

Autos, fast meals help diners

By JEANNE LESEM
United Press International
Would you believe the automobile as a meal preparation appliance?
That's what a supermarket industry magazine calls cars because they carry people to places where other

hands "will do the marketing, the cooking, the serving and the cleaning up."

Robert Dietrich writes in two recent issues of "Progressive Grocer" that:

"Over a one-week period, the average American shows the following

predisposition to belly-up to a dining table or counter other than his own:

"Two-thirds eat at least one meal out — 73 percent of men compared to 63 percent of women.

"A substantial one-fifth eat out five or more times."

Dietrich found 65 per cent eating in regular restaurants, 55 percent in fast-food outlets, 13 percent at work and 12 percent at other unspecified places.

His statistics are from an exclusive nationwide survey of more than 6,500 men and women. It was made by Trendex in cooperation with the magazine.

Grocers who see fast-food operators as major threats to their business are only partly right, the study showed.

"...for every two meals eaten out at a fast-food outlet, three are claimed by regular restaurants.

"The real alternative to eating at home will, increasingly, be sit-down restaurants," the study indicated.

The main reasons: household income and education.

People below the \$20,000 a year level eat fewer than three meals a week away from home. Even for them, restaurant meals are about 30 per cent more frequent than the fast-food variety.

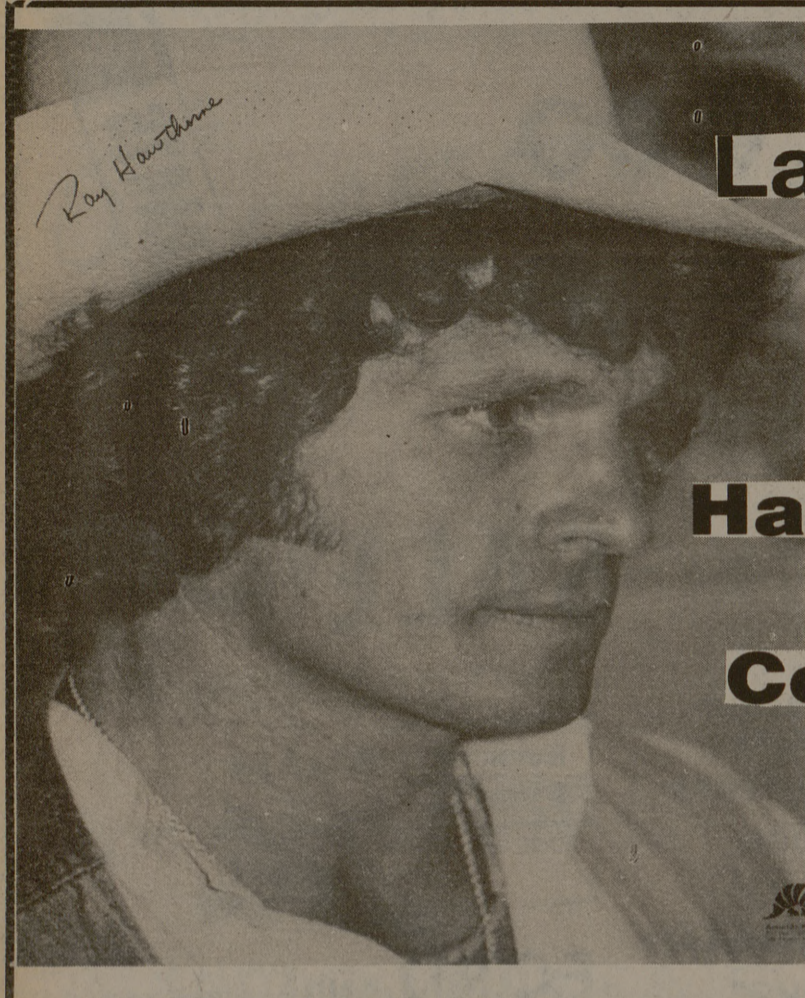
Above that level, "the taste for glass, silver and linen instead of paper, plastic and Formica holds sway."

As income rises, the number of weekly meals out passes four, and fast-food operators' share of the market drops to 25 percent.

Diners start to kick the burger habit at about 25 years of age, but their loyalty to other purveyors of food away from home remains stably close to 1.3 meals a week over several decades.

Restaurant meals have their greatest appeal to 45- to 54-year-olds, who have the money to support the habit.

The drop-off in meals eaten out occurs after that age not so much from choice as from limited income, the survey suggests; eating in all types of restaurants decreases after 54.



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Fill'er up

The annual fall Aggie Blood Drive is in full swing. John O'Donnell, freshman nuclear engineering major, was one of the students donating a pint of blood to the Wadley Blood Bank Tuesday. The drive is a joint project of Alpha Phi Omega, Omega Phi Alpha and Student Government. Wadley will provide for the blood needs of any Aggie for the coming

year. Students needing to replace blood have used can contact the Student Government office and the blood drive chairman will arrange for the replacement through the bank. The drive ends Friday with a keg beer going to the group that donates the most blood.

Battalion photo by Jim Criss

Go and take a flying leap—Aggies hang glide with kite

By DEB KILGORE

Hang gliding literally means just that—hanging from a large kite and gliding by using the body, and 52 Aggies insist it is the only way to fly.

The 52 are members of Texas A&M University's Hang Gliding Club and are learning to hang glide in the field near Mount Aggie Thursday afternoons from 2 to 5. They strap on wings and rush head-on into the wind hoping to get the feel of the kite. Once they know how to handle a 35 to 40-pound kite, the club goes to Junction, a town 100 miles west of Austin, to glide off a 280-foot cliff.

Hang gliding began at A&M three years ago when senior corps cadet Mark Hill decided to start the Hang Gliding Club on campus for the Corps. Jim Matush, senior geology major, and Rick Ruttle, senior in engineering technology, took over the club and opened it to all Aggies.

"Jim and I went out and taught ourselves to hang glide at Bryan's Park Lake. It took us less than a semester to learn the basics," said Ruttle in a recent interview.

The club owns three kites: two standard ones costing \$300 to \$400

and a high performance kite worth \$700. To pay for the kites, each member has a \$10 semester fee, Ruttle said. The Memorial Student Center also gives the club about \$350 a semester.

"The kite itself was invented by Francis Rogallo, an aeronautical engineer for NASA," Ruttle said. "His idea was for the re-entry wings of a spacecraft. He didn't get along with NASA, so he designed the first hang glider for the public."

For the 15,000 Americans who literally go fly a kite on a weekly basis, hang gliding has immense appeal. Ruttle said the sport's main attraction is the thrill of soaring, although the danger is also part of its appeal.

"When you're standing on the edge of a cliff that is 280 feet high and run right off of it, you get the great thrill of being fluid," Ruttle explained.

Most people who glide make short flights close to the ground only when the wind is right, Ruttle said. "When you're learning to glide you never jump off higher than you want to fall," he said. "We've never had

anyone get more than a few bruises."

However, a June 1975 "Chang Times" reports hang gliding is coming one of the world's most hazardous sports. The U.S. Hang Gliding Association (USHA) reported 39 people nationwide were injured in flying hang gliders and many more were injured in 1974. The USHA also found the more experienced a pilot, the more likely he is to be in a tragic end since he takes more risks.

"The FAA doesn't say a word against hang gliding except to wear a helmet, don't go up more than 500 feet and be careful," Ruttle said.

Despite grim statistics and warnings, hang gliding has boomed in the last three years nationwide at A&M. Ruttle said he expects to have between 60 and 70 members in the Hang Gliding Club by the end of this fall.

Horn blowing physics talk

Professor Arthur Benade of Western Reserve University, nationally famous for his research in the physics of music, will give a seminar at Texas A&M University next week.

Thursday Oct. 20 Benade will present "The Good Temperament Woodwind" at 4 p.m. in Room 100 of the Physics Building.

Benade is the author of the popular text "Horns, Strings and Harmony."

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'Birdseed' investigated at Utah city

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — The old woman's bird died when it ate the seeds she gave it, so she planted the rest of them in her garden.

They came up looking like tomatoes, but bore no fruit.

Suspicious, the 85-year-old Salt Lake City lady called police. They confiscated the plants, which were identified as marijuana stalks.

Officers said they are investigating to see how the pot seed got substituted for the bird seed.

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