

Human milk made into powder

by Darla Bucaram
Battalion Reporter

Five years ago the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas A&M University were asked to develop a technique which would change human milk into a powdered form for premature babies.

Mother's milk, with all of its health-giving properties, is now available in a powder form because of research done by the Baylor College of Medicine, the Texas A&M Food Sciences Department and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Dr. Charles Dill, professor of food sciences in Texas A&M's College of Agriculture and head researcher for the project here, says that before mother's milk was converted to powder, hospitals kept a supply of frozen milk.

However, the National Institute of Child Care and Human Development was concerned because the milk was not pasteurized, and could carry pathological — disease-carrying — bacteria, he says.

For this reason, the institute requested research be done to change mother's milk into a powder form, he says.

Premature babies are fragile organisms without the immune systems needed to protect them from contracting diseases, Dill says. Mother's milk, with its health-giving properties, protects the premature baby against infection, he says. It is because of this that mother's milk is so important, Dill says.

Research assistant Edna Alford says the milk is donated by healthy mothers.

Some women have four or five times the amount of milk their babies need, Alford says. These women are given an electric pump which they take home with them. They put the milk in plastic or glass containers and store it in the freezer until it can be taken to the hospital, she says.

"Some women won't donate their milk because they want to give it all to their baby, even if the baby can't drink it all," Alford says.

Dill says the food science department at Texas A&M is responsible for the technological process which converts the milk into powder.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston provided the immunologists who made sure the immunology components of the milk were still in the milk after it had been processed, Dill says.

The milk is collected from mothers at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and sent to the Texas A&M laboratories, Dill says. Here, the milk is processed into powder and then sent back in plastic pouches lined with aluminum foil, he says.

Pediatricians from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston then change the milk back to its liquid form at The Texas Children's Hospital, Dill says. They do this by mixing the powder with milk from the babies' natural mother, or with sterile water, depending on the amount of calories and proteins the baby needs.

Alford says the milk is used only for premature babies or toddlers who are allergic to everything they eat except human milk. It will not be a convenience product you can buy at the grocery store, she says.

Milk banks will be set up which will supply human milk in powdered form to pediatricians and neonate centers — centers for newborn babies, Dill says.

The two neonate hospitals in Texas are Scott and White Hospital in Temple and The Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. So far, those are the only hospitals in the nation which have powdered human milk, he says.

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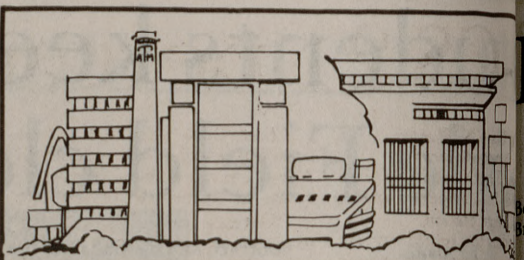
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Around town

Agriculture holds reunion barbecue

The College of Agriculture will hold its annual Reunion Barbecue Saturday three hours before the football game will be held at the new Animal Science Pavilion on the Street west of the Horse Center. The National Agriculture Marketing Association is sponsoring the dinner, and tickets can be purchased at the College of Agriculture Dean's office or from NAMA members. Students and former students in agriculture are encouraged to attend.

Students win Wright scholarships

Nine Texas A&M students have received W. Wright Petroleum Asphalt Scholarships. Chosen for \$500 awards were Robert Briggs of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania; Doree Gilbeau of Houston; James Heath of Topeka, Kansas; William Heckel of Dallas; Kenneth Kolodziej of Brian Pinkowski, both of San Antonio; Donnie Johnson of Paris, Texas; Bobby Littlefield of Sulphur Springs; and Jeffrey Mezger of Marble Falls.

All are civil engineering majors except Johnson, a majoring student, and Pinkowski, who is studying engineering technology.

Dance Arts weekly classes scheduled

Dance Arts Society offers weekly dance classes for members. People interested in joining and taking classes should attend the class they want and bring \$20 for the semester membership fee. Classes are offered as follows:

Beginning tap — Monday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Intermediate/advanced tap — Monday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Aerobics — Tuesday and Thursday from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Intermediate jazz — Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Beginning jazz — Tuesday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Dance technique — Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Beginning ballet — Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Intermediate/advanced ballet — Monday from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Beginning modern — Thursday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Intermediate modern — Thursday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
All classes are in 268 E. Kyle, and anyone may join.

Pre-Law Society car wash

The Pre-Law society will have a fund-raising car wash Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mama's Pizza restaurant. To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Thursday:

THEFTS:
• A blue Schwinn 10-speed bicycle from the Mosher Hall bike rack.
• A man's gold and diamond ring from the third floor of Sterling C. Evans Library. The owner was away from the desk where he left the ring.
• A purse from a woman's dressing room in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The purse contained a Texas A&M I.D. card, shuttle-pass, checkbook, keys and a Dillard's credit card.

ASSAULT:
• A man assaulted two women in Hughes Hall separately within two hours and 30 minutes. One student was injured. The man was arrested and held in the jail.

OTHER:
• A secretary in the Engineering Department received obscene telephone calls at work. She said the calls also have started calling her home.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 10 - 14

* Pamphlets and handouts will be distributed at the MSC.
* Presentations will be held on the evening of:
Mon., Oct. 10 @ 7:00 at the A-1 Lounge
Tues., Oct. 11 @ 6:30 at Corp area Lounge
Wed., Oct. 12 @ 7:00 in the Front Lobby the Commons (knaggar)

These discussions will include myths about alcohol, the concept of responsible use and the new laws concerning D.W.I. and use of alcohol use.

* Ads pertaining to Alcohol Awareness week will be published every day in the Battalion.

ERNEST & J

Delicious Beer

If you choose to drink, learn to drink responsibly.

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