

Plug in the prime rib

Power tenderizes meat

By MARSHA MOULDER
Connoisseurs of fine steaks can throw away their Adolph's; the meat tenderizer of the future may be electricity.

By electrically stimulating a carcass within an hour of slaughter, meat tenderness is increased from 25 percent to 50 percent, said Dr. T.R. Dutson, associate professor of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. An electrical current is applied to the hind part and to the front part of the carcass. A stunning unit is used to provide an impulse of 110 volts, causing muscles to contract and relax. The carcass is stimulated 50 times. The electrical source is nothing more than a normal house voltage.

"This process takes less amps than what you would apply to household appliances," said Dutson.

Not only are steaks from electrically stimulated carcasses more tender, but they are also more flavorful and suffer less cooking losses than steaks that have not been tenderized by this process. These results were determined by palatability tests conducted by Dutson and his colleagues Dr. Gary C. Smith, Dr. Zerle L. Carpenter, Dr. Robert L. Hostetler, and Mr. Jeffery W. Savel.

Steaks cuts were removed from the stimulated side of the carcass and also a non-stimulated control side and then frozen for one week. The steaks were then thawed and broiled and samples were served to a ten-member sensory panel. The panel tested the meat for juiciness, tenderness, connective tissue amount, flavor, and overall palatability. Their decisions were in favor of the steak from the stimulated side.

"Of all the tenderization processes we've worked on this one seems to be the best," said Dutson. Other methods tried include suspension by the pelvic bone, mechanical restraint of muscles, conditioning, cooler aging, high temperature conditioning, delayed chilling, blade or needle tenderization, and use of tropical plant or fungal enzymes. The electrical stimulation method has been tested on beef, lamb, and goat.

"We are just now beginning to understand exactly how the process works," Dutson said. There are two possible things that happen. First the carcass muscles use their own energy to tenderize themselves. This is done by stretching the muscles. Secondly, enzymes break through the muscles. This stimulation process has the same affect as hanging a carcass, only it speeds up the process and lowers the acid content.

For this process of tenderizing meat to benefit the public it must first prove economically feasible for packing houses. So far only two studies have been made in actual packing houses situations. Texas A&M hosted a symposium for producers and packers to show them to this new method. Some of them left with the intentions of employing this electrical stimulation process immediately.

"This process will have to be economical for packing houses or else they will have to raise the price of meat and nobody wants that," Dutson said.

Although Dutson and his colleagues have been working on the electrical stimulation process for a year and a half, this method of tenderizing is not new. In 1749, Ben Franklin used electricity to tenderize turkey. Two U.S. researchers, Harsham and Deatherage, patented the process in 1951 but they did not understand exactly why electricity had a tenderizing affect on meat.

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Guitarist plays here on Friday

The second performance of the Opera and Performing Arts Society will include guitarist Julian Bream. The performance begins at 8:15 p.m. on Friday in Rudder Auditorium at Texas A&M University. Ticket information is available in the Memorial Student Center Box Office.

Julian Bream, born in London in 1933, is the son of a commercial artist and book illustrator. Giving his first guitar recital, he made his professional debut at Cheltenham in 1947. He made his first tour of North America in 1958 at the invitation of Harold Shaw. Last month he began his 28th tour of the United States and Canada. Other countries he has recently visited have been Japan, Australia, Germany, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Denmark.

He has won some of the highest awards in the recording industry including the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, two Grammy Awards and two Edison Awards.

Julian Bream is also noted for his late playing.

Traffic fatalities increase by 10%

United Press International — AUSTIN—The number of persons killed on Texas highways so far this year has increased 10 percent, compared to the same period last year, the Texas Department of Public Safety reported Saturday. According to the DPS, 2,832 persons have died in Texas traffic accidents so far this year. The number of accidents involving fatalities has increased 11 percent from 2,233 last year to 2,486 this year, the DPS reported.

Students attending TAMU from the Rio Grande Valley

Attention: There will be an organizational meeting/Beer Bust at Oak Forest Trailer Park Party Room.

Friday-Nov. 4
7:00 till the keg is empty

Dues payable at door - \$1.00
For more information:
Call 846-6489 or 845-5585

There will be a meeting of all persons interested in helping to organize the Fall Voter Registration Drive on Thursday, Nov. 3 in Room 308 of the Rudder Tower at 8:00 p.m.

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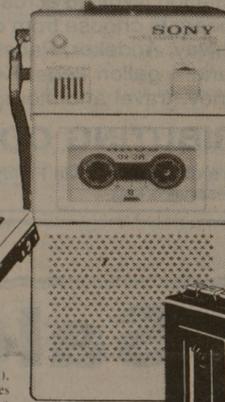
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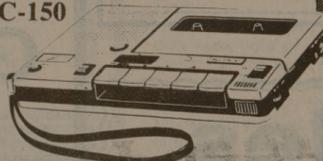
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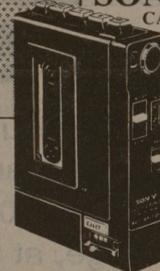
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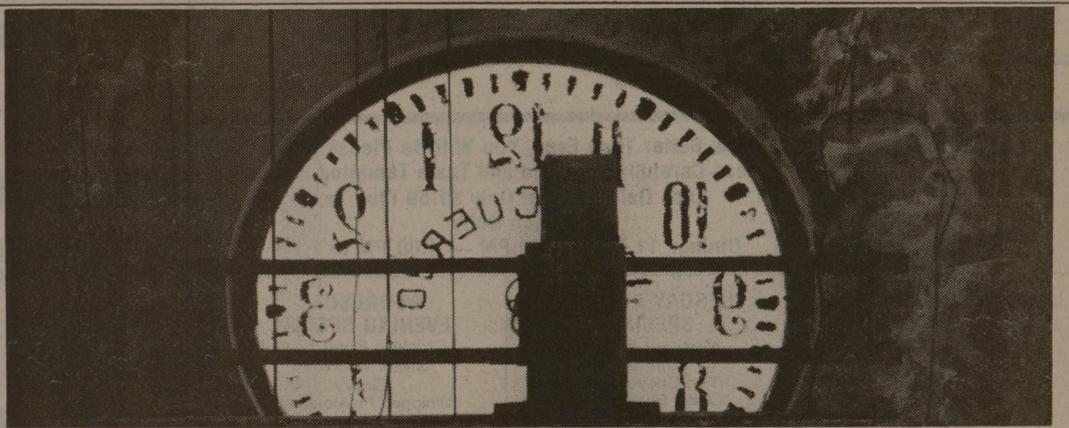
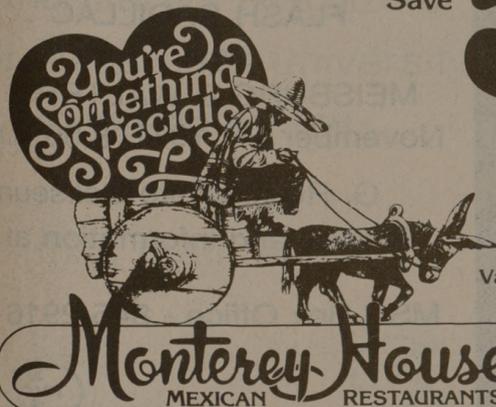
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