

Co-op offers savings, variety of bulk farm products

By JOHN SNEED
It's for the people who like the uncommon and the common; for those who enjoy saving money and making new friends — The Brazos Valley Food Co-op.

Organized about three years ago, the co-op offers its members a chance to purchase foods ranging from whole wheat soy noodles to fresh vegetables. It also gives them a chance to save money on grocery

items such as cheese and eggs, and to work with people who have common interests.

The co-op works on the principle that everything is collectively owned and operated for everyone's benefit, and "everybody takes responsibility for the co-op," said Dwight Tomkins, a member of the co-op for two and a half years.

Tomkins said there is a central meeting place in College Station. Every Saturday morning between 9 and 10:30, anybody can order bulk items such as grain, beans or seeds from an Austin warehouse, or they can bring their own goods to sell.

When the ordered goods arrive in College Station, those who placed orders can pick them up. They may pay then or later.

Doug McNabb, a freshman psychology major at Texas A&M University, said that the co-op is not working up to its capabilities.

McNabb said the co-op group here is small and if it had more members it could operate smoother.

"It involves only a token amount of work from the members. We just need more people to seek out new food resources for the co-op and to help with the transportation of these items," McNabb said.

Tomkins said that the warehouse where the bulk items are bought, has a minimum purchase of 50 lbs. for each item and a \$100 minimum

on the entire order. He agreed that a larger co-op membership would certainly help.

Kevin Sullivan, an A&M student said, "People in the co-op have a common interest in the variety of foods you get. And they are interested in spending a minimal amount of time working for the co-op."

Sullivan added that the co-op gives him the chance to purchase items he could not get at a grocery store.

At different times, a member of the co-op can purchase malt; dates; sesame butter; oil and seeds; boysenberry juice; goat's milk; beans; oats; a variety of cheeses; whole wheat spaghetti; and soon, organically grown herbs.

"We are not a clique of vegetarians, everyone's food preferences are mixed. We extend our hand to anybody who is interested," said McNabb.

Anyone interested in joining the co-op can contact Tomkins at 823-0970.

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Top of the News

Campus

LATIN AMERICAN Students Association starts three weeks of activities beginning Monday. All activities are free and are open to the general public. A color film entitled "Goal" will be shown Monday at 8 p.m. in Rudder 601. The film is about soccer and the World Cup Games that took place in London in 1966.

BILL BRETT, author of "The Stolen Steers: A Tale of the Big Thicket," will be honored with an autographing party, held from 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 19, at the Texas A&M University Press facilities. The book is the latest publication from Texas A&M's publishing house. Brett is postmaster at Hull, Texas, and, according to his listings on the book's jacket, he is a former oil well roughneck and driller, cowhand, ranch foreman, farmer, rancher, deputy sheriff, construction worker and truck driver.

Texas

SEVEN of the original thirteen performers who participated at the first Kerrville Folk Festival in 1972 will be returning this year for the sixth annual festival dur-

ing Memorial Day weekend. The festival will feature four evening concerts to be held May 26-29 at Rod Kennedy's Quiet Valley Ranch near Kerrville. The concerts are scheduled along with the Texas State Arts Craft Fair held in Kerrville. For more information, write Folk Festival, Box 1466, Kerrville, Texas 78028.

A SURVEY taken by West Texas State University indicates 93 per cent of consumers think beef quality is more important than the price they pay, the head of the school's animal science department said yesterday. "Tenderness is the most important thing to the consumer. They want to know if the beef is going to be tender," said T. H. Montgomery.

A MECHANIC of Brownsville was shot and killed gangland style yesterday exiting from his car at a restaurant in the El Jardin section of the city. Pedro Roberto Garza, 44, was shot six times. Witnesses said the shots came from a late model pickup truck parked near the restaurant, which then sped from the scene after the shooting. Matamoros District Attorney Mariano Gonzalez Jasso said a large amount of cash, reportedly \$6,000, was removed from the victim's pockets.

ATTORNEYS yesterday qualified the eighth juror in the capital murder trial of millionaire T. Cullen Davis for the death last August of his 12-year-old stepdaughter. Lois Kenneth, a housewife, was the 115th person questioned since Feb. 24.

A GOOD STUDENT, but someone who kept pretty much to himself shot and killed his high school principal in Whitharral. Ricardo Lopez, 17, shot his principal twice in the back, walked to a nearby grocery, called police and gave a .32 caliber pistol to the grocery clerk, while M. O. Tripp sprawled dying on the concrete steps of the red brick school. "We know what happened, but we just don't know why it happened," deputy Darrell Spence said yesterday. "The people we've talked with have indicated that there were no problems between the two."

National

HEALTH OFFICIALS say the wave of food poisoning in Pontiac, Mich., stemming from the nation's worst botulism outbreak in history apparently has

subsided. "There have been no new admissions since Wednesday afternoon, and we still don't have any deaths," said a relieved Oakland County Health Director Dr. Robert Loeey when the level of cases remained at 45.

WITHIN BLOCKS of the French Quarter's Bourbon St., five men were stabbed to death during an eight-week period beginning with Valentine's Day. The latest victim, a 77-year-old man, was found yesterday in his apartment with 50 stab wounds. Dr. Frank Minyar, the Orleans Parish coroner said the Thursday murder of Ernest Pommier fit a pattern established in the four earlier killings.

U.S. AMBASSADOR Andrew Young says the increasing Soviet presence in Africa is no reason for panic and President Carter's push for human rights has won the hearts and minds of the oppressed people of the world. Noted for sometimes speaking too quickly, the ambassador weighed each word carefully in an interview yesterday with United Press. On Africa, Young warned against oversimplification, saying the situation in Zaire is very complicated.

Scientists research tsunamis

Tsunami is a name that brings fear to the residents of areas in and bordering the Pacific Ocean.

This is a justifiable fear since these "tidal waves" have brought destruction to Japan in the early 1950's and recently as 1976. Alaska in 1946 and 1964, and Chile in the late 1960s.

A team of Texas A&M University geographers have developed a computer program that they hope will allow them to predict where and why did occur bad effects of a tsunami.

One of the researchers, Prof. R. Reid, noted that the tsunami is usually the product of an underwater earthquake with enough strength to push the seafloor up to the surface to cause a surge. Although eruptions of volcanic islands have been known to cause such surges, they are much less frequent than those induced seismically.

This surge is created by the seafloor flexing upward, producing a mound of water maybe 50 miles or so in diameter, Reid said. The main epicenter of these waves are generally in the trenches in the ocean's floor near Alaska, Japan, Chile and the Philippines.

Gravity causes the mound to radiate outward forming a train of waves from five minutes to an hour apart travelling at a speed of about 500 miles per hour, he said. "An elongated source, like that which would occur in a trench, acts as an antenna and beams the energy in a certain direction."

"A near-by shore will act as a reflector and increase the wave intensity," Reid said.

The size of the leading wave in deep water, far from the source, is small, maybe a foot. However, as it moves from deep water toward shore the wave length must decrease. "Since the energy must go somewhere, the height of the wave increases, sometimes as much as 20 to 30 feet," he said.

Hawaii is subject to tsunamis from all the major sources. The islands also have the added problem that they cause the waves to refract and converge and cause even more damage," Reid said.

We are currently investigating how the tsunami is modified as it travels over an uneven bottom, Reid said. This reaction, in turn, can have impact on wave response at a given location.

Since it takes about five hours or more for a tidal wave to reach Hawaii after the indication of a large enough event, the people have enough time to prepare, Reid said.

"We need to be able to tell how dangerous a particular tsunami is going to be."

Others involved in the project are Drs. A. C. Vastano and J. C. H. Hwang. The projects are sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration.

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