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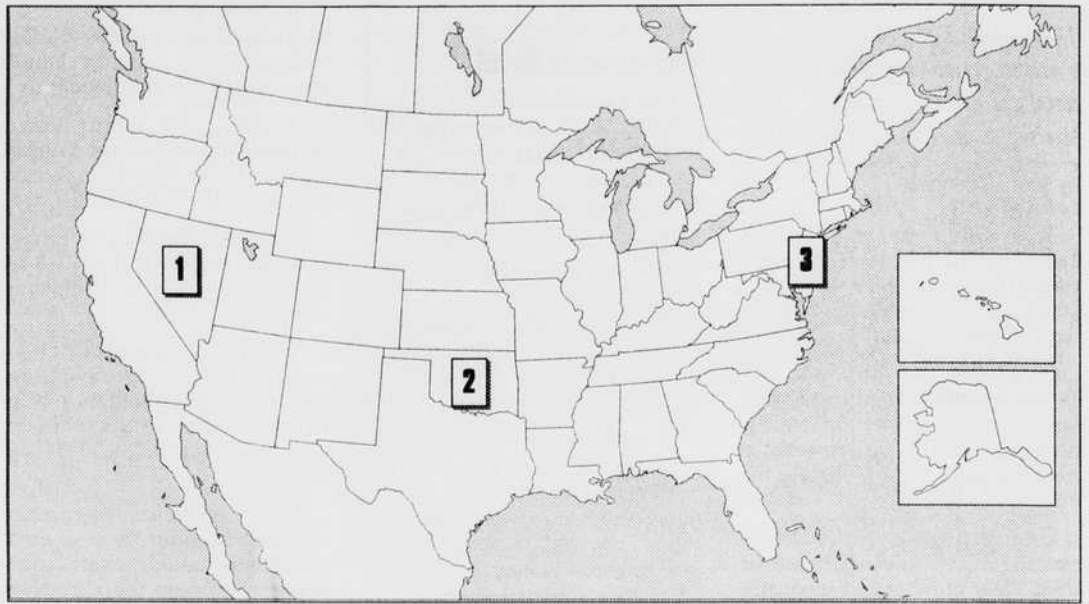
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**News Digest**



**Mother has dead son's sperm frozen**

**1** COLD SPRINGS, Nev. — A casino cocktail waitress is keeping alive her hope of having a grandchild by freezing the sperm of her dead son, who shot himself last week playing Russian roulette.

"I told them I have to get my son's sperm. It's the only way I can be a grandma," said his mother, Pamela Reno, in an interview Thursday. She said she wants to find an egg donor and carry the fetus herself.

The sperm was harvested at Washoe Medical Center in Reno on Friday as Jeremy Reno, 19, was kept breathing on life support systems. He died later that day.

"They got three vials," said Reno, 38. "Nobody can believe I thought of it."

Dr. Russell Foulk, who helped harvest the sperm, said in an interview that it won't be used for procreation until a number of ethical and legal issues are addressed.

"We're kind of in new ground here," Foulk said, referring to the harvesting of sperm from dying patients. "We've not had the ability to do this until recently. I've heard of scattered reports. It is a request that is becoming more and more frequent among transplant physicians."

Reno, a single mother, has worked at the Circus Circus casino for seven years since moving to Reno with her only child from San Jose, Calif., in search of a better paying job.

**Beta Theta Pi closes Oregon State chapter**

**2** STILLWATER, Okla. — National leaders of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity have closed three chapters, including one at Oregon State University.

Beta Theta Pi said Thursday its chapter at Florida State University in Tallahassee was voluntarily closing because of dwindling membership.

At Oklahoma State University, officials announced the closure of the Beta chapter as they were beginning a formal disciplinary inquiry into allegations of a chapter hazing incident involving alcohol abuse.

And the Oregon State chapter was closed Sept. 22 after undergraduates didn't meet minimum expectations of the university, the fraternity and alumni.

The house of the 75-year-old chapter was forced to be substance-free and a majority of returning members elected not to live there, officials said. There are two other Beta Theta Pi chapters in the state — at the University of Oregon and

Willamette University.

**Balding Barbie starts \$200,000 lawsuit**

**3** BALTIMORE — A Barbie doll is at the center of a lawsuit in which a Canadian collector claims a rare 1960s version of the doll she bought over the Internet arrived with a severe case of chrome dome.

Janice Amundson, a Barbie collector, said she bought the doll in March from a Maryland woman for \$1,800.

"When she opened the box that was delivered in the mail, she found that the doll's hair had gotten brittle and was falling out," said Joseph Hovermill, her lawyer. "It was not in the near-mint condition she'd been led to believe."

Chunks of hair were missing, he said.

Lori Maddox, who lives in Somerset County, sold the doll and said Amundson tried to dye its faded hair, causing the hair to fall out.

"It was in perfect condition when I mailed it to her, and I have pictures to prove it," Maddox said Wednesday. "If anything happened to that doll, it was either caused by Mrs. Amundson or an act of God."

— The Associated Press

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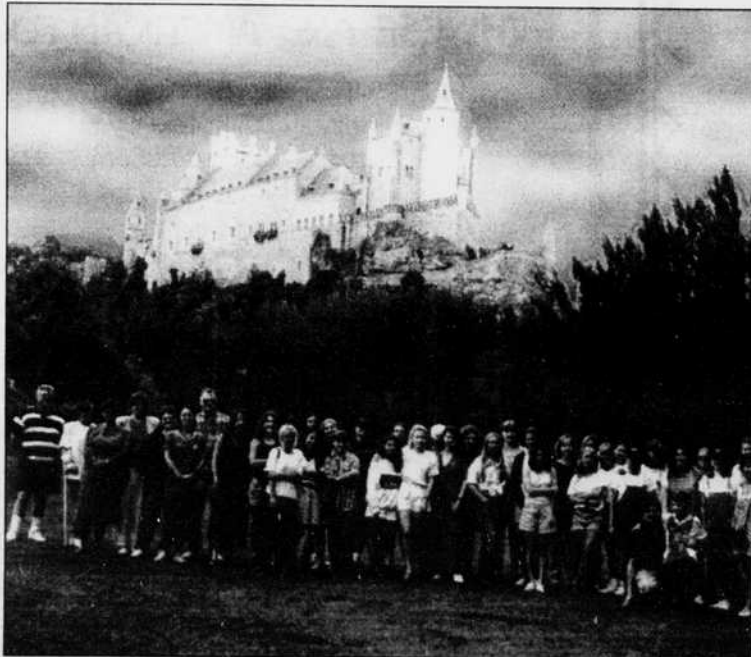
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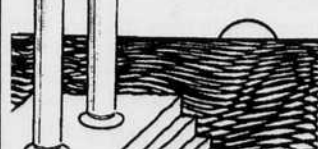
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