

**MIKE MISTOVICH BUSINESS MACHINES**

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## Diet shrimp?

# Cholesterol cycle studied

A new consumer product, diet shrimp (or rather low cholesterol

shrimp) is a possibility, say TAMU scientists.

Dr. B. F. Cobb, III, an animal scientist, is investigating the molting cycle of the shrimp to find a period when cholesterol levels are lower than at other times.

"Shrimp is similar to insects in that they require cholesterol to synthesize the hormones needed for the molting process," Cobb said.

"The synthesizing is similar to a vitamin-like action," he said. "The shrimp has to build up these materials, including cholesterol, so that it can produce a new shell."

After the new shell is produced, the cholesterol level of the shrimp would possibly be at its lowest.

"Unfortunately, until now, there has been a wide variation in measurement of cholesterol because of variation in analyses or biological phenomenon like shrimp diet or molting cycles," Cobb said. "What we're going to do is come up with the procedure that gives the best, most reliable data."

"The research will give us infor-

mation for human nutrition as well as insight into the chemical makeup of shrimp," Cobb said. "High cholesterol keeps some people from eating shrimp even though the evidence linking the ingestion of

cholesterol danger to humans is controversial.

"As a matter of fact, the Japanese who eat tremendous amounts of shellfish exhibit a very low cholesterol level," he said.

## Mass-transit report examines new ideas

The Office of Technology Assessment and the Technology Assessment Board, chaired by Rep. Olin E. Teague D-Tex., has released a report on new mass-transit ideas.

The report specifically examines three new technologies. Grouped under the common heading of Automated Guideway Transit, two of them are already being used in airports and for recreational purposes.

Shuttle-Loop Transit works like a horizontal elevator shuttling back and forth on a single rail. It can also operate in a loop moving around a closed path singly or in units.

Personal Rapid Transit is restricted to systems with small vehicles carrying from one to six passengers. Under computer control, vehicles switch at intersections to find the shortest uncongested path from origin to destination. Test-track prototypes have been built in Europe and Japan.

Group Rapid Transit serves

groups of people with similar origins and destinations. The principal difference between the group-transit and shuttle-loop systems is that the former tends to have shorter intervals between vehicles.

The study revealed that new solutions to mass transit technology has lagged due to a failure to devise effective ways to introduce mass transit into the cities.

The office said more information is needed from local communities on the effect of these systems. Information on the effect on land use, quality of service, equipment and reliability, safety, security from crime and vandalism for both passengers and system, aesthetic impacts and the strain on labor markets is needed.

In identifying policy alternatives for Congressional consideration, the OTA assessment outlined proposals by which federal funds might be channeled to better define the problems and needs of new transit systems.

## Scientists study sea-floor mining

A&M oceanographers, meteorologists, biochemists, and statisticians go to sea tomorrow to study mining sites on the Pacific Ocean floor.

They are to conduct an environmental study of the ocean floor near Hawaii. In just a few months commercial firms plant to begin mining fields of manganese nodules.

Mining experts recently estimated that \$279 million in platinum, \$130 million in manganese, \$12 million in gold, \$26 million in palladium, \$8 million in iridium and \$400,000 in silver were found with other metals in nodules lying on a single 3,000-foot deep plateau that supports the Hawaiian Islands.

TAMU entered the project because the Federal government insisted on a Deep Ocean Mining Environmental Study (DOMES) before mining.

DOMES is a \$3 million project designed to identify potential marine environmental impact problems from commercial mining of deep ocean manganese nodules.

The TAMU group along with researchers from the Universities of Washington and Hawaii are scheduled to leave from Seattle aboard the research vessel "Oceanographer" to conduct physical, chemical and biological oceanographic studies south and east of Hawaii. They are due in Honolulu Sept. 11.

One of the TAMU group, Dr. Sayed El-Sayed, said it is now illegal for any country to do anything to the

ocean or ocean floor without an environmental impact study.

"Probably much of the mining will have to be done with a vacuum and dredge which means a huge plume of bottom material will be dumped into the water (from the surface) to settle out," he said.

"We will take samples now and set up current levels of marine life and contamination," El-Sayed said. "Then next year, March through December, we will return to determine the effects of the discharge on the marine populations at the mining sites."

## Food Services honors retirees

Seven members of the A&M Department of Food Services will be honored at a retirement ceremony Friday at 3:30 p.m. in Peniston Cafeteria.

Those to be honored include: Riley W. Tarver of Bryan, a cook at Shiba Hall for 29 years; Willie Jackson of Bryan who served 23 years as a cook; Willie J. Valenta, Sr. of Bryan who retires with 19 years as a cook; Mrs. Ella J. Kenchka of Somerville was a baker for 14 years; Frank J. Nemecek of Bryan was a security guard for nine years; Mrs. Viola Williams of Anderson served six years as a baker, and Mrs. Ruth S. Hunt, a hostess in the Tower Dining facility for two years.

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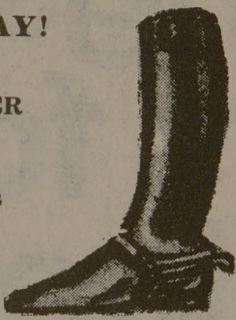
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RULE 6: Let the government subsidize your investment.

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Test: Invest via TSA, Deferred Comp, Keogh of IRA.

RULE 7: Money begets Money

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Test: Ask your banker for a loan when you DO need it.

For clarification of these and other rules for investing, attend the FREE UNIVERSITY Investment Course this fall taught by Dr. BLAKELY, Money Doctor.

## Plague kills NW Texas prairie dogs

NEEDMORE — Authorities have confirmed that bubonic plague — the feared Black Death of the Middle Ages — is the cause of a prairie dog die-off at the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge in Northwest Texas.

Bert Blair Jr., manager of the refuge northwest of Lubbock near the Texas-New Mexico border, said fleas taken from some of the prairie dog holes were sent to the U.S. Public Health Service in Fort Collins, Colo.

Blair said the Public Health Service confirmed the fleas had bubonic plague. The disease is usually transmitted by fleas, he said. Blair said he was unsure how many prairie dogs had died so far from the disease, but that some of the animals had survived. He said about 40 to 50 acres of the 5,800-acre refuge has been closed off to the public for the rest of the summer.

And, he said visitors to the refuge were being advised of the situation and warned to stay away from infected areas.

Blair said entire prairie dog "towns" were wiped out. "On a hot day, you can usually drive through and see the prairie dogs out feeding in their towns. When you drive through and don't see any of them, you know something is wrong," he said.

At least two prairie dog towns survived the epidemic, Blair said.

He said officials have placed chemicals in the affected prairie dog holes to kill the disease and the germs which cause it. He said the animals usually die in the holes where they live.

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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree Name: Towell, Delbert Clayton Degree: Doctor of Education in Industrial Education Dissertation: THE DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF AN INSTRUMENT FOR ASSESSING AUTO MECHANICS AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL Time: August 21, 1975 at 8-10:00 a.m. Place: Room 623 in the Harrington Center George W. Kinze Dean of the Graduate College

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