

Brooke replaced on posters; Wagner overcomes again

United Press International
NO SMOKING: Placido Domingo has replaced Brooke Shields as the American Lung Association's pin-up person. The new Domingo poster will be unveiled Monday when the association holds its first annual media awards dinner to honor 38 national magazines that do not accept cigarette advertising.

Domingo, an avid nonsmoker, will ask diners near him in a restaurant to stop smoking on a

poster with the slogan, "Smoking Spoils Your Performance."
The American Lung Association expects to line up sports and show-biz personalities for future posters with the same slogan.

NO SUPERWOMAN: Lindsay Wagner, who played an electronic superwoman in "The Bionic Woman," was less than super as a child. She had reading problems she overcame in her teens. She recently took time out

from shooting her new television movie, "I Want to Live," to accept an award from the Tikhvah Institute for childhood learning disabilities.

Wagner was hailed as this year's greatest overcomer by the group's founder, Carolyn Brenner. Then it was back to work on her ABC-TV movie, a new version about the execution of convicted murderess Barbara Graham. The new script hints at Graham's possible innocence.

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Popcorn anyone?

staff photo by Rob Johnson

Sonia Restrepo, left, and Cindy Dobbs, center, both seniors in industrial distribution, try to persuade Ginger Boyd into buying a three-gallon

barrel of popcorn. The money will benefit the Texas A&M Tennis Club. Boyd is a senior accounting major from La Porte.

First products ready this year

Algae market growing

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO—Scott A. Brown wants to become the biggest algae farmer in the country. His farm is not in operation yet, but he hopes to start marketing algae products this year.

The harnessing of algae for food, medicine, sewage proces-

sing and other industrial uses is a fairly recent development.

Brown teamed up with Dr. William J. Oswald, a professor of biomedical and environmental health sciences at the University of California, to form Microbio Resources Inc.

"We are now past the development stage," Brown said. "I expect that during 1983 we will have the first four or five products stemming from algae ready for the market."

Those products include spirulina, a popular protein health food, beta-carotene and live

algae for use in cleaning sewage water.

"There are a lot of different processes that can be developed," Brown said. "Dr. Oswald's research work formed the technical basis for Microbio's entry into the marketplace. Our first focus is to get the various algae nutrients on the market for human consumption."

"I do not see our approach to commercial algae products as a breakthrough as much as (I see it as) an evolution," said Brown, who quit studying dentistry several years ago to get an MBA

from Stanford in preparation for his algae farm.

He says he picked this business because he saw no other American competition. Algae products are imported from Japan or Mexico.

Microbio plans to build an algae farm near the Salton River in California's Imperial County where brackish water from the Colorado River and the waters of the sun should produce large quantities of algae efficiently.

"Nutrients will be added to the culture just like fertilizers to crops," Brown said. He believes a first-class algae farm in the United States, using the latest scientific knowledge in a clean, high-tech manner, will be able to compete in the booming market for nutrition products now imported.

Beta-carotene, for example, is an increasingly popular health supplement. It is a source of Vitamin A, which scientists consider as a possible cancer preventative.

While Vitamin A can be generous in large amounts, Brown said beta-carotene is not. Microbio has raised \$1 million in venture capital to begin operations and hopes to have a million funding within a few months.

While its initial thrust is selling the algae for health items, Brown believes there is much wider potential for his business.

"In another five years, human and animal waste may be possibly converted to protein diet supplement for consumption," he said. "Algae will take place in the agricultural world. It's the most efficient plant on earth."

He said some chicken farmers already are using chicken manure to grow algae, which is then fed back to the chickens.

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