

Texas A&M

# The Battalion

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## Cheese and butter give-away to resume

by Rose Delano  
Battalion Reporter

Free cheese and butter distribution to needy families in the Brazos Valley will resume this month after a long summer wait while the program was being revised by the Texas Department of Human Resources.

Supplies of surplus cheese and butter in Texas ran out in mid-summer after it was announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that distribution to low-income Texans would be reduced by 70 percent.

Marlin W. Johnston, commissioner of the Texas Department of Human Resources, which has been administering the program, said that his department had been releasing 3.7 million pounds of cheese and about 3.2 million pounds of butter each month.

Johnston cited market impact as the reason for the reductions

in the distribution of surplus dairy products.

The Department of Human Resources in Texas distributes the cheese and butter under contract to civic, religious and community groups, which in turn distribute the products to low-income persons in their communities.

Sally Brown, director of operations for the food services division of the Texas Department of Human Resources, said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture supplies are slow to pick back up to the levels they held before the program was cut.

To qualify for free cheese and butter recipients have to show a current card proving they are on welfare, receive food stamps and are working or have applied for a job.

It is not clear what will be available but there is a possibility

that in addition to the distribution of bulk cheddar cheese and butter, other foods such as processed cheese, nonfat dry milk, cornmeal and honey will be available to the areas with increased need, Brown said.

Because of the low levels of

**The program helps close to 3,000 people in the Bryan-College Station area. — Mrs. J.H. Chapman**

cheese and butter available, Brown said, distribution charts were revised. A family of one or two will receive one pound of butter and two pounds of cheddar cheese if it is available or five

pounds of processed cheese if not. It averages to one-half pound of butter and one pound of cheese per person each month, she said.

"We feel the new levels are enough to help needy families without creating waste," she said.

Dale Marsico, executive director of the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency which oversees distribution for the Brazos Valley, said many organizations are willing to help distribute the cheese and butter when the new contract comes through later this month.

Marsico said that two local churches; Years for Profit, a program for the elderly, and a couple of A&M fraternities have offered to assist in distribution.

"There are new eligibility criteria and lots of forms to fill out," he said. "It's even a longer process than it sounds."

Even with all the paperwork, many will wait out the long lines to get their monthly allotments.

The program helps close to 3,000 people in the Bryan-College Station area, said Mrs. J.H. Chapman, whose husband is the pastor of St. James Baptist Church in Bryan, which is one of the distribution centers.

Chapman said their church has been sponsoring the program since early 1982.

"Everyone needs proper food and older people and children suffer the most from inadequate diets, she said. "Some families that have cooked a long time can take cheese and make it go a long way. I know of some people in Calvert that make a choice between adequate food and paying their bills."

Distribution, storage and transportation are paid through a fund set up by the non-profit organizations in the area that serve as distribution centers, she said.

"We are tolerating expenses,"

the Rev. B.T. Langham, pastor of Allen Chapel in Bryan, said. "We are making our contribution like other churches, providing money, volunteers, transportation and storage."

He said that in May, which was the last time the free food was distributed before the program was cut, 1,500 families received cheese and butter.

"We have to scrutinize more closely these people that are supposedly needy," he said. "We need to weed them out. Some really need it and it is a shame that those who don't misuse the program."

## To the victor goes the Cap'n Crunch

United Press International

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Lee Broussard formed the Cap'n Crunch Party to protest the short supply of the University of Notre Dame dining hall favorite, and won the sophomore class presidency.

Now he and his allies are paying off political debts by throwing a Cap'n Crunch Fest, a reeking wing-ding. The Fest is a new twist to an old custom of American machine politics: "To the victor belongs the breakfast cereal."

The Fest includes a treasure hunt, costume party, eating contest and assorted other cereal-related silliness.

"We need this kind of thing,"

Broussard said Monday. "People need to get excited, and it doesn't happen very much on campus, except for football games."

The idea was born last spring when a dozen students blocked the cereal line in a dining hall until the always quickly depleted Cap'n Crunch bin was refilled.

The Broussardites, looking for an angle to help them beat eight other slates in a class election, formed the Cap'n Crunch Party. They promised if elected they would distribute political patronage in the form of a huge Cap'n Crunch party.

Quaker Oats provided cereal, personal appearances by the Cap'n and contest prizes.

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