

Nausea, stomach cramps, fever?

# Bad food common cause of illness

By DARRELL LANFORD  
You've just eaten at a restaurant. The steak and potatoes tasted fine, but the banana cream pie seemed a little odd.  
Two hours later you're nauseous. Your stomach cramps and you feel feverish. Maybe you have food poisoning.  
If so, you're not alone. In a recent six-month period in the United States, 135 outbreaks of foodborne illness were reported, states a health, education and welfare report.  
The report also says food poisoning in the United States is grossly

underreported. In England and Wales, where food surveillance has been well developed, 705 outbreaks of food poisoning were recorded for the same six-month period. The estimated number of cases for the United States proportionated to the population of England and Wales is over 15,000, the report said.  
A Good Housekeeping article says that public health authorities have known that food poisoning is among the most common illnesses in the United States. Reported and unreported cases may run as high as 10 million a year.  
Mary Sweeten, a food and nutri-

tion specialist with the Texas A&M University System, says almost 6,000 cases of food poisoning were reported in Texas in 1975.

She says main types of food poisoning were caused by four bacteria — staphylococcus, botulinus, salmonella and perfringens. Though rarely fatal, these bacteria can lead to severe illness, especially in children and elderly people. Staph is usually the most prevalent disease. Botulism can be fatal.

Sweeten says the state sends a team of inspectors from Austin to examine institutions, particularly nursing homes and hospitals throughout the state.

Local health inspections are done by the sanitarians, who are a part of the Bryan Health Unit. The sanitarians — two full-time and two part-time employees — are headed by A.C. Allen.

Allen says the sanitarians have numerous duties, including examining water and sewerage supplies, nursing homes, hospitals, camps and dairies.

The sanitarians check food-related establishments once every six months. Allen says dairies are checked at least four times every six months.

The sanitarians can withdraw operating permits if the food establishment creates an immediate health hazard, such as continual improper preparation of food.

Allen says, however, that violations so severe that they warrant closing down the business al-

most never happen. If a violation is found, the sanitarians give the owner or manager of the place enough time to correct the problem, Allen says.

Should the owner refuse to close his establishment, court action can be taken. That doesn't happen because the owner knows it's cheaper to correct the problem than go to court, Allen says.

State officials come in every two or three months to make a combined inspection, Allen says. Nursing homes and hospitals are examined intensively.

The sanitarians use several different forms in checking food-related establishments. Each requirement has to be checked off. Violation of the same requirement on two successive inspections calls for permit suspension, the form states.

A dairy producer inspection form is used to inspect the Lilly production plant and the Texas A&M dairy plant. Some of the requirements on the form are cleanliness of the milking barn and stable, adequate toilet and water facilities and insect and rodent control.

There are also forms for ice cream plants, pasteurization plants, food establishments (other than for eating and dining, such as a grocery store) and for food service establishments.

The sanitarians also have the responsibility for inspecting the cafeterias on the Texas A&M campus.

Lloyd Smith, assistant director of

## Martin about sold out

Wild-and-crazy ticket sales were the order of the day Monday as hundreds of Texas A&M University students queued up for tickets to the April 10 performance of comedian Steve Martin.

One veteran worker in the Memorial Student Center box office said she'd never seen better first-day sales.

Patient line-waiters, some of whom had been camped out since Saturday, waited six hours or more after sales began to reach the box office to buy their tickets. Others were waiting as long as four hours just to reach the inside of Rudder Tower where the box office is housed.

Despite an eight-ticket limit per buyer, all of the performance's 1,100 reserved seats were gone by 9:30 a.m. and more than a third of the 5,500 general admission tickets had been sold by 11 a.m.

Seven hundred student tickets remained after Monday's sales.

Sales to students are supposed to continue this week with tickets to the general public going on sale March 27, but it appeared doubtful that the performance will have any seats left by then.

The line from the box office curled back upon itself as many as 10 times early Monday, winding out of Rudder Tower into the fountain area and out towards the student center.

## 'Centennial' author to market new book

The author of "The Centennial History of Texas A&M University," Dr. Henry Dethloff, has announced an October release date for his latest book, "Americans and Free Enterprise."

The book is a history of the American experience with capitalism.

"I wrote this textbook as a narrative history," the Texas A&M history professor explained. "It's intended for the undergraduate, layman or as a reader."

Dethloff traced the history of free enterprise in the United States by using examples of how Levi Strauss entered the blue jean business, how George Eastman started Kodak and what stimulated the growth of cities such as Houston, New York and Chicago.

"It shows that our free enterprise system has been widely successful," Dethloff said. "We are both freer and wealthier than any other people have ever been. We cannot take either for granted. We cannot properly understand how we achieved this status without a knowledge of economic history. That is the purpose of the book."

His other works include editing "Huey P. Long, Southern Demagogue or American Democrat?" and "Thomas Jefferson and American Democracy." His other writings include "The American People."

### CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

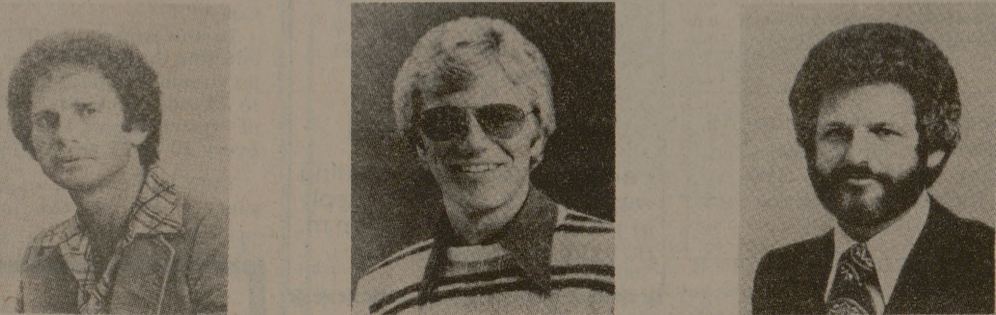
**Tuesday**  
Great Issues, Preston Bolton, "Building New Environments," 12:30 p.m., Rudder Tower 701.  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 5 p.m., MSC 212.

**Wednesday**  
University Art Exhibits, Canadian Tapestries, through March 31, Rudder Center Exhibit Hall.

**Thursday**  
Town Hall Contest, "Best Comedian on Campus," 12:45 p.m., MSC Fountain.  
Aggie Players, "Carnival," 8 p.m., Rudder Theater, through Saturday.  
Wildlife Lecture, "Alaskan Odyssey," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum.

**Saturday**  
Moses Hall Talent Show, 7:30 p.m., MSC 201.

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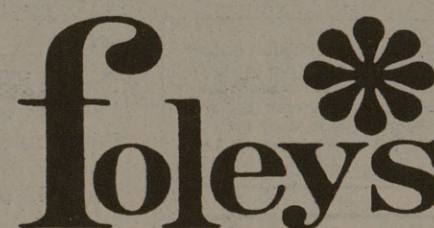
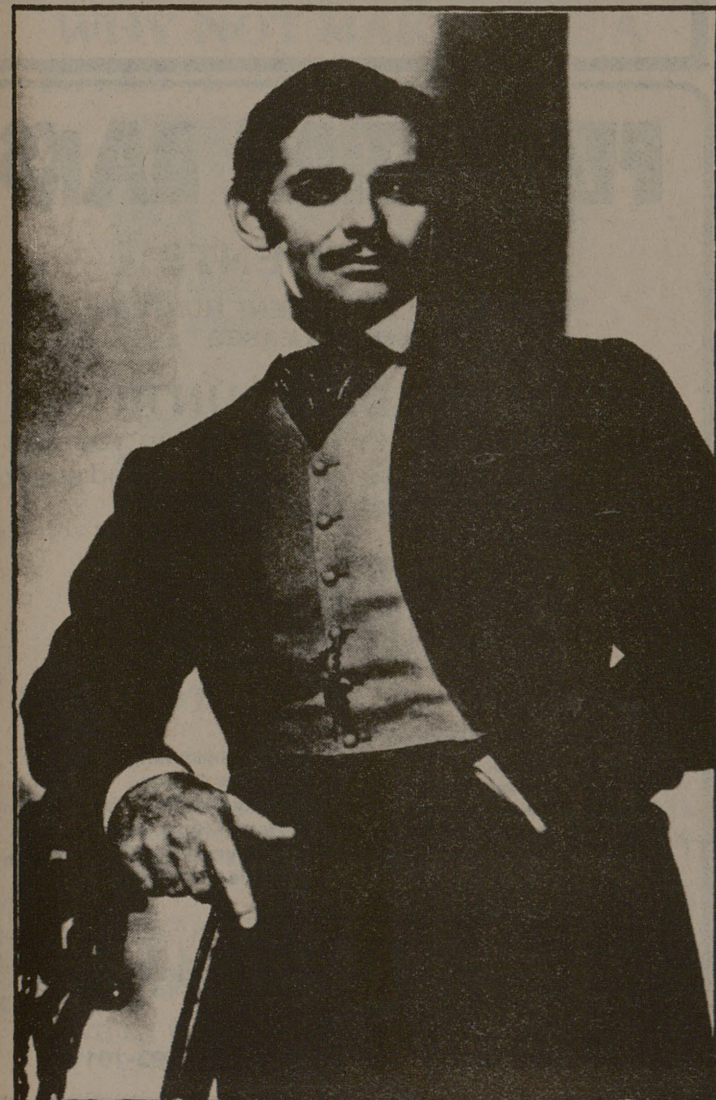
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