. "I'd like to have some jurisdictional boundaries defined."

NEWS IN BRIEF

PA 43 will bring 125th guests

The 125th Celebration of will bring visitors, them, automobiles cause some student alternate parking

Parking Area 4 muter parking 1 George Bush Library, will Wednesday only attending the Convocation Co the George Bush Conference Cent

The lot will be commuter student members not at conference.

The University Garage will be primarily for visitor the Academic C scheduled from to 5:00 p.m.

Auditorium. A number of spaces will be available for commuter Parking, Transportation Sials urge student the bus services

On-campus arpus bus routes a at www.ptts.tamu

can," said Jennifer Lina. Class of 1998. "It seems more you accessorize days, no matter how tacky the better; and I have no lem with that."

Certain genres in fashion are also gaining popularity. The punk style is back, studded belts and bracelets, plaid pants and vintage shirts. The "urban cowboy" apparent with dirty denim, buckled belts, cowboy hats, vintage Wrangler shirts. "ghetto fabulous" is also popular. Retro 1980s hip-hop and the "supa fly," pimp-d look is another craze.

Fashion trends come and but students should incorporate the current fashion trends into their own taste to create their own personal style.

Total package for graduate Lowry M College Graduate at their first of employ

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TODAY AG

Aggies effort toward victims

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FASHION

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from class to class and juggling several errands, most of them aim for comfort in their clothes. As a result, some students try to combine the best of both worlds: comfort and fashion.

"I think some people try to dress to impress," Sarmiento said. "But personally, I try to be comfortable and cute at the same time."

Fashion trends throughout time can be both flattering and scary. From the days of platform shoes to M.C. Hammer pants to tech vests to side ponytails, people learn and laugh from the mistakes they make.

Many designers are merging late 1970s fashions with early 1980s fashions to breed

new styles.

What Aggies will be seeing a lot of this fall is denim. Denim has slowly been coming back in the past two years, and now, it has exploded onto the fashion scene. Dark denim, bleached denim, studded denim and dirty denim are all seen on many celebrities and students.

"I think it is cool that denim is coming back," said Shara Boquiren, a freshman chemical engineering major. "I like the whole 'not-so-tacky' '80s motif that is coming back into style. With dark denim, you can be casual and classy at the same time."

Accessories are also becoming more stylish. Rhinestones and studded fabric are the latest craze. This is seen with many of the jewel-studded ban-

anas, belt buckles and jeans, yet another trend bought back from the 1980s.

Big lenses and frames on sunglasses like the aviator style are also in fashion. Sunglasses with tinted, colored lenses were very big in the late 1970s and now are being reincarnated in 2001.

Belts are also growing in popularity. Those childhood canvas belts are now found at popular clothing stores in the mall. The "Old West" influence on fashion shines with the popularity of large belt buckles. With "iced-out" bracelets, leather wristbands, hoop earrings and elaborate necklaces, it is no question that accessories are the latest craze.

"I know when I dress up, I like to accessorize as much as I

can," said Jennifer Lina. Class of 1998. "It seems more you accessorize days, no matter how tacky the better; and I have no lem with that."

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University Libraries Poor Yorick's Trivia Contest

Question of the week: Every year it adds more than half the population of Canada to a country less than one third Canada's size. Name this country projected, in the next century, to top China in population.

Instructions: Entry forms are available at the Circulation Desks in Evans Annex, WVCL, and PSEL. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Winner will receive a Poor Yorick's coffee mug.

Delta Zeta's 5th Annual 5K Run to the Chicken

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