

Ag Experiment Station Makes Food For Shuttlespace Program

When NASA's Shuttlespace System goes into operation about four and a half years from now, research underway by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station will make the food catering situation more efficient and easier.

The TAES is working on ways to keep vegetables and cereals tasty and nutritious, yet light and compact—no easy assignment. Shuttlespace is a relay system to and among space stations. It is the next step after Skylab and

will enable astronauts to probe deeper into outer regions. Actually, the space effort is not new to TAES. The agency has been consulted about foods and preservation methods since the beginning of the Apollo series. Some of the snacks now being nibbled by Apollo 17 astronauts stemmed from Experiment Station studies.

The man heading up Shuttlespace food research for TAES, Dr. E. E. Burns of the Soil and Crop Sciences Department, says he and his associates have been working on the project about a year.

Burns, a food technologist, said plastic. No refrigeration is required.

To eat, remove the bar from the plastic and add water (rehydration). The vegetable fluffs back to its normal state, and its texture is damaged very little.

Burns' investigations to date have been mostly on vegetables. The cereals phase is yet to come. Vegetables which have worked best so far are green beans, carrots, corn, peas and spinach, which the scientist says are items not likely to encourage little boys to become astronauts.

"But then, our astronauts have never been real spinach buffs," he

pointed out.

Tomatoes, melons and such salad greens as lettuce have eluded every effort toward preservation for space travel. No one, Burns says, has figured out how to freeze dry a tomato and still keep its original quality.

But despite these failures, the scientist believes that a full selection of vegetables and cereals will be available by the time Shuttlespace becomes a reality.

Strangely, fruits have posed no difficulty.

"In fact, we just reached back a couple of thousand years and copied the sun-dried fruit techniques of the ancients," Burns explained.

The fruit is dried, mashed into thin sheets and then rolled up like a sheet of paper. Or it can be cut into bite-size chips. Burns said the final product is light in weight, tasty and keeps well.

Scavenger Hunt Winners Named

The first prize of \$25 in the Student Purchase Program Scavenger Hunt was won by Marna Schneider. Second prize of \$15 went to Nancy Yates and the third prize of \$10 went to Jacalyn Ferguson. Contestants were given a blank

puzzle and had to visit as many of the 39 participating stores as possible to collect clues. Clues consisted of a product in each store, and the student had to look around and guess it. First prize went to the collector of the most correct clues.

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Resonance by Steve Grayson

Since this is the last Wednesday in the semester, I'm going to wrap this column up with some of the albums I never got around to mentioning. Here is a partial list of my "Of The Year" records.

Biggest Surprise—Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen's "Hot Licks, Cold Steel and Truckers Favorites" is really enjoyable country and western. They look like just another long-haired band, but they sound like pure shirt.

Nicest Surprise—Herbie Mann's "Push Push." I knew Mann was a great flute player, though his music had always been a little too sugary. But when his flute joined up with the late great Duane Allman's guitar, the sugar with the spice, so to say, things really got cooking. They run through a variety of songs together. This is the best instrumental album I heard this year.

Loudest Crash—My opinion of Chicago after examining "Chicago V." What is all this "fabulous" poster business? Chicago may soon be the pop stars they seemingly want to be if the music of "Chicago V" is any indication.

Most Intriguing—Van Morrison's "Saint Dominic's Preview," masterfully produced, totally engrossing. Morrison's style is unique. Here he uses background vocals in place of studio strings. "Almost Independence Day" and "Listen to the Lion" are almost scary in their complexity, but

their suggested meanings are only suggested.

Most Entertaining—"Elvis Live at Madison Square Garden." You can't help but be an Elvis fan after listening to the man belt out his music from "Hound Dog" to "Suspicious Minds." With a tight rock band and the Sweet Inspirations behind him, Elvis is overwhelming.

Sweetest—The stuff Bread passes out is so sweet they should be checked for diabetes. "Diary" or "Guitar Man" or whatever their latest one is called is more of the same.

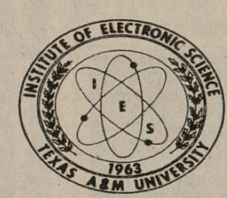
Grossest—"Mom's Apple Pie," by the group of the same name. Terry Knight, of Grand Funk Railroad fame, has a new piece of junk to promote, and they are even more a piece of junk than GFR were, believe it or not. But even Knight went over his head in designing their first album's cover. A more apt title for the thing would have been "Lia, the Lizard Lady, Tantalizingly Displays This Year's Winner of the Annual Porno-Pastry Contest." Another grand flunk for Knight.

Best Single—"Layla" by Derek and the Dominoes, with Eric Clapton in command. Duane Allman continues to haunt us as it is he and Clapton that rip, wail and grind their way thru the first half of the song and then sit back quietly as the most startling change of pace flows us up to the final birdie tweet.

Ecology-Minded Ag Senior Deals In Organic Products

By **TED BORISKIE**
Staff Writer
Ecology comes natural for Bob Williams; it's his job. Williams, a journalism senior from Dallas, sells organic products in his off hours. The products range from food supplements and toiletries to cleaning aids which contain no synthetic materials. "The rewards from this job are unequaled anywhere," he said. "In this throw-away society where everything is synthetic, it's nice to know what you're selling will not harm the environment." Williams' company, Shaklee, was founded in 1915 and deals exclusively in organic foods. With the recent interest in ecology, the products have experienced a tremendous growth of popularity. "They're very well known in California," he said, "and a lot of people in the North and on the East Coast have heard of them, but in the South they're still relatively unknown." Williams deals primarily with food supplements and cleaning aids. A cleanser he sells is strong

enough to wash a car but, being organic, safe enough to wash babies. "Most of the products have a soybean base," he said. "The soybean is nature's most versatile plant. They've discovered hundreds of uses for it, like the uses George Washington Carver discovered for the peanut." Some people are misled, thinking vitamins are a cure-all. "Vitamins are not used to really cure anything," said Williams. "Vitamins are a preventive measure that supply the basic needs your body has to keep it healthy. "Your body can tell the difference between natural vitamins and synthetic vitamins." Williams finds that many people are skeptical about a cleanser made out of organic materials. "I was skeptical when I first heard about it," he said. "I checked it out thoroughly and found that it really works and is completely safe, safe enough to eat. To housewives, especially ones with young babies, that should be very important."



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