

# New GI benefits available

Veterans attending Texas A&M on the GI Bill can take advantage of extended benefits if health problems prevented them from receiving full benefits before the 10-year deadline, said campus VA officials. The new program is available to veterans, spouses or surviving spouses whose eligibility for education benefits expired June 1, 1976 or later, but who had not used all their school entitlement because mental or physical disability interfered. Any extension approved will be for the time the VA determines that the veteran or spouse was prevented from beginning or completing the education program. Medical evidence of the health problems must be presented, noted liaison officers. The campus VA office is located in Hart Hall.

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# Sweater designer's move to carpets 'consistent'

CHICAGO — Oleg Cassini, who takes credit for the popularity of the turtle neck sweater, expects his latest move into carpet design will be as successful as his fashion world experiences.

Cassini, recently added to the staff of designers for Galaxy Carpets Mills Inc., said his move into a new endeavor "is consistent with my philosophy — there's no need to be a specialist in one field."

"My work for Galaxy is a continuation of a complete cycle of fashions. It can include cars, clothes, the home. Carpets should not be a neglected field."

Cassini, who was Jacqueline Kennedy's personal designer during her years as the nation's first lady, said he recommended the turtle neck sweater to her brother-in-law, actor Peter Lawford.

"I suggested it to him for a television appearance which called for him to wear a dinner jacket. He forgot to bring a shirt and tie and didn't have time to buy them. The white turtle neck was there. I suggested he wear it."

The famed fashion master, in Chicago for the first time as a carpet designer for an industry exhibit, admitted there were problems in his new field.

"The most difficult was to convince the people that my designs are a major undertaking. There's a peculiar paradox here. You need the design plus the name. The design alone won't cut it, and the name without the design is no good either."

The limitations of the carpet loom present a problem in terms of creativity but Cassini said his technical adviser had "discovered capabilities in the loom that not even the Galaxy people were aware of."

Cassini said he was hired "to elevate the standards of taste... They expect originality from me and I expect to provide it."

Asked where he gets his ideas, Cassini replied in loud Italian, "Nella capocchia! That means 'it starts in the head.'"

Many of his ideas, he said, "come from my days as a art student in Florence, Italy, when I studied the old masters of the Italian Renaissance." Cassini said he once lived in a ho-

gan, or dirt hut, on the Navajo Indian Reservation near Gallup, N.M., for more than three months.

"I was interested in their culture," he said. "That was nearly 30 years ago, but I learned a lot about Indian lore, about their colors, patterns, many other things. I know more about Indians than most Indians do."

Their belts, for example, contain designs that are of Moorish origin. You need a trained eye to see it, but

it's there. I even studied the dress of various tribes like the Pawnee, Ojibwa, Apache.

from many sources if you lay your eye for it and the imagination."

Cassini said he was "the designer to put the American concept in high fashion."

There have been a natural follow-up for him because he had a good interest in the American man.

# Thirty Aggies volunteer as human guinea pigs

Thirty Texas A&M University professors volunteered to become human guinea pigs in rigid diets research aimed at clearing up confusion about cholesterol in relation to coronary heart disease.

Dr. Raymond Reiser, who heads the project, said the tests basically seek to determine effects of poultry and fish versus red meat, and eggs versus no eggs in human diets.

The tests are an outgrowth of what Dr. Reiser termed as "assumptions rather than facts" that the American Heart Association (AHA) and other special interest groups "sold" to the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

The committee recommended last year that people eat less red meat, substituting it with fish and poultry. This action triggered nationwide criticism by the livestock industry.

Egg consumption was discouraged earlier, because of their comparatively high cholesterol content. "This whole theory, or concept, that fats and cholesterol cause coronary heart disease was based on incomplete research back in the 40s and 50s," explained Dr. Reiser, an internationally-recognized lipid biochemist. The AHA and the Senate Select Committee are based on three assumptions. And they are all wrong.

These assumptions are that everybody is alike, warranting the same treatment for everybody; that the risk of coronary heart disease is directly related to blood cholesterol, at any level; and that there is a direct relationship between diet cholesterol and blood cholesterol.

You can't measure people's physical well-being as a statistic, because everyone is an individual," the scientist assured. "There's no average person. Not even an average, or typical Aggie professor."

Dr. Reiser said the objective of the study is to test the recommendations of the AHA and the Senate Select Committee to see whether normal people following the recommendations as they go about their normal occupations will be benefited by significant changes in the blood fat and blood cholesterol.

Dr. Barbara O'Brien, who is associated with Dr. Reiser in the project, said that participants volunteered, and were selected only after rigid physical examinations and personal interviews about smoking and other habits.

"The examinations revealed that these participants lead what is generally accepted as a normal lifestyle, and with normal levels 200 milligrams per 100 milliliters of blood serum, or below - of cholesterol," Dr. O'Brien explained.

Additional blood analysis just prior to starting on their diets also included blood sugar, triglycerides, high density lipid proteins and another test for cholesterol.

One volunteer was rejected because of hypertension, and one of the participants is a vegetarian, who Dr. Reiser said should make "an interesting study, in relation to the meat eaters."

Dr. O'Brien said the professors are in four different diet groups. While one group eats fish and poultry and three visible eggs per day, another group eats fish and poultry, without visible eggs. A third group eats red meat and three visible eggs per day, and a fourth group eats red meat, but no visible eggs.

She said that each group will remain on their diet for six weeks, after which they will rotate. This will permit each participant to have eaten each of the four diets during the six-month study.

Complete physical examinations will be made at the end of each phase of the diets.

"We asked that their lifestyle not be interrupted, with exception of eating the prescribed foods," Dr. O'Brien said. "However, should a participant eat food at a friend's house or a banquet for instance,

that's not on the recommendation then he will record and report."

She assured that second step of food are permitted, but shouldn't be a participant gain, or pounds or more he will be defined. Physical examinations, in- cluding detailed blood analysis, is made at the end of each six- phase of the test.

"The bomb in this whole cholesterol versus coronary heart disease incident is that people assume cholesterol with fats," Dr. O'Brien said. "But lean meat contains cholesterol than fat meat. So poultry and fish are lean they contain much cholesterol as the meat."

Dr. O'Brien assured that the "gie Profs Project" is designed of the health conditions of people before, during and after have eaten red meat, fish, poultry and eggs.

"We realize that we won't be able to ask all the questions, but we do expect we will find out how food affects doesn't affect, these individuals," Dr. Reiser concluded.

The scientists said that the study will be unbiased, and that the initial phase for a continuing of diets and nutrition of human

# Yards lack variety, says A&M instructor

People tend to be repetitive in the trees they select for their yards either because they stay with a few kinds they see or because they are unaware of the varieties that can be grown successfully in the Brazos County area, says Dr. Harlow Landphair, landscape architecture instructor at Texas A&M University.

Availability of some trees may have a bearing, he explains, but other trees are easily obtained and should be used more often.

One of his favorites is the river birch, a slender, graceful tree that is seldom used in this area but grows wild along the Brazos River. The tree has several trunks that grow away from each other. The river birch is also distinguished by a shaggy cinnamon-colored bark. It makes a desirable ornamental because it transplants easily and grows quickly.

Oaks are also good ornamentals, notes Landphair, and are abundant in this part of Texas. Live, post, water and pin oaks offer variety.

One tree people often overlook is the mesquite because it is thought of

as a desert plant. It grows very little water and has a distinctive shape.

The bald cypress resembles spruce or fir and can provide a contrast to more common round shapes. One of a kind, it is the deciduous conifer known.

Since fall color is important in planning a landscape, people should be aware of the variety of hues available, says Landphair.

The eastern red bud does have attractive flowers, but the most beautiful is the golden tree, he notes. In the fall and winter it has unique clusters of small colored seedpods on its branches. The pods are preceded by bright low flowers in the late spring. The tree provides color much of the year.

Other trees with colorful foliage are the ginkgo, sweet American holly and Chinese tache.

Landphair said people planting trees should take time to learn about the variety available.

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